

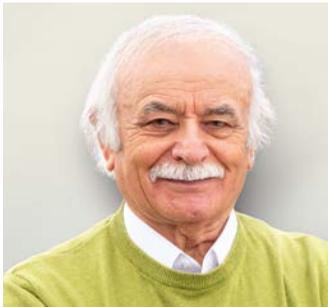
Our request: Elect your senior citizens' representatives!



Songwriter Ludwig Sebus



Actress Lotti Krekel

Awardee of the volunteers prize
Hasan AtesChairman of BAGSO e.V.
Franz Müntefering

Mayor Henriette Reker

The Election

All residents of Cologne aged 60 and above, including those of foreign nationality, are requested to take part in the senior citizens' representatives elections for the City of Cologne by 22 November. The election will consist exclusively of a postal vote. The 250,000 eligible voters will receive their voting forms via post by the end of October.

Each of the nine districts of Cologne is a voting constituency in which five senior citizens' representatives will be elected. The candidates who receive the most votes will be elected. The election to represent senior citizens is an election of individuals. Parties are not eligible for election. 45 members make up the senior citizens' representatives for the City of Cologne and each is elected for a term of 5 years. Foreign representatives may be added through a minorities' clause.



Why is it important to elect senior citizens' representatives?

The senior citizens' representatives represent the interests of the elderly in politics and society.

- They advise the decision makers regarding planning and measures, taking the older generation into consideration. They consult with the City of Cologne, the responsible bodies and the institutions of senior citizen work and welfare organisations.
- They contribute to political committees. Their word carries weight in regional administration, council committees and city work groups.
- They develop their own projects with partners. They have set up safety training with the police and the KVB and the "Help with Living" project with Cologne higher education institutes.
- They inform the elderly about developments in senior citizen policies. They give tips for opportunities in people's private lives. And this all takes place locally, in every district town hall, because the senior citizens' representatives work across the city as well as in each of the nine city districts.
- They work on a voluntary, non-denominational and impartial basis.

In summary:

Through their advisory expertise and wealth of experience, the senior citizens' representatives influence a great number of decisions in the city districts and across the whole city. They stand for the active and direct involvement of older generations in the formation and organisation of their living conditions. A high level of participation in the election is the best basis for the senior citizens' representatives to work successfully!

Instructions for postal election

The postal election forms for the election of senior citizens' representatives of the City of Cologne will be delivered via post to every person entitled to vote. They contain:

1. a **white voting paper**,
2. a **blue voting paper envelope**,
3. a **ballot paper** with an "affirmation" to be filled in on the reverse,
4. a **green ballot paper envelope**,
5. **candidate profiles** with personal information about the candidates for the voting district,
6. **Instructions** on the voting procedure.

To ensure your vote is valid:

1. Mark the voting paper personally. You may choose up to five candidates, but you must make at least one cross.
2. Put the voting paper - and nothing else - in the blue voting paper envelope and seal it. Please do not use adhesive tape.
3. Personally sign the "affirmation for the postal vote" on the reverse of the ballot paper together with the date and place.
4. Place the ballot paper and the sealed blue voting envelope in the green pre-addressed ballot paper envelope. Please do not place the ballot paper in the blue envelope as the vote will then be invalid.
5. Put the green envelope postage free in a letter box or hand it in at a post office. The ballot paper must be received by the city electoral body by 22 November. It may also be handed in to the electoral body of the City of Cologne, Dillenburger Str. 68-70, 51103 Köln-Kalk, by 16:00 on Monday 22 November or placed in the house post box.

Those who are not able to vote due to a mental or physical disability may ask someone to help.

The person assisting must be at least 16 years old and trustworthy. This person signs the "affirmation for postal election" on behalf of the person entitled to vote. Confidentiality of voting must be maintained in its entirety by the person assisting.

Tips and help with the voting procedure:

Telephone 0221 221-34567

wahlamt@stadt-koeln.de

Video explanations in several languages at:

www.wahlen.koeln



Die Oberbürgermeisterin

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