



When was the opportunity to vote online first introduced in Estonia?

- In 2005, Estonia became the first country in the world to hold nation-wide elections using this method, and in 2007, it made headlines as the first country to use i-Voting in parliamentary elections.
- In the European Parliament elections in 2014, 31.3% of voters cast their ballots in this way.
- In the 2015 Parliamentary Elections, internet voting accounted for 30.5% of the votes cast. Estonians worldwide cast their votes from 116 different countries.
- In the case of i-Voting, the cumulative time savings in the Estonian parliamentary elections of 2011 were 11,000 working days, which would amount to around 504,000 euros in average wages.

Is online voting safe?

- Sometimes online voting can even be safer than conventional voting. Digital ballots move to the central server in encrypted form. Such ballots can only be checked and changed by the respective citizens themselves.
- A submitted ballot is only visible to members of the Estonian National Electoral Committee. Ballots are opened and counted only after the personal data is separated from the ballots.
- During the voting period everyone can change their ballots – only the last ballot sent by each citizen is taken into account.

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.

What does i-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 many Estonians actually vote online?

Percentage of votes cast using i-voting:

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|---|---|
| 1.9% - Local Elections 2005 | 24.3% - Parliamentary Elections 2011 |
| 5.5% - Parliamentary Elections 2007 | 31.3% - European Parliament Elections 2014 |
| 14.7% - European Parliament Elections 2009 | 30.5% - Parliamentary Elections 2015 |
| 15.8% - Local Elections 2009 | 31.7% - Local Elections 2017 |

If i-Voting is so convenient and easy, why aren't larger countries already using the system?

- To ensure a safe and comfortable i-Voting system, Estonia has come a long way. In order for online ballots to be valid, the legislation should make digital signatures and physical signatures equal. Each citizen must have a unique digital identity. Movement of data between different systems must be secure and must allow both the voter and the Electoral Committee to make sure that the ballot is correct. In Estonia, all the necessary prerequisites have been met. As a result, for example, during the recent parliamentary elections, over 30% of all voters cast their votes online.
- Although no other country has used i-Voting as widely as Estonia, various small-scale experiments have been carried out elsewhere. In other countries solutions are often used where a voter can vote in a controlled environment using a special machine.