



STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS.

S.I. No. 372 of 2024

ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) (No.2) REGULATIONS 2024

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I, MALCOLM NOONAN, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in exercise of the powers conferred on me by sections 3, 46 and 111 of the Electoral Act 1992 (No. 23 of 1992) and the Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) (No. 2) Order 2024 (S.I. No. 268 of 2024)), hereby order as follows:

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2024.

2. The Electoral Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 156 of 2007) are hereby amended by: -

(a) the substitution of the following regulation for regulation 4:

“4. The prescribed photographic identification for the purposes of section 46(6)(b) of the Electoral Act 1992 shall be:

- (i) a passport;
- (ii) a driving licence;
- (iii) an employee identity card containing a photograph;
- (iv) a student identity card issued by an educational institution and containing a photograph;
- (v) a travel document containing name and photograph;
- (vi) a Public Services Card.”,

(b) the substitution of the following regulation for regulation 8:

“8. A specified document for the purposes of section 111 of the Electoral Act 1992 shall be:

- (i) a passport;
- (ii) a driving licence;
- (iii) an employee identity card containing a photograph;
- (iv) a student identity card issued by an educational institution and containing a photograph;
- (v) a travel document containing name and photograph;
- (vi) a Bank or Savings or Credit Union book containing address in constituency or local electoral area;
- (vii) a Public Services Card;
- (viii) a cheque book;
- (ix) a cheque card;

- (x) a credit card;
- (xi) a birth certificate;
- (xii) a marriage certificate.

Items (viii) to (xii) shall be accompanied by a further document which establishes the address of the holder in the constituency or local electoral area.”,

- (c) the substitution of the following Schedule for the First Schedule to the said Regulations –

“FIRST SCHEDULE
NOMINATION PAPER FOR DÁIL ELECTION

(_____/____)
(month/year)

No. _____
(To be inserted by returning officer)

1. I nominate the person named under as a candidate for election to Dáil Éireann for the constituency of
-

2. I declare that I have read the notes on this nomination paper and that –
- (a) I believe the person named as candidate to be eligible for election, and
 - (b) the person has consented to the nomination.

(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS TO COMPLETE THE TABLE BELOW)

Surname of Candidate		
Other Names		
Gender * (state Male or Female)		
Description	Address	
	Occupation	
	Name of Political Party, if any	

* not relevant to a bye-election

3. Please tick (1) or, where (1) is not applicable, (2) or (3) below –

- (1) Certificate of Political Affiliation attached,
or

(2) Assentor statutory declarations (30) attached,

or

(3) Deposit of €500 enclosed.

Name and address of person to whom deposit is to be returned:

Name _____

Address _____

4. Please tick, as appropriate –

Photographs attached (see paragraph 4 of notes) for inclusion on ballot paper.

Yes No

5. (*Where nomination paper is completed by a person other than the candidate.*)

Proposer's Number and polling district letters on Register of Electors for the constituency concerned _____

Signature:

(Candidate/Proposer)

Address:

Date: _____

6. Decision of Returning Officer

I have decided that this nomination paper is valid (or is invalid because

)

Returning Officer

Date: _____

=====

TO BE HANDED OR SENT TO THE CANDIDATE

I have decided that nomination paper No. _____ in respect of
_____ is valid (or is invalid
because _____

_____)

Returning Officer

Address: _____

Date: _____

Notes: The notes attached are for guidance only and do not purport to be a legal interpretation

Notes on Nomination Paper for Dáil election

(References in parentheses are to the provisions of the Electoral Act 1992, as amended, unless otherwise stated.)

1. Nomination

A candidate may nominate himself or herself or may, with the candidate's consent, be nominated by a proposer. A proposer must be registered as a Dáil elector in the constituency for which he or she proposes to nominate the candidate (*section 46*).

2. Candidate Nomination Procedures

A nomination paper from a candidate of a registered political party must have a certificate of political affiliation attached (see paragraph 3 below).

If no certificate is attached, one or other of the following procedures must be complied with before the expiration of the time for receiving nominations:

- (i) the completion of statutory declarations by 30 assentors registered as Dáil electors in the relevant constituency, which must be witnessed by a Commissioner for Oaths, a Peace Commissioner, a Notary Public, practising solicitor, a member of the Garda Síochána or an official of the registration authority,
- or
- (ii) the candidate, or someone on his or her behalf, lodging a deposit of €500 with the returning officer.

Under the assentors option, the relevant forms for the making of statutory declarations are available from returning officers and registration authorities. The relevant details of the assentors must be included on the statutory declarations - number (and polling district letters) on the register of Dáil electors, address on the register, contact details, the relevant Dáil constituency on the date of assent where he or she is registered, the name and address of the candidate, and the form of prescribed photographic ID produced, and any identifying number on it.

Each assessor MUST, when making the statutory declaration, bring one of the following photographic documents for identification purposes:

- passport,
- driving licence,
- employee identity card containing a photograph,
- student identity card issued by an educational institution and containing a photograph,
- a travel document containing name and photograph, or
- a Public Services Card

One of the documents MUST be produced to the person taking the statutory declaration.

An assent is valid in respect of the constituency in which the assessor's address is located at the general or bye-election to which the nomination form relates. The assent may be made at any time but it may only be used at the next general or bye-election in the relevant constituency.

Responsibility lies with the candidate or proposer to secure the necessary assents, to attach the 30 statutory declarations to the nomination paper, and to deliver all the documentation to the returning officer by the deadline for receipt of nominations.

An assessor must confirm on the statutory declaration that he or she has not assented to the nomination of any other candidate in the election concerned. Under the Statutory Declarations Act 1938, a person who knowingly makes a false or misleading statutory declaration in any material respect is liable on conviction to a class B fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or both. However, a candidate's nomination will not be invalid where a person assents to the nomination of more than one candidate.

Under the deposits option, a candidate may choose the alternative of making a deposit and, if he or she does not do so and has not opted to secure 30 assents, their candidature will be deemed to have been withdrawn. A candidate, or someone on his or her behalf, may lodge a deposit of €500 with the returning officer before the expiration of the time for receiving nominations. The deposit may be made by means of legal tender or, with the consent of the returning officer, in any other manner. The deposit will be returned in the case of successful candidates, those receiving votes in excess of a quarter of the quota and in certain other circumstances: not being validly nominated, withdrawal of candidature or death. Otherwise, the deposit will be forfeited. (Where the deposit is to be returned, it will be returned to the person making it and the name and address of that person should be entered at 3 on the nomination paper.)

All relevant parts of the nomination paper must be completed by all candidates (sections 46, 47 and 48).

3. Certificate of Political Affiliation

- (a) If a candidate represents a registered political party, a completed certificate of political affiliation must be lodged with the nomination paper and the name of the party inserted in the appropriate row at section 2 of the nomination paper.
- (b) If the candidate does not represent a registered political party, the row may be left blank or the words "Non-Party" may be entered in it (section 46).

4. Candidate's Photograph

If a candidate wishes to have his or her photograph included on the ballot paper, they must provide with the nomination paper:

- A photograph in digitised format (passport size – 35mm x 45mm), **AND**
- Two identical printed copies of the photograph.

The photograph must be taken not more than 12 months prior to polling day and must be of good quality, in colour and taken to a professional standard, showing the candidate's full face, head and shoulders only, on a light background (any colour).

Each printed copy of the photograph must have the candidate's name clearly shown on the back.

If the above requirements are not complied with, the returning officer may not include the photograph on the ballot paper. In these circumstances, or if no photograph is supplied, the space for the candidate's photograph will be left blank on the ballot paper.

THE ONUS IS ON THE CANDIDATE TO MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS.

5. Delivery of Nomination Paper

The completed nomination paper must be delivered to the returning officer in person by the candidate or proposer within the period fixed for the receipt of nominations (ending at 12 noon on the last day for receiving nominations) (*sections 49 and 50*).

6. Ruling on Nomination Paper

The returning officer will rule on the validity of the nomination paper within one hour of its delivery to him or her and may rule that it is invalid if he or she considers that it is not properly made out or signed. A returning officer may also rule as invalid a nomination paper from a candidate without a certificate of political affiliation who has opted for the assentors option (referred to in paragraph 2 above) if he or she considers that the candidate has not complied with the statutory requirements relating to assenting.

The returning officer is required to object to the **candidate's name** if it:

- (a) is not the name by which the candidate is commonly known, or
- (b) is misleading and likely to cause confusion, or
- (c) is unduly long, or
- (d) contains a political reference.

The returning officer is also required to object to a candidate's description if it is, in his or her opinion, any of the following:

- (a) incorrect,
- (b) insufficient to identify the candidate, or unnecessarily long,
- (c) contains a political reference other than, where appropriate, a reference to a public or elected office held, or formerly held, by the candidate, or,
- (d) contains an entry in the nomination paper referred to at paragraph 3(a) or (b) above.

The ruling on the nomination paper may be attended by the candidate and proposer (if any), one other person designated by the candidate (or his or her proposer), and any other person authorised by the returning officer (*section 52*).

7. Eligibility for Election to Dáil Éireann

A person who –

- (a) is not a citizen of Ireland, or
- (b) has not reached the age of 21 years on polling day, or
- (c) is a member of the Commission of the European Communities, or
- (d) is a Judge, Advocate General or Registrar of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, or
- (e) is a member of the Court of Auditors of the European Communities, or
- (f) is a member of the Garda Síochána, or
- (g) is a wholifetime member of the Defence Forces, or
- (h) is a civil servant who is not by the terms of his or her employment expressly permitted to be a member of the Dáil,
- (i) is undergoing a sentence of imprisonment for any term exceeding 6 months imposed by a court of competent jurisdiction in the State,

is not eligible for election (*section 41*).

8. Withdrawal of Nomination

A candidate may withdraw his or her nomination up to 12 noon on the day (disregarding any excluded day) after the latest date for receiving nominations. The notice of withdrawal to the returning officer must be signed by the candidate and delivered in person by the candidate or proposer. Where the returning officer is satisfied that a candidate wishes to withdraw and that neither the candidate nor the proposer can attend in person, the returning officer will accept a notice of withdrawal, signed by the candidate and by the person delivering it, which is received by the latest time for withdrawal (*section 54*).

9. Appointment of Election Agent

Each candidate must appoint an election agent before incurring any expenses at an election. The main function of the election agent is to authorise and control spending connected to the candidate's election campaign and to assist the candidate generally in relation to the election. The candidate must, not later than the last day for receiving nominations at the election, supply the name and office address of the election agent, in writing, to the returning officer for the constituency in which the candidate is standing. (If a person is standing as a candidate in more than one constituency, he or she must supply the information to the returning officer for each of the constituencies.) The returning officer will subsequently supply the details to the Standards in Public Office Commission. Further information on the role of an election agent is contained in the Commission's guidelines (*section 28 of the Electoral Act 1997*).

10. Penalties

There are penalties for –

- (a) producing a forged:
 - (i) nomination paper, or
 - (ii) certificate of political affiliation
 to the returning officer (*sections 138 and 142*),
- (b) without the consent of the person concerned:
 - (i) nominating such person as a candidate, or
 - (ii) withdrawing the candidature of such person (*section 141*),
- (c) making a false declaration with respect to the eligibility of a candidate for election (*section 143*).

Penalties under the Statutory Declarations Act 1938 in respect of knowingly making a false or misleading statutory declaration are set out at paragraph 2 above.”

- (d) the substitution of the following Schedule for the Second Schedule to the said Regulations –

“SECOND SCHEDULE

FORM OF STATUTORY DECLARATION BY ASSENTORS TO NOMINATION OF CERTAIN CANDIDATES AT DÁIL ELECTION

I _____ (*assentor name in capitals*) do solemnly and sincerely declare the following -

Particulars of Assentor

1. Number and polling district letters on Register of Electors:

2. Address on Register of Electors referred to at 1 (*address in capitals*):

3. Contact details, including daytime and mobile telephone numbers:

4. Form of photographic identification produced to witness and any identifying number on it:

Constituency/Candidate

5. Name of current Dáil constituency in which assentor's address at 2 is located:

6. Name of candidate (*name in capitals*):

7. Address of candidate (*address in capitals*):

Assent

8. I assent to the nomination of the candidate referred to at 6 and 7 at the next Dáil election to be held in the constituency in which the address at 2 is located at the time of the election.

9. I have not assented to the nomination of any other candidate at the election referred to at 8 or at any other Dáil election to be held at the same time as that election,

and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act 1938.

Signature of assentor _____

Declared before me _____ [*name*
in capitals] [a notary public] [a commissioner for oaths] [a peace
commissioner] [a practising solicitor] [a member of the Garda Síochana] [an
official of the registration authority] by _____
who is personally known to me at _____

[*place of signature*] this _____ day of _____ [*date*]

[*signature of witness*]

Garda Station/
Registration Authority
Stamp

[*where appropriate*]

FORM OF STATUTORY DECLARATION BY ASSENTORS TO NOMINATION OF CERTAIN CANDIDATES AT DÁIL ELECTION

NOTES

(Please read the notes carefully before completing the statutory declaration. These notes are for guidance only and do not purport to be a legal interpretation.)

General

The Electoral (Amendment) Act 2007 (No. 14 of 2007) provides that, if a person is not a candidate of a registered political party, in order to be validly nominated to stand as a candidate at a Dáil election one or other of the following procedures must be complied with before the expiration of the time for receiving nominations:

- (i) the completion of statutory declarations by 30 assentors to the nomination who are registered as Dáil electors in the relevant constituency. The assents must be witnessed by a Notary Public, a Commissioner for Oaths, a Peace Commissioner, a practising solicitor, a member of the Garda Síochána or an official of the registration authority (City or County Council), or
- (ii) the candidate, or someone on his or her behalf, lodging a deposit of €500 with the returning officer.

This form is to be used for making statutory declarations of assent under (i) above; copies of the form are available free of charge from returning officers and registration authorities.

An assent is valid only in respect of the Dáil constituency in which the assentor's address at the time of assent is located at the next election.

An assent may be made at any time but it may only be used at the next general or bye-election in the relevant constituency.

Responsibility lies with the candidate or his/her proposer at the election to secure the necessary assents, to attach the 30 statutory declarations to the nomination paper and to deliver all the documentation to the returning officer by the deadline for receipt of nominations at the election.

A returning officer may rule as invalid a nomination paper from a candidate who has opted for the assenting alternative if he or she considers that the candidate has not complied with the statutory requirements relating to assenting.

Notes to Parts of Form

All parts of the form must be completed.

Parts 1 and 2: The assentor should enter his/her number and polling district letters (Part 1) and address (Part 2) as stated on the Register of Electors. The Register may be inspected at the city or county council's offices or on their website; at libraries, post offices and Garda Stations; and through www.checktheresister.ie.

Part 3: Enter contact details, including daytime and mobile telephone numbers.

Part 4: Each assentor must, when making the statutory declaration, bring one of the following photographic documents for identification purposes – passport, driving licence, employee identity card containing a photograph, student identity card issued by an educational institution and containing a photograph, bank card with a photograph, a travel document containing name and photograph, or a Public Services Card.

One of the documents must be produced to the witness taking the statutory declaration, and the type of document must be recorded in Part 4 along with any identifying number on it (e.g. passport number).

Part 5: Enter the name of the Dáil constituency where the address at Part 2 of the form is located on the date of the making of the statutory declaration. It should be noted that an assent is valid only in respect of the Dáil constituency in which the assentor's address at the time of assent is located at the next election (general election or bye-election).

Parts 6 and 7: Enter the name (Part 6) and address (Part 7) of the candidate whose nomination is being assented to.

Part 8: This is the formal assent to the nomination of the candidate at the next Dáil election to be held in the constituency in which the address at Part 2 is located at election time.

Part 9: The assentor has to confirm on the statutory declaration that he or she has not assented to the nomination of any other candidate in the election concerned or at any other Dáil election to be held at the same time as that election.

The assentor must sign the declaration in the presence of the witness.

Witness to Statutory Declaration

The statutory declaration must be witnessed by a Notary Public, a Commissioner for Oaths, a Peace Commissioner, a practising solicitor, a member of the Garda

Síochána or an official of the registration authority. Where the necessary ID is produced under Part 4, the law provides that this is sufficient for the witness to sign on the form that the assentor is personally known to him/her.

In the case of Gardaí or registration authority officials, the declaration must be stamped with the official stamp of the garda station or registration authority in the box provided.

Penalties

Under the Statutory Declarations Act 1938, a person who knowingly makes a false or misleading statutory declaration in any material respect is liable on conviction to a fine of up to €2,539 or imprisonment for a term of up to 6 months or both.”

3 The Electoral (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. No.142 of 2024) are hereby revoked.

GIVEN under my hand,
25 July 2024

MALCOLM NOONAN
Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local
Government and Heritage

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the instrument and does not purport to be a legal interpretation.)

In these regulations the lists of photographic identifications that may be produced (i) when a statutory declaration is being made by a person who lives in the relevant constituency is assenting to the nomination of a candidate at an election and (ii) which a voter may be required to produce at a polling station, are amended to remove the reference to identifications acceptable only for local elections.

In these regulations a revised form of Nomination Paper to be used at a Dáil election is prescribed for the purpose of removing of ‘unsound mind’ from the disqualifying criteria for election to or membership of the Dáil.

A revised form of Statutory Declaration for Assentors is also prescribed for.

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR
Le ceannach díreach ó
FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS,
BÓTHAR BHAILE UÍ BHEOLÁIN,
CILL MHAIGHNEANN,
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 8,
D08 XAO6

Tel: 046 942 3100
E-mail: publications@opw.ie

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