

The number of foreign residents registered on the electoral roll for municipal elections has increased by 53% this year

- » The number of EU residents registered has gone up from 15,095 in 2015 to 23,097 in 2019, an increase of 53.01%
- » The number of non-EU residents from countries with reciprocal right-to-vote agreements has risen from 1,101 to 1,646, an increase of 49.5%
- » The biggest increase has been in Italians, with 3,048 more people registered
- » In Spain as a whole, the number of registered persons has risen by 0.5% compared to the elections four years ago.



Last October, Barcelona City Council launched an information campaign entitled 'My city, my vote' to encourage people with the right to vote to register on the electoral roll for local elections. The purpose of this campaign was to provide those interested with the necessary information for registering on the electoral roll.

It consisted of announcements and publicity in the mother tongues of the largest communities to get the information across more effectively regarding registration procedures, sending letters to the homes of people on the residents' register, announcements in social media, the distribution of videos and direct contact with community associations, consulates, entities and other associations.

The Council also set up a website, www.barcelona.cat/censat (which could be consulted in various languages), informed the Municipal Immigration Council and sent information leaflets to the potential target public.

This campaign was also linked to the communication campaign normally run by Spain's National Statistics Office (INE), the body responsible for drawing up the electoral roll. EU residents had until 30 January 2019 to register, while non-EU residents had until 15 January.

The main results of the campaign by nationality were as follows:

		Registred 2015	Registred 2019	Difference	Increase
1	ITALY	5,388	8,436	3,048	56.6%
2	FRANCE	2,650	4,425	1,775	67.0%
3	GERMANY	1,641	2,329	688	41.9%
4	UNITED KINGDOM	1,318	1,905	587	44.5%
5	PORTUGAL	641	1,029	388	60.5%
6	POLAND	298	522	224	75.2%
7	ROMANIA	795	1,002	207	26.0%
8	NETHERLANDS	575	770	195	33.9%
9	BELGIUM	297	441	144	48.5%
10	GREECE	162	273	111	68.5%
11	IRELAND	201	303	102	50.7%
12	SWEDEN	208	304	96	46.2%
	Other countries	921	1,358	437	47.4%
		15,095	23,097	8,002	53.0%

The communities that have seen the most significant increase are the French (up 1,775, i.e. an increase of 67%), the Italians (+3,048, up 56%) the Portuguese (+388, up 60%) and the Polish (an increase of 224 people, up 75%)

The number of UK residents registered in Barcelona also rose by 587, an increase of 44%.

The total number of EU residents in Barcelona in 2019 is 90,383, and 23,097 are on the electoral roll for municipal elections. That means the percentage of EU residents on the electoral roll for municipal elections has risen from 18% to 25%.

Registration in the whole of Spain

If we compare the Barcelona results with the rest of Spain, objectively we can say the 'My city, my vote' campaign has been a success.

In Spain as a whole, the number of registered foreign residents has hardly changed at all, only rising from 464,074 in 2015 to 466,202 in 2019, i.e. an absolute increase of only 2,128 people, or 0.5%.

So, without the increase in the city of Barcelona (+8.002 people), the figures for the province of Barcelona, Catalonia and Spain would have seen a fall in numbers.

	EU residents registered on the electoral roll 2015	EU residents registered on the electoral roll 2019	Difference	Variation
Barcelona	15,095	23,097	8,002	53.01%
Barcelona Province	37,896	42,696	4,800	12.67%
Catalonia without Barcelona	47,603	46,679	-924	-1.94%
Catalonia	62,698	69,776	7,078	11.29%
Spain without Barcelona	448,979	443,105	-5,874	-1.31%
Total Spain	464,074	466,202	2,128	0.46%

Registration of non-EU residents with reciprocal right-to-vote agreement

As regards the registration of non-EU residents with reciprocal right-to-vote agreements, the results were as follows:

	Registered 2015	Registered 2019	Difference	Increase
BOLIVIA	228	359	131	57.5%
CAPE VERDE	0	1	1	
COLOMBIA	220	350	130	59.1%
ECUADOR	175	240	65	37.1%
NORWAY	17	30	13	76.5%
NEW ZEALAND	5	7	2	40.0%
PARAGUAY	59	139	80	135.6%
PERU	282	317	35	12.4%



REPUBLIC OF KOREA	10	21	11	110.0%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	0	0	0	
CHILE	100	179	79	79.0%
ICELAND	5	3	-2	-40.0%
	1,101	1,646	545	49.5%

It should be borne in mind that the requirements for this group, which are set by the Spanish government, are much stricter than for EU residents, given that they must comply with the requirement of 5 years continuous legal residence. Moreover, the census needs to be compiled again for each election.

The 'My city, my vote' campaign has been possible thanks to an agreement with the EU Directorate-General for Justice, which is keen to promote political participation by EU foreign residents in all EU countries.