

## CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

### **Constitutional Convention Votes in Favour of Lowering Voting Age but Opposes Reducing Presidential Term**

27th January 2013

The Constitutional Convention has today, (27th) voted in favour of lowering the voting age but has opposed reducing the presidential term.

At its meeting in Dublin, 52% of delegates voted in favour of lowering the voting age, 47% voted against with 1% having no opinion. If the voting age was to be changed 48% were in favour of lowering the age to 16 with 39% selecting 17, the remainder offering no opinion.

Regarding reducing the Presidential term, 57% opposed reducing the seven year Presidential term with 43% in favour. If the term were to be reduced, 80% did not wish it to be aligned with local and European elections.

Some of the other aspects voted on were; giving citizens more of a say in the Presidential nomination process and reducing the age of candidacy for elections. (Full results enclosed)

Constitution Convention Chairman, Tom Arnold said;

“Today was the first stage in the process of allowing ordinary Irish people to have a meaningful input into some of the most important civic and social matters facing society.

I believe we witnessed real citizen focused democracy whereby people considered all aspects of the debate before deciding on their own preferences. We will continue this initiative in the coming months when we examine issues such as same sex marriage and electoral systems.”

At its meeting next month, the Convention will consider the role of women in politics. Submissions are invited to be sent to the convention at <https://www.constitution.ie/SubmissionCaptcha.aspx>

The proceedings are streamed live at <https://www.constitution.ie/OnlineStreaming.aspx>

For further information

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