

13. Voting in Ireland

Will I be eligible to vote in elections and referenda?

If you are an Irish citizen you are eligible to vote in all elections and referenda in Ireland.

If you are a British citizen you may vote at Dáil, European and local elections only.

If you are an EU citizen may vote at European and local elections only.

If you are a non-EU citizen you can vote at local elections only.

Can I register to vote on my return to Ireland?

In order to be included on the Register of Electors you will need to satisfy two conditions.

You must:

- Be at least 18 years of age on the day the Register comes into force (15 February)

And

- Have been ordinarily resident in the State on 1 September in the year preceding the coming into force of the Register.

Where do I apply to get my name on the Register of Electors?

You can get applications for the Electoral Register from all County Councils, Corporations, post offices and public libraries. Applications for inclusion on the Electoral Register must be completed by 25 November.

I may not be able to get to a polling station for elections; will I still be able to vote?

Yes. You may be eligible for a postal vote if you cannot go to a polling station because of physical illness, disability or if you are a member of the Defence Forces, a member of An Garda Síochána or if you are studying full time at an educational institution away from your home address. If you are registered as a postal voter, you must vote by post only.

If you are in hospital, a nursing home or similar institutions you may qualify to be on a Special Voters List, which allows you to vote at these locations. You must include a medical certificate if it is your first application to be included in the Special Voters List.

Where can I get further information?

For more information, you should contact your local post office, local authority or public library. Their contact details are available in all public telephone directories.