

Swedish Political Situation

Swedish political affairs are dominated by the Swedish Social Democratic Labour Party which has governed Sweden for 51 of the past 59 years. The popular vote has changed little. Variations affect mainly the relative standing of the non-socialist parties, none of which has been able to maintain more than 25% of the popular vote for a prolonged period. In the 15 elections following World War II, the non-socialists won a majority only twice (1976 and 1979).

The Social Democrats were returned to power in the 1982, 1985, and 1988 elections with a minority government in the Riksdag (parliament). Reflecting growing concern over environmental issues, the 1988 election saw the entry of the Green Ecology Party into the Riksdag. This was also the first time since 1921 that any party other than the traditional five won seats.

The next election will be September 19, 1991.

Over the past two years, the Social Democratic government has altered its position on several major issues. It has cut income taxes, put off the closure of nuclear reactors, and announced that it will apply to join the European Community. The recent austerity plan emphasises combatting inflation rather than maintaining full employment.

Table 2

Standings in the Riksdag After the 1988 Election

	Seats	Percent of Popular Vote
Socialist Bloc		
Social Democratic Labour Party	156	43.2
Left Party (communist)	21	5.9
Non-Socialist Bloc		
Moderate Party (conservative)	66	18.3
Peoples Party (liberal)	44	12.2
Centre Party (agrarian)	42	11.3
Christian Democratic Party	0	3.0
Non-affiliated		
Green Ecology Party (environmentalist)	20	5.5