



# The President of Ireland

# The Office of President

- The Office was established by the Irish Constitution in 1937
- The President is the highest office-holder in the country
- The functions of the President are performed on the advice of the Government
- The President is not answerable to either House of the Oireachtas or to any court in the performance of his or her functions

# Electing a President

- Any Irish citizen over the age of 35 years can become a Presidential candidate
- The term of office is seven years
- The President may be re-elected only once
- Every citizen of Ireland ordinarily resident in the State who is aged 18 years or over and whose name is entered on the register of electors is entitled to vote

# Nomination of Candidates

- A candidate must be nominated by either:
  - (a) not less than 20 members of the Oireachtas (Dáil and Seanad), **or**
  - (b) at least 4 county and/or city councils
- If only one candidate is nominated, the presidential returning officer declares that candidate elected
- If two or more candidates are nominated, an election takes place

# Voting for President

- The President is elected by the direct vote of the people.
- Voting is by secret ballot on the single transferable vote system – this means voters indicate their preference by indicating 1, 2, 3 on the ballot paper.
- The names of the candidates appear in alphabetical order on the ballot paper and no political affiliations are given.

# Counting of Votes

- The counting of votes takes place at 9am on the day after the election
- The quota (the number of votes necessary for election) is calculated by the presiding officer in each constituency
- Because there is only one position to be filled (President) the quota is 50% of the valid votes + 1

# Taking up Office

- The newly elected President takes up office on the day following the expiration of the term of office of the outgoing President and holds office for seven years from that date
- The new President takes up residence in Áras an Uachtaráin in the Phoenix Park, Dublin

# The Presidential Standard



The Irish Presidential Standard, a flag used by the President of Ireland since 1945, shows a golden *Cláirseach* (Harp) with silver strings on a background of St. Patrick's Blue. It is flown over the President's residence, over Dublin Castle when the president is resident there and on vehicles used by the President.



# Past Presidents



**Douglas Hyde**  
**1938 - 1945**

# Past Presidents



**Seán T. O' Kelly**  
**1945 - 1959**

# Past Presidents



**Eamon de Valera**  
**1959 - 1973**

# Past Presidents



**Erskine Childers**  
**1973 - 1974**

# Past Presidents



**Cearbhall Ó  
Dálaigh  
1974 - 1976**

# Past Presidents



**Patrick Hillery**  
**1976 - 1990**

# Past Presidents



**Mary Robinson**  
**1990 - 1997**

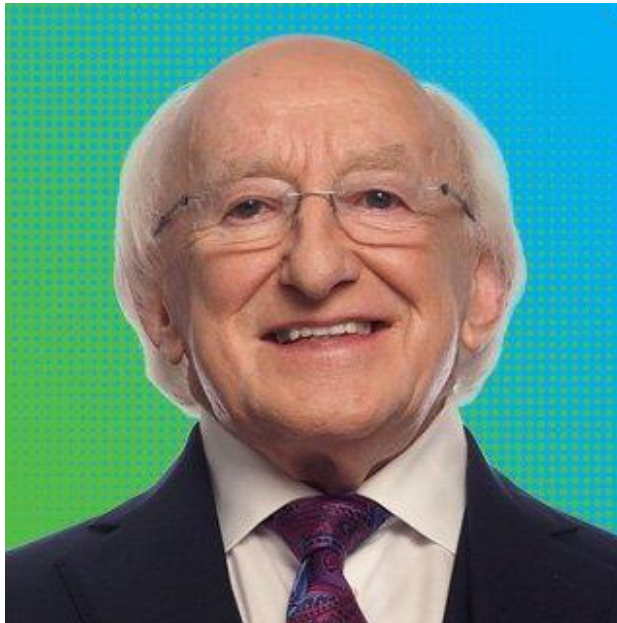
# Past Presidents



**Mary McAleese**  
**1997 - 2011**



# Past Presidents



**Michael D.  
Higgins  
2011 - 2018**

# More Information

For more information on the Irish Presidency visit: <https://president.ie/en> (English section) or <https://president.ie/ga/> (Leagan Gaeilge)

Check out the Children's Section of the President's website:  
<https://president.ie/en/childrens-section>  
(English section) or  
<https://president.ie/ga/rannog-na-bpaisti>  
(Leagan Gaeilge)