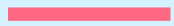




Swedish National
Election Studies

Report 2026:4



Swedish Voting Behavior 1956-2022

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Since the 1950s, Swedish National Election Studies Program conducts empirical research on the condition and development of the Swedish democracy. The Report Series is one of our main publication outlets. The aim is to publish facts and research results about elections and voting behavior to a broad audience of researchers, students, journalists, politicians and the public.

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Swedish Voting Behavior 1956-2022

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Abstract

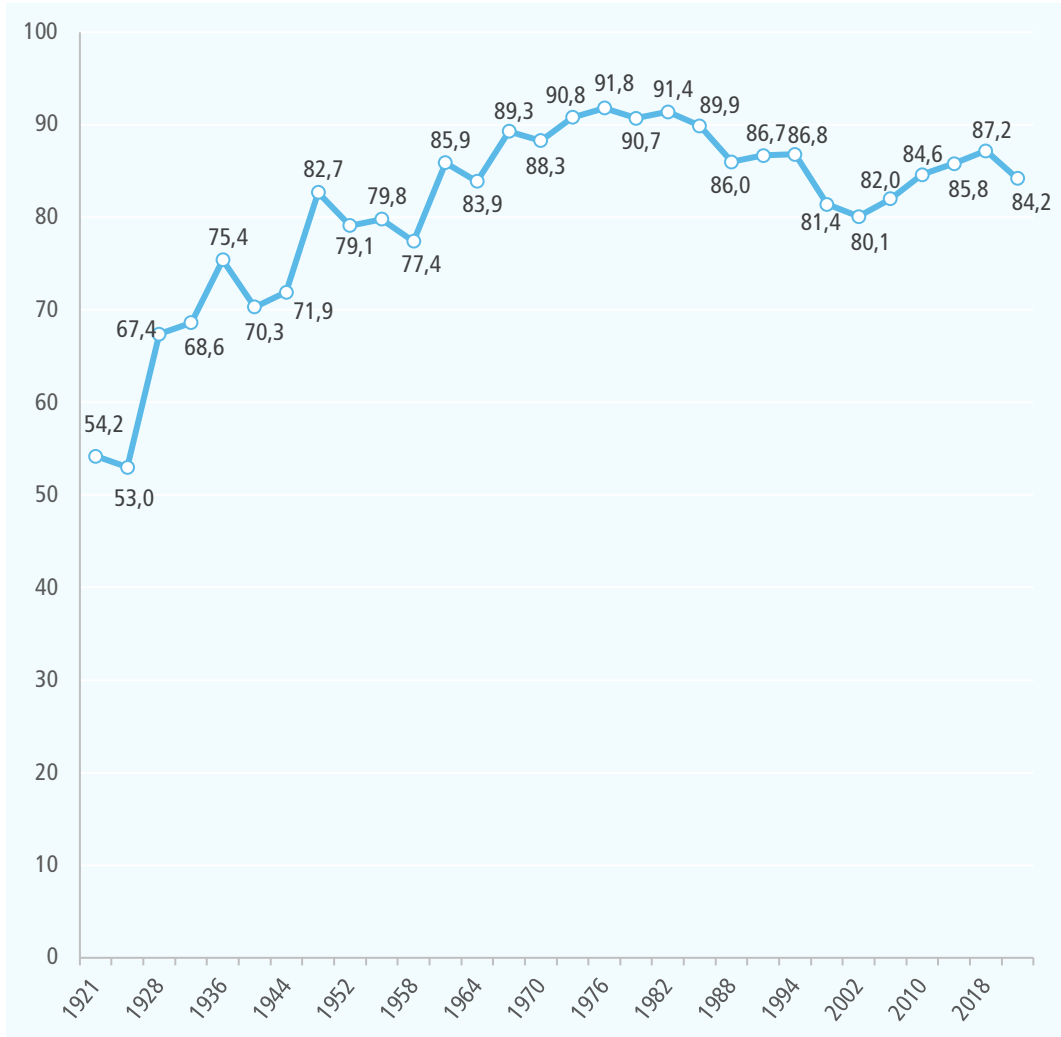
The results presented in the following set of figures and tables stem from the Swedish National Election Studies Program (SNES). The Program was initiated by Jörgen Westerståhl and Bo Särilvik in the mid-1950s, shortly after the Michigan Election Studies Project began. The first studies were done in conjunction with the local elections in 1954 and the parliamentary election in 1956.

In all national elections since 1956 – including the ATP-referendum in 1957, the Nuclear Power-referendum in 1980, the EU-referendum in 1994, the Euro-referendum in 2003 and the European Parliament elections in 1995, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, 2019 and 2024 – a large representative sample of eligible voters has been interviewed. The basic design in the latest studies has been a rolling panel in which half of the sample has been interviewed in connection with the previous election, and the other half in connection with the succeeding election. The sample size has been about 3 500 – 4 000 up until 2014. In 2018 and 2022 the main collection mode was changed from face-to-face interviews to postal and web surveys. At the same time, the sample size was increased to about 25 000 to 30 000. Historically, the response rate has been 75 – 80 percent. However, in recent years that rate has fallen. In the 2022 Election Study the response rate was 42,0 per cent (Karlsson & Cederholm Lager 2023). All results in this report – unless specifically indicated – are unweighted.

The early Election Studies were directed by Jörgen Westerståhl (1954–1956), Bo Särilvik (1954–1973) and Olof Petersson (1973–1976). The most recent studies have been directed by Mikael Gilljam (1985 – 1994), Sören Holmberg (1979–2010) and Henrik Oscarsson (2002 – 2024).

Voter Turnout

Figure 1 Voter Turnout in Swedish Riksdag Elections 1921–2022 (per cent)



Comment: The results show official turnout among registered voters.

Source: The Swedish Election Authority, Statistics Sweden

Election Results

Table 1 Swedish Election Results 1976–2022 (per cent)

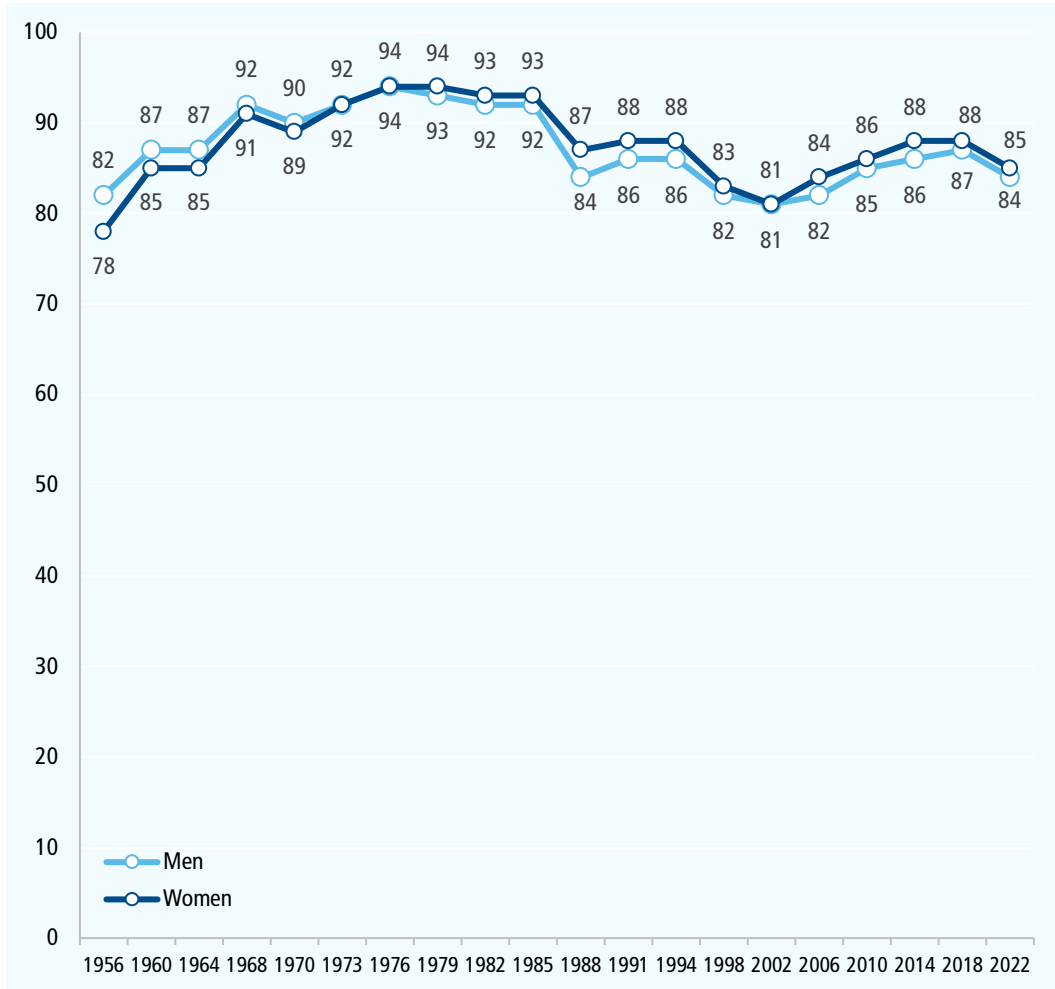
Party	1976	1979	1982	1985	1988	1991	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	2022
Left party (Left)	4,8	5,6	5,6	5,4	5,9	4,5	6,2	12,0	8,4	5,9	5,6	5,7	8,0	6,8
Social Democrats (Soc.Dem)	42,7	43,2	45,6	44,7	43,2	37,7	45,2	36,4	39,9	35,0	30,7	31,0	28,3	30,3
Green party (Gr.)	-	-	1,6	1,5	5,5	3,4	5,0	4,5	4,6	5,2	7,3	6,9	4,4	5,1
Centre party (Cen.)	24,1	18,1	15,5	10,1	11,3	8,5	7,7	5,1	6,2	7,9	6,6	6,1	8,6	6,7
Liberal party (Lib.)	11,1	10,6	5,9	14,2	12,2	9,1	7,2	4,7	13,4	7,5	7,0	5,4	5,5	4,6
Christian Democrats (Ch.Dem)	1,4	1,4	1,9	2,3	2,9	7,2	4,1	11,8	9,1	6,6	5,6	4,6	6,3	5,3
Conservative party (Con.)	15,6	20,3	23,6	21,3	18,3	21,9	22,4	22,9	15,3	26,2	30,1	23,3	19,8	19,1
New Democracy (NYD)	-	-	-	-	-	6,7	1,2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden Democrats (Swe.Dem)	-	-	-	-	0,0	0,1	0,3	0,4	1,4	2,9	5,7	12,9	17,5	20,5
Feminist initiative (FI)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0,7	0,4	3,1	0,5	-
Minor Parties	0,3	0,8	0,3	0,5	0,7	0,9	0,7	2,2	1,7	2,1	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Turnout	91,8	90,7	91,4	89,9	86,0	86,7	86,8	81,4	80,1	82,0	84,6	85,8	87,2	84,2

Comment: The election result for Sweden Democrats in the 1988 election was 0,02%.

Source: The Swedish Election Authority, Statistics Sweden

Voter Turnout

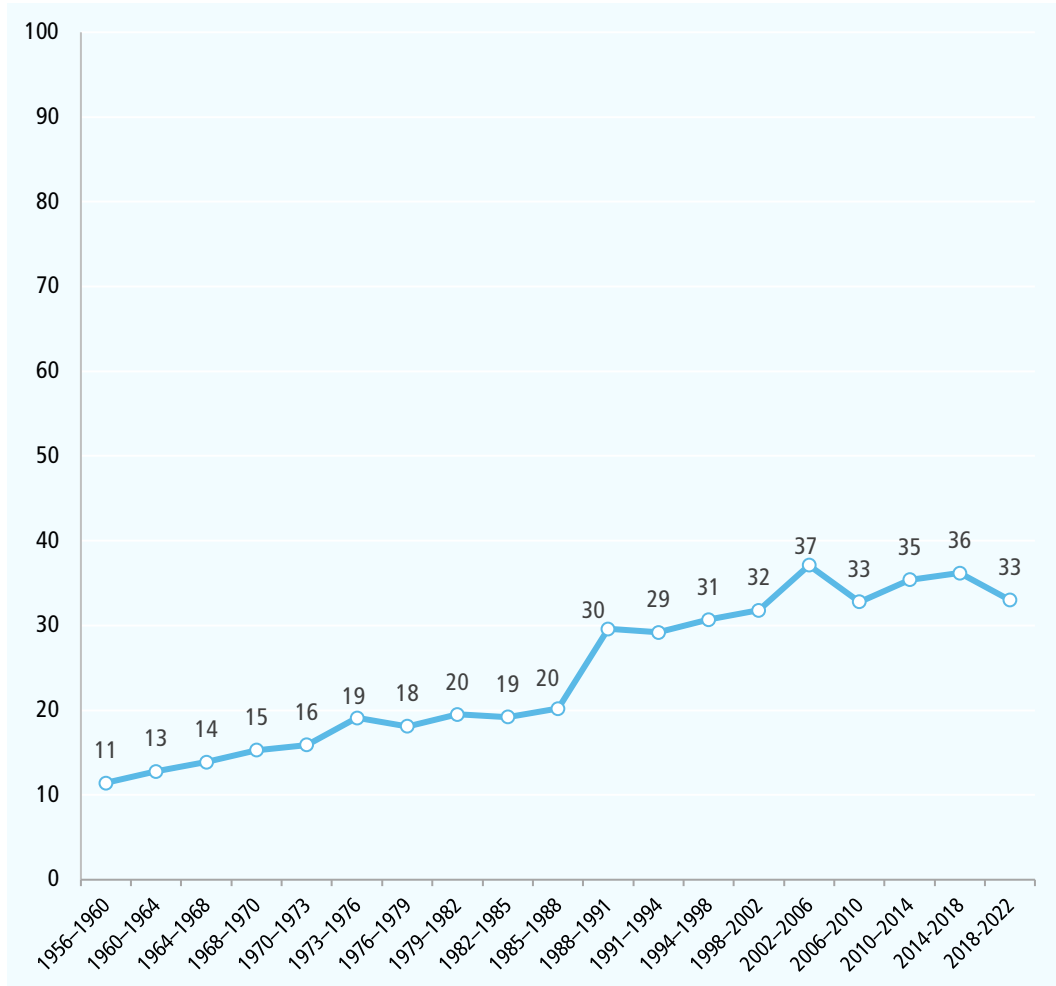
Figure 2 Voter Turnout in Swedish Riksdag Elections among Women and Men 1956–2022 (per cent)



Source: Statistics Sweden

Voter Volatility

Figure 3 Proportion of Party Switchers in Swedish Elections 1960-2022 (per cent)

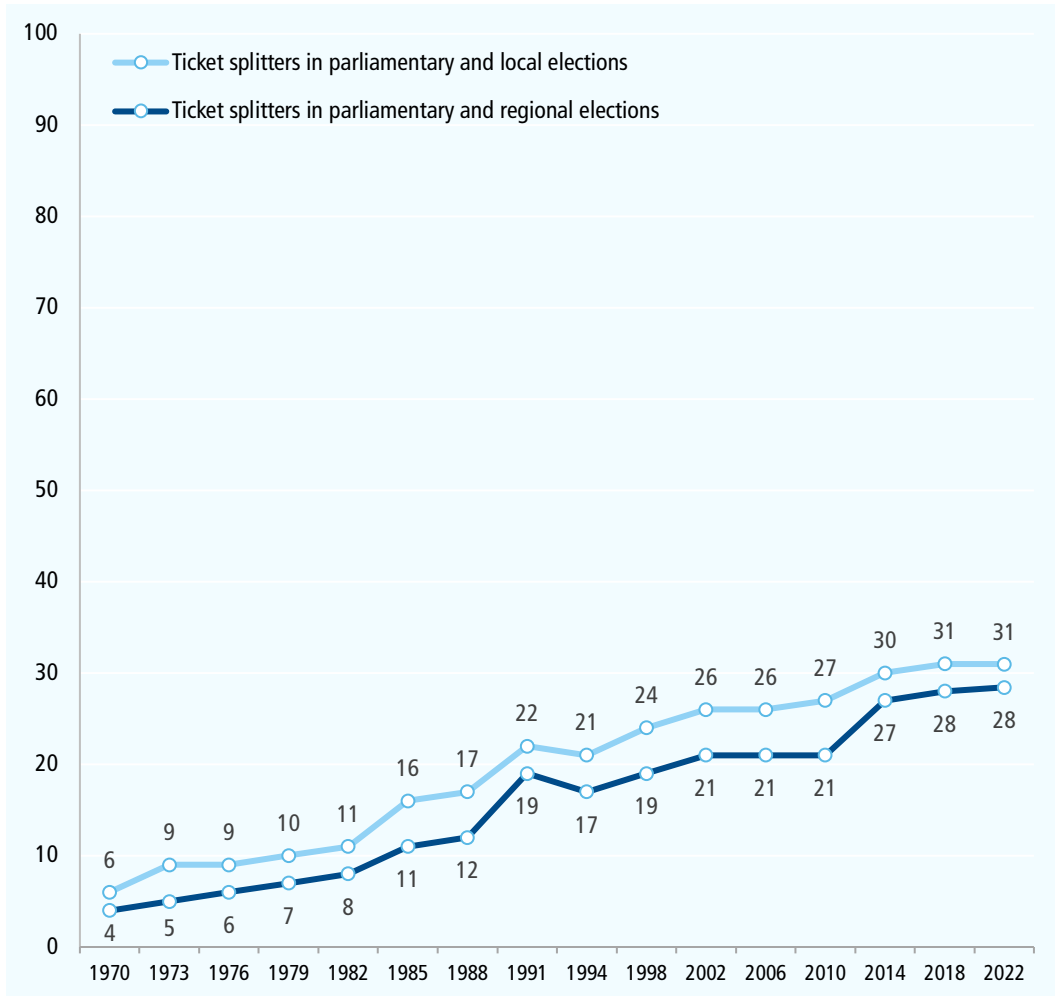


Comment: At every election, the results show the proportion party switchers among voters participating in that and the immediately preceding election. Results for the years 1960-1968 and 1973 and 2018 are based entirely on recall data while results for 1970 and for the years 1976-2022 are based in part on data from panel studies.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Voter Volatility

Figure 4 Ticket Splitting in Swedish Elections 1970-2022 (per cent)

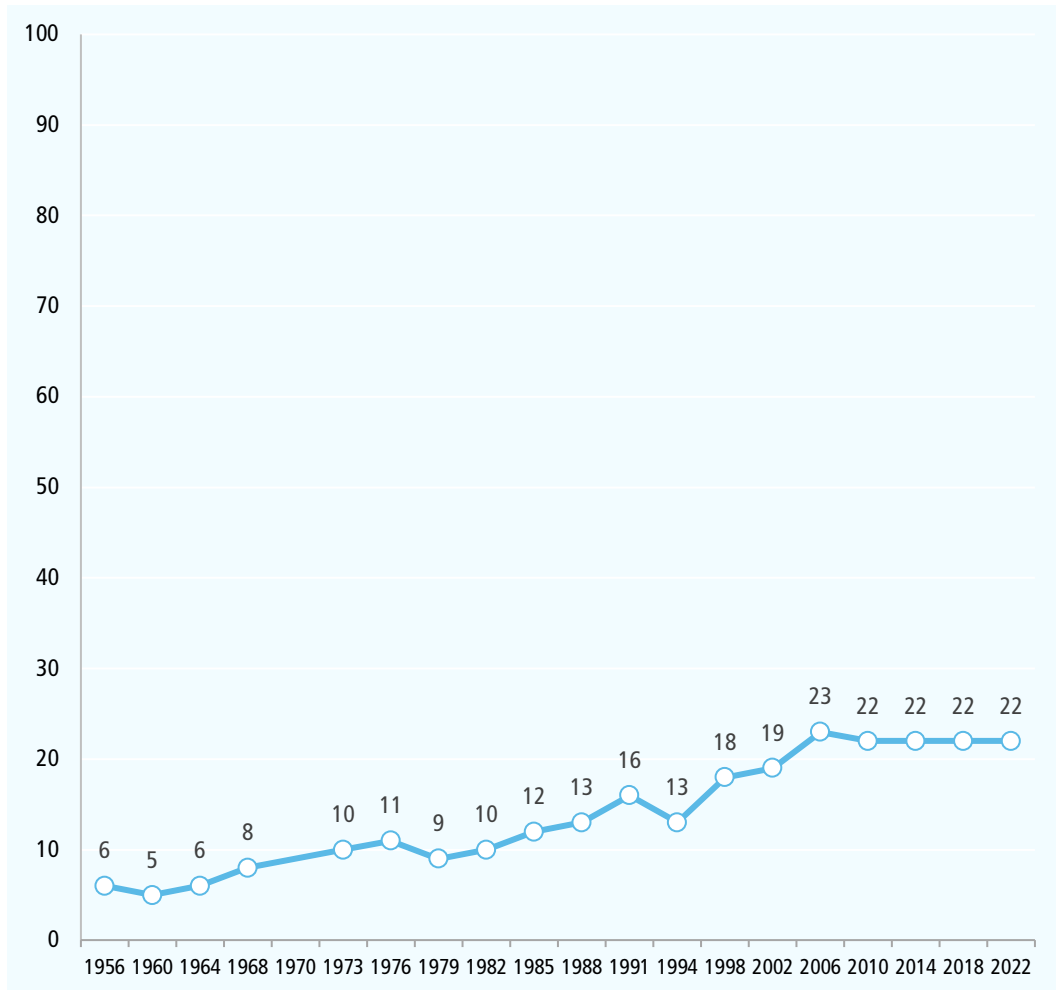


Comment: The percentage base is defined as voters participating in parliamentary and local elections (kommun) and in parliamentary and regional elections (landsting), respectively.

Source: Swedish National Election Studies Program

Voter Volatility

Figure 5 Party Switchers during Election Campaigns 1956–2022: From Best Party Pre-Election to Party Choice Post-Election (per cent)

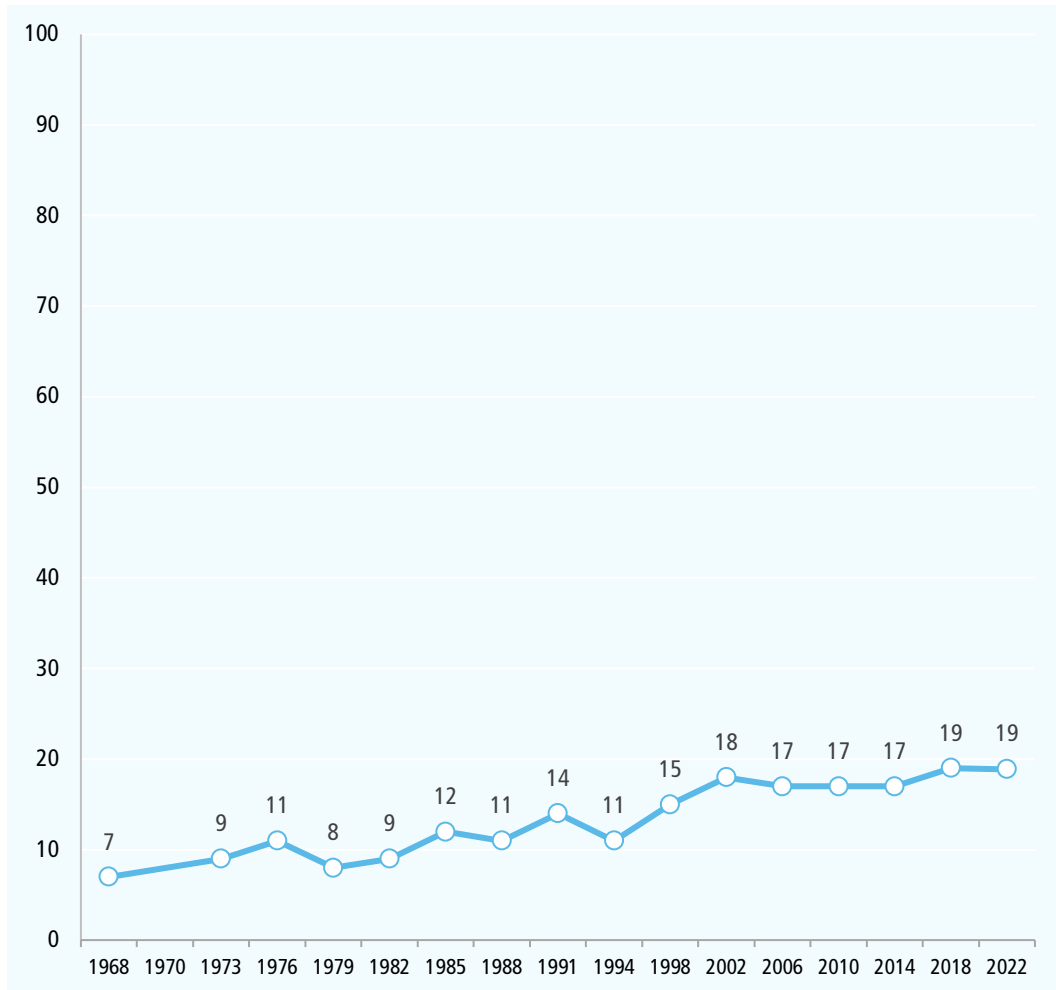


Comment: The results are based on panel data consisting of party sympathy data ("best party") from pre-election face-to-face interviews and information about party choice in post-election mail questionnaires. Since 2018 both pre-election and post-election surveys are combined mail-in and web questionnaires. No election campaign panel study was performed in 1970. The numbers of respondents vary around 1000.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Voter Volatility

Figure 6 Party Switchers during Election Campaigns: From Vote Intention Pre-Election to Party Choice Post-Election 1968–2022 (per cent)

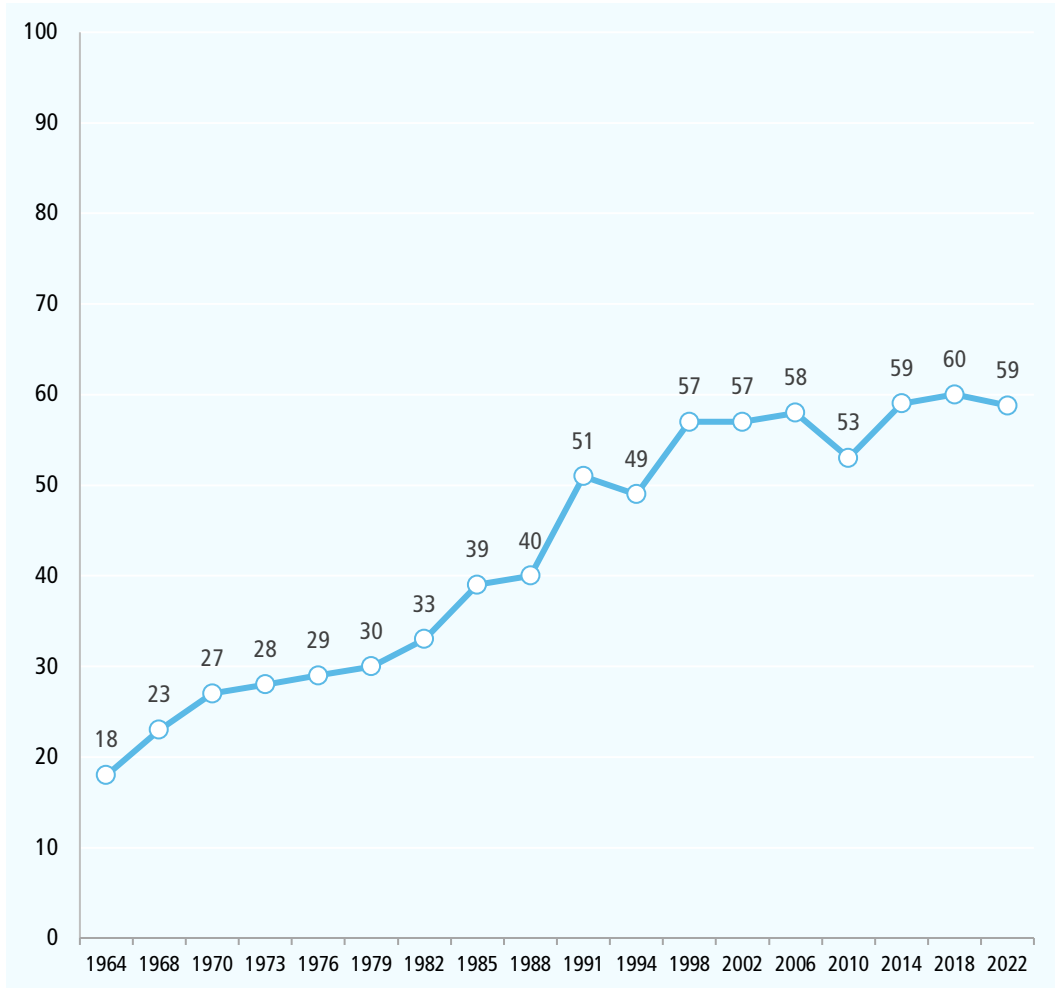


Comment: The results are based on panel data consisting of voting intention data from pre-election face-to-face interviews and information about party choice in post-election mail questionnaires. Respondents without a specific vote intention have been assigned a party based on a question about “best party”. No election campaign panel study was performed in 1970. The number of respondents vary around 1000.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Timing of Vote Choice

Figure 7 Party Choice Decided during the Election Campaign 1964–2022 (per cent)

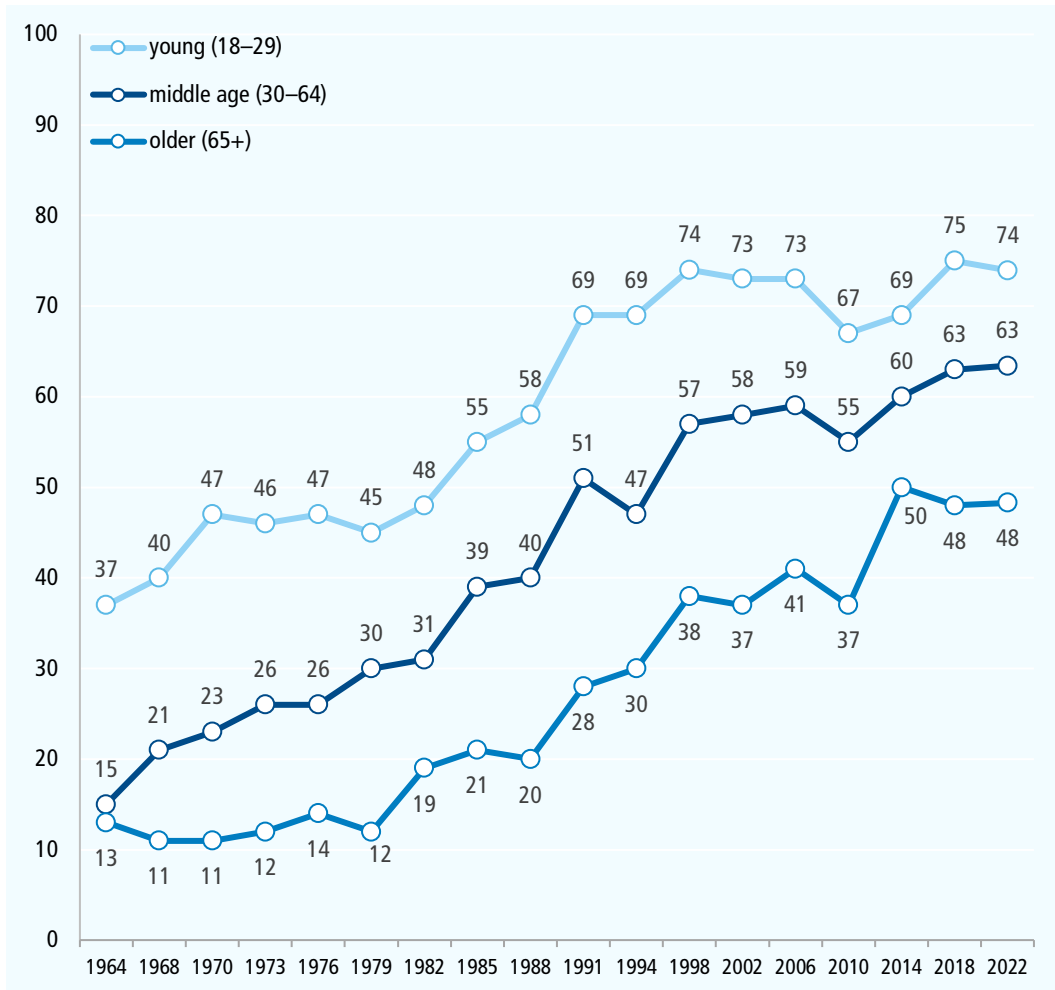


Comment: The results are based on a question with the following wording: "When did you decide which party to vote for in the election this year? Was it during the last week before the election, earlier during autumn or summer or did you know all along how you were going to vote?" The two first response alternatives have been combined into "during the election campaign" category. Non-voters are not included in the analysis.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Time of Voting Decision

Figure 8 Party Choice Decided during the Election Campaign in Different Age Categories 1964–2022 (per cent)

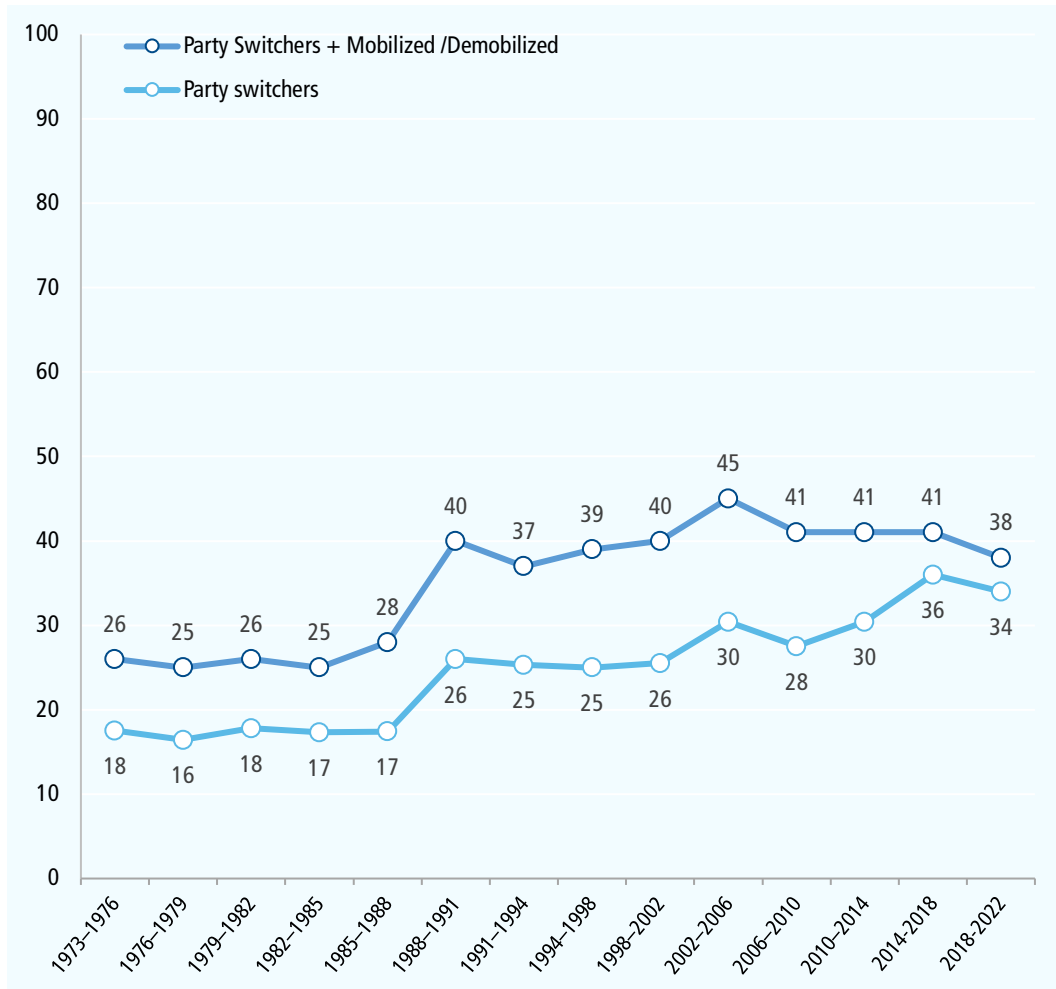


Comment: The results are based on a question with the following wording: "When did you decide which party to vote for in the election this year? Was it during the last week before the election, earlier during autumn or summer or did you know all along how you were going to vote?" The two first response alternatives have been combined into "during the election campaign" category. Non-voters are not included in the analysis. Young is defined as 18/21-29 years, middle age 30-64 years and older 65+ years.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Voter Volatility

Figure 9 Total Voter Volatility in the Swedish Electorate: Proportion of Party Switchers and Proportion of Mobilized and Demobilized Citizens 1976–2022 (per cent)



Comment: The analyses of party switchers is identical to that reported previously, however the proportion of party switchers have been recalculated with a new percentage base, namely the entire electorate (=the number of eligible voters at each election). Information of turnout has been validated against official census registers. Mobilized is change from non-voting to voting. Demobilized is change from voting to non-voting.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Second Best Party

Table 2 Swedish Voters' Second Best Party 1956–2022 (per cent)

Party	1956	1964	1968	1970	1973	1976	1979	1982	1985
Left party	6	9	8	10	14	15	19	20	18
Social Democratic party	20	12	10	13	14	11	11	10	10
Swedish Green party	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
Centre party	18	39	50	49	43	30	22	32	18
Liberal party	36	31	24	23	18	33	34	20	35
Christian Democrats	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Conservative party	19	8	7	4	9	10	12	14	12
New Democracy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden Democrats	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feminist initiative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sum	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Respondents	705	1 993	2 233	2 184	1 787	1 913	2 080	2 025	2 068

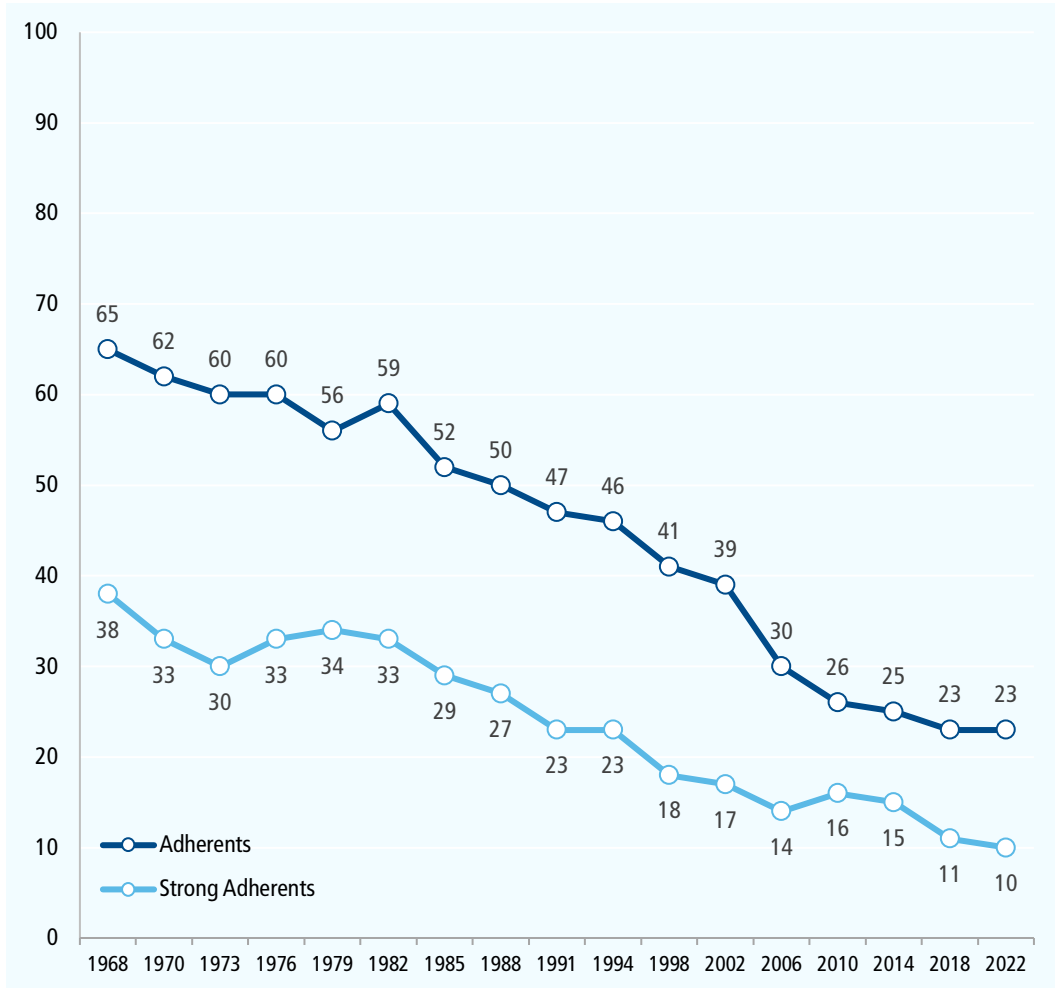
Party	1988	1991	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	2022
Left party	16	12	16	21	20	14	13	15	14	12
Social Democratic party	12	9	13	14	15	13	12	13	12	17
Swedish Green party	11	4	13	10	9	12	20	20	9	11
Centre party	21	16	14	11	10	12	9	12	16	13
Liberal party	28	29	24	14	23	20	18	16	12	10
Christian Democrats	3	11	7	18	12	10	6	6	10	13
Conservative party	10	12	11	13	11	17	18	11	17	16
New Democracy	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden Democrats	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	6	9
Feminist initiative	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	3	0
Sum	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Respondents	1 914	1 913	1 846	1 416	1 454	1 223	962	700	2 511	3 175

Comment: The following wording was used: "What party do you like second best?". The analysis includes voters who also gave a response to an earlier question about what party they liked best. Don't knows are not included in the percentage base, as well as respondents who have identical first and second party preferences (about 11 percent 2022).

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Party Identification

Figure 10 Degree of Party Identification 1968–2022 (per cent)

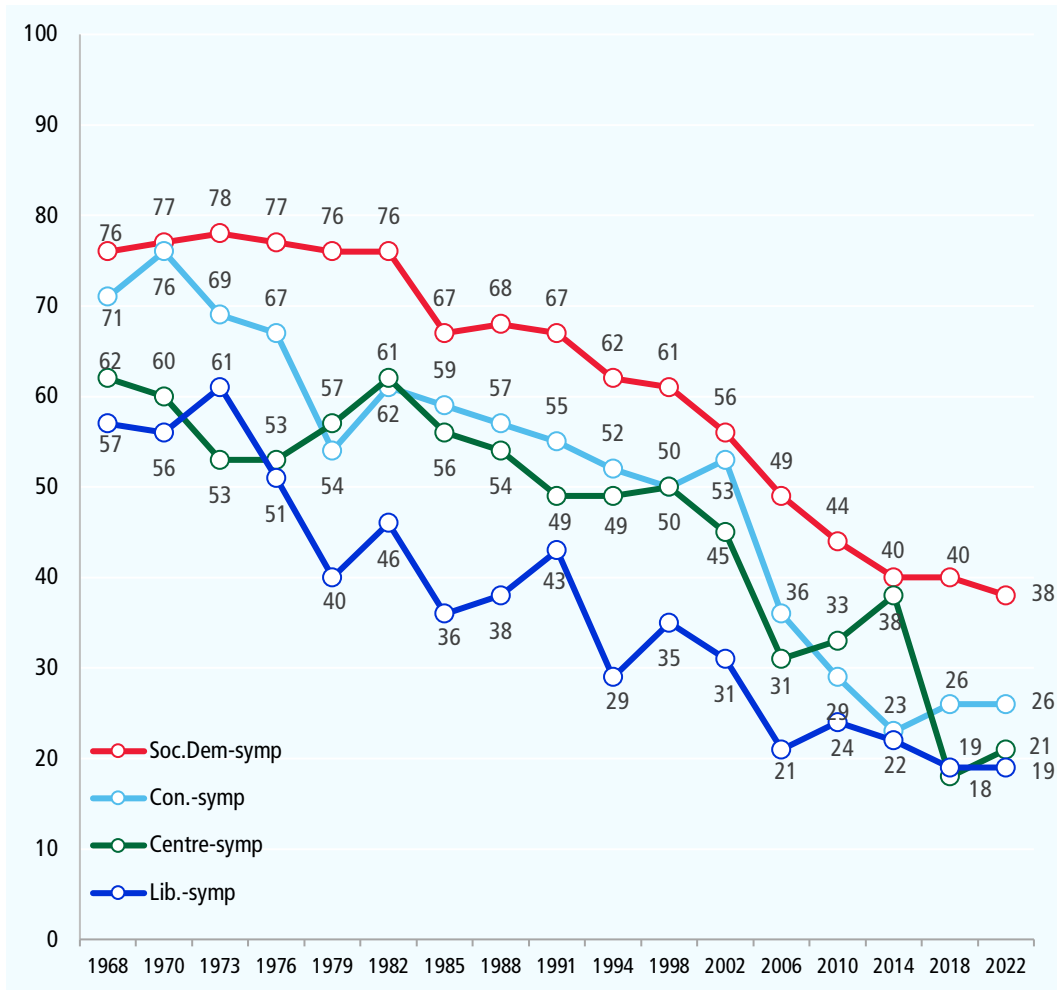


Comment: The first interview question asked is: “Many people consider themselves adherents of a specific party. But there are also many others who do not have any such attachment to any of the parties. Do you usually think of yourself as an adherent of any particular party, or do you have no such attachment to any of the parties?”. The first answer option is “yes, thinks of him/herself as an adherent of a specific party”, and the second one “no, does not think of him/herself as an adherent of a specific party”. The second question used is: “Some people are strongly convinced adherents of their party. Others are not so strongly convinced. Do you yourself belong to the strongly convinced adherents of your party?” and the first answer option is “yes, strongly convinced”, the second is “no, not strongly convinced”. A similar but somewhat differently phrase was used in the years 1956–1964. The results for strong adherents in 1956 was 45, in 1960 53, and in 1964 47. The results are weighted down for the increased sample loss over the years. For more information regarding the weighting, see Hedberg & Holmberg 2016.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Party Identification

Figure 11 Subjective Party Identifiers 1968–2022 among Sympathizers of Different Swedish Parties (per cent)

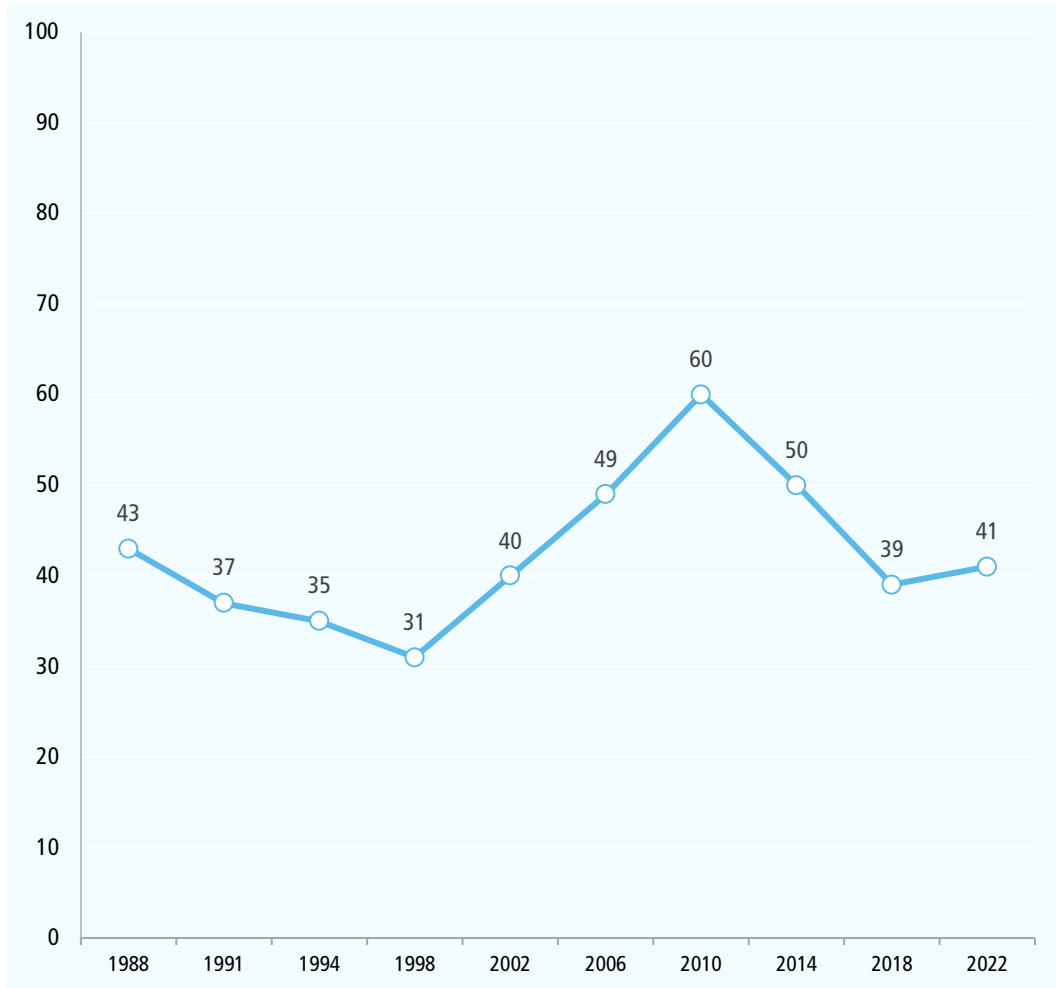


Comment: Persons who consider themselves identifiers of a party have been defined as subjective identifiers. The results for Left-, Christ.Dem.-, Greens-, and Swe.Dem in 2022 are 37, 20, 20 and 32 percent subjective identifiers, respectively. The results are weighted down for the increased sample loss over the years. For more information regarding the weighting, see Hedberg & Holmberg 2016.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Political Trust

Figure 12 Trust in Politicians 1988–2022 (per cent)

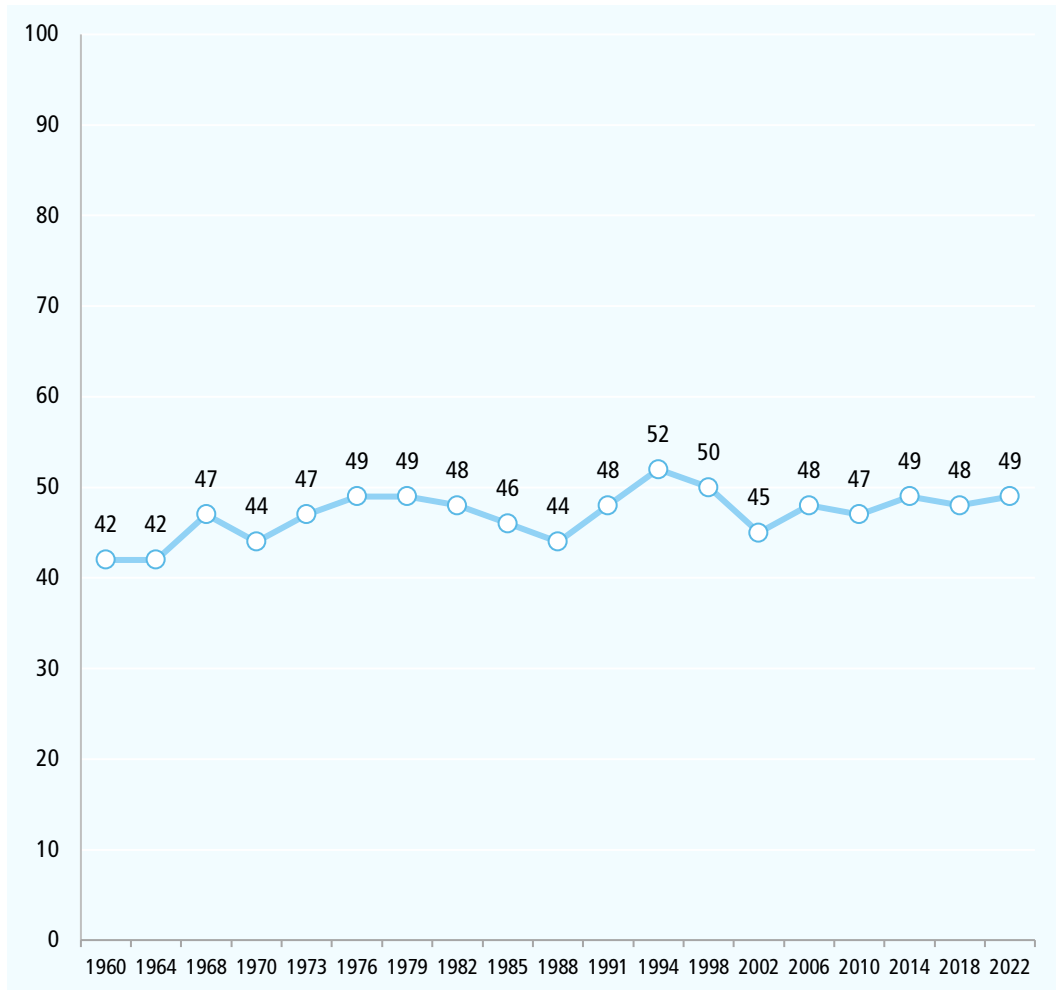


Comment: The interview question is phrased: "Generally speaking, how much confidence do you have in Swedish politicians – very high, fairly high, fairly low or very low". The results show the proportion of respondents answering very or fairly high confidence. The results are weighted down for the increased sample loss over the years. For more information regarding the weighting, see Hedberg & Holmberg 2016.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Political Interest

Figure 13 Political Interest (proportion of rather/very interested in politics) 1960–2022 (per cent)

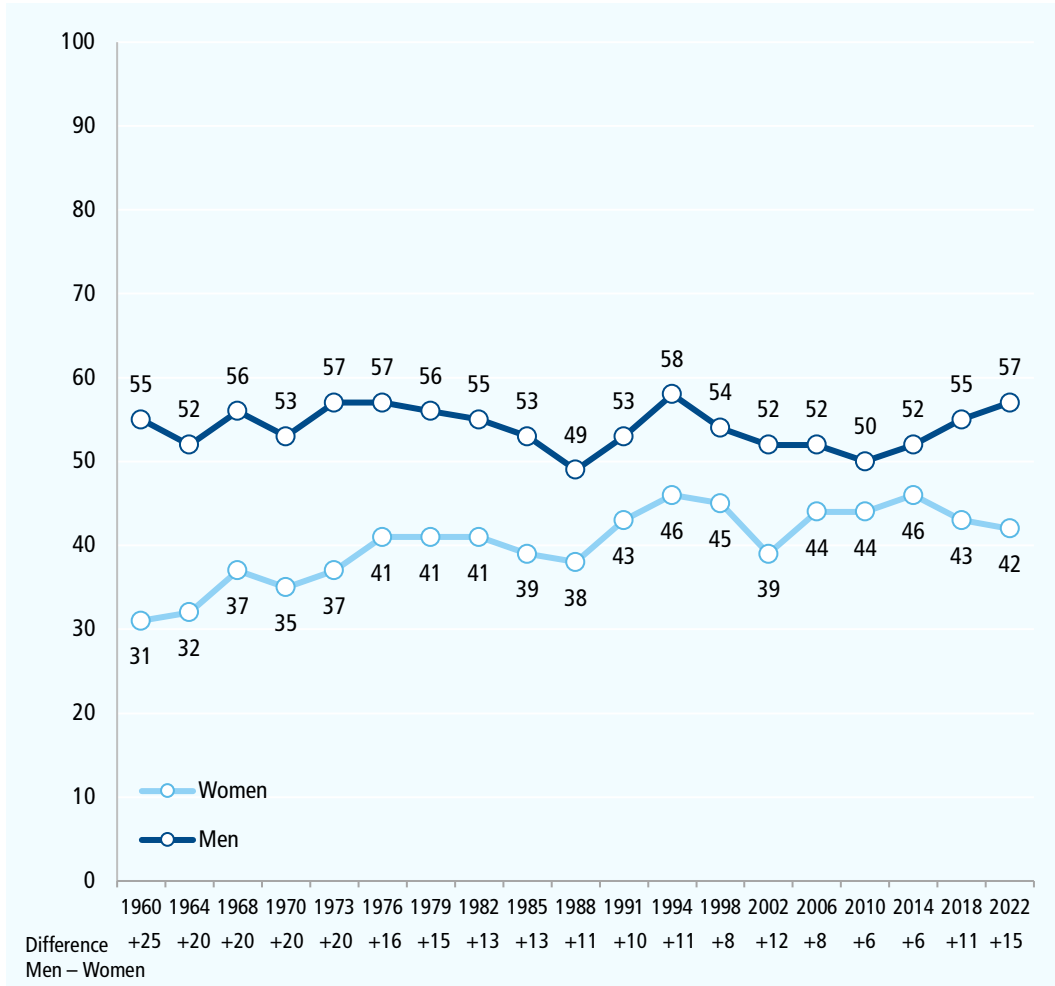


Comment: The results are weighted down for the declining response rate over the years. For more information regarding the weighting, see Hedberg & Holmberg 2016.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Political Interest

Figure 14 Political Interest and Gender 1960–2022 (per cent)

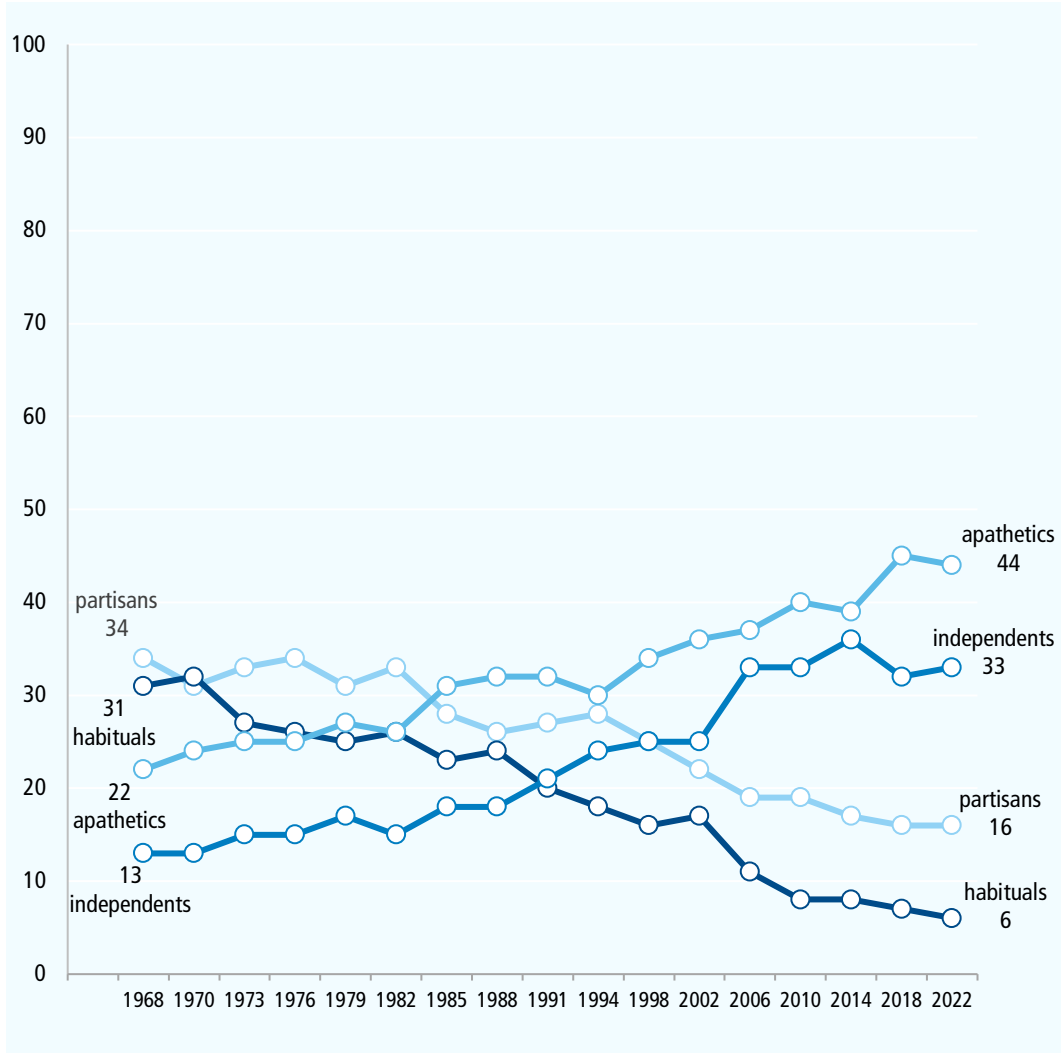


Comment: Given the lower response rate in the most recent studies, especially in 2014 and 2018, the results have been weighted for the increased sample loss over the years. For more information regarding the weighting, see Hedberg & Holmberg 2016.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Political Interest and Partisanship Combined

Figure 15 Political Interest and Political Partisanship 1968–2022 (per cent)



Comment: Partisans have a party identification (=strong or weak) and are interested in politics. Independents are interested in politics but have no party identification. Habituals have a party identification but lack interest in politics. Apathetics have neither a party identification nor interest in politics. The typology was devised by Allen Barton (1955) and applied to Sweden by Olof Petersson (1977). Given the lower response rate in the most recent studies, especially in 2014 and 2018, the results have been weighted for the increased sample loss over the years. For more information regarding the weighting, see Hedberg & Holmberg 2016.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Important Issues

Table 3 Percentage of Party Voters Mentioning Different Issue Areas as Important for Their Party Choice in Response to an Open-Ended Question (per cent)

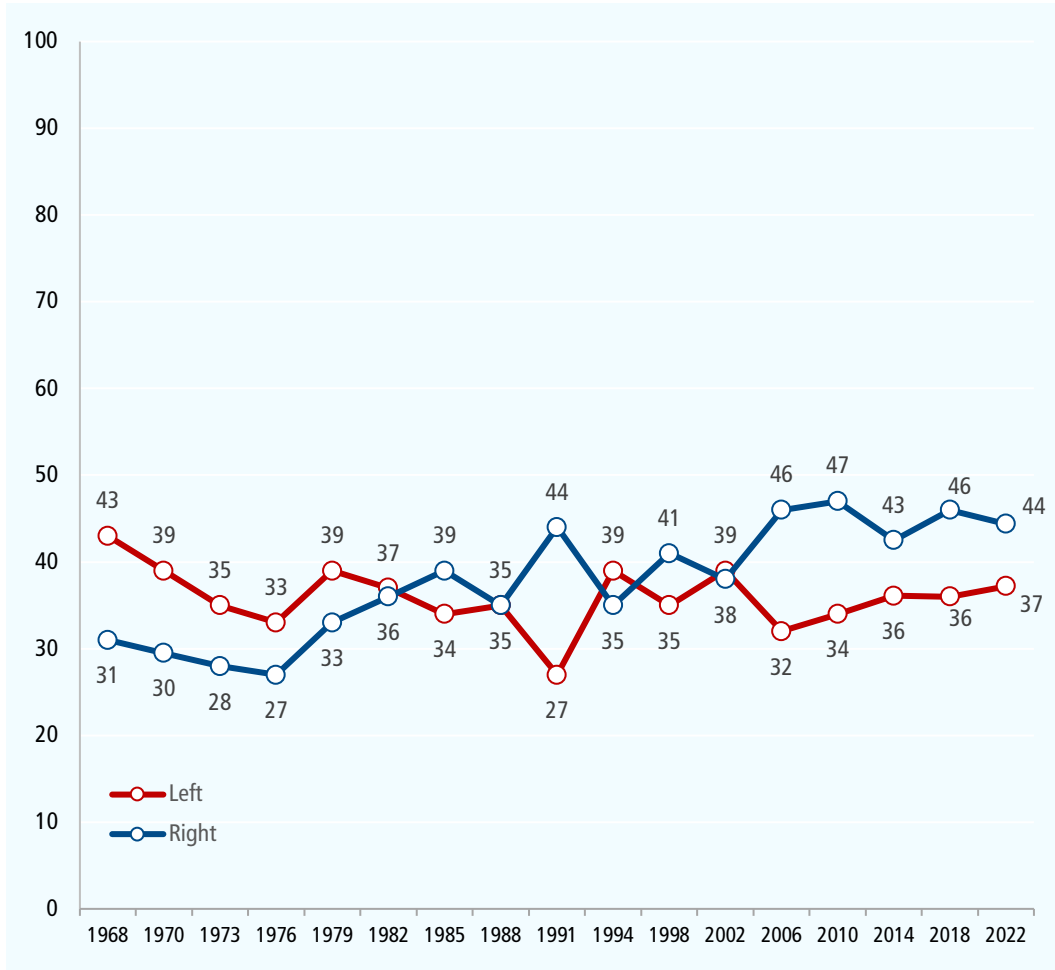
Issue Area	1979	1982	1985	1988	1991	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	2022
Health Care	2	3	8	12	12	10	18	31	24	26	20	32	38
Law and Order	1	1	2	1	3	1	2	4	3	1	8	7	32
Education	6	3	3	2	4	6	20	29	24	26	41	23	26
Immigration/Refugees	0	0	1	2	8	5	3	10	5	9	23	30	26
Environment	6	7	22	46	25	20	12	8	11	13	20	18	26
Energy/Nuclear Power	26	2	1	3	3	2	3	1	5	2	2	1	19
Pensions/Care of Elderly	5	8	8	9	20	9	17	20	21	19	17	15	13
Economy	9	14	14	8	20	30	14	10	11	17	11	4	9
Social Policies/Welfare	4	3	14	7	9	14	15	11	10	13	19	8	6
Taxes	17	8	20	19	18	9	17	14	15	15	15	7	6
Peace/Int./Armed Forces	1	4	6	4	3	2	2	2	2	1	5	3	6
Public vs Private Sector	5	2	7	3	4	4	3	4	2	2	2	2	3
Religion/Moral	2	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	0	1	2	2
Full Employment	18	29	25	5	23	41	34	7	35	31	30	3	1
Business Policy	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	5	4	2	2	1
Family/Child Care	8	8	17	16	18	13	15	14	15	6	4	3	1
Housing	5	2	2	4	5	1	0	2	1	1	1	2	1
Agriculture	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	1
Gender Equality	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	4	1	5	3	0
EU/EMU	0	0	0	1	10	14	6	5	0	0	1	1	0
Wage Earners' Funds	4	33	11	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of voters who mentioned at least one issue	63	76	78	72	82	79	77	73	80	86	90	73	87
Respondents	2 678	2 640	2 610	2 299	2 273	2 256	1 633	1 864	1 667	1 274	984	6 899	6 459

Comment: The most important issue is marked with a circle each election year.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Ideological Left-Right Placement

Figure 16 Left-Right Opinion Among Swedes 1968–2022 (per cent)

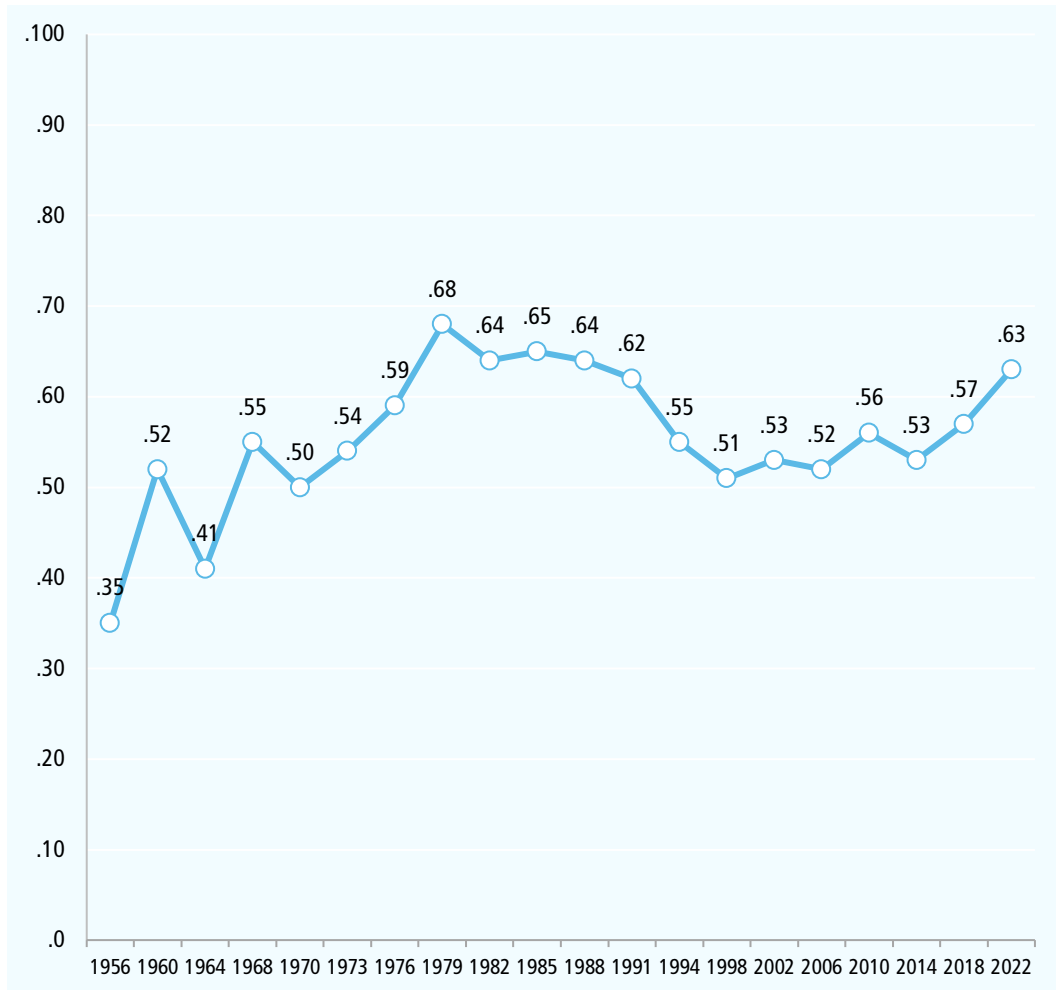


Comment: The left-right scale runs from 0 (far left) to 10 (far right) with a designated midpoint a 5 (neither left nor right). All respondents are included in the results. Individuals responding don't know are excluded from the analysis, this equals 3-10 percent through the years. In the study 2018, the end points of the response scale was "Left" and "Right", in previous years it was "Far to the left" and "Far to the right".

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Ideological Left-Right Voting

Figure 18 Ideological Left-Right Voting and Party Choice in Swedish Elections 1956–2022 (mean eta)



Comment: The results are mean etas based on analyses of variance treating party voting groups (5 to 9 parties) as the independent variable and three left-right issue questions with the strongest relationship with party choice as the dependent variables. The left-right issue questions are not exactly the same throughout the years.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Issue Voting

Table 4 Party Profiles 1982–2022. Percent Respondents Who Mentioned at Least One Election Issue for the Relevant Party (per cent)

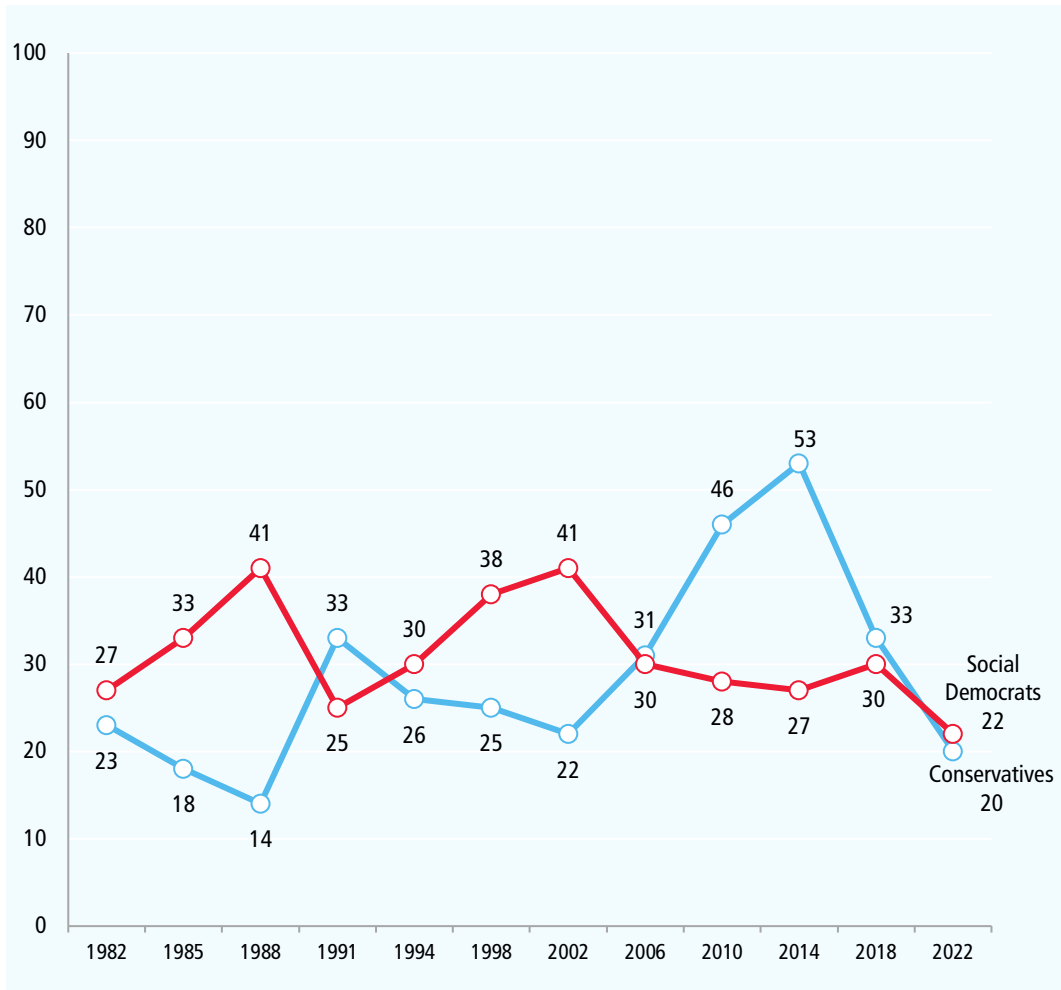
Party	1982	1985	1988	1991	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	2022
Left party	48	58	47	25	52	63	49	36	48	*	45	39
Social Democrats	88	64	59	60	83	78	61	57	55	*	53	53
Green party	-	-	80	52	71	55	51	52	64	*	47	50
Centre party	58	46	54	42	47	34	35	51	42	*	44	40
Liberal party	45	62	59	54	46	43	68	63	59	*	46	41
Christian Democrats	-	29	-	58	49	61	54	51	40	*	44	43
Conservative party	68	70	54	67	66	72	70	78	66	*	48	55
Swedish Democrats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	*	54	56
New Democracy	-	-	-	59	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
mean five old parties	61	60	54	50	59	58	57	57	54	*	47	46
mean all parties	61	55	59	52	57	58	55	55	55	*	48	47

Comment: Post-election data only. The results are based on open-ended interview questions, one per party. Observe that the number of people responding to the question was extraordinarily small in 2014 (only 431).

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Issue Ownership

Figure 19 Issue Ownership – Parties Considered to Have the Best Policy for the Swedish Economy 1982–2022 (per cent)

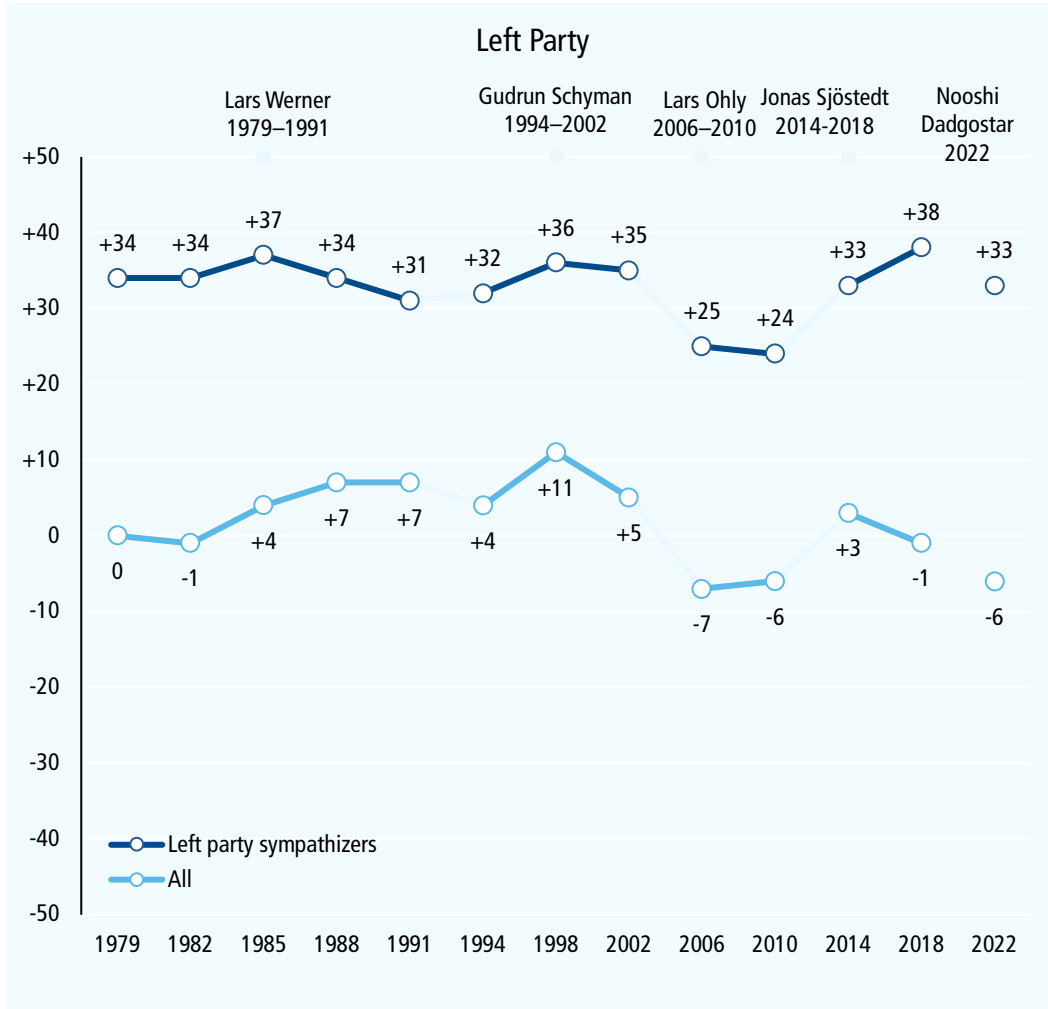


Comment: All respondents are included in the percentage base. The results are based on an open ended question where respondents could indicate which party or parties have a good or bad policy for the Swedish economy.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Party Leader Popularity

Figure 20 Party Leader Popularity, Left Party (Vänsterpartiet), 1979–2022 (mean)

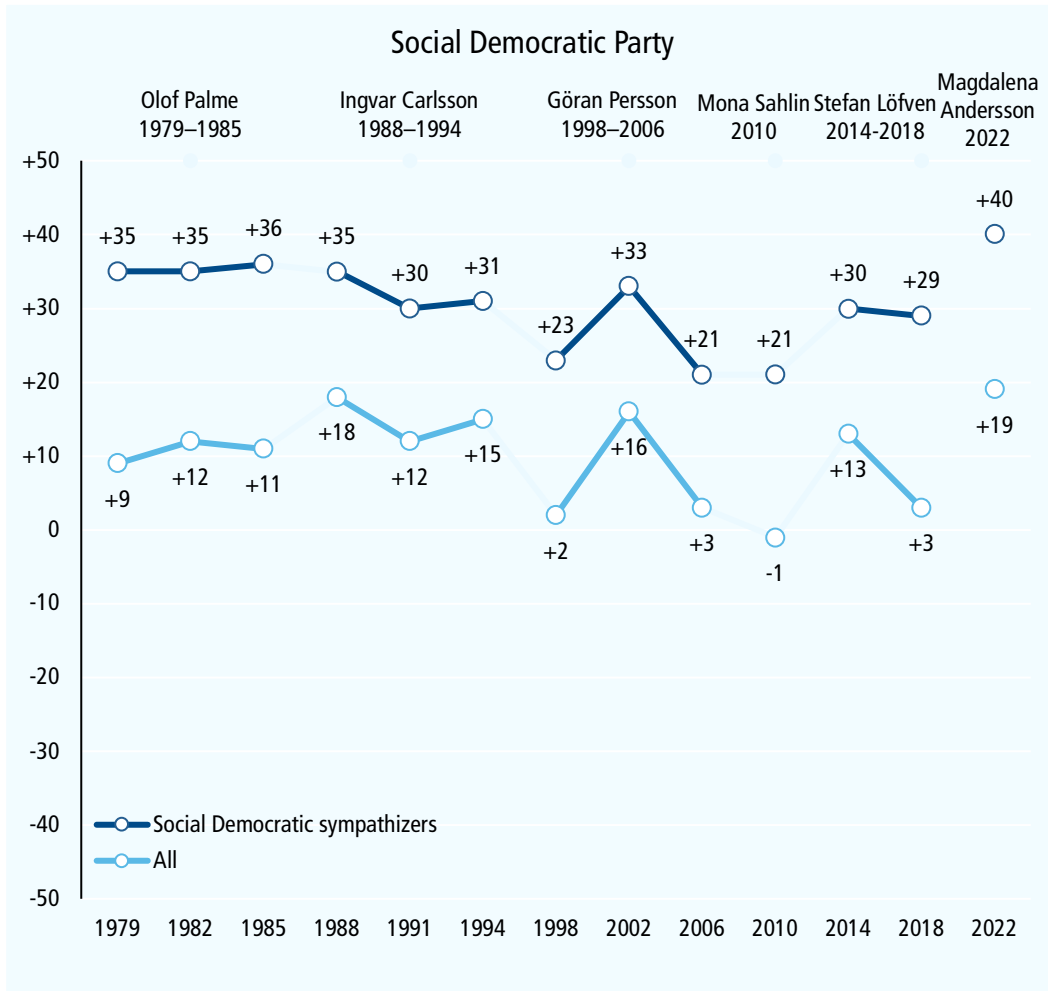


Comment: Party Leader popularity has been measured on an eleven point like-dislike scale running between -5 and +5. The results are means multiplied by 10 to yield values between -50 (dislike) and +50 (like).

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Party Leader Popularity

Figure 21 Party Leader Popularity, Social Democratic Party (Socialdemokraterna), 1979–2022 (mean)

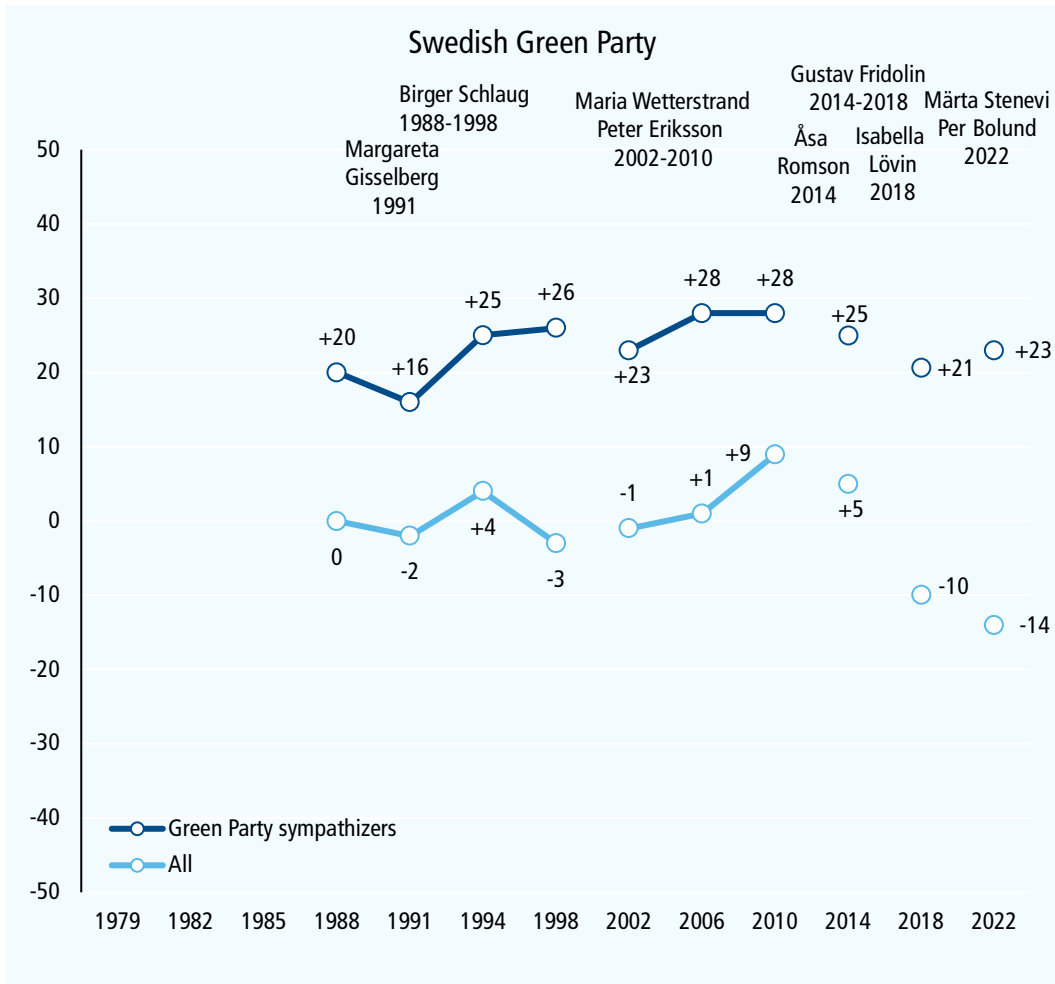


Comment: Party Leader popularity has been measured on an eleven point like-dislike scale running between -5 and +5. The results are means multiplied by 10 to yield values between -50 (dislike) and +50 (like).

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Party Leader popularity

Figure 22 Party Leader Popularity, Swedish Green Party (Miljöpartiet), 1979–2022 (mean)

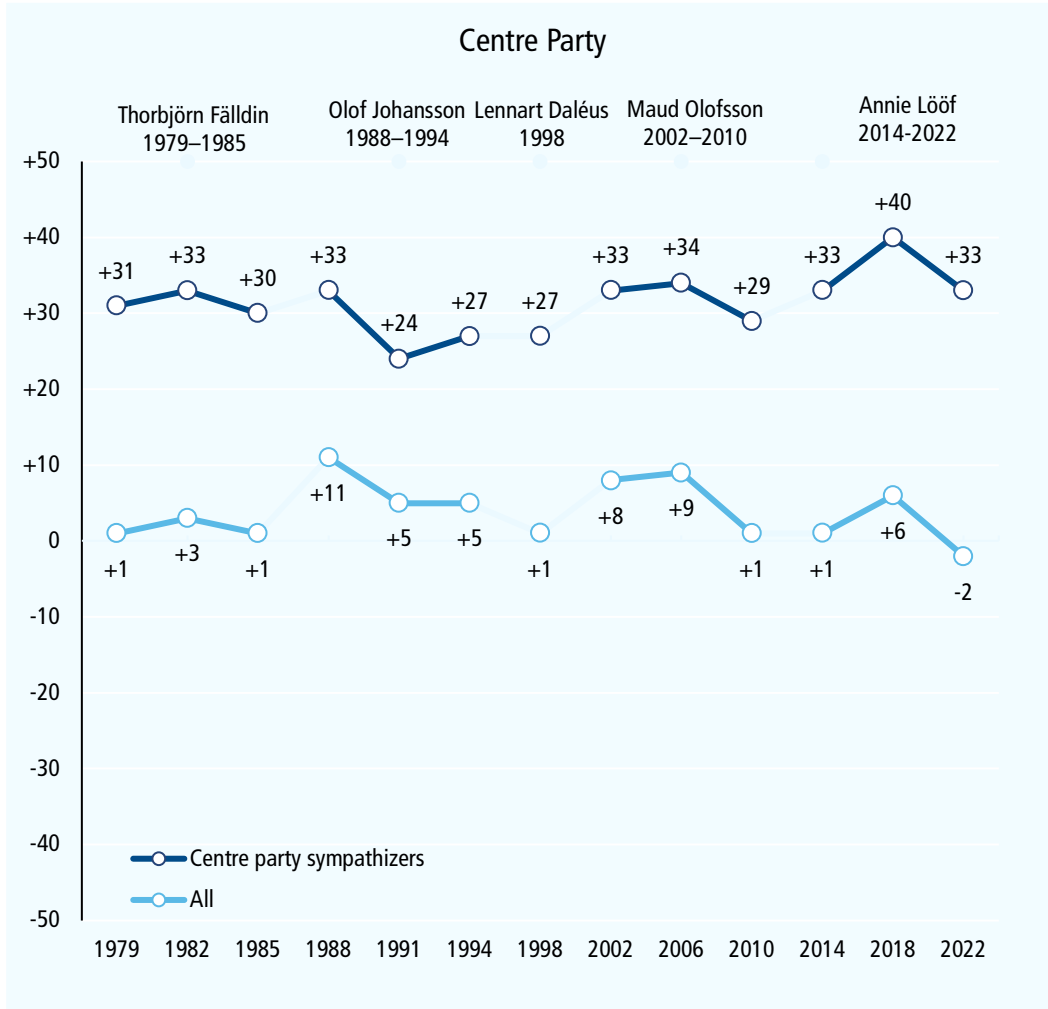


Comment: Party Leader popularity has been measured on an eleven point like-dislike scale running between -5 and +5. The results are means multiplied by 10 to yield values between -50 (dislike) and +50 (like). For the years where both spokespersons have been rated, the mean is presented in the graph.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Party Leader Popularity

Figure 23 Party Leader Popularity, Centre Party (Centerpartiet), 1979–2022 (mean)

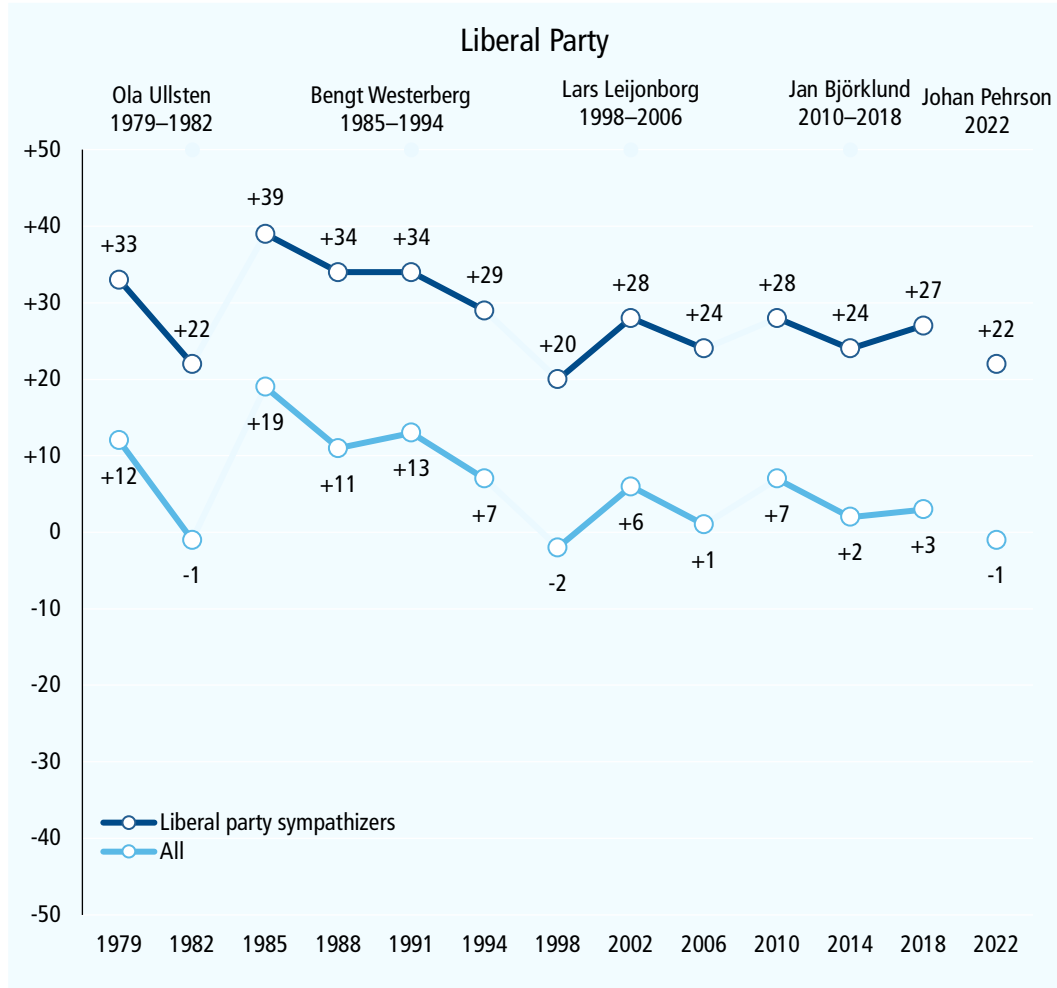


Comment: Party Leader popularity has been measured on an eleven point like-dislike scale running between -5 and +5. The results are means multiplied by 10 to yield values between -50 (dislike) and +50 (like).

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Party Leader Popularity

Figure 24 Party Leader Popularity, Liberal Party (Liberalerna), 1979–2022 (mean)

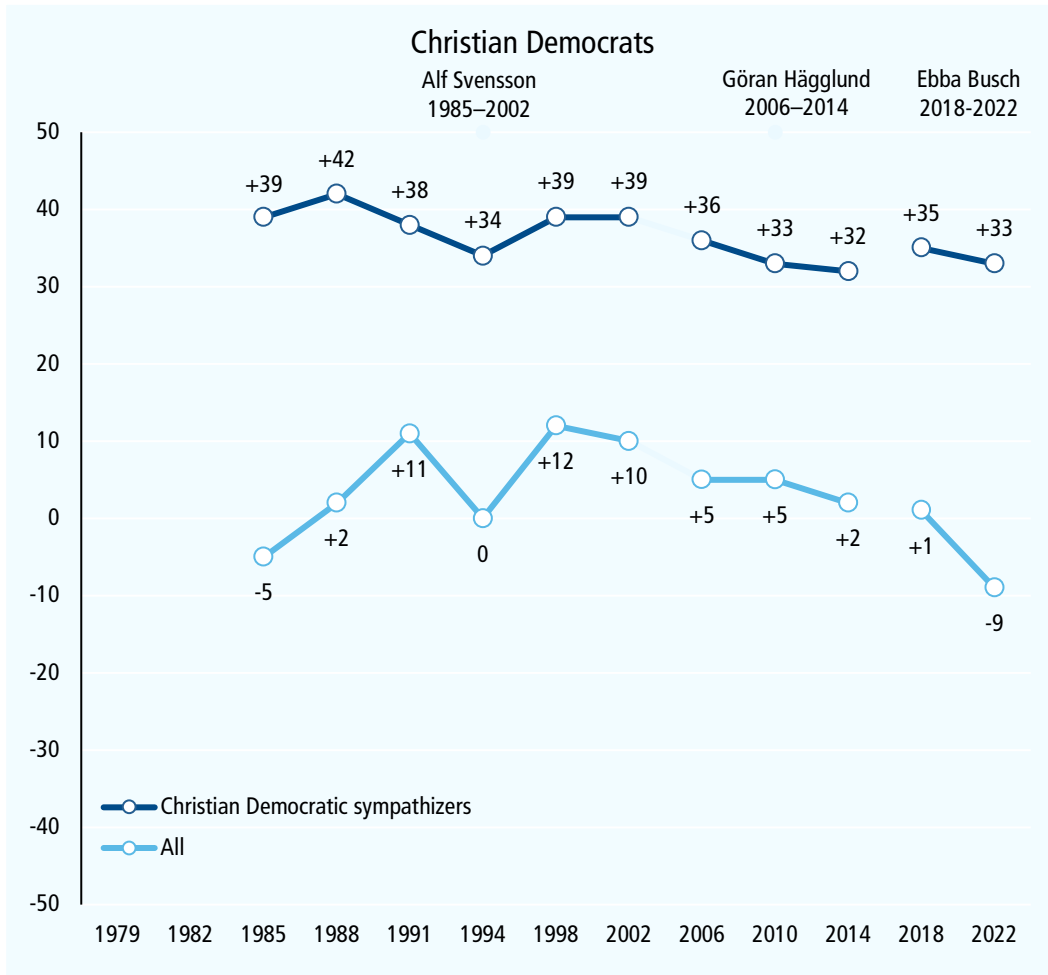


Comment: Party Leader popularity has been measured on an eleven point like-dislike scale running between -5 and +5. The results are means multiplied by 10 to yield values between -50 (dislike) and +50 (like).

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Party Leader Popularity

Figure 25 Party Leader Popularity, Christian Democrats (Kristdemokraterna), 1979–2022 (mean)

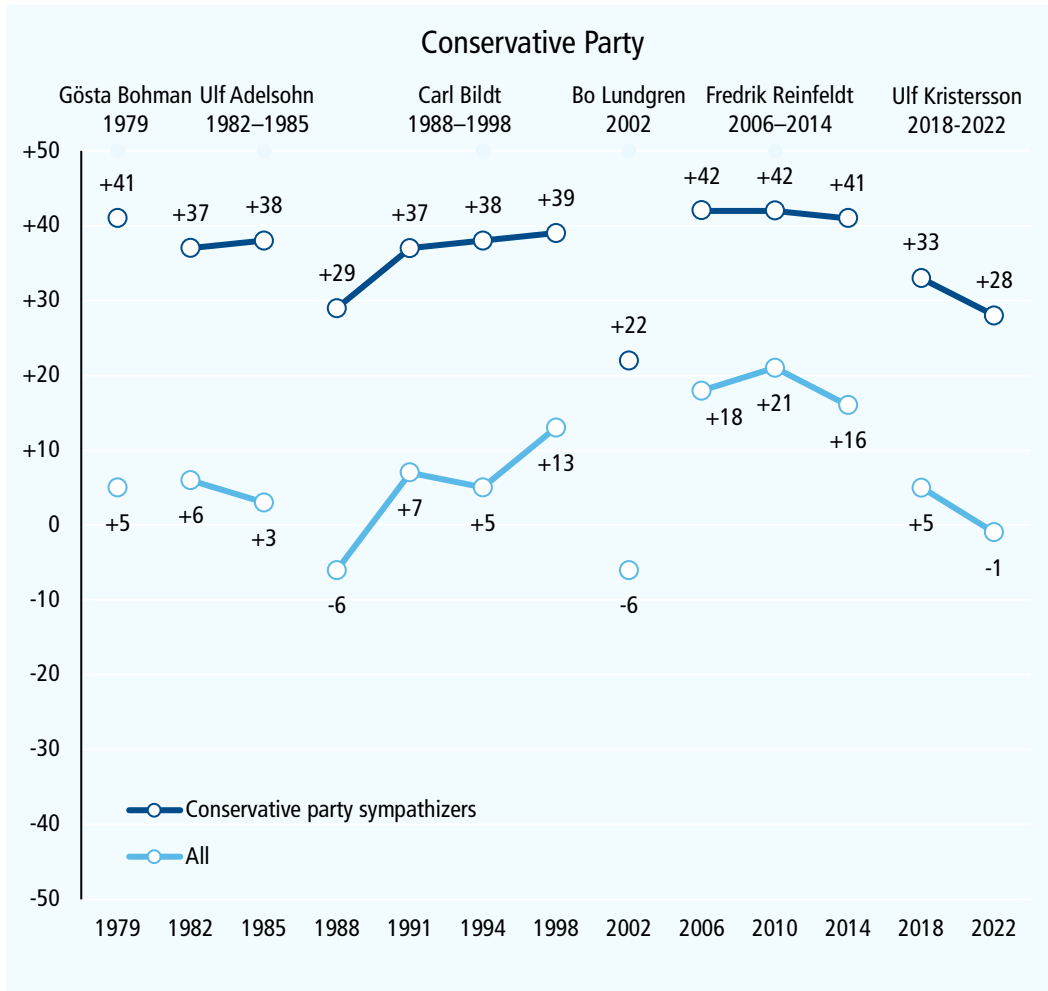


Comment: Party Leader popularity has been measured on an eleven point like-dislike scale running between –5 and +5. The results are means multiplied by 10 to yield values between –50 (dislike) and +50 (like).

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Party Leader Popularity

Figure 26 Party Leader Popularity, Conservative Party (Moderaterna), 1979–2022 (mean)

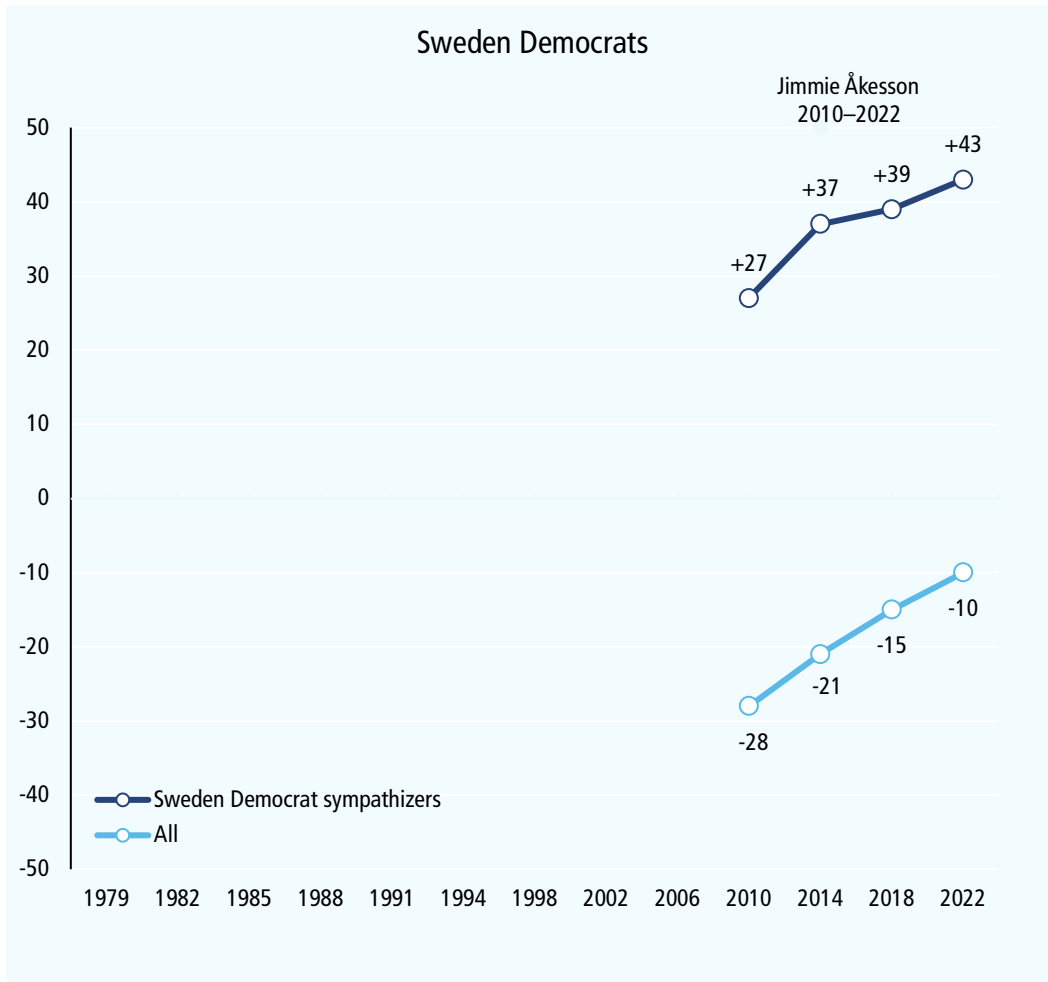


Comment: Party Leader popularity has been measured on an eleven point like-dislike scale running between -5 and +5. The results are means multiplied by 10 to yield values between -50 (dislike) and +50 (like).

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Party Leader Popularity

Figure 27 Party Leader Popularity, Sweden Democrats (Sverigedemokraterna), 1979–2022 (mean)



Comment: Party Leader popularity has been measured on an eleven point like-dislike scale running between –5 and +5. The results are means multiplied by 10 to yield values between –50 (dislike) and +50 (like).

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Party Leader Effects

Table 5 Party Leaders as Potential Electoral Assets for Their Parties 1979–2022 (per cent)

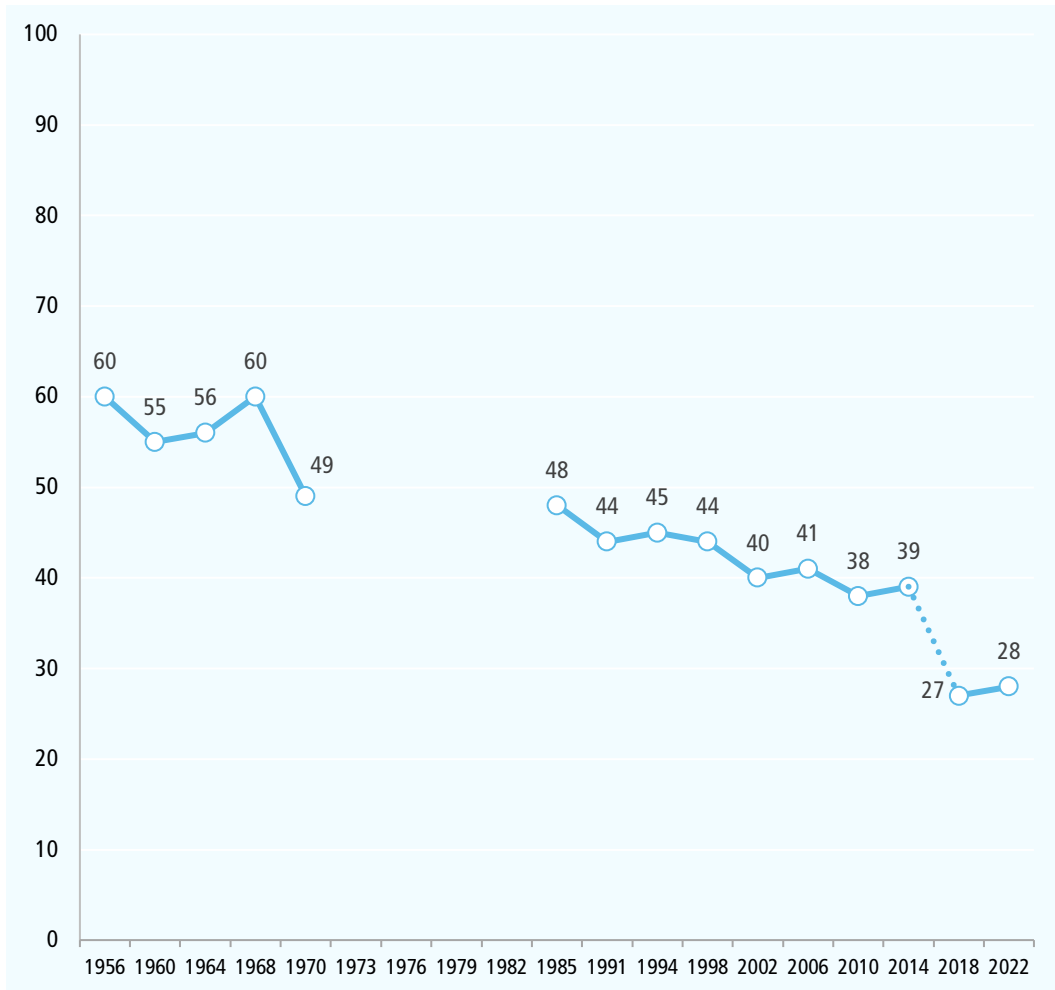
party	1979	1982	1985	1988	1991	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	2022
Left party	15	18	26	22	26	13	19	23	15	15	16	20	12
Social Democratic party	11	16	13	14	9	7	6	11	9	6	8	11	33
Green party	-	-	-	-	3	6	6	11	10	17	12	7	8
Centre party	10	20	13	14	6	10	12	21	37	11	25	27	23
Liberal party	22	8	27	18	18	17	4	6	7	13	9	14	17
Christian Democrats	-	-	7	-	13	18	25	32	12	13	12	22	16
Conservative party	26	14	18	7	18	28	33	4	29	31	33	14	9
New Democracy	-	-	-	-	20	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden Democrats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	14	20	17
mean 5 old parties	17	15	19	15	15	15	15	13	19	15	18	17	19
mean 6/7/8 parties	-	-	17	-	13	13	15	15	16	15	16	17	17

Comment: Party and party leader popularity have been measured on the same eleven point like-dislike scale. The results show per cent respondents among a party's sympathizers who like the party leader better than the party. The results for the Green party (MP) in 2002, 2006, 2010 and 2014 are averages for the two spoke persons for the party. The result in 1991 holds for Margareta Gisselberg, while the results in 1994 and 1998 apply to Birger Schlaug. The result 2018 for FI and party leader Gudrun Schyman was 23 per cent.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Candidate Recognition

Figure 28 Proportion of Respondents Who Name at Least One Riksdag Candidate in Their Own Constituency 1956–2022 (per cent)

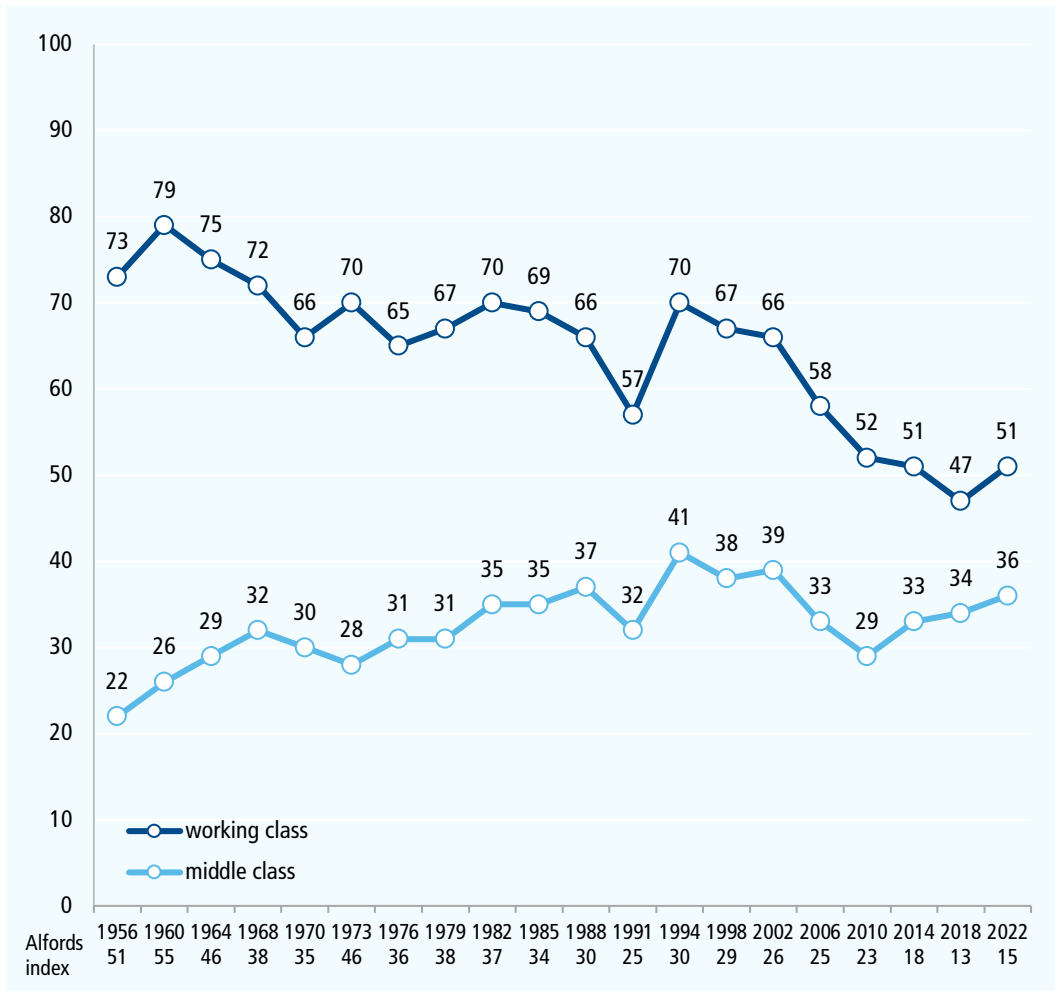


Comment: Only voters are included. The data is collected after the elections. In the years 1956 and 1960 the correctness of the names given was not validated. In the years 1964 – 1994, the correctness of names given was not checked systematically. Minor tests indicate that the results for the years 1964 – 1994 should be scaled down 5 – 8 percentage points if one wants to estimate the proportion of voters who mention correct candidate names. A check in 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022 showed that the proportion of party voters who could mention at least one *correct* name was 32, 30, 29, 28, 27, 22 and 23 percent respectively. Please note: The main mode changed in 2018 from face-to-face to mail/web-questionnaires.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Class Voting

Figure 29 Class Voting in Swedish Elections 1956–2022. Percentage Voting Socialist (Left and Soc.Dem) among Workers and in the Middle Class (per cent)

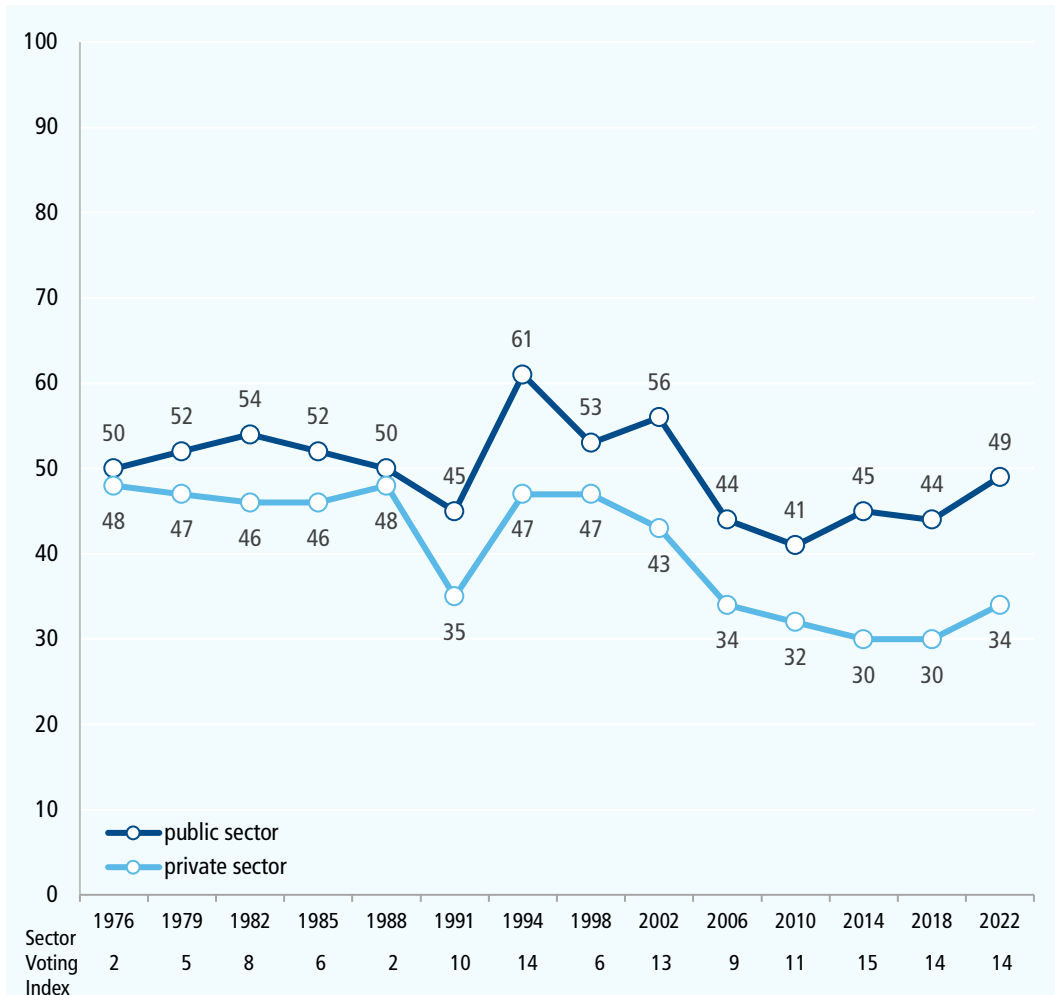


Comment: The Class Voting Index (Alford's index) is defined as the percentage voting socialist (Left or Soc.Dem) among workers minus the percentage voting socialist in the middle class. The results have been corrected for the oversampling of Social Democratic voters in the earlier election studies. The percentage base is all party voters. Students are excluded from the analysis.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Sector Voting

Figure 30 Sector Voting in Swedish Elections 1976–2022. Percentage Voting Socialist (Left and Soc.Dem.) among Voters in the Public and the Private Sector (per cent)



Comment: The Sector Voting Index is modelled after Alford's Class Voting Index and show the percentage voting socialist (V or S) in the public sector minus the percentage voting socialist in the private sector. Public-Private sector is determined by an interview question asking voters to indicate which sector they belong to. The analysis only includes gainfully employed people.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Least Liked Party

Table 6 Least Liked Party 1970–2022 (per cent)

party	1970	1973	1976	1979	1991	2018	2022
Left party	38	38	51	41	26	13	12
Social Democrats	3	4	4	9	7	3	2
Green party	-	-	-	-	8	10	27
Centre party	0	1	3	5	2	2	3
Liberal party	2	7	3	2	3	0	1
Christian Democrats	4	4	2	2	4	2	6
Conservative party	39	29	35	39	17	3	3
New Democracy	-	-	-	-	34	-	-
Sweden Democrats	-	-	-	-	-	54	47

Comment: Least liked party among the respondents who answered that they consider one party to be least liked. The question asked was: "Which party do you like the least?" ("Vilket parti tycker du sämst om?").

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Gender Voting

Table 7 Difference in Party Choice Between Women and Men 1948–2022
(percentage point difference)

party	1948	1952	1956	1960	1964	1968	1970	1973	1976	1979	1982
Left party	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	3	0	1	2
Social Democratic party	3	2	1	-2	3	0	0	-1	1	-1	-2
Swedish Green party	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1
Centre party	1	4	3	1	4	3	1	0	-2	-4	0
Liberal party	-4	-8	-3	-1	-4	-2	-2	-2	0	0	-2
Christian Democrats	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	-1
Conservative party	-2	0	-2	0	-4	-2	0	0	1	4	4
New Democracy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden Democrats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feminist initiative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
mean absolute difference per party	2,4	3,2	2	1,2	2,7	1,3	0,8	1	0,8	1,8	1,7

party	1985	1988	1991	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	2022
Left party	1	-1	0	-2	-5	-3	-1	1	0	-2	-1
Social Democratic party	-5	-3	0	3	5	3	1	-4	-2	-4	-8
Swedish Green party	0	0	-3	-2	-2	-2	-4	-3	-3	-2	-2
Centre party	1	1	-2	-3	0	1	0	-4	-3	-3	-2
Liberal party	-3	0	-2	-2	-2	0	1	-1	0	1	0
Christian Democrats	-1	-2	-2	-1	-4	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0
Conservative party	7	5	5	7	7	3	3	8	6	4	4
New Democracy	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden Democrats	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	5	8	9
Feminist initiative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-3	0	-
mean absolute difference per party	2,6	1,7	2,1	2,6	3,6	2	1,6	3,1	2,6	2,8	3,3

Comment: A positive (+) difference means that the relevant party was more supported among men than among women while a negative (-) difference indicate more support among women than among men.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Age Voting

Table 8 In Which Age Group Does the Parties Have Their Strongest Support 1948–2022

Election year	party								
	Left	Soc. Dem	Green	C	Lib.	Ch. Dem	Con.	Swe.Dem	FI
1948	young	no diff	-	old	young	-	old	-	-
1956	-	young	-	old	old	-	no diff	-	-
1960	old	young	-	old	old	-	old	-	-
1964	old	no diff	-	middle age	no diff	-	old	-	-
1968	no diff	no diff	-	middle age	young	-	old	-	-
1970	young	no diff	-	young	old	-	old	-	-
1973	young	middle age	-	young	old	-	old	-	-
1976	young	middle age	-	young	young/old	-	middle age	-	-
1979	young	old	-	old	young	-	middle age	-	-
1982	young	old	-	old	no diff	-	middle age	-	-
1985	young	old	young	old	no diff	old	young	-	-
1988	young	old	middle age	old	young	old	young	-	-
1991	middle age	old	young	old	young	old	young	-	-
1994	young	old	young	old	no diff	no diff	old	-	-
1998	young	old	young	old	young	old	young	-	-
2002	young	middle/old	young	old	young	old	no diff	-	-
2006	young/middle	old	young	old	no diff	old	no diff	young	-
2010	young/middle	old	young	old	old	old	middle age	young	-
2014	no diff	old	young	no diff	no diff	old	middle age	old	young
2018	young	old	young	young	no diff	no diff	no diff	old	-
2022	young	old	young/middle	no diff	no diff	no diff	no diff	no diff	-

Comment: Young is defined as 18 – 30 years, middle age as 31 – 60 and old as 61 – 80. No diff means there is no difference in party support across age groups. In 1991, the strongest support for New Democracy was among the young.

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Voters' Self-Report on Reasons for Party Choice

Table 9 Voters' Self-Reported Reasons for the Choice of Party. Percent Saying "One of the most important reasons" 1988-2022

Theoretical Explanation	Reason to Vote	1988	1994	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	2022
Ideological Voting	The party has a good political ideology	41	41	45	49	49	54	53	56
Prospective Voting	The party has a good program for the future	-	-	34	46	49	51	54	55
Competence Voting	The party has competent persons that can run the country	30	31	31	42	51	54	48	52
Campaign Agenda Voting	The party has good policies on many of the issues in recent public debates	33	32	34	37	39	41	44	51
Issue Voting	The party has a good policy on issues that I think is important	-	-	51	-	58	-	-	-
Government Voting	The party is needed to make it possible to form my favourite government	-	-	-	-	-	42	35	39
Negative Voting	The party acts to diminish influence of parties I dislike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Party Leader Voting	The party has a good party leader	23	20	24	23	27	28	26	32
Retrospective Voting	The party has done a good job in recent years	-	-	25	22	36	27	22	31
Campaign Performance Voting	The party has been convincing during the election campaign	-	-	-	-	18	17	24	27
Coalition Voting	The party cooperates well with other parties	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
Instrumental Voting	The party is a big party and therefore it has greater possibilities than a smaller party to implement its policies	-	-	14	17	16	15	19	23
Group Interest Voting	The policy of the party is favourable to me personally	-	-	-	-	-	13	18	20
Negative Voting	The party was the least bad alternative	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	19
Habitual Voting	I always vote for the party	27	21	16	14	14	10	17	14
Party Identification Voting	I feel like a supporter of the party	21	16	14	11	11	10	10	10
Candidate Voting	The party has good Riksdag candidates on the ballot in my constituency	-	9	10	10	10	12	9	10
Tactical Voting	The party is a small party that risks falling under the four percent threshold to the Riksdag	-	-	6	5	9	8	5	6
Social Influence Voting	People around me sympathize with the party	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	3
Class Voting	The policies of the party is usually favourable to the occupational group to which I belong	21	18	14	15	14	-	-	-

Comment: "You say you are going to vote for [...] in this year's Riksdag election. How important are the following reasons for your choice of party?". The alternatives were "one of the most important reasons", "fairly important reason", "not particularly important reason" and "not at all important reason".

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

Voters' Self-Report on Reasons for Party Choice

Table 10 Voters' Self-Reported Reasons for the Choice of Party. Percent Saying "One of the most important reasons" among Party Voters 2022

Theoretical Explanation	Reason to Vote	L	Soc.dem	Green	C	Lib.	CD	Con.	Swe.dem
Ideological Voting	The party has a good political ideology	90	56	76	57	58	45	45	48
Prospective Voting	The party has a good program for the future	73	49	72	49	45	44	53	64
Competence Voting	The party has competent persons that can run the country	51	59	43	51	47	47	51	43
Campaign Agenda Voting	The party has good policies on many of the issues in recent public debates	66	43	60	44	42	42	50	69
Government Voting	The party is needed to make it possible to form my favourite government	40	43	54	30	33	32	34	49
Negative Voting	The party acts to diminish influence of parties I dislike	57	45	56	58	31	14	16	31
Party Leader Voting	The party has a good party leader	16	46	7	28	22	26	20	50
Retrospective Voting	The party has done a good job in recent years	41	35	19	30	14	20	27	43
Campaign Performance Voting	The party has been convincing during the election campaign	27	28	18	19	10	16	23	53
Coalition Voting	The party cooperates well with other parties	20	31	18	29	18	31	28	23
Instrumental Voting	The party is a big party and therefore it has greater possibilities than a smaller party to implement its policies	3	38	2	3	5	3	25	33
Group Interest Voting	The policy of the party is favourable to me personally	15	21	7	10	12	18	22	27
Negative Voting	The party was the least bad alternative	19	20	21	17	20	14	16	21
Habitual Voting	I always vote for the party	14	23	3	4	3	5	12	18
Party Identification Voting	I feel like a supporter of the party	18	14	9	6	8	8	7	12
Candidate Voting	The party has good Riksdag candidates on the ballot in my constituency	8	12	4	7	8	11	10	14
Tactical Voting	The party is a small party that risks falling under the four percent threshold to the Riksdag	3	2	36	3	23	3	2	3
Social Influence Voting	People around me sympathize with the party	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	7

Comment: "You say you are going to vote for [...] in this year's Riksdag election. How important are the following reasons for your choice of party?". The alternatives were "one of the most important reasons", "fairly important reason", "not particularly important reason" and "not at all important reason".

Source: The Swedish National Election Studies

References

- Hedberg, Per & Sören Holmberg (2016). Vägning för politiskt intresse med hänsyn taget till svarsbortfallet i Valundersökningarna. Valforskningsprogrammets rapportserie 2016:3. Göteborgs universitet: Statsvetenskapliga institutionen.
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The Swedish National Election Studies Program was established in 1954 by Jörgen Westerståhl and Bo Särilvik and is today a high profile network of researchers at the Department of Political Science in Gothenburg. The Program serve as a collaborative platform for Swedish and international scholars interested in studies of electoral democracy, representative democracy, opinion formation, and voting behavior.

The aim of our research is among others to explain why people vote as they do and why an election ends in a particular way. We track and follow trends in the Swedish electoral democracy and make comparisons with other countries.

Professor Henrik Ekengren Oscarsson is the director of the Swedish Election Studies Program.

