



European Parliament and Local Government Elections in Ireland

11 June 2004

Are you an adult non-national living in Ireland?

If so, you are entitled to vote at and contest local government elections in Ireland. If you are an EU citizen, you are also entitled to vote at and contest elections to the European Parliament. European and local elections will be held on 11 June 2004 together with a referendum: Irish citizens only are entitled to vote at a referendum.

1. Local Elections

All non-nationals living in Ireland aged 18 years or over who are registered in the register of electors are entitled to vote at the 2004 local government elections.

1.1 Voting

To ensure that you are registered to vote, you should check the register of electors. A copy of the register is available at your local authority office, post office, library, courthouse or Garda station. If you are not on the register you may be eligible to apply for entry on the supplement to the register. Supplement application forms are available from your local authority. Completed forms with a signed declaration/certificate of identity must be sent by you to the City or County Council for the area in which you live.

The deadline for the receipt of supplement applications is 24 May 2004.

1.2 Standing for Election

Non-nationals living in Ireland can also stand for election to any local council in the State. Returning officers will publish, not later than 14 May 2004, notices of the local elections setting out the arrangements for nominations, etc. Basically, a candidate (or a proposer acting on their behalf who is a local elector for the electoral area concerned) must present a nomination paper to the returning officer during office hours between 15 and 22 May 2004. The nomination paper of a candidate, who is not a member of a registered political party, must be assented to by 15 electors registered in the local electoral area concerned.

See over for European Parliament Elections →

2. European Parliament Elections

All EU citizens living in Ireland aged 18 years or over are also entitled to vote at and contest the 2004 European Parliament elections.

Citizens of the new EU member states (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic & Slovenia) are eligible to apply for entry on the supplement to the register and to vote at and contest elections to the European Parliament following formal accession on 1 May 2004.

2.1 Voting

To ensure that you are registered to vote, you should check the register of electors. A copy of the register is available at your local authority office, post office, library, courthouse or Garda station. If you are not on the register you may be eligible to apply for entry on the supplement to the register. Supplement application forms are available from your local authority. Completed forms with a signed declaration/certificate of identity must be sent by you to the City or County Council for the area in which you live.

The deadline for the receipt of supplement applications is 24 May 2004.

If you are an EU citizen, other than an Irish or British citizen, and you were not registered to vote at the **1994** or **1999** European elections in Ireland, you must also complete an application form and a declaration both of which can be obtained from your local authority. The council will register you to vote in your local constituency and the information in your declaration will be sent to your home Member State to guard against double voting at the election.

2.2 Standing for Election

EU citizens living in Ireland can stand for election in any European constituency in the State. Candidates at a European election in Ireland must be at least 21 years of age. Returning officers will publish, not later than 22 May 2004, notices of the European election setting out the arrangements for nominations, etc. Basically, a candidate (or a proposer, who must be registered as a European elector in the constituency, acting on their behalf) must present a nomination paper to the returning officer during office hours between 10 and 17 May 2004.

The nomination paper of a candidate, who is not a member of a registered political party, must be assented to by 60 electors registered in the European constituency concerned. If the candidate is not an Irish or British citizen, the nomination paper must be accompanied by a statutory declaration (form

available from European returning officer) and an attestation from the candidate's home Member State certifying that they have not been deprived, through an individual criminal or civil law decision, of the right to stand as a candidate at the European election in the home State. The information in your statutory declaration will be sent to your home State to guard against dual candidacy at European elections.