

The Right to Vote in Municipal Elections

Municipal elections are due to be held on 24 May 2015.

Who will be able to vote?

In addition to adult Spaniards, citizens from the following countries will be able to vote: European Union members States, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Korea, Ecuador, Iceland, Norway, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as from other countries setting up agreements in the future and who are resident in Spain and are aged 18 or over on that day.

To exercise your right to vote it is essential that you are registered on the Electoral Roll [*Censo Electoral*].

Nationals from European Union countries

European citizens must state their intention to vote in order to exercise their right to suffrage.

1. **IF YOU HAVE ALREADY STATED YOUR INTENTION TO VOTE IN PREVIOUS MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS** and you are still registered as a resident [*empadronado*] in your town, **you do NOT need to do anything**, as you will still be on the Electoral Roll.
2. **IF YOU ARE REGISTERED AS A RESIDENT BUT YOU HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY STATED YOUR INTENTION TO VOTE**, you will have to make a **formal statement of your intent to exercise your right to suffrage** by going to the Town Hall where you are registered. You must complete this procedure **before 30 December 2014**.

The Electoral Roll Office [*Oficina del Censo Electoral*] has posted a letter to all citizens who have not stated their intention to vote and who have registered as residents after September 2011. If you have received this letter you can complete the formal statement in the letter and send it to the provincial branch of the Electoral Roll Office [*Delegación Provincial de la Oficina de Censo Electoral*]. Or, if you have a Foreign National's Identification Number (*NIE*), along with your letter you will have received an online procedure password [*Claves de Tramitación Telemática (CTT)*] which you can use to make your statement of intent via the internet, by accessing the National Statistics Institute [*Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE)*] electronic office: <https://sede.ine.gob.es>

3. **IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED AS A RESIDENT and you live in Spain**, you must go to your Town Hall to register and make your statement of intent to vote using the forms available at the Town Hall.

All these procedures must be completed before 30 December 2014.

Nationals from countries with agreements for municipal elections

Nationals from countries with agreements that recognise the right to vote in municipal elections require the following: they must be of legal age, apply for registration on the electoral roll for municipal elections and comply with the other terms and conditions provided in the agreements.

Extra-Community countries with agreements in place at the present time include: **Bolivia, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Korea, Ecuador, Iceland, Norway, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago**. The list may be increased with other countries that sign agreements in the future.

The **terms and conditions** provided for nationals from **non-EU countries (except Norway)** are as follows:

1. They must have a **residence permit** in Spain.
2. They must have **lived in Spain** legally and continuously at least for the **five years** before applying for registration on the electoral roll.
3. They must exercise their right to vote in the municipality of their usual residence and they must be registered on said municipality's **census**.
4. They must be **registered on the electoral roll for foreign residents** in Spain. The application for registration must be made by the interested party in the town hall on whose municipal census he/she is registered.

And the terms and conditions for **Norwegian nationals** are as follows:

1. They must have a **residence permit** in Spain.
2. They must have lived in Spain legally and continuously for more than **three years**.
3. They must have their address in the municipality in which they are to vote and be **registered on the municipal census**.
4. They must be **registered on the electoral roll for foreign residents** in Spain. This requirement is essential for exercising the right to vote and the registration must be applied for by the interested party. The application must be handed in at the town hall on whose municipal census the applicant is registered.

The applications for registration on the electoral roll for NON EU citizens (Norwegians + other Non EU residents) may be made from 1 December 2014 to 15 January 2015.

Non-European community citizens who already applied for registration on the Electoral Roll prior to the 2011 elections must complete the procedure once again in order to vote in the 2015 elections.

More information: at Town Halls, at the provincial branch of the Electoral Roll Office in Alicante: C/ México 20 (03008) and on telephone number 901 101 900 or at www.ine.es