

Politics Sweden



Sweden

Fundamental Laws

The Constitution of Sweden

Four Fundamental Laws

Fyra grundlagar

The Instrument of Government	1974
The Act of Succession	1810
The Freedom of the Press Act	1949
The Fundamental Law on Freedom of Expression	1991

Regeringsformen
Successionsordningen
Tryckfrihetsförordningen
Yttrandefrihetsgrundlagen

Same amendment procedure:

simple majority, two identical decisions separated by a general election

Same legal status

The Instrument of Government

The Instrument of Government 1809–1974

Constitutional monarchy

Separation of powers



The Instrument of Government

The Instrument of Government 1809–1974

Constitutional monarchy

Separation of powers

The Instrument of Government 1974

Popular sovereignty

Parliamentary democracy

Majority rule

Unicameral parliament



Svensk författningssamling

**Lag
om ändring i regeringsformen**

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Enligt riksdagens beslut¹ föreskrivs att 13 kap. 7 och 8 §§ regeringsformen²
ska ha följande lydelse.

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Omtryck

The Instrument of Government



The Instrument of Government 1974

Popular sovereignty

Parliamentary democracy

Majority rule

Amendments after 1974

Rights and freedoms

Budget rules and fiscal control

EU membership

Courts of law

Audit and control

The Instrument of Government

Basic principles

Fundamental rights and freedoms

The Riksdag

The work of the Riksdag

The Head of State

The Government

The work of the Government

Acts of law and other provisions

Financial powers

International relations

Administration of Justice

Administration

Parliamentary control

Local authorities

War and danger of war

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Chapter 1. Basic principles of the form of government

Art. 1. All public power in Sweden proceeds from the people.

Swedish democracy is founded on the free formation of opinion and on universal and equal suffrage. It is realised through a representative and parliamentary form of government and through local self-government.

Public power is exercised under the law.

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Chapters 3–7

Parliament
King
Cabinet

Riksdagen
Kungen
Regeringen

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Chapters 8–13
Powers of the state

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Chapter 14
Local self-government

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Chapter 15
Special arrangements in wartime

The Act of Succession

Art. 1. The right of succession to the throne of Sweden is vested in the male and female descendants of King Carl XVI Gustaf, Crown Prince Johan Baptist Julii, later King Karl XIV Johan's, issue in direct line of descent. In this connection, older siblings and their descendants have precedence over younger siblings and their descendants.

Three principles

Primogeniture (firstborn)

Lineal (descendants)

Full cognatic (eldest heir regardless of gender)

Succession to the throne

Carl XVI Gustaf

Victoria

Estelle

Oscar

Carl Philip

Alexander

Gabriel

Madeleine

Leonore

Nicolas

Adrienne

King Carl XVI Gustaf
and Crown Princess Victoria



Photo: Ingemar Lindewall, The Royal Court of Sweden

The Freedom of the Press Act



The Freedom of the Press Act

- Right to publish printed matter
- Ban on censorship
- Strictly defined offences against press freedom
- Liability afterwards
- Sole responsibility
- Special court procedure, jury
- Right to anonymity
- Immunity from liability for sources
- Reprisal ban

Public access to information

Art. 1. The freedom of the press is understood to mean the right of every Swedish citizen to publish written matter, without prior hindrance by a public authority or other public body ...

The Fundamental Law on Freedom of Expression

Parallel to The Freedom of the Press Act

Certain non-print media:

Radio

Television

Film

Sound recordings

Some but not all internet sites

Art. 1. ... sound radio, television and certain similar transmissions, through public playback of material from a database, and in films, video recordings, sound recordings and other technical recordings.

Weak protection

The Instrument of Government

The European Convention on Human Rights

Criminal court procedure

Handwritten messages

Public speeches

Demonstrations

Exhibitions

Theaters

Museums

etc

Strong protection

The Instrument of Government

The European Convention on Human Rights

The Freedom of the Press Act

The Fundamental Law on Freedom of Expression

Special court procedure, jury

Printed matters

Books, periodicals

Photocopies etc with publisher, place and year

Radio

Television

Film

Sound recordings

Some but not all internet sites

Weak protection

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The European Convention on Human Rights

Criminal court procedure

Handwritten messages
Public speeches
Demonstrations
Exhibitions
Theaters
Museums
etc

Handwritten message
Guilty
Sentenced to fines or prison



Strong protection

The Instrument of Government
The European Convention on Human Rights
The Freedom of the Press Act
The Fundamental Law on Freedom of Expression

Special court procedure, jury

Printed matters
Books, periodicals
Photocopies etc with publisher, place and year

Radio
Television
Film
Sound recordings
Some but not all internet sites

Photocopied message
Not guilty
Acquitted



“Semi-constitutional” acts

The Riksdag Act

Church of Sweden Act
Act on Religious Communities

Two alternative amendment procedures:

Two identical decisions separated by a general election, simple majority

One decision, qualified majority

Politics Sweden

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