

7 September 2010

Configuration of the electoral census of foreign nationals resident in Spain for the municipal elections of 22 May 2011

In the municipal elections of 2011, voting rights may be granted to citizens of the EU, Norway, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru and other countries that establish future agreements

Requests for registration in the electoral census for nationals of countries with agreements may be submitted from 1 December 2010 to 15 January 2011

On 22 May 2011, Municipal elections will be held in Spain. Those able to vote in said elections are citizens who are of legal age on polling day, are nationals of the European Union and of other countries with agreements that recognise this right, and are resident in Spain.

In order to exercise the right to suffrage, it is essential to be registered in the Electoral Census.

Citizens of countries of the European Union

For registration in the Electoral Census of citizens of other Countries of the European Union resident in Spain, it is necessary to make a formal statement of the intention to exercise the right to suffrage. This statement may be presented in the Municipal Councils, at the time of carrying out any paperwork related to their municipal register records.

So as to enable this registration, the Electoral Census Office shall send, during the second half of September, a personalised letter to those citizens of these countries without a declared statement of intention since the municipal elections of 2007. Said letter shall contain the data corresponding to their pre-printed municipal register records.

In these cases, the statements of the interested parties may be made online, if they have a foreign national identification number (NIE), or by post. The statement may also be made online, even if they have not received the letter, if they have an electronic certificate that is associated with the NIE of those published in the electronic headquarters of the INE.

Citizens of countries with agreements for the municipal elections

In the case of citizens of countries with agreements that recognise the right to suffrage in the municipal elections, the following are required: to be of legal age, to submit the request for registration in the electoral census for the municipal elections and to fulfil the remainder of the conditions of the agreements.

The extra-community countries with agreements currently in force are as follows: Norway, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and New Zealand. This list could be extended with other countries with which future agreements are established.

The conditions established for the citizens of all of them, with the exception of Norway, are:

- 1.- To be in possession of a residence permit in Spain.
- 2.- To have resided in Spain, legally and continuously, for at least the five years prior to the request for registration in the electoral census.
- 3.- They shall exercise the right to vote in the municipality of their habitual residence, in whose municipal register they are recorded.
- 4.- The registration, in the electoral census, of foreign nationals resident in Spain, shall be done by personal application. This application shall be presented in the Municipal Council in whose municipal register the person is recorded. The deadline for presentation shall be established for each election.

The conditions established for Norwegian citizens are as follows:

- 1.- To be in possession of the corresponding residence permit in Spain.
- 2.- To have resided in Spain, legally and continuously, for more than three years.
- 3.- To reside in the municipality in which they will vote and in which they are recorded in the municipal register.
- 4.- The registration in the electoral lists of foreign nationals resident in Spain. This requirement, essential to being able to exercise the right to suffrage, shall be made by personal application. This application shall be presented in the Municipal Council in whose municipal register the person is recorded. The deadline for presentation shall be established for each election.

Requests for registration in the electoral census may be submitted from 1 December 2010 to 15 January 2011.

In addition to being able to present the requests in the Municipal Councils, the Electoral Census Office plans to send, in the month of November 2010, a personalised letter to those citizens of these countries who fulfil the conditions established in the respective agreements, with the data corresponding to their pre-printed municipal register records. In these cases, the requests may be made online or by post, within the established period.