

## SWEDEN

**Date of Elections:** 18 September 1985

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Swedish Parliament, the *Riksdag*, comprises 349 members elected for 3 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Swedish citizens who have reached the age of 18 and are not under tutelage are entitled to vote. This applies also to citizens living abroad provided that they have been residents of Sweden at some time and apply for entry in a special electoral register.

Electoral registers are drawn up for each election district and are revised annually. Voting is not compulsory. Postal voting is permitted.

Anyone who is entitled to vote may be elected as a member of the *Riksdag*. **The** parliamentary mandate is generally not incompatible with other public or private offices. Although Ministers (as well as the Speaker) may not serve as members of Parliament while in office, they may retain their seats which, in the meantime, are held by substitute members, and may take up their parliamentary duties if and when they leave the Government. Substitute members also serve for ordinary members who have obtained a leave of absence for at least one month.

Of the 349 members of the *Riksdag*, 310 are elected in 28 constituencies, under the party-list system, with proportional distribution of seats according to the St. Lague method (divisors: 1.4, 3, 5, 7, etc.). To obtain a seat, a party must either obtain at least 4% of the votes cast throughout the country or 12% of the votes cast in a constituency.

The 39 remaining (or "compensatory") seats are allotted on the basis of total votes throughout the country, though distributed by constituencies; for this process, parties which have obtained seats only by means of the 12% rule are excluded.

If a seat in the *Riksdag* should become vacant between general elections, it is filled by a substitute member chosen at the same time as the elected member.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1985 election campaign was dominated by economic issues such as the budget deficit, inflation and the tax system. Main contenders for the 349 *Riksdag* seats were, once again, the governing Social Democrats, led by Prime Minister Olof Palme, and the Moderate (Conservative) Party, headed by Mr. Ulf Adelsohn; the primary issue between the two groups was which of them represented a future change in the country's economic and social welfare system. Also in contention was the newly-formed Centre coalition, comprising the Centre Party and the Christian Democratic Union; the legality of this coalition was a debated point.

On polling day, the Social Democrats lost seven seats but managed to stay in power since the socialist bloc retained its *Riksdag* majority with a total of 178 seats. The greatest surprises arose within the ranks of the non-socialist bloc, as the Moderates lost 10 seats while the Liberal Party, under the new leadership of Mr. Bengt Westerberg, more than doubled its representation (from 21 to 51 seats). The Centre lost 12 seats in spite of the coalition.

On 4 October, Prime Minister Palme announced the composition of his new Cabinet.

## Statistics

*1. Results of the Elections and Distribution  
of Seats in the Riksdag*

Number of registered electors. . . . .	6,248,291	
Voters. . . . .	5,619,242	(89.93%)
Blank or void ballot papers. . . . .	48,220	
Valid votes. . . . .	5,571,022	

Political Group	Votes obtained		Number of Seats
Social Democratic Party	2,491,551	44.72	159 (-7)
Moderate Party (Conser- vatives). . . . .	1,187,335	21.31	76 (-10)
Liberal Party. . . . .	792,268	14.22	51 (+30)
Centre*. . . . .	691,258	12.40	44 (-12)
Left Party (Communists) . . . . .	298,419	5.35	19 (-1)
Environment Party . . . . .	83,645	1.50	—
Others. . . . .	26,546	0.47	—
			349

\* Centre is an electoral coalition between the Centre Party and the Christian Democratic Union (KDS). Of its 44 seats, one is held by a KDS member.

*2. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men	245
Women	104
	349