

**MANIFESTO FOR 2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

# **TOGETHER WE BUILD A GOOD EVERYDAY LIFE**





The Swedish People's Party (SFP) is Finland's liberal party with strong Nordic and European ties. We believe in individuals and in every person's right and ability to build their own lives and influence their existence. We believe in responsible freedom and in people's mutual responsibility. Our politics and our liberalism are built upon respect for humanity and the environment, freedom and individual rights, peace and justice, equality and equal rights.

Whatever happens globally and nationally affects us locally. The polarization that currently characterizes political discourse in many parts of the world is also discernible in Finland. Making politics based on fear instead of hope is becoming increasingly common, and many attempts are made to divide society into opposing camps.

This is a reality in which SFP is truly needed. We do not accept politics of "us vs. them"; instead, we want to offer solutions that bring people together, both locally and nationally. We want to give every member of our society the opportunity to build their own future.

Our welfare state works best when the economy is balanced, people have jobs, and

companies have the conditions they need for success. That is what we work towards. At the same time, we actively fight climate change and carry out measures to reinforce biodiversity. A sustainable society is a prerequisite for everyday security. For our country to blossom, we need both strong cities and a vital countryside.

SFP is an open and welcoming popular movement for everyone. We want to work towards a country with two thriving official languages: Swedish and Finnish. We are a party that always looks after minorities, including minority languages.

We always defend the rule of law and democracy. We believe that by being well-educated and international, Finland can be a safe country that can tackle future challenges. We want an open and multicultural society built on cooperation, which looks after all generations. SFP's voice is the voice of liberalism, inclusivity and responsibility at all levels of political decision-making. We are aware that the challenges of the national economy make things difficult in many areas, when actions must be adjusted to the economic reality. Welfare must be built upon humanity, securing health and social care, education and other social services.

Availability of trained employees is one of the main factors for Finland's future success. To meet this need, we must invest in more educational institutions and increase labour migration. To ensure that we have access to the necessary workforce, we must also invest more highly in employee well-being.

Everyone in our society must have equal rights and opportunities, and be included in decision-making. SFP works steadfastly for equality. We always defend every person's fundamental right to decide on their own bodies. No one must be discriminated against based on language, ethnicity, religion, beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, disability or age. We resolutely work towards achieving a society that is free from racism and discrimination.

We work towards maintaining vitality in municipalities, regions and wellbeing services counties, through strong local democracy. Decisions must be made openly, avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy. We want to see functioning collaboration between municipalities, counties, the state, the private sector and the third sector. SFP is the party that remains close to you at all stages of your life. We want it to be easy for you to contact your local and national representatives, whatever the issue.

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# SFP Manifesto for the MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2025

## THE BEST SCHOOLS

The foundations for the well-being and success of our society are built in schools. Schools must offer equal opportunities for all children and adolescents throughout their educational journey, from early childhood education, through the primary and secondary level and up to tertiary and further studies. We must ensure a safe learning environment, in which children and adolescents are prepared for coming challenges. This requires enough competent staff and other adults in schools.

Finnish schools are built on the pillars of equality and highly educated, well-motivated teachers and staff. Our elementary education is a success story, but the work

is not finished yet; development must continue. It requires national efforts, but the lion's share of the work is done at the municipal level. There must be sufficient resources for schools' everyday operations. Those needing support must receive it. Particular attention must be paid to inclusivity and equal treatment. Our goal is that no one is left behind.

We want Finland to be the world's child-friendliest country, which is why we also want to invest in making everyday life easier for families with children. This means well-functioning schools, teacher well-being and success opportunities for every child.

## SFP WANTS

- more children to attend early childhood education, and to make it free in the long term
- teaching in the second official language to begin already in early childhood education
- education and teaching to be equal and gender-neutral
- to increase resources directed at reducing all forms of bullying
- to fight segregation in basic education
- to ensure the safety of the school environment and of school transport for all
- all of our school buildings to be not only healthy but also inspiring learning environments that allow staff and pupils to focus on education
- to provide teachers good tools for developing education and teaching methods, and to enhance remote cooperation between schools
- to have well-functioning morning and afternoon activities for children, with opportunities for diverse indoor and outdoor pastimes
- children to have opportunities to take part in leisure activities they enjoy in connection with the school day
- to ensure schools offer sufficient challenges for those who need them
- to provide homework assistance after the end of the school day, for instance in the form of volunteer co-educators at school
- to ensure every pupil and student has access to good learning materials, in both traditional and digital format
- to guarantee on-site support in schools in the form of psychologists, social workers and sufficient resources for student and study guidance
- to see increased cooperation between vocational education and business and commerce, and an emphasis on entrepreneurship in vocational education
- to increase the attractiveness of vocational education, guaranteeing its high quality
- to promote the use of apprenticeship agreements in vocational education
- to guarantee access to high-quality general upper secondary school education
- to emphasize the intrinsic value of basic art education, in that it increases well-being and supports other learning
- to have well-functioning support for pupils with special needs
- to secure the right of the Sami to receive education in the three Sami languages, and to develop this education
- to ensure pupils and students have access to sign-language services at school
- to ensure student bodies and associations have the ability to influence school operations
- to guarantee sufficient support and proper integration for immigrant children
- to ensure good dialogue with families takes place when determining the level of teaching in the national languages that children with immigrant backgrounds will receive
- to see more municipalities offering schooling in English
- to continue developing youth social work in schools, so that children and adolescents have safe adults in their everyday lives
- more pupils to have access to language immersion and language showers
- to work towards keeping class sizes reasonable at all levels of education
- to invest in awareness-raising and emotional learning at school, in order to counteract destructive norms and prevent violence by teaching pupils to identify and manage their emotions
- to see municipalities securing sufficient hourly resources for schools
- to see well-functioning collaboration between homes and schools



# THRIVING CITIZENS

The basic pillars of well-being in society are inclusiveness, belonging and trust. We work towards achieving a society where everyone feels safe and well. Preventive and health-enhancing services for people of all ages play a central role in municipalities' operations.

By investing in fitness, sport and culture we can generate well-being and keep our municipalities lively and welcoming. Adult education centres and folk high schools, active NGOs, exercise trails, sport facilities, libraries, and music and art schools are important for a thriving local community. These places and activities offer inhabitants opportunities for meetings, learning, physical activity and cultural development, which reinforces both belonging and the attractiveness of the municipality. Adult education centres and folk high schools offer people opportunities for improving their competence and also perform an important function in terms of well-being.

## SFP WANTS

- to ensure there are diverse opportunities for people of all ages to exercise, such as playgrounds, skate parks, outdoor gyms and fitness stairs
- to reduce the costs caused by sitting by increasing access to fitness opportunities, e.g. through service vouchers
- to have well-functioning youth services, such as outreach youth work, navigator services and youth workshops, that support a safe upbringing and help to prevent social exclusion
- to stop the increase in loneliness among the young and elderly
- to ensure all young people have the right to meaningful leisure activities with a low threshold

- that youth representatives, elderly citizens' councils and disability councils play significant roles in decision-making and inclusion
- to look after liberal adult education
- to ensure municipalities offer equal opportunities for cultural activities, leisure activities, training times and facilities, regardless of gender or age
- to reinforce the status of the Sami and ensure their right to cultural autonomy
- to ensure locals are offered opportunities for financial planning and advice, to strengthen their personal finances
- to see inclusive budgeting being used to involve inhabitants more closely in municipal decision-making
- to see well-functioning cooperation between municipalities, the private sector and the third sector, so that citizens' services are secured
- municipalities to have an inclusive recruitment policy that better facilitates the recruitment of marginal population groups
- municipalities to invest more in integration services, to ensure everyone feels welcome and achieves a smooth transition into working life in Finland
- to see more people being integrated into the society in the Swedish language, and to ensure integration-related information is provided in both the national languages
- to ensure municipalities offer training in equality and equal treatment to their personnel and elected representatives
- to see municipalities conducting pre-emptive assessments of the gender-related impact of decisions, and using gender-aware budgeting
- to see municipalities using child impact assessments to ensure the child-friendliness of decisions
- to ensure municipalities understand the importance of culture for their inhabitants' well-being



# MUNICIPAL AND URBAN VITALITY

Education, competence and well-being are important, but additionally we must ensure a strong economy to safeguard the necessary services. A municipality that emphasizes opportunities for entrepreneurship and growth, and looks after its finances responsibly is well set to be a thriving community.

A well-handled municipal economy lays the best ground for functioning everyday life in the municipality. We want Finland's municipalities to live with the times and to have the courage to develop without prejudice. While digital services give opportunities for better-functioning daily life, human contact must not be lost either.

We want our municipalities actively to attract sustainable investment and new business. Efforts to improve employment and entrepreneurship are the keys to growth. As employment and economic development services are now handled locally, it is easier to help jobseekers in ways that better account for local conditions. Successful labour migration demands inclusive municipalities and proper integration services.

## SFP WANTS

- to keep municipal and property taxation at reasonable levels
- to increase the cooperation between municipalities and trade and industry to create optimal conditions for investment and entrepreneurship
- to ensure municipal employment services work effectively, so that jobseekers are offered positions as quickly as possible
- to see jobseekers and employers finding each other across municipal borders
- to ensure beneficial operating conditions are guaranteed for work centres
- to work towards smarter and more sustainable procurement by increasing the weighting of quality criteria, accounting for climate impact and permitting partial bids
- to look after the well-being and occupational health of municipal employees
- to ensure municipalities actively work to improve labour migration, through international recruitment and welcoming family policies
- municipalities to adopt anonymous recruitment to increase equality among applicants
- to ensure that secondary school policies take into account the long-term labour needs of municipalities and regions
- to facilitate multiple residencies through digital municipal residency, for example











## FORERUNNERS IN CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The greatest global challenges of our time are climate change and biodiversity loss. Despite their global nature, the solutions are often local, and a large part of the related efforts are done at the municipal level. They are related to energy use, purchasing, land use, waste management and traffic, among others.

We want Finland to be a forerunner in climate and environment questions. Finland must be climate-neutral by 2035. Many municipalities are already pioneers in finding climate solutions that best fit their local conditions, and thereby support the creation of sustainable industry, commerce

and jobs in their area. By investing in climate-friendly solutions, municipalities can offer their inhabitants opportunities for sustainable lifestyles, as well as a welcoming environment.

### SFP WANTS

- municipalities to adopt climate-smart solutions and to make it easier for inhabitants to make climate-smart choices
- municipalities to shift to renewable energy and phase out fossil fuel use
- municipalities to combat biodiversity loss by directing sufficient resources to information provision and voluntary nature protection measures
- municipalities to take biodiversity-enhancing measures
- to work towards reducing emissions to water ways and marine environments, for example by improving water management and increasing nutrient recycling
- municipalities to invest in reducing waste and promoting recycling in their own operations
- to see functioning recycling, reuse and waste management with sufficient collection stations
- to see municipalities formulating climate plans and sustainability plans
- municipalities to draw up clear objectives for fighting climate change and strengthening biodiversity
- to see municipalities adopting indicators and criteria for measuring the climate impact of their operations
- to see local food and Finnish fish being favoured and food waste being minimized
- to reduce the use of PFAS chemicals by municipalities
- to see municipalities sustainably using and caring for their land areas



VOTING IN ADVANCE 2–8.4.2025 | ELECTION DAY 13.4.2025