

# GUIDE TO VOTING



An Easy to Read Guide





## What is an Election?

An Election is when people living in a country vote on who they want to represent them.

## Why Should I Vote?

It is your right to vote.

If you don't vote then you don't have a say in who the TDs are and that means you don't have a say in healthcare, social welfare, the law, education, employment and many more areas.

You should choose someone who you think will work hard on your behalf.

## Who Can I Vote For?

People living in Ireland can vote for different people to do different jobs.

**Councillors** – work in your community. Everybody living in Ireland can vote for Councillors.

**TDs** – This stands for Teachta Dála

TDs represent people from areas around the country called constituencies. TDs are members of Dáil Éireann. Dáil Éireann is the parliament in Ireland.

TDs represent people from their area or constituency at national level. Irish and British people living here can vote for TDs.





European Parliament



**MEPs** – work in the European Union, with representatives from other countries around Europe such as France, Britain, Germany and many more.

All people from the European Union living here can vote for MEPs.

**The President** – the President is the head of state in Ireland. The President holds his/her role for no more than 7 years.

The President lives in Áras an Uachtaráin and also does a lot of his or her work from there.

## Before the Election

Before an Election you will see posters of the people who want to be elected.

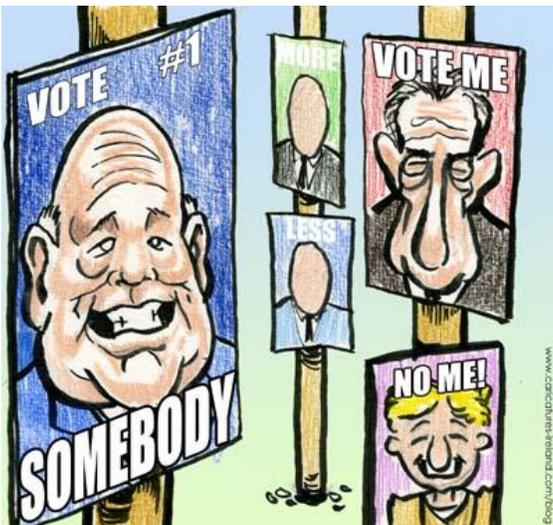
These people are called candidates.

You will also get leaflets in the post.

The candidates call to people's houses to look for votes and hear suggestions. This is called canvassing.

Political Parties will put out manifestos, these are a list of things they will do if they are elected.

Some candidates have no political parties. They are called Independents.





## How Do I Vote?

Most people vote at a polling station, usually in a school or hall near where you live.

Before the election a polling card will come in the post to your home

This will tell you the election date, where your polling station is and what time it is open.

You should bring ID with you to the polling station as you may be asked for it.

You will get a piece of paper called a ballot paper.

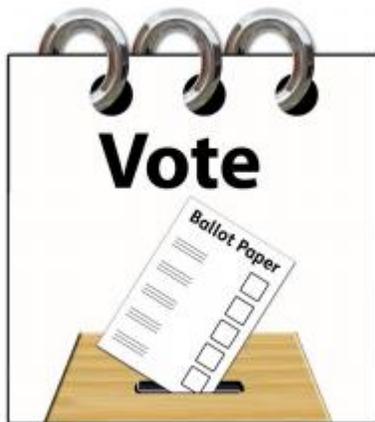
The names and photos of the candidates will be on the ballot paper.

You fill in the ballot paper by writing numbers in the boxes beside their names of the candidates.

You put number 1 for your first choice. You can choose one person if you want or you can choose as many as you want. If you choose more than one you put the numbers 1,2,3,4 etc. in the boxes beside their names.

You place your ballot paper in a box with all the other votes and they are counted later on.

You don't put your name or address or any personal information on the ballot paper-and voting is kept secret.



### TREORACHA

1. Scriobh an figiúr 1 sa bhosca le hais an chéad iarrthóra is rogha leat, scriob an figiúr 2 sa bhosca le hais an dara harrthóir is rogha leat, agus mar sin de.

2. Fill an ollpéiar ionas nach bhfeicfead do vóta. Taispeáin cúl an pháipéir don oifigeach ceannais, agus cuir sa bhosca ballóide é.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Write 1 in the box beside the candidate of your first choice, write 2 in the box beside the candidate of your second choice, and so on.

2. Fold the paper to conceal your vote. Show the back of the paper to the presiding officer and put it in the ballot box.

#### DOYLE – LIBERAL SOCIALISTS

MARY DOYLE, of 10 High Street, Knockmore,  
Name.



#### LYNCH – URBAN PARTY

JANE ELLEN LYNCH, of 12 Main Street,  
Anístown, Shopkeeper.



#### MURPHY

PATRICK MURPHY, of 12 Main Street, Ballyduff,  
Carpenter.



#### Ó BRIAIN – CUMANN NA SAORANACH

SEAMUS Ó BRIAIN, of 10 An tSráid Ard,  
Cam Mór, Oide Scoile.



#### O'BRIEN – NON-PARTY

EAMON O'BRIEN, of 22 Wellclose Place,  
Knockbeg, Barrister.



O'BRIEN – THE INDEPENDENT PARTY  
ORLA O'BRIEN, of 103 Eaton Brae, Cahernore,  
Solicitor.



O'CONNOR – NATIONAL LEAGUE  
CAROLINE O'CONNOR, of 7 Green Street,  
Cummore, Engineer.



## Are there any supports for Voters?

Yes. There are some supports available for people who may need support.

The polling station should be accessible, meaning that everyone can get in and out and use it well.



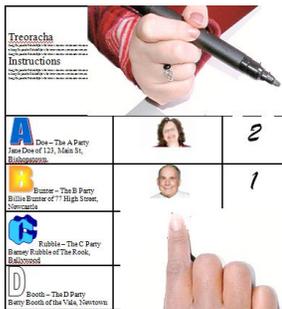
If the polling station is not accessible, then a person can vote at another place.

If you need to vote in another place you must write to the polling officer, who is in charge, at least one week before the election.

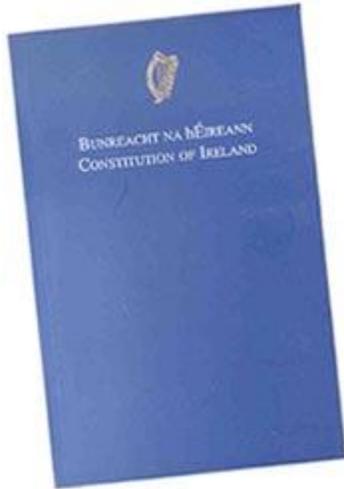


People who have sight problems or difficulty reading can get a companion to help mark the ballot paper.

The companion cannot decide for you. They can only help you read the ballot paper and write down your choice.



If you have difficulty making up your mind about who to vote for, it's ok to talk to your friends, family members or other people you trust, but the choice is yours to make.



## Referendum

A referendum is another type of vote. In a referendum you don't vote for people to represent you, you vote "YES" or "NO" to a change in our Constitution.

The Constitution sets out the rights of people and has basic laws. Any time the government make a new law they must make sure that it doesn't disagree with the laws in the Constitution.

If the government bring in a new law and they have to change the constitution then we have to have a referendum to agree to it.

When you vote in a referendum you will be asked to put an X in the box beside the word "YES" if you agree with the change or put an X in the box beside the word "NO" if you don't agree.

An bhfuil tú ag toilíú leis an togra chun an Bunreacht a leasú atá sa Bhille thíosluaite?  
Do you approve of the proposal to amend the Constitution contained in the undermentioned Bill

[Details will be here]

Ná cuir marc **ach san aon chearnóg amháin**  
Place a mark in **one square only**

<b>Má thoilíonn tú, cuir X sa cheamóg seo</b> .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tá</b> Yes
If you <b>approve</b> , mark X in this square .....		
<b>Mura dtoilíonn tú, cuir X sa cheamóg seo</b> .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Nil</b> No
If you do <b>not approve</b> , mark X in this square .....		

You would vote in a referendum in the same way as you would vote in an election, in a polling station and in a voting booth in secret.

The referendum will only change the constitution if more than 50% (half) of people voting say "YES".

## **USEFUL LINKS**

### **Department of Environment**

**[www.environ.ie](http://www.environ.ie)**

**For Information about voting and accommodations**

### **Inclusion Ireland**

**[www.inclusionireland.ie](http://www.inclusionireland.ie)**

**For information about voting and more**

### **Check the Register**

**[www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie)**

**Check and see if you are registered to vote**

### **Oireachtas**

**<http://www.oireachtas.ie>**

**Information about the Dáil & Seanad**



This document was read by people with intellectual disabilities who said it was easy to read and understand.



This document was put together by Inclusion Ireland supported by the Department of Environment Community and Local Government



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