

# ON 7 JUNE THE PEOPLE OF LIMERICK WILL DIRECTLY ELECT A MAYOR

## READ THIS BOOKLET TO FIND OUT MORE

Limerick will make history by being the first county in Ireland to directly elect a mayor.



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**  
Limerick City  
& County Council



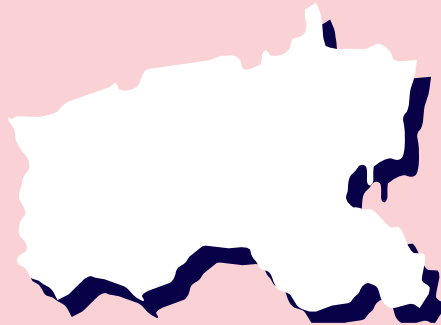
Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY

On 7 June 2024, the people of Limerick will make history by being the first voters in Ireland to directly elect a Mayor for their city and county. The Mayor will be in office for five years and will have a new and significant role in shaping Limerick.

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Having a Mayor with executive powers is a big change for local government in Ireland. The Mayor will be directly accountable to the people of Limerick city and county.



## WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

In 2019, the people of Limerick voted to have a directly elected Mayor. The legislation was signed into law on 6 March 2024, and the election takes place on 7 June 2024.

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR?

The Mayor will be the executive head of Limerick City and County Council, taking on many of the responsibilities of the Chief Executive.

The Mayor will represent Limerick locally, nationally and internationally, taking on the role the Cathaoirleach currently has outside of the council chamber.

The Mayor will also be a member of the council.



## WHAT WILL THE DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR DO?

The Mayor will have an important strategic role in:

- Proposing the development plan and driving the economic and spatial development of the city and county
- Developing and implementing a housing strategy for Limerick
- Managing road transport and safety, i.e. road maintenance and improvement, and traffic management
- Overseeing services to protect and enhance the environment



## WHAT ARE THE NEW POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR?

Some of the key duties of the Mayor will be:

- Developing and delivering a mayoral programme that sets out the vision and objectives for their term, supported by a dedicated mayoral budget
- Setting up a Mayoral Advisory and Implementation Committee to support delivery of their programme
- Engaging directly with national government through the Limerick Mayoral and Government Consultative Forum, which will be chaired by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Leading the new Limerick Project Ireland 2040 Delivery Board to focus on implementing the key planning strategies in Limerick
- Leading this board's transport subgroup, which focuses on transport infrastructure and services
- Sitting on the Local Community Development Committee and representing Limerick at the Southern Regional Assembly
- Proposing the annual budget to the elected councillors for their approval
- Representing Limerick city and county locally, nationally and internationally

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF HAVING A DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR?

Having a Mayor with executive powers is a big change for local government in Ireland. Some of the benefits are:

- It reflects the democratic choice of the people of Limerick, who voted for this change in 2019
- The Mayor will be a champion for Limerick, raising the profile of the city and county
- The Mayor will have direct access to national government
- The Mayor will be directly accountable to the people
- The Mayor will set out their vision and priorities for their time in office in their five-year programme
- The Mayor will have the opportunity to improve local services across Limerick city and county
- The Mayor will receive additional funding to enable them to perform their duties
- More people will be aware of the work of local government and the role of Mayor

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAVING A DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR AND THE CURRENT SYSTEM?

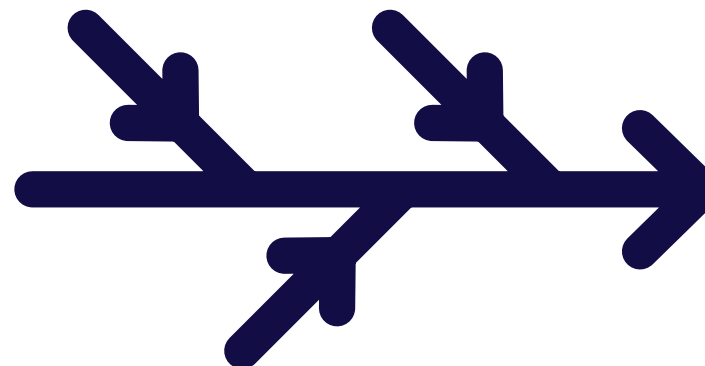
At the moment, Limerick's councillors choose another councillor as mayor every twelve months. While the people of the city and county elect councillors, they don't directly pick the person who acts as mayor.

The current mayor is the chair of meetings in the council chamber and has a ceremonial role, representing Limerick at events and occasions.

With a directly elected Mayor, the people of Limerick city and county will choose the Mayor. The Mayor does not have to belong to a political party.

The Mayor will serve a five-year term, giving them time to deliver on their mayoral programme.

The Mayor will be a member of the council, with many of the same rights, responsibilities and duties as other elected council members. The Mayor will also be the executive head of the council.



## WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL?

The current Chief Executive will become the Director General and will oversee the day-to-day running of the council.

They will be responsible for the following:

- Managing and accounting for the council's finances
- Overseeing human resources
- Administering schemes and individual grants
- Managing the local authority's electoral events
- Overseeing legal activities relating to these duties

## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CURRENT ROLE OF MAYOR?

There will no longer be a Cathaoirleach, i.e. Mayor. Instead, there will be a new role of Príomh Chomhairleoir, who will have duties inside the council chamber. The Príomh Chomhairleoir will chair council meetings supported by their deputy, the Leas-Phríomh Chomhairleoir. These roles will be voted on by the councillors every year.



## HOW WERE MAYORS ELECTED IN THE PAST?

Until now, Limerick's councillors chose another councillor as mayor every twelve months. The current mayor is the chair of meetings in the council chamber and has a ceremonial role, representing Limerick at events and occasions.

## HOW WILL MAYORS BE ELECTED FROM NOW ON?

Registered voters in Limerick city and county will elect the Mayor for a five-year term using Proportional Representation – Single Transferable Vote (PR-STV).

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RUN FOR DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY?

To run for Mayor, a person must be:

- An Irish citizen, or be ordinarily resident in the State
- At least 18 years of age

There are a number of exceptions. For example, members of An Garda Síochána, certain members of the judiciary, and members of the Defence Forces cannot run for Mayor.

People already serving as elected representatives, such as members of Dáil Éireann, Seanad Éireann, and the European Parliament, are entitled to run, but they must give up these positions if they are successful.

## HOW LONG IS THE MAYOR'S TERM OF OFFICE?

The Mayor will serve for five years. They can serve up to two terms of office, which may be consecutive or non-consecutive.

## CAN THE MAYOR BE A MEMBER OF A POLITICAL PARTY?

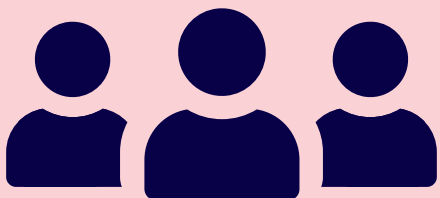
Yes. The Mayor can be a member of a political party, but it is not necessary.

## WILL THE MAYOR BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL?

Yes. The Mayor automatically becomes a member of the council, increasing the total number of councillors from 40 to 41. This means that the Mayor has many of the same rights, responsibilities and duties as other elected council members in addition to being the executive head of Limerick City and County Council.

## WILL THE MAYOR HAVE THEIR OWN STAFF?

Yes. The Mayor will have a team of up to five members of staff from Limerick City and County Council. Alternatively, the Mayor may choose to appoint a special adviser and have four members of staff.



## HOW MUCH WILL THE MAYOR BE PAID?

The Mayor will receive the same salary as a Chief Executive of a local authority (level V). This is currently €154,134 per annum.

## HOW WILL THE MAYOR WORK WITH THE CURRENT COUNCIL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES?

The councillors will continue to govern the work of Limerick City and County Council and will oversee the performance of the Mayor.

The elected council will continue to carry out its work, including:

- Adopting the annual budget
- Setting council policies
- Altering the local property tax rate
- Making Limerick's development plan
- Approving the sale of council land
- Adopting a corporate plan and a service delivery plan

The Mayor will be accountable to the elected council and will produce regular reports for councillors. Councillors can also ask the Mayor questions during plenary council meetings.

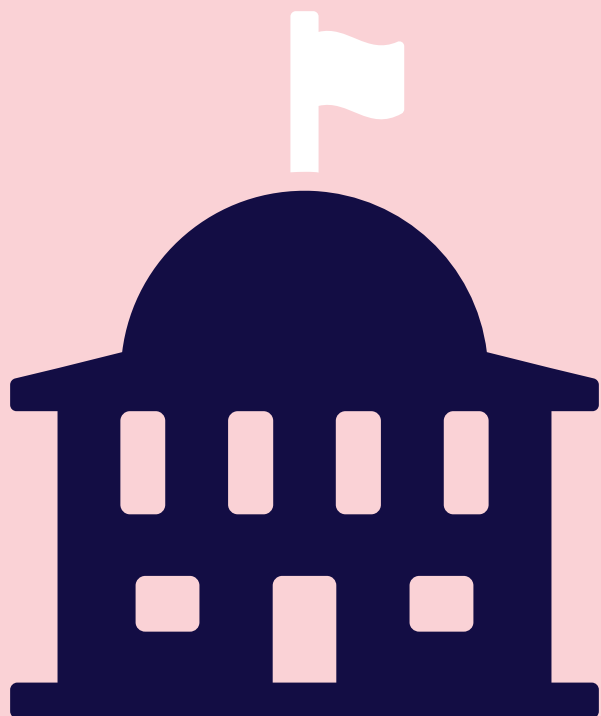
## CAN THE MAYOR STOP OR VETO DECISIONS MADE BY COUNCILLORS?

No. The Mayor will not have the power to override decisions of the elected council.

## HOW ARE COUNCILLORS ELECTED?

Limerick City and County Council has 40 councillors who are elected for a term of five years. The voting system used is PR-STV.

The directly elected Mayor will automatically become a member of the council, increasing the number of councillors to 41.



## WHO CAN VOTE IN LIMERICK'S UPCOMING MAYORAL ELECTION?

Anyone aged 18 or above who is on the register of electors in Limerick city or county can vote.

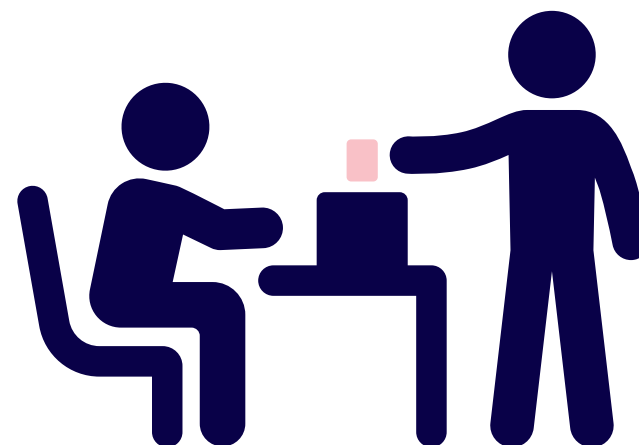
## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO VOTE?

### BEFORE THE ELECTION

- Check the register of electors to ensure you are a registered voter.

### ON ELECTION DAY

- Bring photo identification (passport or driving licence) to the polling station. A full list of the acceptable forms of identification will be on the polling information card you receive in the post.



## ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet provides general information about the new role of the directly elected Mayor and structures at Limerick City and County Council. It is not intended as a definitive interpretation of the relevant legislation.

Please visit [limerick.ie/mayor](https://limerick.ie/mayor) for further information



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