

Dear Madam or Sir,

I am a passport-holding, Irish-born, Irish and European citizen. I am denied my constitutional voting right on the spurious grounds of current residence. That right applies to all votes and without time limit. That should be your first priority.

Many Irish citizens are sick, disabled or travelling within or outside the country on polling day. Postal voting is very limited and restricted. That should be your second priority.

Many Irish citizens, whether in the categories above or not, would find it more convenient to vote by proxy. This does not exist in Ireland. That should be your third priority.

Irish citizens, whether they are resident abroad or simply travelling, should be able to vote at the nearest embassy or consulate. That should be your fourth priority.

Voting should be extended to those 16 years of age and older. That should be your fifth priority.

Election and referendum campaigns last a matter of weeks and most voters decide in the last few days. It should be possible to register on polling day. That should be your sixth priority.

Six priorities are more than enough.

What is the problem you are trying to solve? Yes, there is duplication on the register. So what is the problem you are trying to solve? There is no evidence of widespread voter fraud.

Any and all restrictions on voting, however well intentioned, bear the risk of discouraging large numbers of voters, in particular minorities and the marginalised. In other words, voter suppression - always among the first priorities as countries slip away from democracy and towards darker places.

I'm sure that is not your intention so please shift your priorities.

Best regards,

Lorcan James Lyons