

Local Elections

In Luxembourg, local elections take place every 6 years. The next elections will be held in 2023.

The citizens elect communal councils by direct universal suffrage. They consist of 7 to 19 members, depending on the size of the commune, except for the City Council of Luxembourg, which has 27 members.

The members of the communal councils are responsible for policies implemented at the local level. These councils take decisions on everything that concerns the interest of the commune, such as spatial planning and housing, the organization of primary education and extracurricular activities, sport and cultural facilities, water and waste management, the maintenance of the civil register, etc.

Anyone holding Luxembourgish nationality is automatically registered on the electoral roll of their commune when coming of age and is required to vote. Anyone over the age of 18 who has resided in Luxembourg for at least 5 years may also vote at the local elections, regardless of their nationality. Before voting for the first time, you must register on the electoral roll of your commune at least three months before the elections. You can do so online at guichet.lu, or in person at the administration office (Biergercenter) in your commune. Please note: -registration for the European elections does not mean that you are registered for the local elections! Once you are registered, voting is compulsory. You can also be a candidate for the elections in your commune if you have resided there for more than 6 months.

Depending on the size of the commune, two different types of electoral systems are used:

in communes with fewer than 3,000 inhabitants, candidates appear individually on the ballot paper and are elected by relative majority.

In communes with more than 3,000 inhabitants, political groups propose their list of candidates and a group of candidates is elected on the basis of proportional representation.

Voters have three possibilities: they can vote for (1) a list, (2) for several candidates on the same list or (3) for several candidates on different lists (called 'panachage').

The local elections are important in Luxembourg because they let citizens influence their quality of life in a very tangible way. Communes are therefore a vital forum for grassroots democracy.