

i-Voting

ESTONIA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE
WORLD WHERE CITIZENS CAN VOTE IN THE
ELECTIONS ON THE INTERNET.



In 2005, Estonia became the first nation in history to offer internet voting in a nationwide election. The groundbreaking i-vote system allows citizens to vote at their convenience, no matter how far they are from a polling station. i-Vote has been made possible only thanks to the fact that the vast majority of people in Estonia have access to secure digital authentication and signatures.

By mid-2019, internet voting had already been used on eleven occasions, and already over 40% of voters prefer this method. A secure QR code based mobile application is used to ensure that each vote is correctly received by the National Electoral Committee server.

Vote anywhere

Unrelated to the costly electronic voting systems with problematic machinery used in some countries, the Estonian solution is simple and secure. You can cast your ballot from any internet-connected computer anywhere in the world.

During a designated pre-voting period, the voter logs onto the system using an ID-card or Mobile ID, and casts their ballot. The voter's identity is removed from the ballot before it reaches the National Electoral Commission for counting, thereby ensuring anonymity. Since each vote cancels the last, every voter has the option to change his or her vote during the pre-voting period.

Your vote is yours

The secrecy of the vote is guaranteed as with the early-voting procedure by mail — the vote is signed and encrypted with the voter's own certificates and placed within a double e-envelope for protection.

The encrypted votes are collected, but their content will not appear outside of the cryptograms. Only after voting has closed will a device be activated by the electoral unit, which can open up the votes. The necessary security is ensured by precise organizational measures. The server software is public; observers are welcome.

Questions & answers

What does e-voting look like from a technical point of view?

In order to vote through the internet, voters must connect their ID-card during the early-voting period using a smart card reader or using their mobile ID.

How is the security of the voting ensured?

In order to conceal and securely transmit the vote, the voting system uses cryptography, which ensures the same voter identity for the certificates in the document. After the vote, it is possible to use a QR code with a mobile phone and to verify the accuracy of your vote through a different communication channel

Facts and figures

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