

General Election 2024



Name:

What is a General Election?

A General Election is when people living in a country vote on who they want to represent them in the national parliament. The national parliament in Ireland is called Dáil Éireann.



When is a General Election Held?

A General Election is held at least every five years – this rule is laid out in the Irish Constitution. Sometimes elections are held more often. In 1982, there were two general elections in the same year, February and November.



After the Election

The new government will try to pass laws to enact the policies that they promised during the election campaign. The new government will attempt to stay in power for the next five years.



After the Election

The leader of the government becomes the new Taoiseach. S/he will appoint the Tánaiste who is the deputy leader of the government. The Taoiseach will also appoint between seven and fifteen Ministers who will be responsible for different areas eg. Education, Health, Justice, Finance etc.



YOUR
VOTE
COUNTS

Voting for a Teachta Dála (TD)

174 TDs are elected by people in different areas around the country. Each of these areas is called a Constituency and there are currently 43 of these throughout the country. Constituencies can elect 3, 4 or 5 TDs, depending on the size of its population.



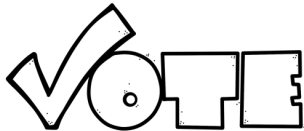
Voting in a General Election



TDs are elected by the direct vote of the people. Voting is by secret ballot on the Single Transferable Vote system – this means voters indicate their preference by indicating 1, 2, 3 etc. on the ballot paper. The names of the candidates appear in alphabetical order on the Ballot Paper along with their photograph and the name of their political party.

Who Can Stand for Election?

Every citizen of Ireland over 21 years of age who is not disqualified by the Constitution or by law is eligible to stand for election to Dáil Éireann. Usually, candidates seek a nomination from a Political Party to stand for election. Those not belonging to a political party can stand for election as an Independent candidate.



Who can Vote in a General Election?

Every citizen over 18 years of age is eligible to vote for TDs in a General Election. If you wish to exercise your vote, you have to make sure that your name is on the Electoral Register. The register comes into force on February 15th each year.

After the Election

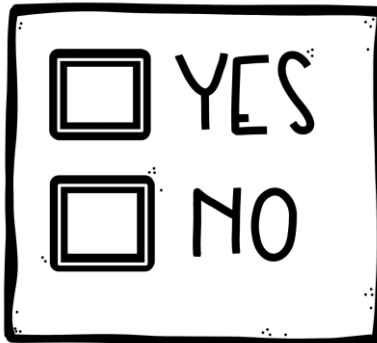


When all TDs have been elected, they gather in Dáil Éireann. The political party with the most TDs will try to form a Government. If they do not have enough TDs, they will try to join with another party or parties to form a Coalition Government.

ELECTION

Counting of votes

The counting of votes commences at 9am on the day after the election. The Quota (the number of votes necessary for election) is calculated by the Presiding Officer in each constituency. The quota is calculated by dividing the number of valid votes by the number of seats + 1 and then add 1.



Why Should You Vote?

If you are over 18 years of age, it is your democratic right to vote. If you don't vote, then you don't have a say in what TDs are elected. Consequently, you don't have a say in how the country is run.



Fact

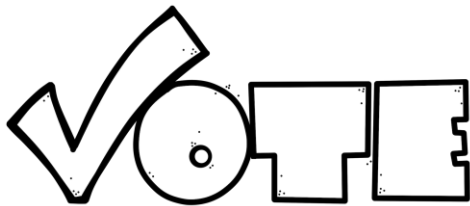
In the last General Election in February 2020, 62.9% of those eligible to vote actually voted in the election.



How to Vote in a General Election

If you are on the Electoral Register, a Polling Card will be posted to your home prior to the election. The Polling Card tells you the date of the election, where your Polling Station is and at what time it is open. You bring the Polling Card, as well as ID, with you to the Polling Station.

The Polling Station is usually in a local school or hall. When you arrive at the Polling Station, you give the Polling Clerk your Polling Card. The Polling Clerk will give you a Ballot Paper — this has the names of all the Candidates standing for election in your constituency.



How to Vote in a General Election

You take your Ballot Paper to a Polling Booth, where you can vote by Secret Ballot. You number the Ballot Paper in order of your preference, giving your favourite candidate No. 1, your second favourite No. 2 etc. You can choose to mark as many boxes as you wish. You then place your Ballot Paper in the locked Ballot Box.



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Kind regards, Seomra Ranga

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