

Changes to Legislation: as of 1 June 2026, this Act is up to date with all changes known to be in force.



Number 9 of 2009

ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ACT 2009

REVISED

Updated to 9 January 2023

This Revised Act is an administrative consolidation of *Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009*. It is prepared by the Law Reform Commission in accordance with its function under *Law Reform Commission Act 1975 (3/1975)* to keep the law under review and to undertake revision and consolidation of statute law.

All Acts up to and including *Local Government (Maternity Protection and Other Measures for Members of Local Authorities) Act 2022 (52/2022)*, enacted 21 December 2022, and all statutory instruments up to and including *Planning And Development And Foreshore (Amendment) Act 2022 (Commencement) Order 2023 (S.I. No. 1 of 2023)*, made 9 January 2023, were considered in the preparation of this Revised Act.

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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Definition.
2. Amendment of section 2 of Act of 1999.
3. Amendment of section 6 of Act of 1999.
4. Insertion of Part IIIA in Act of 1999.
5. Amendment of section 19 of Act of 1999.
6. Amendment of section 19C of Act of 1999.
7. Amendment of section 20 of Act of 1999.
8. Amendment of section 21 of Act of 1999.
9. Amendment of section 19 of Litter Pollution Act 1997.
10. Short title, construction and collective citations.

ACTS REFERRED TO

Electoral (Amendment) Act 2001	2001, No. 38
Electoral Act 1992	1992, No. 23
European Parliament Elections Act 1997	1997, No. 2
Litter Pollution Act 1997	1997, No. 12
Litter Pollution Acts 1997 to 2003	
Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999	1999, No. 7
Local Government Act 2001	2001, No. 37
Planning and Development Act 2000	2000, No. 30
Presidential Elections Act 1993	1993, No. 28
Referendum Act 1994	1994, No. 12
Údarás na Gaeltachta Act 1979	1979, No. 5



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ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ACT 2009

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AN ACT TO REGULATE EXPENDITURE BY POLITICAL PARTIES AND CANDIDATES; TO AMEND THE LOCAL ELECTIONS (DISCLOSURE OF DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURE) ACT 1999; TO AMEND THE LITTER POLLUTION ACT 1997; AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.

[25th March, 2009]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

Definition.

1.— In this Act “Act of 1999” means the [Local Elections \(Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure\) Act 1999](#).

Amendment of section 2 of Act of 1999.

2.— Section 2 of the Act of 1999 is amended by—

(a) substituting the following definition for the definition of “clerk”:

“ ‘clerk’, in relation to a city, borough or town council means the town clerk;”,

(b) substituting the following definition for the definition of “local authority”:

“ ‘local authority’ has the same meaning as in the [Local Government Act 2001](#);”,

and

(c) inserting the following definition:

“ ‘local election’ means an election under Part 4 of the [Local Government Act 2001](#);”.

Amendment of section 6 of Act of 1999.

3.— Section 6 of the Act of 1999 is amended—

(a) in subsection (1)(b) by repealing subparagraph (v), and

(b) in subsection (3) by substituting the following paragraph for paragraph (a):

“(a) all election expenses incurred by or on behalf of a political party or a candidate at any time during the period specified by the Minister by order under section 12B (inserted by [section 4](#) of the *Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009*);”.

Insertion of Part IIIA in Act of 1999.

4.— The Act of 1999 is amended by inserting the following Part after Part III:

“PART IIIA

EXPENDITURE BY POLITICAL PARTIES AND CANDIDATES AT LOCAL ELECTIONS

Limitation of election expenses at local election.

12A.— (1) (a) Subject to paragraphs (b) and (c), the aggregate of election expenses which may be incurred by or on behalf of a candidate in connection with his or her candidature at a local election shall not exceed—

- (i) in the case of a county or city council electoral area with a population in excess of 32,500, €15,000;
- (ii) in the case of a county or city council electoral area with a population of between 22,501 and 32,500, €13,000;
- (iii) in the case of a county or city council electoral area with a population of between 12,001 and 22,500, €11,500;
- (iv) in the case of a county or city council electoral area with a population of 12,000 or less, €9,750;

and

- (v) in the case of an electoral area of a borough council or a town council, €7,500.

(b) Where a candidate contests an election for both a county council and a borough or town council, the election expenses which may be incurred by or on behalf of the candidate in connection with his or her candidature at the election shall be the limit appropriate to the electoral area in the county in which the candidate is nominated plus one quarter of the spending limit appropriate to the electoral area in the borough council or town council in which the candidate is also a candidate.

(c) (i) Where a political party authenticates the candidature of a candidate at a local election, the party shall incur 10 per cent of the amount of the election expenses which that candidate is entitled to incur at that election, or such alternative percentage of the amount as may be agreed in writing between the candidate and national agent of the political party.

(ii) The election expenses which a political party may incur under subparagraph (i) may relate to expenditure in the electoral area concerned, or otherwise.

(iii) In the case of a candidate whose candidature is authenticated by a political party at a local election, the national agent of the party may by agreement in writing authorise the designated person of the party to incur such proportion of election expenditure at the election which the candidate is entitled to incur under paragraph (a) as may be agreed in writing between the national agent and the designated person.

(2) The aggregate of election expenses which may be incurred by the national agent of a political party on behalf of that party at a local election shall be the sum of the amounts of election expenses incurred pursuant to subsection (1)(c)(i), between candidates whose candidatures were authenticated by the party at the election and the party.

(3) Subject to subsection (1)(c)(iii), the aggregate of election expenses which may be incurred by the national agent and designated person of the party on behalf of that party within an electoral area of a county council, city council, borough council or town council at a local election, shall not exceed the sum of the amounts of election expenses for all candidates of that party in that electoral area, provided for under subsection (1)(c)(i).

(4) In this section, 'population' means population as ascertained by the Central Statistics Office in the Census Report setting out the final result of the most recent Census of Population.

Period in respect of which election expenses are reckoned at local election.

12B.— (1) After the Minister has made an order under section 26 of the Local Government Act 2001 fixing the polling day at a local election, he or she may by order specify the period during which election expenses at the local election concerned shall be reckoned for the purposes of this Part.

(2) An order under subsection (1) shall specify—

- (a) a date not less than 50 and not more than 60 days prior to the polling day at the local election concerned, as the date on which the period shall commence, and
- (b) the polling day at the local election concerned, as the date on which the period shall end.”.

Amendment of section 19 of Act of 1999.

5.— Section 19 of the Act of 1999 is amended by inserting the following subsection after subsection (3):

“(4) An annual report of a local authority prepared in accordance with section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001, in respect of the year in which a local election is held, shall include details of—

- (a) the aggregate election expenditure in respect of each candidate, designated person, third party and national agent, and
- (b) donations received in respect of each candidate, designated person, third party and national agent,

as contained in the statements and declarations furnished to it pursuant to section 13.”.

Amendment of section 19C of Act of 1999.

6.— Section 19C (inserted by section 58(m) of the Electoral (Amendment) Act 2001) of the Act of 1999 is amended, in subsection (1), by inserting “12A,” before “19A”.

Amendment of section 20 of Act of 1999.

7.— Section 20(5) of the Act of 1999 is amended by inserting “or section 21(3A) (inserted by section 8 of the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009)” after “subsection (4)”.

Amendment of section 21 of Act of 1999.

8.— Section 21 of the Act of 1999 is amended—

(a) in subsection (1) by inserting the following paragraph after paragraph (b):

“(bb) directly, or through any other person, incurs election expenses in excess of the relevant amount calculated in accordance with section 12A (inserted by section 4 of the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009), or”,

(b) in subsection (2)—

(i) in paragraph (c) by substituting “section 13, or” for “section 13.”, and

(ii) by inserting the following paragraph after paragraph (c):

“(d) directly, or through any other person, incurs election expenses in excess of the relevant amount calculated in accordance with section 12A (inserted by *section 4* of the *Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009*).”

(c) by inserting the following subsection after subsection (3):

“(3A) A candidate at a local election shall be guilty of an offence if he or she directly, or through any other person, incurs election expenses in excess of the relevant amount calculated in accordance with section 12A (inserted by *section 4* of the *Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009*).”

(d) by inserting the following subsection after subsection (4B):

“(4C) A person shall be guilty of an offence if, at a local election, he or she incurs election expenses, or makes any payment, advance or deposit in respect of such expenses—

(a) on behalf of a political party unless the person is the national agent of the party concerned or a person authorised by such national agent acting within the limit of such authorisation, or

(b) on behalf of a candidate unless the person is a designated person, or a person authorised by such person acting within the limit of such authorisation.”

and

(e) in subsection (5)(a), by substituting the following for subparagraph (ii):

“(ii) where the offence is an offence to which subsection (1)(b), (2)(b), (3)(c), (3A) (inserted by *section 8(c)* of the *Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009*), (4A)(b), or (4B)(d) relates, he or she shall be liable on conviction on indictment to a fine not exceeding €25,000 or, at the discretion of the court, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 3 years or to both such fine and such imprisonment.”

Amendment of section 19 of Litter Pollution Act 1997.

9.— *Section 19* of the *Litter Pollution Act 1997* is amended by substituting the following subsection for subsection (7):

“(7) Notwithstanding subsection (6), it shall not be an offence for a person to exhibit an advertisement if the advertisement—

(a) is exempted development within the meaning of the *Planning and Development Act 2000*, or is a notice displayed or erected in pursuance of a requirement by or under any enactment,

(b) advertises a public meeting, other than an auction, unless the advertisement has been in place for 30 days or more prior to, or for 7 days or more after, the date specified in the advertisement for the meeting,

(c) relates to—

- (i) a presidential election within the meaning of the [Presidential Elections Act 1993](#),
- (ii) a general election or a bye-election, within the meaning, in each case, of the Electoral Act 1992,
- (iii) a local election within the meaning of the [Local Government Act 2001](#), or
- (iv) an election of members of the European Parliament under the [European Parliament Elections Act 1997](#),

unless the advertisement has been in place prior to the making of an order by the Minister appointing the day upon which the relevant poll shall be taken or for 30 days prior to the date of the poll, whichever is the shorter period, or for 7 days or more after the latest day upon which the poll was taken for the election or bye-election concerned,

- (d) relates to an election of members of *Údarás na Gaeltachta* under the [Údarás na Gaeltachta Act 1979](#), unless the advertisement has been in place prior to the making of an order by the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs appointing the day upon which the poll shall be taken or for 30 days prior to the date of the poll, whichever is the shorter period, or for 7 days or more after the latest day upon which the poll was taken, or
- (e) relates to a referendum, within the meaning of the Referendum Act 1994, unless the advertisement has been in place prior to the making of an order by the Minister appointing the day upon which the poll shall be taken, or for 7 days or more after the latest day upon which the poll was taken.”.

Short title,
construction and
collective
citations.

10.— (1) This Act may be cited as the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009.

(2) The Electoral Acts 1992 to 2009 and this Act (other than [section 9](#)) shall be read together as one and this Act shall be included in the collective citation “Electoral Acts 1992 to 2009”.

(3) The Local Elections Acts 1974 to 2009 and this Act (other than [section 9](#)) shall be read together as one and this Act shall be included in the collective citation “Local Elections Acts 1974 to 2009”.

(4) The Litter Pollution Acts 1997 to 2003 and [section 9](#), may be cited together as the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 to 2009, and shall be read together as one.



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About this Revised Act

This Revised Act presents the text of the Act as it has been amended since enactment, and preserves the format in which it was first passed.

Related legislation

Electoral Acts 1992 to 2022: this Act is one of a group of Acts included in this collective citation, to be construed together as one (*Electoral Reform Act 2022* (30/2022), s. 1(2)). The Acts in this group are:

- *Electoral Act 1992* (23/1992)
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 1996* (43/1996)
- *Electoral Act 1997* (25/1997)
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 1998* (4/1998)
- *Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1998* (19/1998) (*Repealed*)
- *Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999* (7/1999)
- *Standards in Public Office Act 2001* (31/2001), in so far as it relates to functions of the Commission under the *Electoral Act 1997* (25/1997)
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2001* (38/2001)
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2002* (4/2002)
- *Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2002* (23/2002)
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2004* (15/2004)
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2005* (16/2005)
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2006* (33/2006)
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2007* (14/2007)
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2009* (4/2009)
- *Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009* (9/2009), other than s. 9
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2011* (14/2011)
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2012* (27/2012)
- *Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Act 2012* (36/2012)
- *Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil Constituencies) Act 2013* (7/2013)
- *Electoral, Local Government and Planning and Development Act 2013* (27/2013)
- *Local Government Reform Act 2014* (1/2014), s. 1(6), s. 5(4) and sch. 2 part 2, sch. 4 paras. 17 and 18, in so far as it relates to the *Electoral Act 1992*
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2014* (8/2014)
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2014* (62/2015)
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2016* (5/2016)
- *Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil Constituencies) Act 2017* (39/2017)
- *Companies (Statutory Audits) Act 2018* (22/2018), ss. 71 and 73
- *European Parliament Elections (Amendment) Act 2019* (7/2019), s. 8

- *Electoral Reform Act 2022* (30/2022), ss. 6-30, 41-59, 61-69, 72, 77-114, 173

Local Elections Acts 1974 to 2014: this Act is one of a group of Acts included in this collective citation, to be construed together as one (*Local Government Reform Act 2014* (1/2014), s. 1(5)). The Acts in this group are:

- *Local Elections (Petitions and Disqualifications) Act 1974* (8/1974)
- *Electoral Act 1992* (23/1992), so much of Act as relates to local elections
- *Local Government Act 1994* (8/1994), Parts II and III
- *Electoral Act 1997* (25/1997), Parts VII and VIII, insofar as they relate to local elections
- *Local Government Act 1998* (16/1998), ss. 9 and 10
- *Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999* (7/1999), other than s. 1(4) and so much of s. 25 as relates to the European Parliament elections
- *Local Government Act 2001* (37/2001), Parts 3, 4 and Chapter 3 of Part 5, s. 243
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2001* (38/2001), in so far as it relates to local elections
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2002* (4/2002), in so far as it relates to local elections
- *Local Government (No. 2) Act 2003* (17/2003), in so far as it relates to local elections
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2004* (15/2004), in so far as it relates to local elections
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2006* (33/2006), in so far as it relates to local elections
- *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2009* (4/2009), in so far as it relates to local elections
- *Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009* (9/2009), other than s. 9
- *Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Act 2012* (36/2012), in so far as it relates to local elections
- *Local Government Reform Act 2014* (1/2014), s. 1(5), s. 5(4) and sch. 2 part 2, in so far as it relates to the *Local Elections (Petitions and Disqualifications) Act 1974* and the *Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999*

Litter Pollution Acts 1997 to 2009: this Act is one of a group of Acts included in this collective citation, to be construed together as one (*Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009* (9/2009), s. 10(4)). The Acts in this group are:

- *Litter Pollution Act 1997* (12/1997)
- *Waste Management (Amendment) Act 2001* (36/2001), s. 14
- *Protection of the Environment Act 2003* (27/2003), Part 4
- *Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009* (9/2009), s. 9

Annotations

This Revised Act is not annotated and only shows textual amendments. An annotated version of this revision is also available which shows textual and non-textual amendments and their sources. It also shows editorial notes including statutory instruments made pursuant to the Act and previous affecting provisions.

Material not updated in this revision

Where other legislation is amended by this Act, those amendments may have been superseded by other amendments in other legislation, or the amended legislation may have been repealed or revoked. This information is not represented in this revision but will be reflected in a revision of the amended legislation if one is available. A list of legislative changes to any Act, and to statutory instruments from 1972, may be found linked from the page of the Act or statutory instrument at www.irishstatutebook.ie.