

# Your Vote Your Voice

**Easy To Read Guide To Voting**

**Monaghan County Council**



# Monaghan County Council

## What does Monaghan County Council do?

Monaghan County Council make **policies** and **provide services** to people living in County Monaghan.

*A **policy** is a list of ideas or plans the Council will do to deal with **problems or issues** that affect the people living in County Monaghan.*

## Services of Monaghan County Council

- Looks after local **roads**, streets and **footpaths**
- Provides **social housing** for people in the community
- Makes **plans** about how land in the local authority area can be used and developed.
- Makes sure the **environment** and **water** in the County is safe and clean for everyone.
- Supports **community, arts** and **sports facilities**.
- Monaghan County Council looks after the **Register of Electors** which is the list of all the people in the County **who can vote**.

## Who is Monaghan County Council?

- Monaghan County Council is made up of people who are elected by the people who live in County Monaghan and they are called **County Councillors**.
- The **County Councillors** work with the staff in Monaghan County Council to provide all the services to the people of Monaghan.
- The **County Councillors** are elected at **Local Elections** held every five years.
- In County Monaghan there are currently **18 County Councillors** who are elected from the three **Municipal Districts**.
- A **Municipal District** is a department of the County Council that looks after a certain area of the County.

# Who is Monaghan County Council?

Monaghan County Council has three **Municipal Districts**.

**1. Monaghan Municipal District**

**2. Ballybay - Clones Municipal District**

**3. Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District**

- **Every Municipal District** area elects **County Councillors**.
  
- The County Councillors from each Municipal District come together to form the **18 County Councillors** of Monaghan County Council.
  
- **6 County Councillors** for Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Electoral Area
  
- **7 County Councillors** for Monaghan Electoral Area
  
- **5 County Councillor** for Ballybay – Clones Electoral Area
  
- In a Local Election you vote for the people you want to be elected in the Municipal District where you live.

## What is an Election?

**An Election** is when people living in a community vote on who they want to represent them. There are **different types of elections** that take place at different times. The different elections choose the people to represent the people of Monaghan in the different **government structures** that are in Ireland. They are the **National Government, Local Government** and **European Government (E.U.)**.

## National Government

- The **National Government** is the group of people who are responsible for making sure **the laws of the country** are followed.
- The Government **provides money for important services** in the country like schools, hospitals and transport.
- The Government is also often called the *Cabinet*
  - The Government of Ireland is called **The Dáil**.
  - **The Dáil** means *Assembly of Ireland* in the Irish language
  - **The Dáil** has 158 members.
  - A member of **the Dáil** is called a **Teachta Dála**
  - **Teachta Dála** means *Deputy of the Dáil* in the Irish language
  - A member of **The Dáil** is often called a **T.D**

**General Elections** – This election is to choose who we would like to represent County Monaghan in the Government of Ireland.

# Local Government

- The **Local Government** is the group of people who are responsible for providing important services in their **local community**.
- The **Local Government** represent the **views and issues** that are important to the people who live **in their community**.
- The Local Government is also often called the **Local Authority** or **County Council**.
  - The **Local Government** in County Monaghan is called **Monaghan County Council**.
  - Monaghan County Council has **18 members**.
  - The members of Monaghan County Council are called **County Councillors**.
  - The **Local Elections** to elect **County Councillors** takes place every five years.
  - The next local election will take place on **May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**.



**Local Elections** – This election is to choose who we would like to represent the people of Monaghan in the Local Government which is **Monaghan County Council**.

## The European Parliament

- Ireland is a member of the **European Union** or the **E.U.**
- The **European Parliament** is the government that represents the people of all the countries who are members of the E.U.
- The **European Parliament** hold their meetings in **Strasbourg** in France and **Brussels** in Belgium.
- The European Parliament work to **protect the Human Rights** of all the people living the EU.
- The European Parliament work **to create more jobs**, money and **services** for the countries who are members of the E.U.
  - There are **751 members** of the European Parliament at the moment
  - **11** of these members are **from Ireland**
  - A member of the European Parliament is called **an MEP**
  - The **European Elections** to **elect MEP's** take place every five years.
  - The next **European Election** will take place on **May 24<sup>th</sup> 2019**.



**European Elections** – This election is to choose who we would like to represent Ireland in the European Parliament.

## The President of Ireland

- The **President** of Ireland **represents the people** of Ireland.
- The Presidents **signs the laws** of Ireland.
- The **President** of Ireland is **elected by the people** of Ireland.
- The President is elected for a term of **7 years**.
- The President cannot be the president for more than **14 years altogether**.
- The current President is **Michael D. Higgins**.



**Presidential Election-** This election is to choose who we would like to be President of our country.



## What is a Referendum?

- **The Irish Constitution** is a legal document that sets out the role of the government and the president of Ireland.
- **The Irish Constitution** also includes the basic rights of all the people living in Ireland.
- **The Irish Constitution** is also called *Bunreacht na hÉireann*, which means *Basic Law of Ireland* in the Irish language.
- The government cannot change anything in **The Irish Constitution** without asking the permission of the people who live in Ireland.



When the government asks the people to decide about changing the constitution it is called **a Referendum**.

## Who can vote in Ireland

- If you are an **Irish citizen** and you are over 18 you can vote in every election and referendum.
- If you are a **British citizen** and you are over 18 you may vote at General, European and Local Elections.
- If you are a **citizen of any other EU country** and you are over 18 you may vote at European and Local Elections.
- If you are a **citizen from a country that is not part of the EU** and you are over 18 you can vote at local elections only.

## Why should you Vote?

- It is your **Right** to vote.
- In the past **many people did not have the right to vote**, people fought with governments to change the laws and allow people to vote.
- Everyone has the right to take part in **choosing who** they would like to see **working for their community** and their country.
- Taking part in elections can be very exciting and can make you feel like you are **a part of the community** where you live.
- If you don't vote **other people choose** who is elected in your community.

## Registered to Vote

- To vote in any election **you must register** your personal details **with Monaghan County Council**.
- This means **telling the County Council** your name, date of birth, where you live and that **you want to vote**.
- **Registering** to vote **is easy** and staff of the County Council can help you.
- If your name is not on the **Register of Electors**, you **cannot vote**

## Register of Electors

The Register of Electors is a list of all the people in an area who have given their name to the County Council because **they want to vote in any elections** that may take place. There are four different lists in the register of electors.

**1. The Register of Electors** – This list is completed on 25<sup>th</sup> November every year by Monaghan County Council and published for people to view on the **15th February** each year.





**2. The Postal Voters List** – This is a list of people who would like to vote but are not able to get to a polling station on the day of the election.

**3. The Special Voters List** – This is a list of people who would like to vote but are living in a nursing home or hospital at the time of an election.

**4. Supplementary Register of Electors** – This is a list of names that are added to the Register of Electors prior to an Election.

## Check if your name is on the Register

There are a few ways you can **check if your name** is on the list of people who can vote in Monaghan.

- You can **telephone Monaghan County Council**  **047 30551**
- You can **email Monaghan County Council**  **register@monaghancoco.ie**
- You can check online at [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie)
- You can look at a **copy of the Register of Electors** by calling into the County Council offices, Post Office, Garda stations and libraries and asking if you can check for your name.
- You can find out more information about the **Register of Electors** on Monaghan County Council's website <https://monaghan.ie/register-of-electors>
- If you click on this picture  on Monaghan County Council's website the **information will be read to you.**
- If you click on this picture  on Monaghan County Council's website, you can **make the words on the screen bigger.**

Your Vote  
Your Voice

## How to Register to Vote

Contact Monaghan County Council to tell them you want to register to vote.

### Main Register of Electors

- If you register to vote before the **25<sup>th</sup> of November** any year your name will go on the main **Register of Electors**.
- Monaghan County Council will send you a form for the **main register of electors**.
- You must **fill in this form** and send it back to Monaghan County Council.
- If your name is not on the main register of electors when an election date is announced, you can add your name to the **supplementary register**.

### Postal Voters List

- If **you live at home** and you have a disability or illness that makes it **hard for you to get to a polling station** you can put your name on the **postal voter lists**.
- Monaghan County Council will send you a form for the **postal voter lists**.
- You must fill in this form and send it back to Monaghan County Council.
- **A doctor** must sign your **postal voter form** if you you have a disability or illness that makes it hard for you to get to a polling station.

## Special Voters List

- If **you live in a nursing home** or hospital you can put your name on the **Special Voters list**.
- Monaghan County Council will send you a form for the **Special Voters lists**.
- You must fill in this form and send it back to Monaghan County Council.
- **A doctor** must sign your **Special voter form** if you have a disability or illness that makes it hard for you to get to a polling station.

## Supplementary Register of Electors

- The **supplementary register** is an **extra list** of names that are added to the list of people registered to vote.
- When **an election date** has been **announced** the Supplementary Register of Electors will open.
- You can add your name to **The Supplementary Register of Electors** until 14 days before the election day.
- Monaghan County Council will send you a form for the **Supplementary Register of Electors**.
- You must **fill in this form** and send it back to Monaghan County Council.
- A member of the **Gardai** must sign your **Supplementary Register form**.

# If you need any help to Register



**047 30551**



**[register@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:register@monaghancoco.ie)**



**Get on the Register**

## Registered to Vote

- If you are **registered to vote**, before voting day, the County Council will send you a **polling card**.

NUMBER UIMHIR 1234

POLLING INFORMATION CARD  
CÁRTA FAISNÉISE VÓTÁÍOCHTA

YOU VOTE AT:-  
IONAD VÓTÁÍOCHTA:-  
**St Mary's school  
Main St  
Monaghan**

NO STAMP  
REQUIRED  
NÍ GA  
STAMPA

POLLING DAY  
LÁ VÓTÁÍOCHTA **May 24<sup>th</sup>  
2019**

TIME  
AM VÓTÁÍOCHTA **7am - 10pm**

WF-219501

THIS CARD IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY. IT IS NOT AN IDENTITY CARD. BE SURE TO BRING EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY WHEN YOU GO TO VOTE - SEE BACK OF THIS CARD.  
S MAR EOLAS AMHÁIN AN CÁRTA SEO: NÍ CÁRTA CÉANNACHTA É, DÉAN DEIMHIN DE CÁIPÉIS  
HEANNACHTA A THABHAIRT LEAT NUAIR A THEANN TU CHUN VÓTÁIL - FEACH CÚL AN CHÁRTA S

### Your polling card will look something like this

- Your **polling card** will have your name on it and the name of the place where you go to vote.
- Your polling card will have your **Polling number**.
- Your polling card will have **the time** and **date** when the election will happen
- The place where you vote is called a **polling station**.
- You should bring your **polling card** with you when you **go to vote**.





## Voting in Ireland

- Ireland uses a way of voting called a **Secret Ballot**.
- **A Secret Ballot** means your choices in an election or a referendum are secret.
- **No one will know** who you voted for in an election in Ireland.
- If you have **never voted before** or if you are unsure of how to vote there are **people** working at every polling station **who can help you**.
- **It is important you make your own choice about voting.**

Your Vote

Your Voice

## Who should you vote for?

- A person who would like you to vote for them is called a **candidate**.
- Before an election each candidate will be in the community asking people to vote for them. This is called **canvassing**.
- Lookout for **posters, leaflets** and **social media** adverts from candidates telling you **why you should vote for them**.
- **Candidates** may **call** to your home, workplace or community centre **asking you to vote for them**.
- **Candidates** may be **on** the **television or radio** asking people to vote for them.
- You should find out about **all the candidates** and choose who you think would do the best job.

## Making your decision in a Referendum

A **Referendum** can be confusing, so it is good to find out about the referendum before you vote. **The Referendum Commission** is an organisation that will tell you about any referendum that is taking place.

You can contact the Referendum Commission by

- Checking their website [www.refcom.ie](http://www.refcom.ie)
- Telephone LoCall: 1890 270 970
- Email: [refcom@refcom.ie](mailto:refcom@refcom.ie)
- Information about the **Referendum** will also be on your **polling card**

Your Vote

Your Voice

## Election Day

- The day the election happens is called **Election day**. It is also called **Polling day**.
- On **Election day** everyone in the country who is registered to vote can go to their polling station and vote.
- The polling station will open at **7am** and will stay open until **10pm**.
- You can vote **any time** between 7am and 10pm.
- You should bring your **polling card** to the polling station.
- If you don't have a polling card you can still vote once you have **identification** with you to show the Polling Clerk working in the polling station who you are.
- The Polling Clerk working in the polling station **may ask** you for **identification with your photograph** on it as well as your polling card.
- If you have any questions or need any help you can ask the staff working at the polling station.





## Accessibility at polling stations



- All **53** polling stations **in County Monaghan** are accessible for people with disabilities.
- Polling stations are all at **ground floor level**.
- **Clear signage** will show you where you go to vote.
- **Seating will be available** inside the polling station.
- **Seated voting booths** will be available in every polling station.
- A **large print version** of each Ballot paper will be available.
- **Supports** are in place for voters with a **visual impairment**.

**Staff at the polling station are there to help you**

## Support for Voters with visual impairments

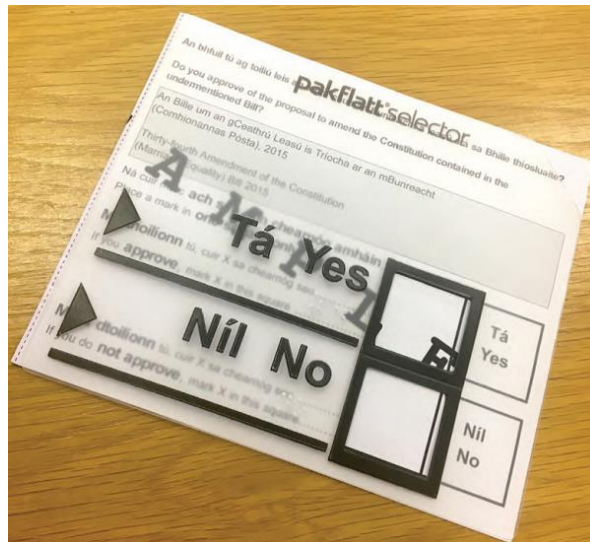
A facility to enable people with a visual impairment to vote has been developed. This system of voting allows people with a visual impairment to vote without help and in secret. This new voting system has two parts.

1. A **tactile ballot paper template**.
2. Names and details of election candidates and information on a Referendum question provided through a **free phone telephone facility**.

### Tactile ballot paper template

- The **Tactile ballot paper template** has clear raised up lettering and is in large print.
- The **Tactile ballot paper template** has **Braille** and the **cut-out sections** have a black border to **help voters** to find where to mark their vote.
- The **Tactile ballot paper template** sticks onto the same ballot paper that will be used by all voters.
- **Staff** working at the Polling station **will stick the Tactile ballot paper template** to the ballot paper and hand it to you or place it on the table in front of you, right way up.
- **Tactile ballot paper template** will **be available in every polling station** in the County.

## Tactile ballot paper template for Referendum



- The **Tactile ballot paper template** sticks onto the same ballot paper that will be used by all voters.
- **Staff** working at the Polling station **will stick the Tactile ballot paper template** to the ballot paper and hand it to you or place it on the table in front of you, right way up.
- On a **referendum ballot** paper, the top box is **“yes”** and the bottom **“no”**.
- **Staff** working at the Polling station will provide **any help you may need** to mark the ballot paper.
- Contact **NCBI** for further information on **01 8307033** or **[www.ncbi.ie](http://www.ncbi.ie)**



## **Tactile ballot paper template for Local Elections**

A free phone information facility will be available for every local authority area. This free phone facility will provide you with the information for each candidate numbered on the ballot paper.

- **The Tactile ballot paper template** will show a number for each candidate which will match the corresponding square in the Ballot paper underneath.
- The **Tactile ballot paper template will not show** the name of candidates.
- Voters can get **names and details of the candidates** in the order placed on the ballot paper using a **freephone facility** set up by Monaghan County Council.
- Voters can use the freephone facility **as often as they wish** to familiarise themselves before election day.
- Voters can **use their mobile phones** to access the freephone facility while they are **at the polling station** on election day.

**The freephone number for Local Elections 2019 in Monaghan**

# **1800-804-158**

## Using the free phone facility

The freephone number for Local Elections 2019 in Monaghan

# 1800-804-158

- When you call the freephone number **1800-804-158** you will hear a recorded message that will tell you have reached the **Local Election Area for Monaghan.**
- You will be asked to choose the area where you vote in Monaghan
  - **Monaghan**
  - **Ballybay - Clones**
  - **Carrickmacross - Castleblayney**
- Once you select your area you will then **hear a recorded message** with **information about the candidates** who are listed on the ballot paper for that area.
- **A recorded message will give listeners the message**
  - The candidate at number 1 is .....
  - The candidate at number 2 is .....
  - The recorded message will continue until all candidates have been named.

- You can **use the free phone facility** as often as you like **before** the **election day**.
- You can **use your own mobile phone** to contact the free phone facility in the polling station **on the day of the election**.
- If you would like any **more information** about this new voting facility you can contact:

You can **telephone Monaghan County Council**



**047 30551**

You can **email Monaghan County Council**



**register@monaghancoco.ie**

**Don't be afraid to ask for help**

## How do I Vote?








- When you get to the polling station you will see the **polling staff** sitting at a desk.
- You should give them your polling card or other ID. Once they find your name on the list of voters you will get a **Ballot paper**.
- **A Ballot paper** for **an election** is a sheet of paper with a list of the people that you can vote for.
- **A Ballot paper for an election** will have the names and photographs of all the candidates who would like you to vote for them.
- **A Ballot paper** for **a Referendum** will have the question about the constitution that the government want the people to vote on.
- On an election day there may be **more than one vote** happening.
- You will get a **different coloured ballot paper** for each vote that is taking place on the day.

# Voting Booth



- When you get your polling card you will go to a **private voting booth**.
- You **fill out each ballot paper** in the voting booth.
- The voting booths are designed for voters to fill out a ballot paper while standing up.
- There will be **an accessible voting booth** available for voters who would like to fill out a ballot paper while sitting down.
- You can ask **staff in the polling station** to help you get to the **voting booth**.
- **You can ask** staff in the polling station **to help you sit down while** you vote.






## The Election Ballot Paper

<b>DOYLE – LIBERAL SOCIALISTS</b> MARY DOYLE, of 10 High Street, Knockmore, Nurse.			
<b>LYNCH –URBAN PARTY</b> JANE ELLEN LYNCH, of 12 Main Street, Ardstown, Shopkeeper.			
<b>MURPHY</b> PATRICK MURPHY, of 12 Main Street, Ballyduff, Carpenter.			
<b>Ó BRIAIN – CUMANN NA SAORANACH</b> SÉAMUS Ó BRIAIN, as 10 An tSráid Ard, Carn Mór, Oide Scoile.			
<b>O'BRIEN –THE INDEPENDENT PARTY</b> EAMON O'BRIEN, of 22 Wellclose Place, Knockbeg, Barrister.			

**A ballot paper for an election will look a little like this**

- The people who are on the ballot paper are called **candidates**
- The ballot paper will have **the name, photograph** and **box** for each candidate who would like you to vote for them.
- If a candidate belongs to **a Political Party** the sign or logo for that Political Party will be beside their name.
- If a candidate does not belong to a Political Party, you will see **“independent”** or **“non- party”** beside their name.
- **Some** of the **information** on the ballot paper will be written in the **Irish language**, this information will also be written **in English**.

## Filling out an Election Ballot Paper

<b>DOYLE –</b> MARY DOYLE		<b>3</b>
<b>LYNCH</b> Joe Lynch		<b>1</b>
<b>MURPHY</b> PATRICK MURPHY		
<b>Ó BRIAIN</b> SÉAMUS Ó BRIAIN		<b>2</b>
<b>O'BRIEN</b> EAMON O'BRIEN		

- You must **use numbers** when filling out an election ballot paper.
- Put **number 1** beside the candidate you would **most like** to be elected.
- You put **number 2** beside the next candidate you would like to be elected.
- You can put a number beside every candidate on the **Ballot Paper** if you wish.
- If you find writing numbers difficult you **can ask staff** working in the polling station to **help you**.
- You can take **as long as you need** to fill out the ballot paper.

# Referendum Ballot Paper

**An Reifreann ar Aois Iarrthóirí Uachtaránachta**  
**Age of Presidential Candidates Referendum**

An bhfuil tú ag toiliú leis an togra chun an Bunreacht a leasú atá sa Bhille thíosluaite?  
Do you approve of the proposal to amend the Constitution contained in the undermentioned Bill?

An Bille um an gCúigiú Leasú is Tríocha ar an mBunreacht  
(Aois Intofachta chun Oifig an Uachtaráin), 2015  
Thirty-fifth Amendment of the Constitution  
(Age of Eligibility for Election to the Office of President) Bill 2015

Ná cuir marc **ach san aon chearnóg amháin**  
Place a mark in **one square only**

**Má thollíonn tú,** cuir X sa chearnóg seo .....  
If you **approve**, mark X in this square .....

<input type="checkbox"/>	Tá Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Níl No

**Mura dtollíonn tú,** cuir X sa chearnóg seo .....  
If you do **not approve**, mark X in this square.....

- **The Referendum Ballot** paper will ask if you agree with the changes the Government would like to make to the constitution.
- **The Referendum Ballot paper** will include the details of the changes to the constitution that people are being asked to vote on.
- Some of the Referendum Ballot paper **information** will be written in the **Irish language**, this information will also be written **in English**.



## Filling out a Referendum Ballot Paper

**An Reifreann ar Aois Iarrthóirí Uachtaránachta | Age of Presidential Candidates Referendum**

An bhfuil tú ag toiliú leis an tagra chun an Bunreacht a leasú atá sa Bille seo a leanas?

Do you approve of the proposal to amend the Constitution contained in the undermentioned Bill?

An Bille um an gCúigiú Leasú is Tríoche ar an Bunreacht (Aois Iarrthóirí chun Oifig an Uachtaráin), 2015  
Thirty-fifth Amendment of the Constitution (Age of Eligibility for Election to the Office of President) Bill 2015

Ná cuir mearc **ach saibon cheamóg amháin**  
Place a mark in **one square only**

**Má thollonn tú,** cuir X sa cheamóg seo .....  **Tá**  
If you **approve,** mark X in this square ..... **Yes**

**Mura dtollonn tú,** cuir X sa cheamóg seo .....  **Níl**  
If you do **not approve,** mark X in this square ..... **No**

- The Referendum Ballot paper will include:
  - One box for **YES** (if you agree)
  - One box for **NO** (if you don't agree)
  
- You put X in the box beside **YES** if **you agree** with the changes the government would like to make to the constitution.
  
- You put X in the box beside **NO** if you **don't agree** with the changes the government would like to make to the constitution.
  
- If you have any difficulties, you **can ask staff** working in the polling station to **help you**.
  
- You can take **as long as you need** to fill out the ballot paper

## Help with Voting

Anyone who may find it difficult to read or fill out a ballot paper can get help to vote at the polling station.



### You can get help to

- Go with you behind the voting screen
- Read out loud the words on the voting paper
- Tick the ballot paper if you ask them to
- A support person is not allowed to tell you who to vote for

**Don't be afraid to ask for help**

# Who can help me to vote?

## The presiding Officer

- The **Presiding Officer** looks after all the voting at the polling station.
- It is the job of the Presiding Officer **to make sure anyone who needs** help to vote **gets the help** they need.
- There are other people working in the polling station with the Presiding Officer they are called **Polling Clerks**.



## Companion Voting

- If you **have a disability** that prevents you from voting without help, a companion or **a friend can help you** to vote.
- A companion **must be at least 16** years old.
- An **election candidate** or someone who is working to help an election candidate **cannot act as a companion**.
- A companion **may not help more than two people** at an election.
- If you don't have a companion or friend to help you, **ask the staff** at the polling station **to help you**

# Rules inside the Polling Station

## No Photographs

- You **cannot take photographs** in a polling station
- **NO photographs** of you filling out the ballot paper
- **NO photographs** of your choices on the ballot paper
- **NO selfies** inside the polling station
- If you break this rule **your vote will not count**



## No Canvassing

- You **cannot canvass** for **any candidate** or **any choice** in a Referendum **inside the polling station.**
- You **cannot canvass** for any candidate or any choice in a Referendum **within 50m** of the polling station
- This means you **cannot** wear **stickers, badges** or anything that supports any candidate or choice in a Referendum
- This means you **cannot ask people** in the polling station to vote for a candidate or a choice in the Referendum.

## The Ballot Box



- When you have filled out the Ballot papers, you then fold the ballot paper and put it into a **ballot box**.
- This will be a **large box** that will be clearly marked with the name **ballot box**.
- The Ballot box **is locked** and won't be opened until the election is over.
- Once you have put your ballot papers in the ballot boxes you have **VOTED!**



If you have any questions about voting or would like copies of this booklet, please contact:

**Bernie Bradley**

**Access officer**

**Monaghan County Council**

**Glen road**

**Monaghan**

**047 73727**

**[bbradley@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:bbradley@monaghancoco.ie)**

# Your Vote

# Your Voice





