

THE IRISH POLITICAL SYSTEM AND HOW IT WORKS

Ireland is a parliamentary democracy.

The Oireachtas (or parliament) in Ireland consists of:

- The President
- Dail Eireann
- Seanad Eireann (the Senate)

Dail Eireann

The people of Ireland directly elect the members of Dail Eireann (who are called Deputies or TDs)

There are 166 TDs

A TD can be a member of a political party or be independent

Main functions of the Dail are to elect a government and Taoiseach, pass the budget, enact legislation and provide a form of accountability of government to the people.

Seanad Eireann

There are 60 members in the senate

They are not voted in by the general populations

- 43 elected from 5 panels representing Culture and Education, Agriculture, Labour, Industry and Commerce and Public Administration
- 6 elected by the graduates of 2 universities – 3 each by the National University of Ireland and the University of Dublin (Trinity College)
- 11 nominated by the Taoiseach

Legislation approved by the Dail must also be debated and approved by the Seanad.

By registering to vote, Travellers show election candidates that the Traveller voice will count.

Local Government

There are 31 Local Authorities in Ireland. Local government is perhaps the most accessible form of Government to people in their local communities. Main functions of a Local Authority include housing, planning, roads, etc.

It is at this level where decisions get made regarding location, management and maintenance of Traveller accommodation.