**Denmark – Folketinget (The Danish Parliament)**

1. Website:

In Danish: <https://www.ft.dk/>

In English: <https://www.thedanishparliament.dk/>

2. Locating Relevant Documents/Files On-line:

*A.RULES OF PROCEDURE*

**1. Name:**

Forretningsorden for Folketinget (Standing Orders of the Danish Parliament)

**2. URL**:

Danish Version:

PDF:<https://www.ft.dk/~/media/sites/ft/pdf/publikationer/folketingets_forretningsorden_2018.ashx>

HTML: <https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter/bestil-publikationer/publikationer/forretningsorden/forretningsorden-for-folketinget>

English Version: <https://www.thedanishparliament.dk/publications/~/media/PDF/publikationer/English/Standing_Orders_of_the_Danish_Parliament.ashx>

**3. What is the date for the most recent revision on the rules of procedure?**

Danish Version: 20 December 2018

English Version: June 2016

**4. Is there a section of the rules of procedure that covers voting rules? If so, indicate the section.**

Danish Version: KAPITEL XII, § 35 Stk.4, page 61

English Version: CHAPTER XI, § 35 (4), page 53-54

**5. If available, please list the rules governing the use of roll call votes.**

Afstemning ved navneopråb skal foretages, hvis 17 medlemmer inden afstem- ningens begyndelse skriftligt anmoder derom, medmindre Tinget efter formandens forslag ved en på sædvanlig måde foretaget afstem- ning bestemmer andet. I øvrigt kan formanden lade en afstemning foregå ved navneopråb enten straks, eller hvis udfaldet af en på anden måde foretaget afstemning forekommer denne tvivlsomt. Ved afstemning ved navne- opråb opråbes medlemmerne efter deres nav- nes bogstavfølge. Efter at samtlige medlem- mers navne er opråbt og der på formandens umiddelbart derpå følgende opfordring ikke melder sig flere til stemmeafgivningen, tilken- degiver formanden navneopråbets afslutning, hvorpå sammentællingen finder sted.

Votes shall be taken by roll-call if seventeen Members so request before the voting begins, unless the Danish Parliament by an ordinary vote taken at the suggestion of the Speaker decides otherwise. Besides, the Speaker may decide to take a vote by roll-call at once, or he may do so if the outcome of a vote taken otherwise seems questionable to him. When votes are taken by roll-call, the names of the Members are called out in alphabetical order. When the names of all the Members have been called out and – when at the Speaker’s immediate invitation to vote – no more Members register for the voting, the Speaker announces the close of the roll-call and the votes cast are counted.

**6. If the documents are available in multiple languages, does it seem like the same number of documents/files are available in the different languages?**

Danish.

No, there are more files on the Danish website comparting to the English one.

**7. How exactly did you locate these files? (i.e. if you were going to write instructions for someone else to find them, what would that look like?)**

Main Website – on the left side – [Dokumenter](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter) (Documents) – [Publikationer](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter/bestil-publikationer) (Publications) – [Alle publikationer](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter/bestil-publikationer/publikationer?f___publicationcategory=folketinget) (All publications) – [Forretningsorden for Folketinget](https://www.ft.dk/~/media/sites/ft/pdf/publikationer/folketingets_forretningsorden_2018.ashx) (Standing Orders of the Danish Parliament)

Main Website – on the left side – [Publications](https://www.thedanishparliament.dk/en/publications) – [Standing Orders of the Danish Parliament](https://www.thedanishparliament.dk/~/media/pdf/publikationer/english/standing_orders_of_the_danish_parliament.ashx)

**8. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

Danish.

**9. Is there anything else you think we should know?**

**10. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file for previous versions of the rules of procedure? If so, repeat questions 2-8.**

I didn’t find a particular website for all the previous versions of rules of procedure, but all the documents can be found [here](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter). Previous dates of amendment can be found [here](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter/bestil-publikationer/publikationer/forretningsorden/forretningsorden-for-folketinget/som-vedtaget). I suppose combining these two can help us find pervious versions, but only manually.

*B.RECORD OF LEGISLATIVE VOTING*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of votes as reported in the working language of the legislature (e.g., scrutin public ordinaire).**

According to the rules of procedure, normal votes are called stemme (vote). A roll call vote is called navneopråb (name-calling/roll-call).

**2. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required? If so what are these?**

Danish.

**3. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the voting record online (separate from the plenary minute)?**

Yes.

**If so:**

**-Where can one find these documents? Please provide instructions for how someone would find them.**

Main Website – on the left side – [Dokumenter](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter) (Documents) – under Referater og afstemninger (minutes and polls) - [Afstemninger](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter/dokumentlister/afstemninger) (Polls) – set the filter on the left side, choose a 7 Oct 2004, which is the first day that a report is available – you get all the documents needed at once.

**-What types of votes are reported (e.g., the roll call vote record for individual legislators)?**

The voting record for individual legislators.

More detailed information can be found in the rules of procedures, as stated below: (Section 35)

I alle tilfælde, hvor formanden har grund til at anse udfaldet af en afstemning for givet på forhånd, er denne bemyndiget til at erklære et afstemningspunkt – dog med undtagelse af den endelige vedtagelse af et lovforslag eller et andet selvstændigt forslag – for afgjort uden afstemning, medmindre 17 medlemmer begærer en sådan foretaget. I øvrigt sker afstemning enten ved afstemningsanlæg, ved at medlemmerne rejser sig fra deres pladser, eller ved navneopråb.

Afstemning sker sædvanligvis ved hjælp af et afstemningsanlæg, hvorved det tilkendegives, hvem der stemmer for forslaget, hvem der stemmer imod, hvem der hverken stemmer for eller imod, samt hvem der er fraværende.

(Usually, **votes are taken by means of a voting machine which indicates who vote for the Bill, who vote against it and who abstain from voting as well as who are absent.** The result of the voting is kept in the Archives of the Danish Parliament. If the Speaker so decides, it will be recorded in the minutes of the debates in the Chamber how each Member has voted. This also applies if seventeen Members have requested it in writing before the vote is taken, unless the Danish Parliament by an ordinary vote taken at the suggestion of the Speaker decides otherwise.

**If the voting machine cannot be used, a vote is taken by the Speaker’s calling upon the Members to rise from their seats in order to indicate that they vote for or against the Bill or to indicate that they vote neither for nor against.**)

**4. If you find on-line documents, does this seem to be all the relevant documents for a specific time period? If so, what is the time period? If not, can you describe what is missing?**

Beginning from 7 Oct 2004 (2004-05 first session).

**5. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

Don’t know but it seems to be a little bit hard to download. However, each voting result includes result of voting by each member.

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section? If not, please indicate which source and years we are missing.**

No

*C.MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of information as reported in the working language of the legislature:**

Referater af Folketingets forhandlinger (Minutes of the debates)

Or simply just

Referater (Minutes)

**2. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the specific information online? If so, where (please provide instructions for how one would find them)? If an official source is not available, please list any secondary sources**.

Main Website – on the left side – [Dokumenter](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter) (Documents) – under Referater og afstemninger (minutes and polls) – [Referater](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter/dokumentlister/referater) (Minutes)

Use the filter function on the left-hand side. You can either select a date that is earlier than 5 October 2004 to get all the documents needed at once, or you can get it by each session.

**3. If you find on-line documents, does this seem to be all the relevant documents for a specific time period? If so, what is the time period? If not, can you describe what is missing?**

Beginning from 5 October 2004. The earliest one available can be found [here](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter/dokumentlister/referater?session=20041).

**4. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

Don’t know.

Some of them are in html while the earlier ones are in pdf.

The URLs various a little bit. But for the same session, it’s neat.

If we get the date of the meeting and the ranking of the meeting (say it’s the 5th meeting in the session/ the 42nd meeting in the session), I think we can automatically download these files.

**5. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

Danish

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section?**

No.

*D. ATTENDANCE*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of information as reported in the working language of the legislature:**

If we search “beslutningsdygtig,” “A committee is quorum - they can vote - when half the committee members are present.”

The rules are in [section 8 (4) of the Rules of Procedure](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter/bestil-publikationer/publikationer/forretningsorden/forretningsorden-for-folketinget/kapitel-iii/paragraf-8).

Det er alene udvalgets medlemmer, der kan træffe beslutning i et udvalgsmøde. Et udvalg er beslutningsdygtigt, når over halvdelen af dets medlemmer er til stede. Afgørelse træffes ved almindeligt flertal, jf. dog stk. 1 og 2.

Only the committee Members can take decisions during committee meetings. A committee forms a quorum when more than half of its Members are present. Decisions are taken by simple majority, cf., however, Subsections 1 and 2.

**2. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the specific information online? If so, where (please provide the URL)? If an official source is not available, please list any secondary sources**.

I cannot find a published document covering this information.

However, for each vote, the individual voting result of each member is recorded.

An example can be found [here](https://www.ft.dk/samling/20182/afstemning/5.htm).

However, this voting result cannot represent the entire attendance. In fact, it is just the minimum number of people who voted. (People who are marked as absent may not be actually absent.)

**As noted on the website,**

“Partierne indgår såkaldte clearingsaftaler, som betyder, at clearede medlemmer ikke deltager i afstemningen.

De clearede medlemmer kan dermed deltage i f.eks. politiske møder, konferencer eller studieture, uden at det påvirker styrkeforholdet i Folketingssalen.

Efter grundlovens § 50 er Folketinget beslutningsdygtigt, når over halvdelen af medlemmerne (90) deltager i en afstemning.  
(The parties enter into so-called clearing agreements, which means that cleared members do not participate in the vote.

The cleared members can thus participate in e.g. political meetings, conferences or study trips, without affecting the strength of the parliamentary hall.

According to section 50 of the Constitution, the Folketing is quorum when more than half of the members (90) participate in a vote.)”

Therefore, the reliability of the result is questionable.

**3. What years are available on this source?**

Beginning from 7 Oct 2004 (2004-05 first session). The same as voting reports.

**4. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

Don’t know. But if we can get all the voting reports, it seems to be possible. The reliability of the result, however, is questionable.

**5. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

Danish.

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section?**

No.

*E. ROLL CALL VOTE REQUEST*

**1. In the available on-line documents, can you identify a request for a roll-call vote? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify the requester?**

**2. Do the available on-line documents report a justification for a request for a roll-call vote? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify the justification?**

**3. How is the decision to accept or deny the roll-call vote request made (this may be found in the rules of procedure)?**

**4. In the available on-line documents, can you identify whether the request was accepted? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify this?**

*F. DISCUSSION BEFORE THE VOTE*

1. Roll-call votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the names of participants who participated in discussion before a vote? If so, where can this be found?**

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the length (in words) of a participant’s speech? If so, where can this be found?**

2. Indication Votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the names of participants who participated in discussion before a vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes.

We can find the name of participants in the reports of plenary sessions. (address of plenary reports: Main Website – on the left side – [Dokumenter](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter) (Documents) – under Referater og afstemninger (minutes and polls) – [Referater](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter/dokumentlister/referater) (Minutes))

An example can be found [here](https://www.ft.dk/forhandlinger/20182/20182M006_2019-08-28_1300.htm).

Since the first three items do not have a discussion, if we go to the 4th item on the agenda, we can see who participated in the discussion before the vote.

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the length (in words) of a participant’s speech? If so, where can this be found?**

It does not include word count, but the full version of the speech is public and available. Address and example same as stated in (F.2.a).

*G. VOTING*

1. Roll-call votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the subject of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the procedural type (motion/agenda/article of a bill/amendment/etc…) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

**c. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the result of the vote (e.g., the motion passed)? If so, where can this be found?**

**d. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the method (electronic, calling of names, etc..) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

In the rules of procedure, which can be found [here](https://www.ft.dk/~/media/sites/ft/pdf/publikationer/folketingets_forretningsorden_2018.ashx).

Section 35 (4), it’s by a calling of names.

**e. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the breakdown of the vote outcome (e.g., yes/no/abstain) in the aggregate? At the level of individual legislator? If so, where can this be found?**

**f. In the available on-line documents, can you determine whether there were any arguments documented during the vote (e.g. , a protest over procedure)? If so, where can this be found?**

2. Indication votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the subject of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes.

At the very top of the reports of plenary session, after

“Det første/næste/sidste punkt på dagsordenen er: (The first/next/last item on the agenda is:)”

Is the subject of the vote.

Address and example same as (F.2.a).

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the procedural type (motion/agenda/article of a bill/amendment/etc…) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes.

We can tell from the subject of the vote.

Address and example same as (F.2.a).

In that particular example, it is:

“Forslag til lov om **ændring** af lov om valg til Folketinget og lov om valg af danske medlemmer til Europa-Parlamentet. (Proposal for a law **amending** the law on elections to the Parliament and the law on the election of Danish members to the European Parliament.)”

**c. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the result of the vote (e.g., the motion passed)? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes.

At the end of each vote in the reports.

If it is adopted, it is “vedtaget.”

If it is rejected, it is “forkastet.”

Also, if you go to Main Website – on the left side – [Dokumenter](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter) (Documents) – under Referater og afstemninger (minutes and polls) - [Afstemninger](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter/dokumentlister/afstemninger) (Polls), there are more detailed result for each vote as well.

**d. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the method (electronic, raising of hands, etc..) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

In the rules of procedure, which can be found [here](https://www.ft.dk/~/media/sites/ft/pdf/publikationer/folketingets_forretningsorden_2018.ashx).

Section 35:

“I alle tilfælde, hvor formanden har grund til at anse udfaldet af en afstemning for givet på forhånd, er denne bemyndiget til at erklære et afstemningspunkt – dog med undtagelse af den endelige vedtagelse af et lovforslag eller et andet selvstændigt forslag – for afgjort uden afstemning, medmindre 17 medlemmer begærer en sådan foretaget. I øvrigt sker afstemning enten ved afstemningsanlæg, ved at medlemmerne rejser sig fra deres pladser, eller ved navneopråb.

Afstemning sker sædvanligvis ved hjælp af et afstemningsanlæg, hvorved det tilkendegives, hvem der stemmer for forslaget, hvem der stemmer imod, hvem der hverken stemmer for eller imod, samt hvem der er fraværende. Afstemningsresultatet opbevares i Folketingets arkiv. Hvis formanden bestem- mer det, anføres det i referatet af Folketingets forhandlinger, hvorledes hvert enkelt medlem har stemt. Det samme gælder, hvis 17 med- lemmer skriftligt forlanger det inden afstem- ningens begyndelse, medmindre Tinget efter formandens forslag ved en på sædvanlig måde foretaget afstemning bestemmer andet.

Kan afstemningsanlæg ikke benyt-tes, sker afstemning, ved at medlemmerne rejser sig fra deres pladser på formandens opfordring til dem om at stemme for eller imod forslaget eller tilkendegive, at de hverken stemmer for eller imod.

* In all cases in which the Speaker has reason to consider the outcome of a vote taken for granted in advance, he is authorized to declare a question put to the vote – however excepting the final passing of a Bill or another independent proposal – decided without a vote, unless seventeen Members request that such a vote be taken. **Incidentally, votes are taken either by means of a voting machine, by counting the Members who have risen from their seats, or by roll-call.**

Usually, **votes are taken by means of a voting machine which indicates who vote for the Bill, who vote against it and who abstain from voting as well as who are absent.** **The result of the voting is kept in the Archives of the Danish Parliament\*.** If the Speaker so decides, it will be recorded in the minutes of the debates in the Chamber how each Member has voted. This also applies if seventeen Members have requested it in writing before the vote is taken, unless the Danish Parliament by an ordinary vote taken at the suggestion of the Speaker decides otherwise.

**If the voting machine cannot be used, a vote is taken by the Speaker’s calling upon the Members to rise from their seats in order to indicate that they vote for or against the Bill or to indicate that they vote neither for nor against.**”

**e. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the breakdown of the vote outcome (e.g., yes/no/abstain) in the aggregate? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes, in the level of individuals instead.

Main Website – on the left side – [Dokumenter](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter) (Documents) – under Referater og afstemninger (minutes and polls) - [Afstemninger](https://www.ft.dk/da/dokumenter/dokumentlister/afstemninger) (Polls) – click into each vote. This will give you the voting behavior of each member, but the reliability is questionable. (more detailed reason in (D.2))

**f. In the available on-line documents, can you determine whether there were any arguments documented during the vote (e.g. , a protest over procedure)? If so, where can this be found?**

No.

*NOTES ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT COULD BE RELEVANT*

* As marked above in red, there is an Archive of the Danish Parliament website. However, it’s all in Danish and cannot be automatically translated.

<http://webarkiv.ft.dk/doc.aspx?/samling/arkiv.htm>

* “While there are votes in the Danish Parliament they have little resemblance with the traditional roll call voting, and thus original methods relying on legislators’ voting records need adaptation. First, while there is a provision for roll call votes in the standing orders this has not been used in the last several decades. Second, the level of party cohesion in the voting behaviour of MPs is so high it makes little sense to talk of individual MPs making a decision on proposal; this is done by the party group as a whole (see also Skjæveland, 2001). Thirdly, not all MPs vote on all proposals. As the voting takes place along party lines, an informal agreement between the parties allowing a proportion of their members to be paired absent. 6 This challenges the use of voting records on two levels: first, the number of participants is an artificial number with no meaning, and second, the size of the majority is not necessarily equal to reality as the number of people absent influences it.”

Hansen, Martin Ejnar, and Zoltán Fazekas. 2015. “All Votes Are Equal? Significant Legislation and Party Competition in the Danish Folketing.” *Scandinavian Political Studies* 38(3): 255–76.