

Please visit www.vaals.nl/verkiezingen for more information about the elections

Do you have any questions about the elections? Please contact the election desk at verkiezingen2022@vaals.nl

GO VOTE!

Preparations are in full swing for the municipal elections, which will be held on 14, 15 and 16 March 2022. Through the door-to-door leaflets received in the letter boxes by all the residents of the municipality of Vaals, we supply you with information regarding the main issues concerning these elections and we urge you to make use of your right to vote.

Voting: how does it work?

1 You will receive a voting card

You will receive your voting card by Wednesday 2 March at the latest. Have you not received your voting card or have you lost it? You can request a new one from the municipality no later than by Friday, 11 March, 5 p.m.

2 Elect a candidate

Consider which candidate you want to vote for before you vote. You will receive a list of all the candidates you can vote for at home.

3 Visit the polling station

Bring your voting card and proof of identity with you. This can be a passport, driving licence, identity card or residence permit. This may not have been expired for more than five years.

4 Are you unable to come to the polling station by yourself?

In that case someone else can vote for you. Enter the details on the back of your voting card. You must give your voting card and a copy of your identity document to the person who will vote for you.

5 At the polling station

Hand in your voting card at the polling station. You are also required to show your ID to the polling officer.

6 You will receive a ballot paper

The ballot paper includes all party lists (political parties) that participate in the municipal elections. It also lists all the candidates whom you can vote for.

7 In the voting booth

You will enter a voting booth with the ballot paper and a red pencil. You must do this alone. Do you need help voting because of your physical condition? In that case you can bring someone who will help you.

8 You are supposed to colour one box red

Colour the box with the name of the person you want to vote for. You may also leave the ballot paper empty. This is called a blank ballot.

9 Hand in your ballot paper

Put the ballot paper in the ballot box. Now you have cast your vote. The votes will be counted from Wednesday evening 16 March, 9 p.m. onwards. You will find the results on the municipality's website.

Dear resident,

On 14, 15 and 16 March, we will be voting for the new municipal council! This is your chance to help decide who will be the new municipal councillors of Vaals. This is essential, as you can influence the municipal council's decisions and how everything will be organised in our municipality in the years to come by voting for the candidate of your choice.



The municipal council is responsible for many different tasks and makes decisions that affect the lives of all of us. From the social domain to the spatial domain and from finance to security. In short, the council is responsible for many issues that affect you every day and it is vital that you, as a resident and as a voter, have influence on these matters.

You will find useful information about the elections on this page. For example, you can read about the work and tasks of the municipal council, where to vote and how to vote.

Make sure to come and vote in the municipal elections. By doing so, we demonstrate that we care about our democratic society. Do not waste your vote, because every vote counts!

Mayor Harry Leunessen

Elke **stem** telt



What are the municipal council's tasks?

The municipal council is the highest administrative body of the municipality. The members of the council (councillors) take many decisions that are relevant to the municipality and its inhabitants. For example, about education, maintenance of public greenery, new buildings (zoning plans), parking policy, the amount of taxes, social support (WMO), subsidy policy, sports facilities and events. In brief: about many things in your immediate surroundings!

Council members have a representative role and they also check whether the policy is properly implemented by the municipal executive (the mayor and aldermen). Additionally, the council sets the budget and checks the municipality's annual financial report. The council also adopts general rules (bye-laws) to be observed by the residents of the municipality. Council meetings are as a rule open to the public (except in special cases). Anyone can request to address a council meeting to discuss a subject (max. 5 minutes).

Councillors are elected for four years by the municipality's inhabitants. The number of councillors depends on the number of inhabitants of the municipality. The council of Vaals comprises 15 seats*.

*The number of seats was 13 during the last council term, because the number of inhabitants in the municipality was below 10,000 in the previous election.

Who can you vote for in the municipality of Vaals?

Seven parties participate in the municipality of Vaals.

CDA
www.cdavaals.nl

Het Alternatief
www.alternatief-vaals.nl

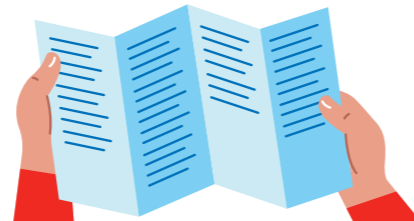
Nuj Lies Vroemen
www.facebook.com/nujlies

JONG
www.facebook.com/jongvaals

Lokaal!
www.lokaalvaals.nl

Visie Vaals (ViVa)
www.visievaals.nl

Partij van de Arbeid (P.v.d.A.)
<https://vaals.pvda.nl>



You will receive the list of candidate (that shows the people for each party you can vote for) by post. For more information on the points of view of the political parties participating in the elections, we refer to their websites.

Who can vote?

For the municipal council elections, residents with Dutch nationality and residents having a nationality of an EU country, who are registered with the Key Registration of Persons (Dutch: BRP) of the municipality of Vaals and who are 18 years of age or older, may vote.

Non-EU citizens aged 18 and above may also vote, provided they have lived in the Netherlands continuously and legally for at least 5 years.

Voting card

Every person entitled to vote has received a voting card in their letterbox by 3 March. When you bring this voting card and your identity document, you can vote in every polling station in the municipality. You cannot cast your vote without a voting card.



Have you not received your voting card or have you lost your voting card? You can apply for a new voting card at the Town Hall reception desk.

Alternatively, you can download the form required for this purpose from www.vaals.nl/verkiezingen. Enter the details in the form on your computer, print and sign it. Now you can hand in the form at the Town Hall reception desk. You will need to identify yourself using a valid ID and will be issued with a replacement voting card straight away. The Town Hall reception desk is open every working day between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. You do not need to make an appointment to apply for a replacement voting card, you can simply go and visit the Town Hall. **PLEASE NOTE: You can apply for a replacement voting card up to Friday 11 March 2022, 5 p.m. at the latest.**

Proof of identity

You will need an ID in order to vote. An ID is a passport, identity card or driving licence from the Netherlands or another EU country. The validity of these documents must not have expired for more than 5 years when you vote. The date on the documents should read 'valid until' 17 March 2017 or a later date. Or you can identify yourself with a residence permit.

Polling stations

As was the case for the elections for the Lower House last year, special measures apply again due to COVID-19. One of the most notable measures is that one polling station will be open before election day, i.e. on 14 and 15 March from 7.30 a.m. to 9 p.m.: this is the polling station at the Town Hall (Von Clermontplein 15).

Any eligible voter can vote at the town hall as early as on 14 and 15 March, but this multi-day polling station is particularly intended for people who consider themselves vulnerable to COVID-19. The polling stations are laid out in a way that they comply with the COVID-19 measures applicable on those days.



All polling stations are accessible to people with disabilities. People who, due to a physical disability, are unable to vote by themselves can receive assistance at the polling booth. This applies, for example, to partially sighted or blind people or people with Parkinson's disease. They can bring someone with them to help, or ask a polling official for help.



March 14 & 15 from 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Gemeentehuis
von Clermontplein 15, Vaals



Wednesday March 16 from 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Gemeentehuis
Von Clermontplein 15, Vaals

Vols Location/Obelisk
Prins Willem Alexanderplein 1, Vaals

Auw Sjoel
Lindenstraat 17, Vaals

Bibliotheek
Sint Jozefplein 53, Vaals

Restaurant Bergzicht
Vijlenberg 55, Vijlen

BMA Lemiers
Schoolstraat 2, Lemiers

Are you unable to visit the polling station by yourself?

For example, because you have symptoms of COVID-19? Or because you are staying abroad for a longer period of time? In order to prevent your vote from being wasted, another voter from the municipality of Vaals can vote for you. You can give that person a power of attorney. You need to arrange this power of attorney in advance as it is not allowed to do so at the polling station. A maximum of two powers of attorney is allowed for each authorised person (the person who will vote for you).

You can give someone a power of attorney by using one of two methods: by using the voting card or through a written authorisation.

Using the voting card:



The backside of the voting card must be signed by both of you. The authorised representative must take your voting card with him/her when he/she goes voting. The authorised representative must show his or her own proof of identity as well as a copy of your proof of identity.

Using a written authorisation:



For a written authorisation, some forms will need to be completed and submitted to the municipality in advance. For more information about a written authorisation, please visit www.vaals.nl/volmacht. **PLEASE NOTE: A written authorisation can be applied for up to 11 March 2022, 5 p.m. at the latest!**

Election newspaper in plain language

1.9 million people have difficulty reading and writing in the Netherlands. Together with the Stichting Lezen en Schrijven (Reading and Writing Foundation) and the Stichting Makkelijk Lezen (Easy Reading Foundation), ProDemos has produced the 'Verkiezingskrant in gewone taal' (Election paper in plain language) especially for people with reading and writing difficulties. This newspaper explains in understandable language what the municipal elections are about, how voting works and what the municipal council does. The 'Verkiezingskrant in gewone taal' is available at various locations in the municipality of Vaals, for instance at the library and at the desks of the town hall.

Or you can read it online: www.lezenenschrijven.nl/verkiezingen.

Announcement of results

On Monday 21 March 2022 at 10 a.m., a public meeting of the principal electoral committee will take place to establish the results of the vote. A public meeting of the central electoral committee will be held immediately afterwards in order to establish the results of the elections. These public sessions take place in the council chamber of the city hall.

In view of the COVID-19 measures, these public sessions can be attended online, for which you can sign up until 5 p.m. on 14 March at verkiezingen2022@vaals.nl.