



Responses to “Guiding questions for the focus area on participation in public life and in decision-making processes”

The election acts for parliamentary elections, for the election of Danish members of the European Parliament and for the local and regional elections all include provisions to ensure participation in decision-making processes through elections. Franchise and eligibility for the different levels of government is determined by several criteria, including a provision in all three election acts to be 18 years or older. There are no upper age limit for franchise and eligibility, and the election acts do not discriminate based on age in any other matters. We are in the process of having the updated elections acts translated to English, after which they can be found on our [website about elections](#).

In order to ensure accessibility to voting, it is possible to vote in advance of election day, typically between three and six weeks in advance, depending on which election and, potentially, how much in advance it is called. Furthermore, it is possible to vote from care homes and other housing for the elderly, from hospitals and from home if a person is incapable of voting at a polling station on account of illness og disability. These measures are provided for elderly citizens, among others, to ensure their accessibility to voting.

At polling stations, the election officials can provide assistive devices for hearing- or vision-impaired voters, among others, to ensure that every voter can vote independently and in secret. Other measures are taken as well to improve accessibility to polling stations, regarding walking-impaired voters, for instance curb side voting.

Any individual may complain about elections and referenda. In cases of parliamentary elections and European Parliament elections, complaints must be directed to the Danish Parliament, who issues a report or a statement, in which the complaint and its content is addressed. The complaints can e.g. concern the treatment a voter has received at a polling station. However, there are no non-judicial complaints mechanisms in Denmark.

The Danish National Election Study carries out survey studies and undertakes a large study of each parliamentary election, which is published after an election. The publications include data and studies on voter turnout, and the latest publication about the national election in 2022 examines turnout depending on age, as well. See Kasper Møller Hansen and Rune Stubager (red.), *Partiledernes kamp om midten – Folketingsvalg 2022, 2024*, pp. 107-108.