

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, LOCAL COUNCILLORS
AND EUROPEAN UNION ELECTIONS



Local Authorities



Local authorities in Ireland play a vital role in governing and providing services at the local level. Here are some key functions and responsibilities of local authorities in Ireland:

Local Governance: Local authorities bear the responsibility of governing counties, cities, towns, and local regions, making decisions on matters like planning, housing, roads, waste management, and community development.

Planning and Development: Their duties encompass planning and regulating land use and development within their areas of jurisdiction. This involves granting planning permissions for new constructions, zoning land for various purposes, and crafting development plans to direct future growth.

Housing: Local authorities play a vital role in providing social housing for those in need. They oversee the management and allocation of public housing units, administer housing assistance programs, and endeavour to combat homelessness within their communities.

Infrastructure and Public Services: They supervise the delivery of crucial public services like water supply, sewage treatment, waste collection, and public transportation. Additionally, local authorities maintain and manage local infrastructure such as roads, parks, libraries, and other community facilities.

Community Development: Local authorities actively support community development projects and initiatives aimed at enhancing residents' quality of life. This includes funding for local community centres, sports facilities, cultural events, and social services.

Local Economic Development: Local authorities strive to boost economic growth and create job opportunities within their regions. They may offer assistance to local businesses, attract investments, and devise strategies to bolster the local economy.

Public Safety and Emergency Management: In collaboration with emergency services and other relevant agencies, local authorities ensure public safety and efficiently respond to emergencies like natural disasters, fires, and accidents.



Local Councillors

Local Councillors in Ireland serve as elected representatives at the local level, playing a key role in local governance and decision-making. Here are some of their main responsibilities:

Representation: Local Councillors represent the interests and concerns of their constituents within their electoral area. They serve as a link between the local community and the local authority, advocating for the needs of residents and addressing their issues.

Policy Making: Councillors participate in the formulation of policies and strategies at the local level. They contribute to the development of local development plans, zoning regulations, and other policies that shape the future growth and development of their area.

Decision Making: Councillors make decisions on a wide range of local issues and matters brought before the local authority. This includes planning applications, housing allocations, infrastructure projects, budget allocations, and the provision of public services.

Community Engagement: Councillors engage with local communities through meetings, public consultations, and other forms of communication.

Constituent Services: Councillors provide assistance and support to individual constituents who may require help navigating local government services or resolving specific issues.

Committee Work: Councillors serve on various committees and boards within the local authority, where they review policies, scrutinize decisions, and make recommendations on specific issues such as housing, transportation, environment, and finance.

Budget Oversight: Councillors have a role in the oversight of the local authority's budget and finances. They review and approve annual budgets, monitor expenditure, and ensure that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of the community.

European Union Elections



Voting in EU elections is a civic responsibility for Irish residents, allowing them to have a direct impact on the decisions that affect their lives.

The **EPI form** is a document used in Ireland for voter registration for European Parliament (EP) elections. It allows eligible residents, including Irish citizens and citizens of other EU member states living in Ireland, to register to vote in EP elections.

Here's some key information about the EPI form:

- **Purpose:** The EPI form is specifically designed for voter registration for European Parliament elections. It allows eligible residents to register to vote and participate in the democratic process of electing Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) who represent Ireland in the European Parliament.
- **Eligibility:** To complete the EPI form, you must be eligible to vote in European Parliament elections in Ireland. This typically includes Irish citizens, citizens of other EU member states residing in Ireland, and certain non-EU citizens who meet specific residency requirements.
- **Registration Process:** The EPI form is available for download from the website of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage or from local authorities in Ireland. Eligible residents fill out the form with their details, including name, address, date of birth, and citizenship information.
- **Submission:** Once completed, the EPI form must be submitted to the relevant local authority in Ireland. The deadline for submitting the form varies and is typically set before an upcoming European Parliament election. It's important to check the deadlines and requirements specified by the local authority.