

To: All Post Primary School Principals
Re: Student Voter Registration

Dear School Principal,

“The result of every election is determined by the people who show up”

I'm very conscious that the end of the school year is a busy time for students and staff at every school in the country – setting, sitting and correcting exams is the main priority, but I would be grateful for your support for an important day for Irish democracy on Friday, 7th June.

In just a month's time, voters will elect 14 people to represent Ireland in the European Parliament, over 900 Councillors in Local Authorities across the country, and people in Limerick will be the first people in the history of the state to vote for a mayor to represent the city and county for the next 5 years.

Traditionally, one of the least represented groups at election time are young people and at the Electoral Commission we are working to encourage participation in elections by all those who are eligible to vote, to ensure that they have a voice in the selection of those who will represent us. I would greatly appreciate if you could circulate the attached flyer via your school's communications platforms to students in Transition Year, 5th and 6th Year.

We would also be very grateful if you were able to give the following key messages to your 4th/5th/6th year students at a school assembly or other similar gathering:

- Participation in democracy is important. If students who are eligible to vote don't vote, other people will be deciding the future for them. Their vote is their voice.
- Any student aged 18 years and over can register to vote on June 7th online at www.checktheregister.ie It only takes a couple of minutes!
- Registration closes on Monday, 20 May, 2024, but please, don't leave it till the last minute, try and register a few days in advance.
- Students who are aged 16 or 17 years can pre-register to vote on www.checktheregister.ie. If they do this they will then *automatically* go on to the electoral register when they turn 18.
- We understand that many students who are eligible to vote will be in Leaving Cert mode, sitting the Geography and Maths papers that day. However, perhaps on their way home, they could get a break from their studies and help decide the future.
- The ballot box is one of the few places where we are all equal. Every vote counts the same. So please be a voter.

Further information on the work of An Coimisiún Toghcháin, and the forthcoming elections is available on our website, www.electoralcommission.ie

Many thanks for your support - if you have any queries, please contact a member of our Electoral Operations Team at operations@electoralcommission.ie

Yours sincerely,



Art O'Leary
Chief Executive