



Íbúakosningar um sameiningu Árneshrepps & Kaldrananeshrepps

14. – 28. March 2026

The municipal councils of Árneshreppur and Kaldrananeshreppur have approved holding a residents' vote regarding a proposal to merge the municipalities. The voting period will take place from **14–28 March 2026**.

What is being voted on?

The vote concerns a proposal to merge the municipalities of Árneshreppur and Kaldrananeshreppur. A joint merger committee has presented its opinion and key assumptions for discussion in the municipal councils in accordance with Article 119(2) of the Local Government Act No. 138/2011.

Who can vote?

The following individuals are eligible to participate:

1. Citizens of Iceland, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, or Norway who have reached the age of 16 by the final day of voting and have registered legal residence in the relevant municipality at noon 22 days before voting begins.
2. Foreign citizens who have had registered legal residence in Iceland continuously for three years prior to the final day of voting and who otherwise meet the conditions above.

The electoral register will be issued 20 days before voting begins and is based on residence 22 days prior to the start of voting.

After the electoral register has been published, voters can check where they may vote on the National Registry website:

<https://www.skra.is/folk/kjorskra-og-kosningar/hvar-a-eg-ad-kjosa/>.



Opening hours of polling stations

Árneshreppur:

At the Árneshreppur municipal office, open on weekdays from **13:00 to 17:00**.

Additionally, a polling station will be open at the Community Centre in Árnes:

- Saturday, 14 March: 12:00–14:00
- Saturday, 28 March: 12:00–16:00

Kaldrananeshreppur:

At the Kaldrananeshreppur municipal office:

- Monday–Thursday: 09:00–16:00
- Friday: 09:00–13:00

On the phone: 451-3277

Additionally, a polling station will be open at Drangsnæs Primary School:

- Saturday, 14 March: 12:00–14:00
- Saturday, 21 March: 12:00–14:00
- Saturday, 28 March: 10:00–16:00

Those who are unable to attend a polling station in person may vote by postal ballot.

Voters in both municipalities may request postal voting materials by email at:

drangsnæs@drangsnæs.is

Opinion of the Joint Committee

Requirements for municipal services continue to increase, while there is growing pressure for smaller municipalities to merge in order to ensure adequate services for residents. At the same time, residents of smaller municipalities may fear losing local services and influence over decisions affecting their immediate surroundings.

The committee believes that merging Árneshreppur and Kaldrananeshreppur could strengthen the community and ensure statutory services without residents losing local influence or access to nearby services. A merged municipality would be financially well positioned to provide services and maintain professional administration.

Both municipalities are financially strong. The merger is expected to have a positive financial impact, with annual equalization contributions estimated to increase by 12–15 million ISK. In addition, the merged municipality would receive approximately 200 million ISK in special merger contributions from the Municipal Equalization Fund over the next seven years.

Vision for the future merged municipality

- Establishment of a local council for the Árneshreppur area with broad decision-making authority,
- Educational services provided through Drangsnæs Primary School while maintaining local arrangements,
- Development of digital local services through an online resident portal,
- Equal opportunities for residents to participate in municipal governance, including remote participation,
- Improvement of road infrastructure and transport connections as key development priorities.

Resident information meetings

Information meetings organized by the merger committee will be held on 9 March 2026:

- 14:00 – Community Centre in Árnes (also streamed online)
- 19:30 – Baldur Community Hall in Kaldrananeshreppur (also streamed online)