

**MANIFESTO FOR 2025 COUNTY 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 COUNTY ELECTIONS 2025

## SAFE LIVING

Safety and security are the foundations of a happy life. Knowing that help and support are available when one needs them makes it easier to focus on one's studies, work and relationships.

SFP wants to work for safe and functional everyday living. Health and social care must be available when they are needed, and the environments in which they are provided must be safe. Everyone's right to good care must be secured, regardless of place of residence, income level and mother tongue.

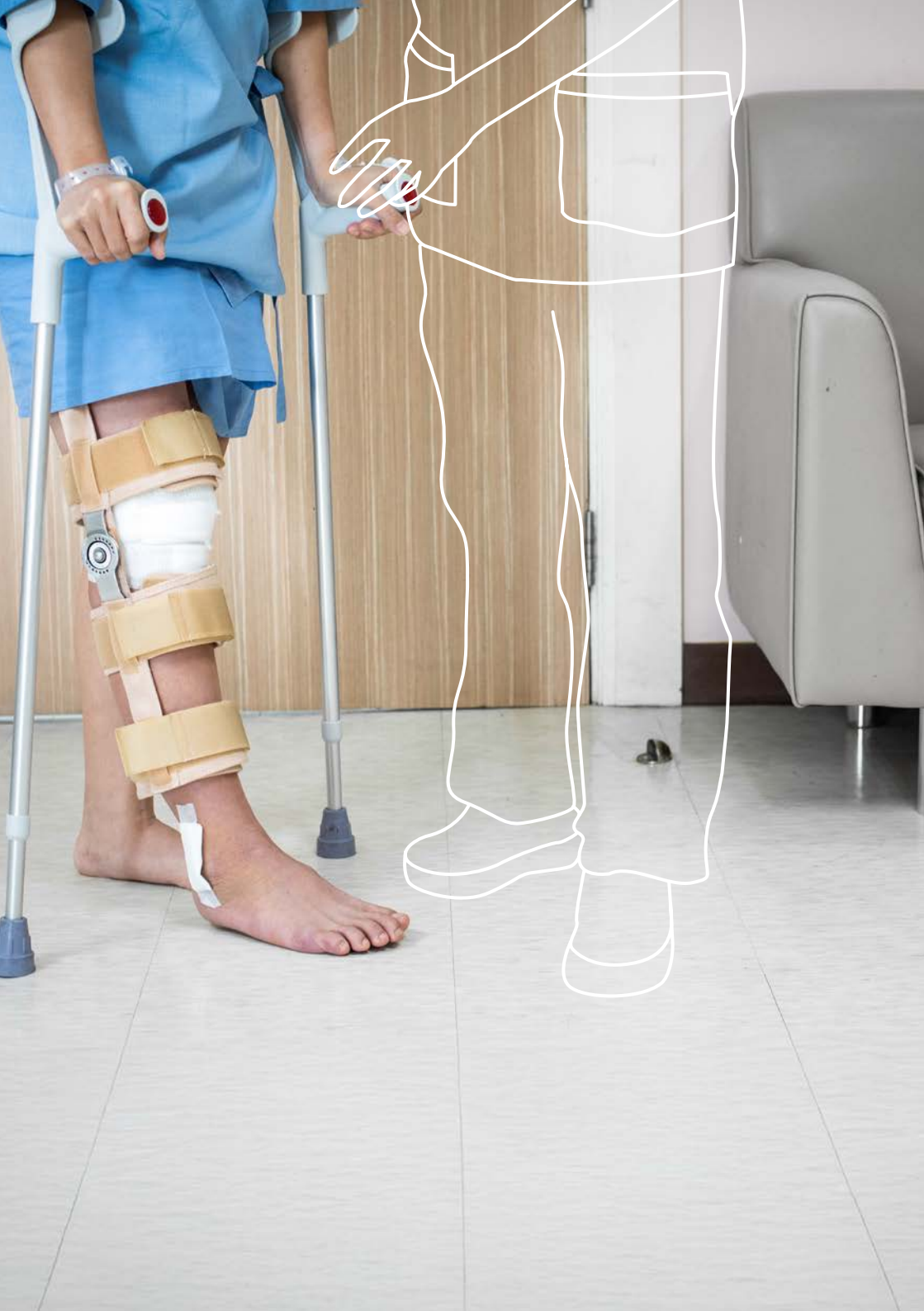
Services must be available and equally functional in both of the official languages. You must be able to access the care and aid you need without being sent round from one instance to the next.

The care service palette is transforming, and mobile and digital services can be one way to improve accessibility. The wellbeing services counties must have sufficient competence for making use of digitalization and AI in care.

The private and third sectors are needed to supplement public care provision. We want all the counties to take care of their finances responsibly. We work towards the financing of the wellbeing services counties being fairly distributed, with an emphasis on preventive and rehabilitative care. We must stem the increase in costs in the long term, especially within specialist health care.

## SFP WANTS

- to secure the availability of health care for all inhabitants
- to see well-functioning cooperation between municipalities and the wellbeing services counties
- to have digital care services developed
- to see equality and equal treatment characterizing all operations of the counties
- to ensure care personnel have competence in issues related to gender and sexual diversity
- to increase investments into occupational health, well-being and job satisfaction, as well as good leadership, equality and competitive salaries in the wellbeing services counties
- to ensure care personnel can build career paths that allow for specialization and further education
- to reduce dependence on medical and care locums in the wellbeing services counties
- to prevent violence against care personnel, so that they can conduct their jobs safely
- to facilitate functioning recruitment and integration of foreign care personnel, ensuring that integration in Swedish is a viable alternative
- to ensure sufficient language bonuses are paid by the counties, and are also applied to languages other than Swedish and Finnish
- to secure the rights of the Sami to receive care in their own languages
- to ensure that language minority councils and boards have proper opportunities to influence decision-making
- to ensure information and care directives are available in all the national languages and are provided to patients
- to increase the use of service vouchers when it is expedient to do so
- to safeguard the third sector's operating conditions
- to ensure small businesses and the third sector have realistic opportunities for taking part in tenders, by promoting partial procurement, among other things
- to modernize the procurement of IT services so that the counties are no longer bound to expensive licence agreements that steal resources from care provision
- to ensure KELA taxi services are functional and tailored to individual needs
- to see wellbeing services counties making breastfeeding-friendly workplace policies
- to improve access to primary health care doctors by creating flexible working conditions and career paths
- youth representatives, elderly citizens' councils and disability councils to play significant roles in decision-making and inclusion



## ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE

We don't choose when to become ill. Accidents can happen unexpectedly. Safety comes from knowing that care and assistance are available when needed. It must be easy to contact health care providers when we fall ill, regardless of where we live. SFP want primary health care to be found as close to people as possible. The whole society benefits from people receiving aid and support as soon as they need them.

For us it is important to pay attention to the role of preventive and rehabilitative

health care. Services must be accessible and suited to their purpose. The support functions of rehabilitation and preventive health care are needed to increase well-being, as well as social and physical functionality. Rehabilitation and preventive health care also help to reduce the overall cost of health care. The most effective care is that which prevents illnesses and problems from arising in the first place. Therefore it is self-evident that even undocumented migrants must have access to health care.

### SFP WANTS

- to ensure there are accessible social and health care services in all municipalities
- to shorten waiting lists with the help of service vouchers, digital services and increased numbers of doctors and carers, among other measures
- to create a system of named doctors and named nurses, as care by known faces generates a feeling of safety
- to see investments in digital services and mobile solutions, such as health buses, with the aim of improving access to care in the countryside and the archipelago, among others
- to see resources for combating mental illness being increased at health centres
- to ensure wellbeing services counties aim towards providing primary health care seven days a week, including mental health services
- dental health and hygienist's services to be available as needed
- wellbeing services counties to offer short-term psychotherapy or corresponding psychosocial services, either through their own operations, as contracted services or via service vouchers
- to see diverse types of low-threshold services, including chat facilities and emergency help-lines
- to ensure differences between women's and men's health are taken into account in health care
- to have the age range for free breast cancer screenings expanded to between 40 and 74 years of age
- to have menopause advice provided by public health care
- to ensure the right of undocumented migrants to health care
- to prevent cervical cancer by ensuring that screening invitations are sent out on time

## HIGH-QUALITY HEALTH CARE



Sometimes we need care in the form of a simple procedure or consultation; at other times more comprehensive treatment and diagnostics are needed. Whatever the case, SFP wants to ensure that health care fulfils people's demands and needs.

We want the closest emergency hospital to be within a reasonable distance when people need specialist care. We want people to receive the care and assistance they need, without being sent from one instance to another. Central hospitals play a critical role in the functioning of health care. Cooperation between all the components of health

care must be frictionless, with the focus always on the patient. University hospitals have important special tasks and must receive sufficient funding.

Health care develops quickly. This creates pressure on costs, but also on the speed of adopting new discoveries. It also means that research plays a central role in development. We must find a balance between having sufficient domestic cutting-edge competence in a smaller number of units and ensuring the accessibility of services that need to be nearby. We want Finland to be a leading country in medical research.

## SFP WANTS

- local hospitals to play an important role with diverse special responsibilities
- to ensure broad outpatient services are available close to people
- to secure the right of smaller hospitals to carry out ordinary outpatient surgeries and maintain public 24-hour emergency care
- to ensure there are enough ambulances, even in the countryside, so that emergency care can be guaranteed in all parts of the country
- to safeguard the operations of medical helicopters
- to reinforce the wellbeing services counties' research, development and innovation activities
- to invest in the training opportunities of primary care personnel, so that high-quality health care is secured

# FUNCTIONING SOCIAL WELFARE

People have a need of physical, social and psychological well-being. We often require more than one form of care simultaneously. Care services that see us as individuals with manifold needs are more likely to achieve good results.

We want to reinforce measures to combat social exclusion and mental ill-being through preventive work, early interventions and multidisciplinary cooperation. It is important that the whole family is taken

into account when diverse problems arise, so that they can be optimally supported and assisted. We prioritize equal psychosocial services, including psychotherapy. We want to see an inclusive society where everyone is treated fairly, respecting their autonomy. It is important that services and various forms of disability support are provided close to those who need them, in both our national languages. In cases of substance abuse, the emphasis should be on preventive care, early interventions and a basis in facts and research.

## SFP WANTS

- to have more social workers recruited, to ensure that timely assistance is provided to those who need it
- those working in social services to have safe working conditions
- to invest in preventive care and in making everyday life easier for vulnerable families, for example by providing home care services to families with children
- to increase the number of refuges for victims of domestic or intimate partner violence, as well as those threatened with it
- to offer low-threshold services for victims of violence
- to invest in support services for proper immigrant integration, in order to prevent social exclusion and reduce differences in health and well-being levels
- to guarantee sufficient resources for psychiatric and addiction care, even in Swedish
- to see more low-threshold clinics and increased multidisciplinary cooperation between municipalities, schools, daycares, health and social care, homes, the third sector and the police
- to prevent and reduce substance abuse by creating functional care paths, and to improve the recognition of risk groups
- to see families and others close to persons with addiction or mental illness issues being offered assistance and conversational support
- to see disabled persons receiving sufficient and timely support
- to ensure equal disability services are provided in Swedish as in Finnish
- to ensure sufficient sheltered housing is available
- to ensure disabled people are offered therapy and rehabilitation based on their individual circumstances and needs, and in their mother tongue
- to ensure families with disabled children receive sufficient, early support



# THRIVING CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND FAMILIES

Finland's prenatal and child health clinics are a success story built upon the idea that preventive care is the best care. Thriving children are more likely to become thriving adolescents and, later, adults. When we support children during their growth period and help families take care of their children, we lay the foundations for well-being in the community.

Our public child health clinics are supplemented by student welfare services in schools and higher education, and by child

protection services. We want child clinics to continue offering services beyond the age of six. Maternity care must be protected from further cuts, and there must be space in maternity wards for all those who need it. Support for families and parents with children generates a feeling of safety and prevents problems. Mental health care, particularly for young people, must be prioritized, and cooperation and information exchanges between municipal schools and the student welfare provided by the well-being services counties must be functional.

## SFP WANTS

- to save our maternity wards
- to ensure all women have the right to proper prenatal and postnatal care
- information to be provided on how to look after one's health and avoid health risks even after pregnancy
- to see home care services offered to families needing extra support
- to increase access to child health clinics for children who have started school
- to develop teenager clinics as part of family health clinics
- to ensure student welfare services are available in schools and form a part of schools' multidisciplinary teams
- to have more Swedish-speaking school psychologists and welfare officers being trained, and to make psychotherapy training free
- to ensure one psychiatric nurse, one school psychologist and one school social worker are provided per 500 students in every institution
- that all pupils and students are invited to see the school social worker at least once in primary school, once in lower secondary and once in upper secondary school, as well as according to need
- to ensure young people are offered low-threshold walk-in consultations close to where they find themselves
- to make contraceptives and contraceptive advice free for people under the age of 25
- to secure sufficient resources for developing and maintaining comprehensive support services for young people who suffer from or are at risk of mental illness
- to ensure young people with eating disorders are offered specifically tailored care services in both the national languages
- to ensure the wellbeing services counties actively work towards the whole population being vaccinated according to the national vaccination programme (including the HPV vaccine)

## SAFE ELDERLY CARE

Our care and support needs vary at different stages of our lives. However, our basic human needs remain the same: social interaction, safety, activities and, when necessary, care. These conditions being met makes it possible for us to be happy at various stages of life.

SFP wants elderly care to be close to where people are, and to ensure it is high in quality. You must be allowed to live at home as long as you want to and are able to, and various forms of residential services must be available nearby. We must strive to boost people's functional ability, for instance through senior exercise. We appreciate the work of family carers and want to ensure their well-being. Family carers must be treated equally and receive the support and relief they need. Foundations and associations provide invaluable contributions to society in many parts of our country, for instance within health promotion and the maintenance of senior residences.

### SFP WANTS

- to ensure all elderly people are offered a safe residence when they can no longer cope with living at home
- to safeguard home care services, ensuring the elderly receive high-quality, timely services in the right format
- to ensure there is a broad selection of residential options for the elderly
- to ensure married and cohabiting couples are offered residential services together
- to ensure targeted preventive home visits are made to all elderly inhabitants of the well-being services counties
- to improve the early diagnosis of memory disorders and to ensure care is provided as close to where people live as possible
- to make the tax credit for household expenses more extensively applicable to home care services
- to ensure family carers are properly valued and given more opportunities for time off and rehabilitation
- to establish senior health clinics in all the wellbeing services counties
- to have service vouchers for residential care supplementing public services





# RELIABLE RESCUE SERVICES

Accidents happen unexpectedly and can affect anyone. Certain types of accidents require specialist assistance and services. Functioning rescue services can be, and often are, a matter of life and death. Help must be available when it is needed.

Equal access to rescue services throughout the country and sufficient rescue service personnel are critical prerequisites to ensure our safety and preparedness. It is essential for those needing assistance to be able to communicate with rescue personnel, so the availability of enough personnel who can conduct their work in both the national languages must be secured. The Swedish-language emergency services training in Helsinki must be safeguarded. Contract fire departments, volunteer fire departments and voluntary maritime search and rescue operators play an important role within the rescue services, especially in sparsely populated areas.

## SFP WANTS

- to ensure rescue services are available all around the country within a reasonable response time
- that everyone can get an ambulance when they need it
- that enough rescue personnel are trained in both national languages
- to support and encourage the youth activities of the volunteer fire departments
- that the operations of contract fire departments, volunteer fire departments and voluntary maritime search and rescue operators are reinforced to ensure equal availability of rescue services in all parts of the country
- to prevent violence against rescue personnel, so they can safely conduct their jobs
- to ensure emergency response centres and operator training are functional in both national languages
- to ensure the rescue services have clear processes in place for preventing, reporting and dealing with sexual harassment



VOTING IN ADVANCE 2-8.4.2025 | ELECTION DAY 13.4.2025