

The President of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid¹

Kersti Kaljulaid born 30 December 1969, is an Estonian politician who is the fifth and current President of Estonia, in office since 10 October 2016. She is **the first female head of state of Estonia** since the country declared independence in 1918, as well as **the youngest ever President**, age 46 at the time of her election.

Kaljulaid is a former state official, serving as Estonia's representative in the Auditors from 2004 until 2016. After several unsuccessful rounds of Estonian presidential elections in 2016, Kaljulaid was nominated on 30 September 2016 by the majority of parliamentary parties as a joint candidate for President of Estonia, as the only official candidate for that round. Kaljulaid was voted President of Estonia on 3 October 2016, with 81 votes and 17 abstentions.

In 1987, Kaljulaid graduated from Tallinn Secondary School no. 44. During her studies there, she was a member of the Students' Scientific Association, specializing in ornithology. In 1992, she graduated from University of Tartu cum laude as a biologist. She is a **member of Estonian female student corporation, Filiae Patriae**. In 2001, she graduated from the University of Tartu with an MBA in business management.

Kaljulaid **has a daughter and a son** from her first marriage. **She is also a grandmother**. Kaljulaid's second husband is Georgi-Rene Maksimovski; they have **two sons**.

Kaljulaid has defined herself as a liberal conservative. She has spoken in support of strong civil society with less state interference, whilst placing high importance on helping those in need. She holds liberal views on social issues such as LGBT rights and immigration. She has often published opinion pieces in Estonian media, considering the position of Estonia in the European Union and on social and economical matters.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kersti_Kaljulaid

As Kaljulaid's term as a member of the European Court of Auditors was due to end on 7 May 2016, she was confirmed as the next head of PRAXIS Center for Policy Studies in November 2015. Although the Estonian government should have proposed her replacement in the court by 7 February 2016, it still had not managed to do so by the end of her term, so she remained in the position.

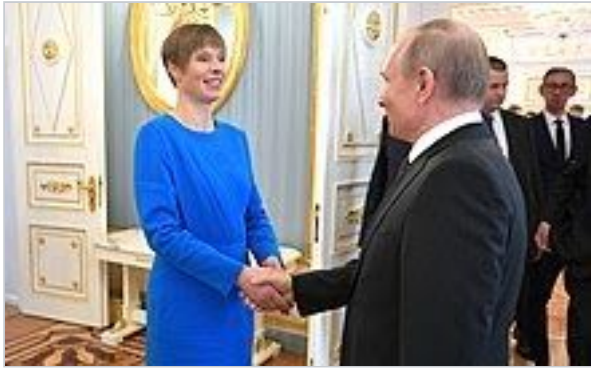
On 19 September 2016, the freshly founded Development Monitoring Advisory Board at the Chancellery of Estonian Parliament voted Kaljulaid to be its chair



Kaljulaid with [Mike Pence](#) in July 2017



Kaljulaid with [Petro Poroshenko](#) in May 2018



Kaljulaid with [Vladimir Putin](#) in April 2019

In 2017, she became the first Estonian to be featured in the [Forbes](#) magazine's list of **The World's 100 Most Powerful Women**, placed at 78th and came twenty second among the most influential female political leaders.



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