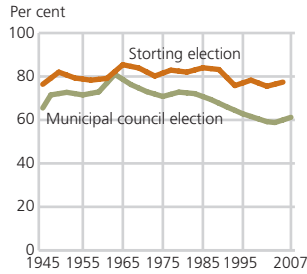
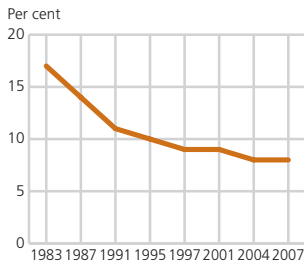


# Promises, promises

## Electoral turnout



## Percentage of persons aged 16-79 who are members of a political party



## Stable participation in Storting elections, decreasing in local

Participation in the Storting (parliamentary) elections peaked in 1965, when 85.4 per cent of those entitled to vote cast their votes. In 2001, this figure fell to 75.5, but then increased somewhat in 2005 to 77.4.

At the Sameting election the same year, the participation rate was 72.6 per cent. Among Norwegian citizens with an immigrant background, the participation in the Storting election was 52.9 per cent.

For a long time, there has been a decline in electoral turnout at municipal elections. In 2007, only six out of ten cast their vote, compared with almost eight out of ten in 1963; a 25 per cent decrease.

At county council elections, the election turnout is even lower. In 2007, only 57.5 per cent of those entitled to vote did so.

The apparent loss of interest in politics is confirmed by figures showing that the share of persons who are members of a political party is also falling. From 1983 to 2007, the percentage was halved – from 16 to 8 per cent.

## Women exercise right to vote more often than men

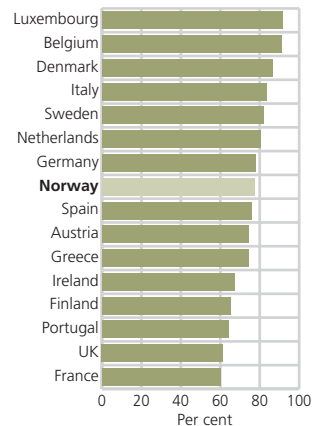
Traditionally, men have voted more often than women, and in the first post-war elections men had a 6-7 per cent higher participation rate than women. This difference had evened out by the 1980s and since then the voter turnout for women has been higher.

## Average voter turnout in Norway

Participation in Norwegian parliamentary elections is not particularly high in an international context. Our Nordic neighbours Denmark and Sweden both have an election turnout of more than 80 per cent. Finland is the only Nordic country with a lower turnout than Norway.

Compared with other European countries, Norway has an average turnout. The highest voting level is found in Luxembourg and Belgium (90 per cent) and the lowest in France (60 per cent).

## General election turnout in selected European countries. Ca. 2006



Source: Eurostat.

## Young people more often stay at home

Election turnout increases with age: only 55 per cent of first time voters cast their vote in 2005, in contrast to 83 per cent of those aged 60 and over.

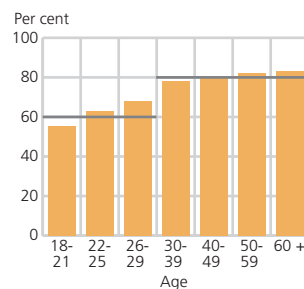
There appears to be a clear division in voter turnout around the age of 30. Those under 30 have an election turnout around 60 per cent, while for the over 30s the turnout is approximately 80 per cent.

## More women – in the Storting and in municipal councils

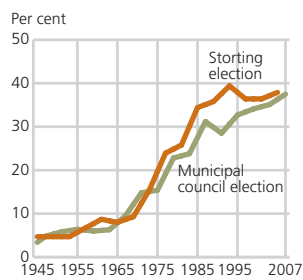
The proportion of women in the Storting and in municipal councils rose sharply from the beginning of the 1970s. In recent years, the proportion of women in the Storting has been just below 40 per cent, while in municipal councils the proportion of women has continued to grow. A total of 50 per cent of parliamentary (Storting) representatives from the Labour Party are women, and from the Socialist Left Party, the Centre Party and Christian Democratic Party around 45 per cent. In the case of the Conservative Party the share of female representatives is approximately 20 per cent, and in the Progress Party 16 per cent.

In comparison with other countries, however, Norway is almost top of the list. It is only in the other Nordic countries that we find an equal or greater share of female members in legislative assemblies, with Sweden at 47 per cent, Finland at 42 and Denmark at 37 per cent. In comparison, Germany has 32 per cent, United Kingdom 20 and France 19 per cent.

Electoral turnout in various age groups. The Storting election 2005



Percentage of female representatives in the Storting and municipal councils



Percentage of votes cast for the main parties at the Storting elections

