

# **YOUR VOTE MATTERS 2025**

**A GUIDE TO VOTING IN THE  
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION FOR  
THE MS COMMUNITY**

# Elections:

## 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.

Voting is important because it gives you a say in who represents you.

If you don't vote, you miss out on having a say in things like healthcare, social welfare, laws, education, and jobs.

To vote in Ireland, you must be registered to vote. Visit [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) or scan the QR code to find out how to register or change your details.



## What is a presidential election?

A presidential election is how the people of Ireland select the new President.

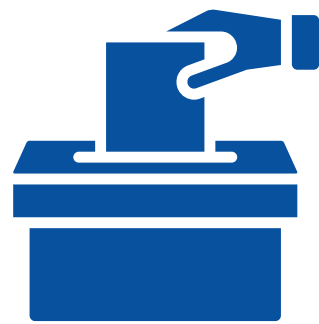
In Ireland there is a presidential election every 7 years. Each presidential term is 7 years long.

The President can run for re-election to complete a maximum of two terms as president i.e. 14 years in the Áras.

## What does The President do?

The President serves as the head of state in Ireland, holding the position for a maximum of 7 years.

The President resides in Áras an Uachtaráin and conducts a significant portion of their work from there.



The President represents Ireland at home and abroad, promotes Irish culture and values, and carries out important formal duties.

Some key responsibilities include:

- Signing laws passed by the Oireachtas (Parliament) so they can take effect.
- Representing Ireland internationally, for example at state visits or events.
- Upholding the Constitution, including the power to refer new laws to the Supreme Court to check if they are constitutional.
- Appointing officials, such as judges and the Taoiseach (Prime Minister), after they are chosen by the Dáil.

The President does not make government policy or decisions about everyday politics.

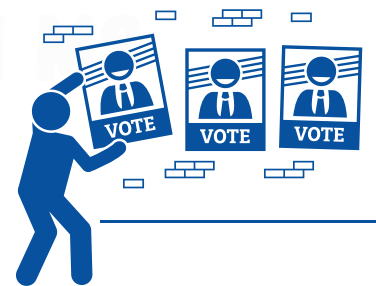
Instead, they act as a neutral guardian of the Constitution and a unifying figure for the country.

### **Who can be president and how are they nominated?**

To be eligible for the role of the President, you must be An Irish Citizen and 35 years old or older.

To appear on the ballot paper, candidates can be nominated by at least 20 members of the Oireachtas or nominated by at least 4 local authorities

A current President can also nominate themselves as long as they are on their first term.



## How do I vote?

The majority of people cast their votes at a polling station, typically located in a nearby school or hall.

Prior to the election, you'll receive a polling card in the post.

This tells you where to go to vote and the times that the polling station is open. It also tells you what identity documents to bring.

Bring identification to the polling station, as you might be asked for it.

You'll be given a ballot paper upon entering. This paper includes the names and photos of the candidates.

To cast your vote, you fill in the ballot paper by placing numbers in the boxes next to the names of the candidates.

For your first choice, you mark it with the number 1.

You can opt for just one candidate or choose as many as you prefer. If you decide to choose multiple candidates, you assign numbers like 1, 2, 3, 4, etc., in the boxes next to their names.

Once you've filled out your ballot paper, you place it in a box with all the other votes, and they are later counted. Importantly, you do not include your name, address, or any personal information on the ballot paper, ensuring the secrecy of your vote.

Scan the QR code for further information on voting:



## Sample Ballot Paper:

### TREORACHA

1. Scríobh an figiúr 1 sa bhosca le hais an chéad iarrthóra is rogha leat, scríob an figiúr 2 sa bhosca le hais an dara hiarrthóir is rogha leat, agus mar sin de.
2. Fill an páipéar ionas nach bhfeicfear 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, Nurse.




#### LYNCH – URBAN PARTY

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




#### MURPHY

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




#### Ó BRIAIN – CUMANN NA SAORANACH

SÉAMUS Ó BRIAIN, as 10 An tSráid Ard, Carn 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, Cahermore, Solicitor.




#### O'CONNOR – NATIONAL LEAGUE

CAROLINE O'CONNOR, of 7 Green Street, Carnmore, Engineer.




#### THOMPSON – RURAL PARTY

WILLIAM H. THOMPSON, of Dereen, Ballyglass, Farmer.



### **Are polling stations accessible?**

Polling stations should be accessible to people with disabilities.

Voting compartments in polling stations are usually designed for people who are standing up. The returning officer must make a table and chair available for voters who need to sit down.

A public notice of all the polling stations in the constituency that are not accessible to wheelchair users will be given, which means a person who needs to, can vote at another place.

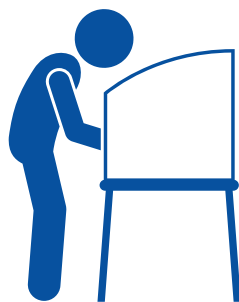
If you need to vote in another place you must write to the polling officer at least one week before the election.

### **What if I need assistance to vote?**

If you have a visual impairment, a disability or a literacy difficulty that prevents you from voting without assistance you can be assisted in a number of ways:

**Companion voting:** You can bring a companion with you to mark the ballot paper for you, this person must be at least 16 years old and not affiliated with any candidate

**Assistance from the presiding officer:** The presiding officer asks how you want to vote and marks the ballot paper according to your preferences. They will read out any information from the ballot paper you may need to hear to make your decision.



Using a ballot paper template: A ballot paper template is a transparent plastic device that is placed on top of a ballot paper. The template has raised print and braille on it, so that visually impaired people can vote without assistance.

### **What if I can't go to a polling station?**

If you live at home and you have a disability or illness that prevents you from going to a polling station, you may qualify to vote by post. You must apply to your local authority to be included in the Postal Voters List.

If you are living in a hospital, nursing home or similar institution and you have a disability or illness that prevents you from going to the polling station, you can vote at the hospital or nursing home. You must apply to your local authority to be included in the Special Voters List.

If you are on the current year's Postal or Special Voters List, you will generally get an application form in the post. If not, you can download one from [checktheregister.ie](https://www.checktheregister.ie). Forms are also available from all [local authorities](#), post offices, Garda stations and public libraries.

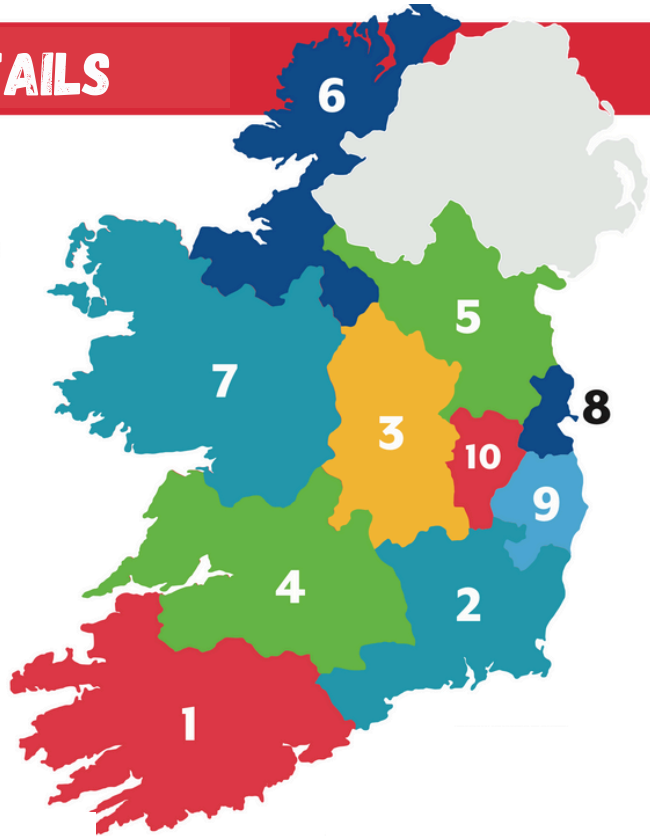
Scan the QR for further information for voters with disabilities:





## REGIONAL CONTACT DETAILS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1 SOUTHERN REGION</b><br>T: (021) 430 0001<br>E: southern@ms-society.ie     | <b>6 NORTH WEST REGION</b><br>T: (074) 918 9027<br>E: northwestr@ms-society.ie                             |
| <b>2 SOUTH EAST REGION</b><br>T: (056) 777 7771<br>E: southeastr@ms-society.ie | <b>7 WESTERN REGION</b><br>T: (091) 768 630<br>E: westernr@ms-society.ie                                   |
| <b>3 MIDLANDS REGION</b><br>T: (090) 647 1137<br>E: midlandsr@ms-society.ie    | <b>8 DUBLIN NORTH &amp; FINGAL REGION</b><br>T: (01) 490 5933<br>E: na@ms-society.ie                       |
| <b>4 MID WEST REGION</b><br>T: (061) 303 802<br>E: midwest@ms-society.ie       | <b>9 SOUTH DUBLIN &amp; EAST WICKLOW REGION</b><br>T: (01) 490 5933<br>E: eca@ms-society.ie                |
| <b>5 NORTH EAST REGION</b><br>T: (042) 975 4304<br>E: northeast@ms-society.ie  | <b>10 SOUTH WEST DUBLIN, KILDARE &amp; WEST WICKLOW REGION</b><br>T: (01) 490 5933<br>E: swa@ms-society.ie |



**@MULTIPLE  
SCLEROSIS  
IRELAND**



**@MULTIPLE\_SCLEROSIS  
\_IRELAND**



**@MSIRELAND**



**@MULTIPLE  
SCLEROSIS  
IRELAND**

**T: 0818 233 233 | E: INFO@MS-SOCIETY.IE**

**W: WWW.MS-SOCIETY.IE | CHY NO: 05365 | RCN NO: 20007867**