

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

(BASIC INFORMATION)

WHO CAN VOTE

(CONDITIONS ARE AS FOLLOW...)

Age: A person must be at least 18 years of age on the day the register comes into force (15th February). Every resident aged 18 and upwards is entitled to be on the register.

Citizenship: While every adult resident is entitled to be registered, the registration authority needs to know a person's citizenship because it is citizenship that determines the elections at which a person may vote. The qualifying date for citizenship is the 1st September preceding the coming to force of the register. The right to vote is as follows:

- **Irish citizens** may vote at every election and referendum;
- **British citizens** may vote at Dail, European and local elections;
- **Other EU citizens** may vote at European and local elections;
- **Non-EU citizens** may vote at local elections only.

Residence: a person must be ordinarily resident at the address in question on 1st September preceding the coming into force of the register. **A person may be registered at one address only.** If a person has more than one address (e.g. a person living away from home to attend college or in connection with employment), the registration authority should be informed of the address at which the person wishes to be registered.

A person who leaves his/her ordinary residence with the intention of returning there within eighteen months can continue to be registered there, subject to the over-riding condition that a person may be registered at one address only. A person who is

absent on a temporary basis from his/her ordinary address, for example on holiday, in hospital or in the course of employment, should be registered at his/her ordinary address. A visitor or person staying temporarily at the address should not be registered.

THE EDITED REGISTER

The edited register contains the names and addresses of persons whose details can be used for a purpose other than an electoral or other statutory purpose, e.g. for direct marketing use by a commercial or other organisation.

If you do not wish your details to be included on the edited register you should tick the “opt out” box where provided on any form for inclusion or amendment on the Register. If you are completing this form on behalf of other household members you should check with them regarding their intentions concerning appearing on the edited register.

The final register is published on 1st February and comes into force for a year on 15th February.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS

If a person is not included in the register of electors currently in force but considers that he/she qualifies for registration, the person may apply for entry in a supplement to the register which is published prior to polling day at each election and referendum. In order to qualify, a person must meet the requirements in relation to residence and age. To be eligible for inclusion in the supplement, a person must:

- be at least 18 years on or before polling day;
- be ordinarily resident at the address at which he/she wishes to be registered; and
- **not** be already registered as an elector at any other address.

An application for entry on the supplement must be witnessed by a member of the Garda Síochána or, if the person cannot attend their local Garda Station by an official of their county or city council provided they state the reason why they were unable to attend a Garda station. Application for entry in the supplement must be received by the registration authority at least 15 working days before polling day in order to be considered for that election or referendum.

While the majority of applications for inclusion in the supplement to the register are normally made in the run-up to an election or referendum, an application can be made at any time once the elector is eligible for entry on the supplement.

Persons entered in the supplement are entitled to vote at elections/referenda held during the currency of the register.

Supplements to the Postal Voters and Special Voters Lists

Electors who are eligible for, but not already included in, the postal or special voters list, may apply for entry in the relevant supplement to these lists which are published prior to each election and referendum.

The latest date for receipt of supplement applications by registration authorities before a poll is two days after the date of dissolution of the Dáil in the case of a general election and two days after the polling day order is made in the case of a Dáil by-election or a Presidential, European or local election or Referendum.

However, as in the case of ordinary supplement to the register, an application for inclusion in the postal and special voters supplement can be made at any time once the elector is eligible for entry on the supplement

Change of Address

Since 2002, a person who is on the register of electors and moves residence from one constituency to another constituency or within the same constituency (different local electoral area) can apply for entry to the supplement at their new address

provided they have authorised the registration authority to delete their name from the register in respect of their previous address. The application must be signed and stamped at a Garda Station and photographic identification may be required.

For people moving within the same Local Electoral Area, the amended details will be processed for the Draft Register, but not for the Live Register or Supplement. Any polling cards (issued before 15th February next) will still be posted to the old address, and the people concerned must vote at the polling station assigned to same for any election/referendum that occurs before 15th February, when the Draft Register becomes live.

To be included in the supplement following a change of address, a person must be:

- already on the register in respect of their previous address;
- ordinarily resident at the address at which they now wish to be registered.

POSTAL VOTERS LIST

Registration authorities prepare a postal voters list as part of the register of electors. Latest date for receipt of applications for inclusion in the list has not yet been confirmed by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government .

The following categories of persons are registered as postal voters:

- whole-time members of the Defence Forces
- members who live in military barracks may be registered either at the barracks or at their home address;
- Irish diplomats posted abroad and their spouses - they are registered at their home address in Ireland

The following categories of persons may apply for registration as postal voters:

- Members of the Garda Síochána (police force);

- Persons living at home who are unable to go to a polling station to vote because of a physical illness or physical disability;
- Persons whose occupations are likely to prevent them from voting at their local polling station on election day, including full-time students registered at home who are living elsewhere while attending an educational institution in the State.

An elector registered as a postal voter may vote by post only and may not vote at a polling station. For Postal Votes, please see the RFB and PV... forms via the links on the Register of Electors downloads page.

SPECIAL VOTERS LIST

As part of the register of electors, registration authorities also prepare a list of special voters comprising electors with a physical illness or physical disability living in hospitals, nursing homes or similar institutions who wish to vote at these locations. In order to qualify, an elector's physical illness or physical disability must be likely to continue for the duration of the register and prevent him/her from going to a polling station to vote.

Applications to be entered on the special voters list must be made by 25th November and - in the case of a first application - must be accompanied by a medical certificate.

Electors on the special voters list vote at the hospital, nursing home etc. where they are residing by marking a ballot paper delivered to them by a special presiding officer accompanied by a Garda.

For Special Votes, please see the SV1 Form via the link on the Register of Electors downloads page.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Companion: An elector with a disability may receive assistance from a companion of their choice. To act as companion, a person must be at least sixteen years old, must be neither a candidate nor an agent of a candidate and may not assist more than two electors at an election. The presiding officer must be satisfied that the companion fulfils these conditions.

Postal Vote: Where an elector has a physical disability or illness which prevents them from going to a polling station and where the elector is living at home, they can vote by post by applying to be included in the Postal Voters List. An application must be made by 25th November to Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and the first such application must be signed by a medical practitioner. Application Forms are available on the website or by contacting the County Council offices.

Polling Station: Each street/road is designated to a particular polling station. The Polling Station Scheme is approved by the County Sheriff and any requested changes need to be approved by the County Sheriff. Details of the polling scheme will be available on our website.

Presiding Officer: Presiding Officers are appointed by the County Sheriff and there is a Presiding Officer for each polling station. They ensure the correct running of the voting process and can assist voters when required.

Returning Officer: The Returning Officer is the person responsible for the conduct of an election in each constituency. In Dun Laoghaire the Returning Officer is the County Sheriff. You can contact the County Sheriff at:

Tel: (01) 8603077

Email info@dublincountyreturningofficer.com

www.dublincountyreturningofficer.com

Special Voter: A person residing in a hospital, nursing home or similar institution who has a physical disability or illness which prevents them from going to the polling station, can vote at the hospital/nursing home etc if they apply to be included on the Special Voters List which is drawn up each year as part of the Register of Electors.

In order to be entered on this List an application must be made by 25th November to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and the first such application must be signed by a medical practitioner. Application Forms are available on the website or by contacting the County Council offices.