

Establishment of the Municipality of Kaustinen

The Municipality of Kaustinen was established in 1868 following the implementation of the Finnish Municipal Ordinance of 1865, which separated local civil administration from ecclesiastical governance and introduced a system of municipal self-government. The boundaries of the municipality were defined based on the existing parish boundaries.

In March 1868, the residents of Kaustinen elected the parish curate to serve as Chair of the Municipal Assembly and a local landowner to serve as Chair of the Municipal Board. At that time, municipal voting rights and decision-making power were determined by the amount of municipal tax paid. Consequently, individuals who contributed higher tax payments exercised greater influence in municipal affairs than those who paid less.

The first representative Municipal Council was elected in 1919. Its first Chairman was Otto Aleksanteri Käsälä (1889–1970), marking the beginning of a new era of representative local government in Kaustinen.

History of the Municipal Coat of Arms

“I no longer remember how many proposals I have submitted, but other heraldic artists have been allowed to do the same. This is no longer a game.”

An abstract from a letter written by Ilmari Wirkkala in 1950

The municipal coat of arms was designed by Ilmari Wirkkala, an artist from Kaustinen. The Municipal Council approved the coat of arms in 1950.

According to Wirkkala, the fiddle in the coat of arms represents Kaustinen's rich musical and cultural heritage. The nail crosses, in turn, symbolize the skills of local builders and carpenters, as well as the municipality's strong tradition of craftsmanship.

History of the Municipal Office

The municipal office was originally located in Kappelinkangas at **Siltatie 5**, where the building was completed in **1916**. The building is still owned by the Municipality of Kaustinen. Today, it houses a local association, **Kaustisen Martat**, and is commonly known as "**Marttala**."

Since **1973**, the Municipal Office of Kaustinen has been located at its current address, **Kappelintie 13**.

Photograph of the original municipal office (completed in 1916). *(A-K 1966 and 1968)*

The original photograph has been digitally enhanced, and its colors have been restored with the help of artificial intelligence.

Population Development of the Municipality

In **1860**, around the time the municipality was established, the population of Kaustinen was approximately **2,250 residents**. The population exceeded the **3,000-resident** mark around **1892**.

At the end of **2025**, the Municipality of Kaustinen had **4,074 residents**. Since **2015**, the population trend has been declining. In **1995**, Kaustinen had a total population of **4,578 residents**, which remains the highest population figure in the municipality's history.