Constitution – **(** 1974:152, **Utfärdad**: 1974-02-28
**Omtryck**: SFS 2011:109, 2014:1385, 2018:1903)

Chapter 1. Basic principles of the form of

government

**Art. 1.**

All public power in Sweden proceeds from the people.

Swedish democracy is founded on the free formation of opinion and

on universal and equal suffrage. It is realised through a representative and

parliamentary form of government and through local self-government.

Public power is exercised under the law.

Chapter 3. The Riksdag

**Formation and composition of the Riksdag**

**Art. 1.**

The Riksdag is appointed by means of free, secret and direct elections.

Voting in such elections is by party, with an option for the voter to

express a personal preference vote.

**Art. 2.**

The Riksdag consists of a single chamber comprising three hundred

and forty-nine members. Alternates shall be appointed for members.

**Ordinary elections**

**Art. 3.**

Ordinary elections to the Riksdag are held every four years.

**Right to vote and eligibility to stand for election**

**Art. 4.**

Every Swedish citizen who is currently domiciled within the Realm

or who has ever been domiciled within the Realm, and who has reached

the age of eighteen, is entitled to vote in an election to the Riksdag.

Only a person who is entitled to vote may be a member or alternate

member of the Riksdag.

The question of whether a person has the right to vote is determined

on the basis of an electoral roll drawn up prior to the election.

**Constituencies**

**Art. 5.**

The Realm is divided up into constituencies for the purpose of

elections to the Riksdag.

**Distribution of seats among constituencies**

**Art. 6.**

Of the seats in the Riksdag, 310 are fixed constituency seats and

39 are adjustment seats.

The fixed constituency seats are distributed among the constituencies

on the basis of a calculation of the relationship between the number of

persons entitled to vote in each constituency, and the total number of persons

entitled to vote throughout the whole of the Realm. The distribution

of seats among the constituencies is determined for four years at a time.

**Distribution of seats among parties**

**Art. 7.**

The seats are distributed among the parties which have notified

their participation in the election in accordance with rules laid down in

law.

Only parties which receive at least four per cent of the votes cast

throughout the the Realm may share in the distribution of seats. A party

receiving fewer votes, however, may participate in the distribution of

the fixed constituency seats in a constituency in which it receives at least

twelve per cent of the votes cast.

**Art. 8.**

The fixed constituency seats in each constituency are distributed

proportionately among the parties on the basis of the election result in that

constituency.

If, in the distribution of the fixed constituency seats under paragraph

one, a party obtains seats in the whole of the Realm which exceed the

number corresponding to the proportional representation of that party

in the Riksdag, then the surplus seats shall be returned and distributed

among the other parties in accordance with rules laid down in law.

The adjustment seats are distributed among the parties in such a way

that the distribution of all the seats in the Riksdag, other than those fixed

constituency seats which have been allocated to a party polling less than

four per cent of the national vote, is in proportion to the total number of

votes cast throughout the Realm for the parties participating in the distribution

of seats. If, in the distribution of the fixed constituency seats, a party

obtains seats which equal the number corresponding to the proportional

representation of that party in the Riksdag, then that party and the fixed

constituency seats which it has obtained are disregarded in distributing

the adjustment seats. The adjustment seats are allocated to constituencies

after they have been distributed among the parties.

The odd-number method is used to distribute the seats among the parties,

with the first divisor adjusted to 1.2.

**Art. 9.**

One member is appointed for each seat a party obtains, together

with an alternate for that member.

**Electoral period**

**Art. 10.**

Each election is valid for the period from the date on which the

newly-elected Riksdag convenes to the date on which the Riksdag elected

next thereafter convenes.

The newly-elected Riksdag convenes on the fifteenth day following

election day but no sooner than the fourth day after the result of the election

has been declared.

**Extraordinary elections**

**Art. 11.**

The Government may decide that an extraordinary election to the

Riksdag shall be held between ordinary elections. An extraordinary election

is held within three months from the decision.

After an election to the Riksdag has been held, the Government

may not hold an extraordinary election until three months from the date

on which the newly-elected Riksdag first convened. Neither may the

Government decide to hold an extraordinary election while ministers remain

at their posts, after all have been formally discharged, pending assumption

of office by a new Government.

Rules concerning an extraordinary election in a particular case are laid

down in Chapter 6, Article 5.

**Appeals against election results**

**Art. 12.**

Appeals against elections to the Riksdag shall be lodged with

an Election Review Board appointed by the Riksdag. There is no right of

appeal against a decision of the Board.

A person who has been elected a member of the Riksdag exercises his

or her mandate even if the election result has been appealed. If the result

of the election is revised, a new member takes his or her seat immediately

after the revised result has been declared. This applies in a similar manner

to alternate members.

The Election Review Board consists of a chair, who is currently, or

has been previously, a permanent salaried judge and who may not be a

member of the Riksdag, and six other members. The members are elected

after each ordinary election, as soon as the result of the election becomes

final, and serve until a new election for the Board is held. The chair is

elected separately.

**Further rules**

**Art. 13.**

Further rules concerning matters under Articles 3 to 12 and concerning

the appointment of alternates for members of the Riksdag are laid

down in the Riksdag Act or elsewhere in law.

Chapter 6. The Government

**Composition of the Government**

**Art. 1.** The Government consists of the Prime Minister and other ministers.

The Prime Minister is appointed in accordance with the rules laid

down in Articles 4 to 6. The Prime Minister appoints the other ministers.

**Art. 2.** The ministers must be Swedish citizens. A minister may not have

any other employment. Neither may he or she hold any appointment or

engage in any activity which might impair public confidence in him or her.

**Vote on the Prime Minister after an election**

**Art. 3.** No later than two weeks after it has convened, a newly-elected

Riksdag shall determine by means of a vote whether the Prime Minister

has sufficient support in the Riksdag. If more than half of the members of

the Riksdag vote no, the Prime Minister shall be discharged. No vote shall

be held if the Prime Minister has already been discharged.

**Formation of the Government**

**Art. 4.** When a Prime Minister is to be appointed, the Speaker summons

for consultation representatives from each party group in the Riksdag. The

Speaker confers with the Deputy Speakers before presenting a proposal

to the Riksdag. The Riksdag shall vote on the proposal within four days,

without prior preparation in committee. If more than half the members of

the Riksdag vote against the proposal, it is rejected. In any other case, it is

adopted.

**Art. 5.**

If the Riksdag rejects the Speaker’s proposal, the procedure laid

down in Article 4 is repeated. If the Riksdag rejects the Speaker’s proposal

four times, the procedure for appointing a Prime Minister is abandoned

and resumed only after an election to the Riksdag has been held. If

no ordinary election is due in any case to be held within three months, an

extraordinary election shall be held within the same space of time.

**Art. 6.** When the Riksdag has approved a proposal for a new Prime

Minister, the Prime Minister shall inform the Riksdag as soon as possible

of the names of the ministers. Government changes hands thereafter at a

Council of State before the Head of State or, in his or her absence, before

the Speaker. The Speaker shall always be summoned to attend such a

Council.

The Speaker issues a letter of appointment for the Prime Minister on

the Riksdag’s behalf.

**Discharge of the Prime Minister or a minister**

**Art. 7.** If the Riksdag declares that the Prime Minister, or a member of

his or her Government, no longer has its confidence, the Speaker shall

discharge the minister concerned. However, if the Government is in a position

to order an extraordinary election to the Riksdag and does so within

one week from a declaration of no confidence, the minister shall not be

discharged.

Rules concerning discharge of the Prime Minister following a vote on

the Prime Minister after an election are laid down in Article 3.

**Art. 8.** A minister shall be discharged if he or she so requests; in such a

case the Prime Minister is discharged by the Speaker, and any other minister

by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister may also discharge any

other minister in other circumstances.

**Art. 9.** If the Prime Minister is discharged or dies, the Speaker shall discharge

the other ministers.

Chapter 8. Acts of law and other provisions

**Provisions adopted by means of an act of law**

**Art. 2.**

Provisions concerning the following shall be adopted by means of

an act of law:

1. the personal status or mutual personal and economic relations of individuals;

2. relations between individuals and the public institutions which relate

to the obligations of individuals, or which otherwise encroach on

their personal or economic circumstances;

3. principles governing the organisation and working procedures of

local authorities and local taxation, as well as the competence of local

authorities in other respects, and their responsibilities;

4. religious communities and the principles on which the Church of

Sweden as a religious community is based;

5. the holding of a consultative referendum throughout the Realm and

the procedure for holding a referendum on a matter of fundamental

law; and

6. elections to the European Parliament.

It also follows from other rules laid down in the present Instrument of

Government and other fundamental laws that provisions with a certain

content shall be adopted by means of an act of law.

**Enactment of fundamental law and the Riksdag Act**

**Art. 14.**

Fundamental law is enacted by means of two decisions of identical

wording. With the first decision, the proposal for the enactment of fundamental

law is adopted as being held in abeyance. The second decision

may not be taken until elections to the Riksdag have been held throughout

the Realm following the first decision, and the newly-elected Riksdag has

convened. At least nine months shall elapse between the first submission

of the matter to the Chamber of the Riksdag and the date of the election,

unless the Committee on the Constitution grants an exception. Such a

decision shall be taken no later than the committee stage, and at least five

sixths of the members must vote in favour of the decision.

**Art. 15.** The Riksdag may not adopt as a decision held in abeyance over an

election a proposal for the enactment of fundamental law which conflicts

with any other proposal concerning fundamental law currently being held

in abeyance, unless at the same time it rejects the proposal first adopted.

**Art. 16.**

A referendum shall be held on a proposal concerning fundamental

law which is held in abeyance over an election, on a motion to this

effect by at least one tenth of the members, provided at least one third

of the members vote in favour of the motion. Such a motion must be put

forward within fifteen days from the date on which the Riksdag adopted

the proposal to be held in abeyance. The motion shall not be referred for

preparation in committee.

The referendum shall be held simultaneously with the election referred

to in Article 14. In the referendum, all those entitled to vote in the election

are entitled to state whether or not they accept the proposal on fundamental

law which is being held in abeyance. The proposal is rejected if

a majority of those taking part in the referendum vote against it, and if

the number of those voting against exceeds half the number of those who

registered a valid vote in the election. In other cases the proposal goes forward

to the Riksdag for final consideration.

**Art. 17.** The Riksdag Act is enacted as prescribed in Article 14, sentences

one to three, and Article 15. It may also be enacted by means of a single

decision, provided at least three fourths of those voting and more than

half the members of the Riksdag vote in favour of the decision.

Supplementary provisions of the Riksdag Act are however adopted in

the same manner as ordinary law. The provisions of paragraph one also

apply to the adoption of an act of law under Article 2, paragraph one,

point 4.

Chapter 15. War and danger of war

**Elections to the Riksdag**

**Art. 11.**

If the Realm is at war, elections to the Riksdag may be held only

if the Riksdag so determines. If the Realm is exposed to the danger of

war when an ordinary election is due to be held, the Riksdag may decide

to defer the election. Such a decision shall be reviewed within one year

and at intervals of no more than one year thereafter. A decision under

this paragraph is valid only if at least three fourths of the members of the

Riksdag vote in favour of it.

If any part of the Realm is occupied when an election is due to be

held, the Riksdag shall approve any necessary modification of the rules

laid down in Chapter 3. No exceptions may however be made from

Chapter 3, Articles 1, 4, 5, 7 to 9 or 12. Any reference to the Realm in

Chapter 3, Article 5, 7, paragraph two; or Article 8, paragraph two, shall

apply instead to that part of the Realm for which the election is to be held.

At least one tenth of the total number of seats shall be adjustment seats.

An ordinary election which is not held at the time prescribed, in

consequence of paragraph one, shall be held as soon as possible after

the war ends or the danger of war has passed. The Government and the

Speaker, jointly or separately, shall ensure that the necessary steps are

taken.

If, in consequence of this Article, an ordinary election has been held

at a time other than the time at which it would normally have been held,

the Riksdag shall set the date of the next ordinary election for that month

in the fourth or fifth year following the first-named election in which an

ordinary election is due to be held under the Riksdag Act.