

46 North Street, Alfreton. Derbyshire De55 7FZ

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Wording of Votes for Irish Abroad Referendum 2019 not announced but preferred clarity emerging!

Enda Kenny TD and Senator Bill Lawless share with me their preference.

A Chara,

Since the setting up of the Constitutional Convention in 2012, along with many other Irish people abroad I have been campaigning and monitoring the progress up to the recent announcement that May 24th 2019 is going to be the date of the Referendum. What has yet to be announced is wording of who exactly the Irish electorate will be asked to admit or deny a future vote in Presidential Elections. To eliminate the unlikely restriction of offering the vote only to those born in Ireland or left Ireland in past 10 years etc. and to be inclusive of all people who travel throughout the world and present themselves with a valid Irish passport; the consensus is that they should qualify (when they apply to the electoral register) for this new franchise.

On the 30th of November 2017 at the University of Liverpool, following a question from me, Enda Kenny TD and ex-Taoiseach, agreed that holding a valid Irish passport should be a qualification for citizens living outside the State to vote in Irish presidential elections from 2025. Recently on twitter, long term advocate for Irish Abroad issues Senator Billy Lawless (resident of Chicago) concurred "I believe it will be passport holders"



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The views of these two influential Irish politicians meets my concern on equality of citizenship to include Irish people born outside the State. A passport is tangible proof of Irish identity and that you inherited or sought Irish Citizenship. On a practical level it would make the process of voting and collating easier as you are already accounted for.

If you agree with the above proposal or wish to share your views with the minister who will be leading on the wording of the Referendum John Paul Phelan (Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government with special responsibility for Local Government and Electoral Reform) ~ his contact details are as follows,

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