

How to Register to Vote



**Easy-to-Read
Guide**



What's in this guide?



This is an Easy-to-Read guide that will tell you about how you can register to vote in elections in Ireland.

What different electoral events are people able to vote in?

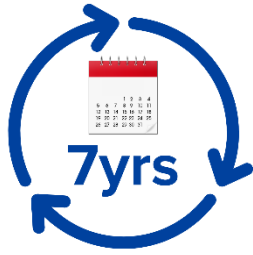


In Ireland, there are different elections for different roles. You must be over 18 to vote in any election, however you can **pre-register** to vote at 16. You will then be added to the electoral register and be able to vote when you turn 18. There is more information on pre-registering below.

General election



General elections happen at least every 5 years. Anyone who is registered to vote, over 18 and is an Irish **citizen**, or British **citizen** living in Ireland, can vote in a general election.



Presidential elections

A Presidential election happens every 7 years.

Only people who are registered to vote, over 18 and are an Irish citizen can vote in a Presidential election.



Referendums

A referendum is a process where people who are citizens can vote on a proposal to change the **Constitution**. If you are registered to vote, over 18 and an Irish citizen you can vote in a referendum.



European Parliament elections

European Parliament elections are held every 5 years. Anyone who is registered to vote, over 18 and a citizen of an EU country can vote in EU elections.



Local elections

Local elections are held every 5 years. Anyone who is registered to vote, over 18, and lives in Ireland can vote in a local election.



How do you register to vote?

Before you can vote, you must **register**.

When you register, you put your name on a list of people who can vote.

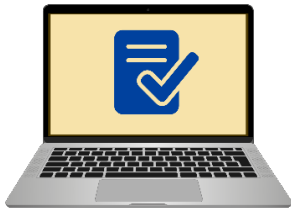
This list is called the **electoral register**.



To go on the electoral register, you must fill out a **registration form**. You can fill out a registration form:

- Online
- On paper





Are you 16 or 17?

If you are 16 or 17 you can now pre-register to vote. You just register in the normal way, and you will be added to the electoral register on your 18th birthday.



This means when you turn 18 you will be able to vote, even if an election or referendum takes place on your 18th birthday!



Registering online - Checktheregister.ie

You can register to vote at:

www.checktheregister.ie

Apply online to register

There is a button that says:

Apply online to register.



If you live in Dublin this will bring you to:

www.voter.ie



You are asked for details such as your name, address, Eircode, **PPSN**, **date of birth**, **nationality** and email address.



Registering through your local authority

To join the register through your local authority, you need to fill out an ERF1 paper form.



You can get an ERF1 form at:

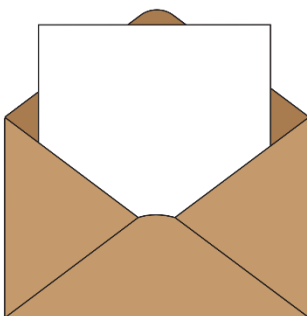
www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/forms



You will be asked for details such as your name, address, Eircode, PPSN, date of birth, nationality and email address.



You may need to get your form **witnessed** if you have not given a PPSN or if you are asked to do so by your local authority.



When you are finished, you need to send the form in the post.



Deadlines for registering to vote

You can register to vote at any time, but you must register before the electoral register closes for an election or referendum.



The electoral register closes 15 days before an election or referendum (apart from Sundays, public holidays and Good Friday).



Registering for a postal vote

Postal voting is available for some people.



These include people who are ill, have a disability, students or people who work in some jobs where they cannot attend their polling station.



For more information on who can use a postal vote see:

www.electoralcommission.ie/register-to-vote/



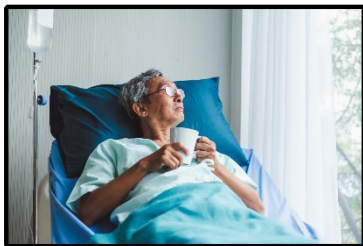
- To apply for a postal vote due to illness or disability, you need to fill in a PV2 form.
- To apply for a postal vote due to work/service or study reasons, you need to fill in a PV4 form.



Both the PV2 and PV4 and all other relevant forms can be found at:

www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/forms

Special Voter's List



The Special Voter's List is available for people who live in a hospital, nursing home, mental health facility or who have an illness or disability that would stop them from voting at a polling station.



If you wish to be registered as a special voter, you should send a completed SV1 form to your local authority.



In the case of a first application, it must be joined by a certificate from a registered medical professional (such as a GP doctor).

This may also be needed by the registration authorities in the case of a later application.



The SV1 form can be found at:

www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/forms



Deadlines for registering for a postal or special vote?

Different electoral events have different application deadlines:



You can find these deadlines by visiting:

www.electoralcommission.ie/register-to-vote/



You can apply for a postal or special vote at any time other than right before an electoral event.



What if you move address?

You need to update your details every time you change address.

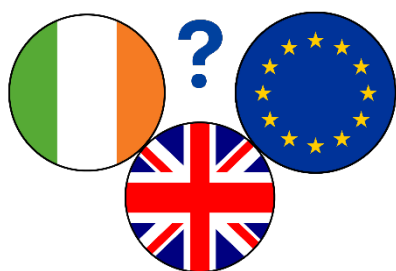


If you move to a new address, please update your details on www.checktheregister.ie or submit an ERF1 form to your local authority.



Are you already on the electoral register?

To check your details on the electoral register, you can visit www.checktheregister.ie. At election time, you can also visit www.checktheregister.ie to check your registration details and the location of your polling station.



New citizen?

Different electoral events have different voting rules. For example, you do not need to be an Irish citizen to vote in the local elections.



If you have recently become an Irish, British or EU citizen, you may need to update your nationality status. This will show what elections you can now vote in. You can do this online or through your local authority if you wish.



How can you get more information?

If you want to find out more about voting, we have other guides you can read on:

- General elections
- Presidential elections



You can find these guides on our website:

www.electoralcommission.ie



We also have information on our website for people who speak Irish.



There will also be more information on

www.checktheregister.ie



Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Citizen

A person who has the legal right to belong to a particular country.



Constitution

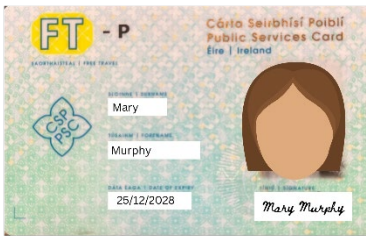
The Constitution is a set of rules that are the basic laws in Ireland.



Nationality

The legal status of belonging to a particular nation.

PPSN



Your PPSN is your Personal Public Service Number which helps you access social welfare benefits, public services and information in Ireland.



Pre-register

Register to vote before the legal voting age of 18.



Witnessed

Going to your local Garda station or your local authority with your form. You will need to sign the form in front of a member of An Garda Síochána or a member of staff of your local authority.