

The President of Ireland

Uachtarán na hÉireann



History

The office of the President of Ireland was established by the Constitution of Ireland, Bunreacht na hÉireann, in 1937. As a result, Ireland was no longer ruled by a British monarch and the Irish Head of State was elected by the people. The first president, Douglas Hyde, took office in 1938. The president of Ireland became internationally recognised in 1949 when Ireland was declared a Republic.



The Role of the President of Ireland



The president of Ireland is Ireland's Head of the State.

The president is the public figure that officially represents the Irish State and the Irish people.

The president makes visits to other countries abroad and hosts other Heads of State on visits to Ireland.

The president of Ireland is also the Supreme Commander of the Irish Defence Forces.

The president acts as the Guardian of the Irish Constitution.

How Is the President Elected?

Ireland is a representative democratic republic. This means that Irish citizens elect a representative to become the president.

The president is elected directly by the people and serves a seven year term in office.

The candidate who has won the presidential election becomes president of Ireland by publicly making the oath set out in Bunreacht na hÉireann, The Irish Constitution.

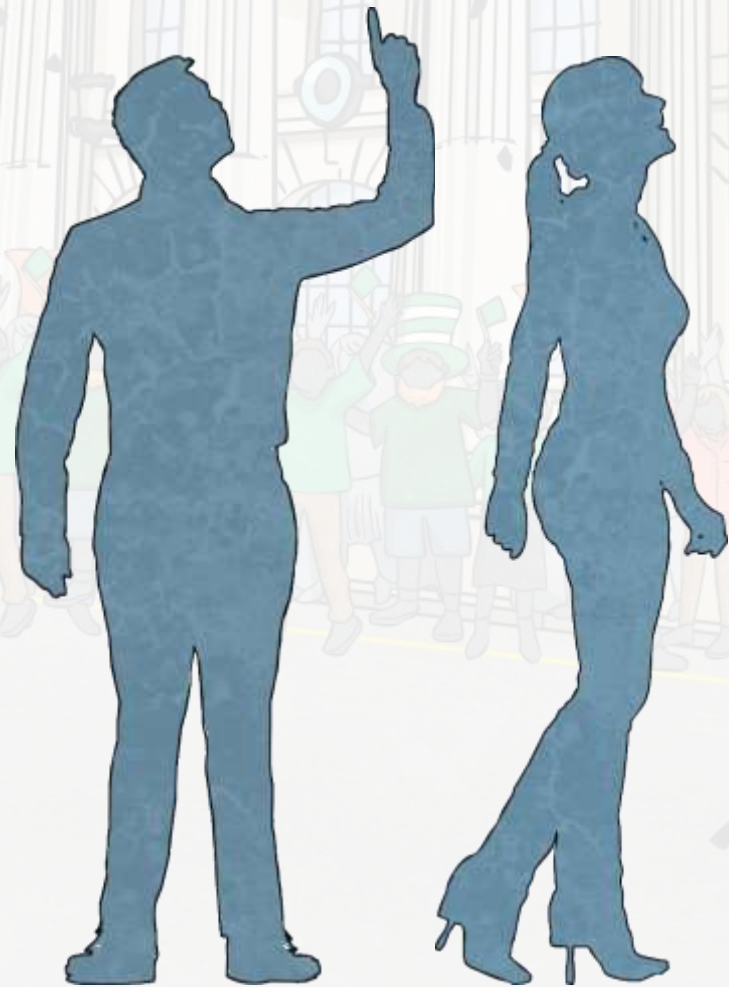


Who Can Be Elected President?

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Áras an Uachtaráin

Áras an Uachtaráin is the official residence of the President of Ireland. It was built in 1751 and is situated on 1,752 acres (709 hectares) in the Phoenix Park. It became the residence for the president in 1938 when Douglas Hyde, the first president of Ireland, lived there.

There have been many improvements and additions to the house over the years, including the creation of formal garden, the addition of the East Wing and the extension of the West Wing. The house currently has 95 rooms. The house is open to the public each Saturday and 5,200 people visit the formal rooms and view the grounds each year.



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Former Presidents of Ireland

Douglas Hyde served as the first president of Ireland from 1938 to 1945. He co-founded Conradh na Gaeilge to encourage the preservation of Irish culture, music, dance and language.



Seán T. O'Kelly served as the second president of Ireland from 1945 to 1959. Before becoming president, he was also a government minister. He was Tánaiste between 1937 and 1945. He also fought in the Easter Rising.

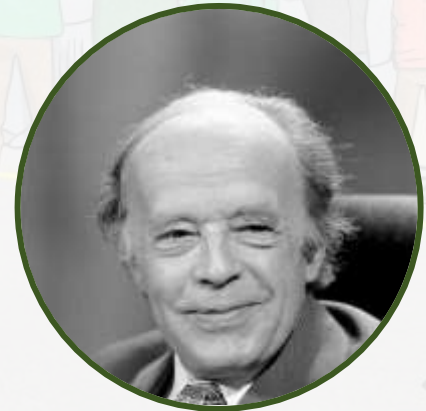


Former Presidents of Ireland

Éamon De Valera was a leader in the 1916 Easter Rising. He was sentenced to death for his role but was later released. He was the founder of Fianna Fáil. He became the first Taoiseach of Ireland in 1937. He was Taoiseach on three occasions. In 1959, Éamon De Valera became the third president of Ireland.

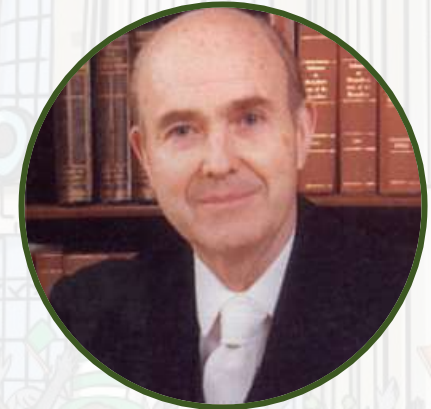


Erskine H. Childers was an Irish politician who served as the fourth president of Ireland. He was Tánaiste of Ireland before becoming president in 1973. He quickly became a popular and respected president. He died suddenly, only a year into his term.



Former Presidents of Ireland

Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh served as the President of the Supreme Court of Ireland. He was also a judge of the European Court of Justice. He became Ireland's fifth president in 1974. He resigned from the office during his second year as president.



Patrick Hillery served as the sixth president of Ireland. As Minister for Foreign Affairs, he was involved in Ireland's entry into the European Economic Community (the European Union). He became Ireland's first European Commissioner in 1973. He was elected president of Ireland in 1976.



Former Presidents of Ireland

Mary Robinson is an Irish politician and former senator who served as president between 1990 and 1997. She became the first female president of Ireland. She travelled the world and increased the profile of the Irish Presidency. She resigned two months before the end of her term to take up a position in the United Nations. She co-founded the Council of Women World Leaders.



Mary McAleese served as the eighth president between 1997 and 2011. She was the first president from Northern Ireland. She described the theme of her presidency as "Building Bridges." Before her presidency, she graduated in Law from Queen's University, Belfast. She was a lecturer in criminal law in Trinity College, Dublin. She is currently a Professor of Children, Law and Religion at the University of Glasgow, Scotland.



Michael D. Higgins

Michael Daniel Higgins is the current president of Ireland. He is the 9th president of Ireland. He was elected as the president of Ireland in November 2011. He has served one term as president. Before entering the world of politics, he was a lecturer in sociology and political science in NUI Galway. In 1993, he became the Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht. He is a published writer and poet. He is also a fluent speaker of the Irish language.



2018 Irish Presidential Election

The 2018 Irish Presidential election will be held on the 26th October 2018.

Citizens of Ireland have the opportunity to vote for their preferred candidate.

The candidate with the most votes will become the next president of Ireland.

The successful candidate will officially become the President of Ireland on the 11th November 2018.

