

Lend Lease 16 Notes and Links - Constitutional Conventions of Ireland and Iceland

- Ireland 2012-2014 Constitutional Convention:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_Convention_\(Ireland\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_Convention_(Ireland)) - Assigned task:

- reducing the presidential term of office to five years and aligning it with the local and European elections;
- reducing the voting age to 17;
- review of the Dáil electoral system;
- giving citizens resident outside the State the right to vote in presidential elections at Irish embassies, or otherwise;
- provision for same-sex marriage;
- amending the clause on the role of women in the home and encouraging greater participation of women in public life;
- increasing the participation of women in politics;
- removal of the offence of blasphemy from the Constitution; and
- following completion of the above reports, such other relevant constitutional amendments that may be recommended by it

- <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/inside-the-convention-on-the-constitution-1.1744924>

The Convention represented a significant innovation: this is the first time anywhere in the world randomly selected citizens have worked side by side with elected representatives to propose constitutional change (it consisted of 100 members, 66 citizens chosen to be representative of the population, 33 politicians including four from Northern Ireland, and an independent chairman). When it started its work in December 2012, it did so against a background of scepticism from a number of politicians and commentators.

The Convention met over 10 weekends of a day and a half. Each meeting had three components: presentation by experts of papers which had been circulated in advance; debate between groups advocating on either side of an issue; and roundtable discussions involving facilitators and notetakers. On Sunday morning the members considered again the discussions of the previous day and voted on a ballot paper which reflected the details of the debate.

At the outset there was concern that the politicians, with their greater experience in public speaking and their knowledge of the political and legal system, might dominate the debate. These fears did not turn out to be justified. On the contrary, both politicians and citizens learned from each other and the level of mutual respect grew throughout the process.

22 May 2015

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/ireland-becomes-first-country-to-approve-same-sex-marriage-by-popular-vote-1.2223646>

The Yes vote prevailed by 62 to 38 per cent with a large 60.5 per cent turnout.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/presidential-age-vote-defeated-by-three-to-one-margin-1.2223665> *The proposal to reduce the minimum age of presidential candidates from 35 to 21 was rejected by a large majority on Saturday.*

It was defeated by a majority of 891,704 votes. There were 520,898 votes in favour and 1,412,602 against.

26 October 2018 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-44256152>

The Republic of Ireland has voted overwhelmingly to overturn the abortion ban by 66.4% to 33.6%.

A referendum held on Friday resulted in a landslide win for the repeal side.

- Pronouncing irish words
https://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/magazinemonitor/2010/11/how_to_say_irish_political_terms.shtml
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010%E2%80%9313_Icelandic_constitutional_reform
- General notes on the difference between a constituent assembly and the broader category of constitutional convention: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constituent_assembly
 - i. US: The [U.S. Constitutional Convention](#) that drafted the still-current [United States Constitution](#) in 1787 was notably **not** a constituent assembly: its delegates were appointed by the states, not directly elected, and not all states sent delegates; moreover, the Convention was originally charged with drafting amendments to the [Articles of Confederation](#) rather than a new constitution.^[6]

The US Constitution contains no provision for its own replacement, so any constituent assembly would necessarily be extra-constitutional. [Article V](#) of the Constitution does permit Congress to appoint a [national constitutional convention](#) to propose amendments but has never done so. While Congress has the option to submit both its own proposals for amendments and those of a national convention to [state conventions](#) rather than the state legislatures for ratification; this process has been used only once (for the [Twenty-first Amendment](#)). Neither of these would necessarily be constituent assemblies, as there is no provision requiring that such bodies be elected rather than appointed by the existing legislature.