



An Coimisiún Reifrinn
Referendum Commission

**24th
May
2019**



The Independent Guide to the Referendum on
**The Regulation
of Divorce**



**This guide is written for people
with an intellectual disability**

**Your Vote Means
Everything**

Introduction

Dear Voters,



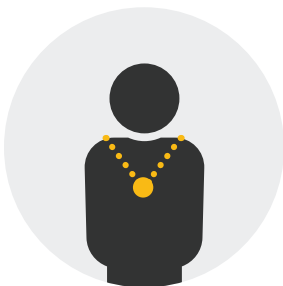
On Friday, 24th May 2019 you will be asked to vote.



You may vote in a **Local Election**.



You may vote in a **European Election**.



In some places, you may vote about electing a **Mayor**.



You may also vote in a **referendum**.



This information is about the **referendum**.



A referendum is a vote to change the Constitution of Ireland.



The Constitution of Ireland sets out the rules of the country.

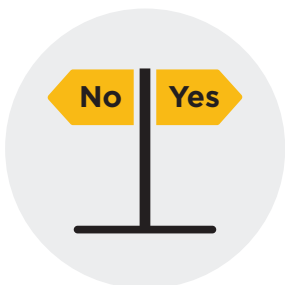
This referendum asks:



Would you like to change the Constitution so that rules about **divorce** in Ireland can be changed?



The Referendum Commission gives you information about what your vote will mean.



The Referendum Commission does not tell you to vote yes or no.



You can vote yes or no using your ballot paper.



It is up to you how to vote.



It is important to vote.



The Constitution belongs to you.



You can help decide if the Constitution should change or stay the same.



Make sure you help to choose by voting on Friday, 24th May, 2019.



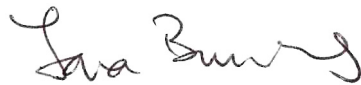
All the votes are counted at the end of the day.



The Constitution **changes** if most people vote YES.



The Constitution **stays the same** if most people vote NO.



Tara Burns

Chairperson

Referendum Commission



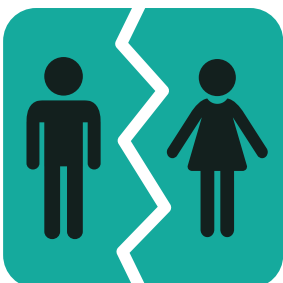
The Constitution of Ireland sets out the rules of the country.



This referendum asks you to vote about changing **two** rules.



These rules are about what happens when people want to end their marriage.



These rules are about divorce.



Divorce is allowed in Ireland.



You have to apply to a court to get a divorce.



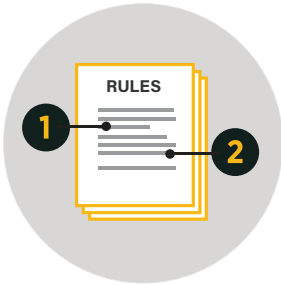
A judge in the court decides if you can get a divorce.



People who get divorced **in Ireland** can get married again.



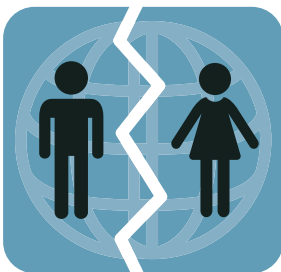
These people can have a second marriage.



This referendum asks you to vote about changing two things:



1. How many years people have to live apart before they can get a divorce.



2. What the Constitution says about people who get divorced in a different country.

Divorce in Ireland now:



People can get divorced in Ireland.



There are some rules in the Constitution about divorce.

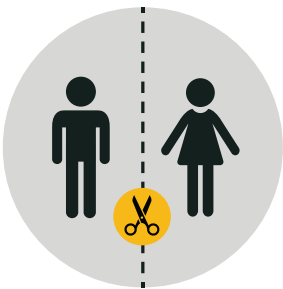


Some of the rules are about what happens **before** you are allowed to get divorced.



Another rule is about getting divorced in another country.

At the moment, people who want to get divorced in Ireland need to prove:



- They do not want to be married to each other now or in the future.



- There are good plans to make sure that everyone in the marriage (including children) is properly looked after.



- In the last 5 years, they have lived apart for at least 4 years.

People who get divorced outside Ireland:



People who get divorced in other countries **might** be still married under the rules in Ireland.

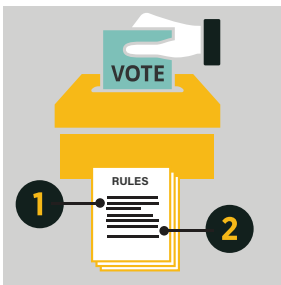


The people who are still married are not allowed to get married again in Ireland.



Irish politicians can decide the rules about which divorces are recognised in Ireland.

The referendum is about two rules.



You have one vote about these two rules.



The referendum is about **taking away one rule.**

And



The referendum is about **changing the other rule.**



If most people vote yes, these two changes will happen.



If most people vote no, these rules will stay the same.

The rule that could be taken out is:



In the last 5 years, the couple have lived apart for at least 4 years



This means that there is a waiting time before divorce.

If this rule is taken out of the Constitution:



- Politicians will be able to change the law.

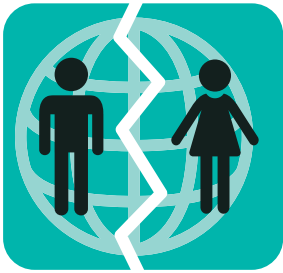


- The waiting time for divorce could be changed



- The waiting time will be decided by politicians.

The rule that could be changed is:



The rule that could be changed is about people who get divorced in other countries.



Some of these people cannot marry again in Ireland. This is because their divorces are not recognised in Ireland.



The rule could be changed to:



Irish politicians can make laws to recognise divorces in another country.



Irish politicians already have this power.



What the Constitution says about it would be changed.



If most people vote yes.



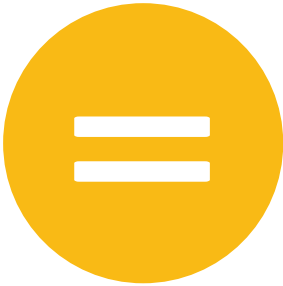
Both rules will change.



If most people vote no.



Both rules will stay the same.



Some things will stay the same, whether most people vote yes or no.



People can still get divorced in Ireland.



Irish politicians can pass laws to recognise foreign divorces.

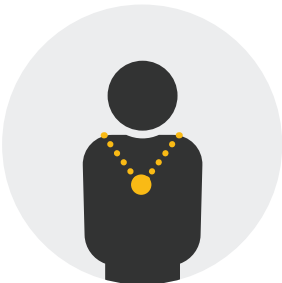
How to vote



Polling stations open from 7am to 10pm.



Voting in the Local election and the European election will take place on the same day as voting in the referendum.



In Cork City, Limerick and Waterford there will be another vote about electing a Mayor.



There are some rules about who can vote in the different elections.



Everyone can vote in Local elections.



European citizens can vote in Local elections and European elections.



Irish citizens can vote in Local Elections, European elections and the Referendum.



You need to be registered to vote.



You will need to bring ID.



This is usually something with your address and a photo.

This could be something like a public service card, passport, student card or a travel pass.

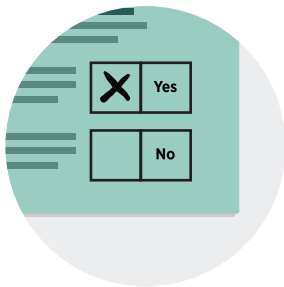




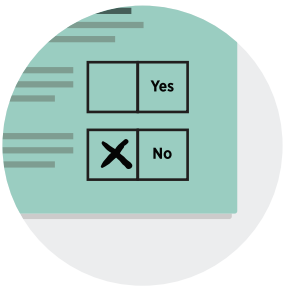
You will be given three ballot papers.



The ballot paper for the referendum is **green**.



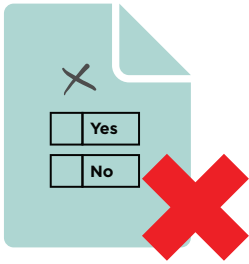
You vote YES in the referendum by writing an 'X' in the 'Yes' box.



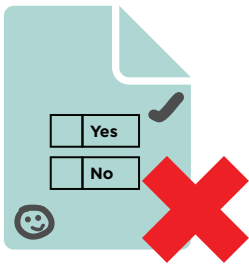
You vote NO in the referendum by writing an 'X' in the 'No' box.



Only write in one box.



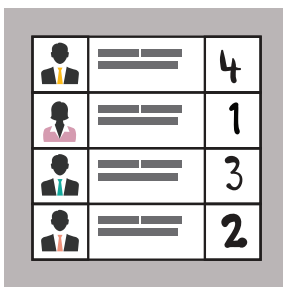
Do not write on any other part of the ballot paper.



Do not write anything else on the ballot paper.



Remember that the other elections are different.



You might need to write numbers to show who is your number 1 person.



Look carefully at all the different ballot papers.

Sample Referendum Ballot Paper

An bhfuil tú ag toiliú leis an togra chun an Bunreacht a leasú atá sa Bhille thíosluaite?

Do you approve of the proposal to amend the Constitution contained in the undermentioned Bill?

An Bille um an Ochtú Leasú is Tríocha ar an mBunreacht (Scaoileadh ar Phósadh), 2016

Thirty-eighth Amendment of the Constitution (Dissolution of Marriage) Bill 2016

Ná cuir marc **ach san aon chearnóg amháin**

Place a mark in **one square only**

Má thoilíonn tú, cuir **X** sa chearnóg seo.....

If you **approve**, mark **X** in this square

	Tá Yes
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Mura dtoilíonn tú, cuir **X** sa chearnóg seo.....

If you do **not approve**, mark **X** in this square.....

	Níl No
--	-------------------------



An Coimisiún Reifrinn
Referendum Commission



Down
Syndrome
Ireland

Produced by the Referendum Commission in collaboration with Down Syndrome Ireland