Local Elections in Bavaria 2026 – Your Vote Counts!

For EU citizens & naturalized citizens – explained simply

🗓️ WHEN?

- Election day: Sunday, 8 March 2026, from 8:00 to 18:00
- If necessary: a runoff election on 22 March 2026 (only for mayors or district administrators)

👥 WHO IS ALLOWED TO VOTE?

You may vote if:

- you are at least 18 years old
- you have had your main residence in the municipality for at least 2 months
- you have German citizenship or citizenship of another EU member state
- there is no other reason you are excluded from voting

> 💡 **Important:** Even if you are not a German citizen – as an EU citizen, you are allowed to vote in your Bavarian municipality!

📌 WHAT IS BEING ELECTED?

Depending on the size of the municipality:

- Mayor / Lord Mayor – direct election, runoff if needed
- District Administrator – direct election, runoff if needed (if applicable)
- Municipal Council / City Council – proportional representation with party lists
- District Council – proportional representation with party lists (if applicable)

> 💡 **Important:** All EU citizens can run as candidates if they have had their main residence in the municipality for at least three months.

🗳️ HOW DOES THE ELECTION WORK?

<u>Mayors & District Administrators (single-person election):</u>

- You vote directly for one person.
- You have one vote for the mayor and one vote for the district administrator.
- The person with more than 50% of the votes wins.

- If no one gets more than 50% → runoff election between the top two candidates two weeks later.

Municipal Council, City Council, District Council (list election):

- You receive a ballot paper with all parties and candidates.
- You have as many votes as there are seats (e.g., 24 votes for 24 seats).
- You may split your votes across different lists (panaschieren).
- You may give up to 3 votes to one person (kumulieren).
- You may also vote for an entire list with a list vote.

  Example: You have 24 votes. You can give 3 votes to Person A from List 1, 2 votes to Person B from List 2, and 1 vote to Person C from List 3, and mark List 4 as a whole — or you can distribute all your votes among the candidates of one list.

  💡 **Important:** Only mark your choices in the designated boxes. Additional notes or symbols will make your ballot invalid.

✉ *POSTAL VOTING POSSIBLE!*

If you cannot vote on election day:

- Apply for postal voting at your municipality.
- You will receive all documents by post.
- You may also vote early at the town hall.

📩 *DO I NEED TO REGISTER?*

- German citizens: no registration needed!
- EU citizens without German citizenship: you must register once in the electoral register, at least 21 days before the election. Afterwards, you are registered **automatically**.
- You will receive your voting notification by post at least 3 weeks before the election.

  💡 **Tip:** If you don't receive your voting notification, ask your municipality.

📣 *WHY VOTE?*

Local elections decide on:

- Childcare and schools

- Public transport and bike paths
- Affordable housing and social policies
- Integration
- Local climate action

> 💡 **Tip:** Take a look at our GREEN guidelines for the local elections. There you can learn what we want to do differently in local politics. Among other things, we strongly advocate for more rights for people with a migration background.

📎 *More information:*

www.stmi.bayern.de/wahlen-und-abstimmungen/kommunalwahlen
www.br.de/kommunalwahl