

Draft Ballot Paper

Fixed Term Parliaments

For discussion by Members of the Assembly in advance of the voting to take place on Sunday 15th April 2018

Introduction

On Saturday 14th April, the Members of the Assembly have considered the pertinent issues in relation to *Fixed Term Parliaments*.

This draft Ballot Paper attempts to capture the key issues which have emerged during discussions.

The core business on the afternoon of Saturday 14th April will be discussions on the draft Ballot Paper. The Chairperson will introduce the complete draft Ballot Paper and the members will then have an opportunity to discuss it in their groups.

The members of the Expert Advisory Group, together with the Chair and the Secretariat, will then be available to answer any questions on the draft. Time has been included on the agenda on Saturday to allow any amendment agreed by the members to be included on the final Ballot Paper.

Voting will then take place on Sunday 15th April 2018.

The results of the final Ballot will form the basis of the recommendations to be made to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Question 1-

Please Mark X in one box below.

	Mark X in one box	
Question 1	Yes	No
Do you think that fixed term parliaments (whether absolutely fixed or semi-fixed) for Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann should be introduced?		

Question 2-

Please Mark X in one box below.

In the event that absolutely fixed or semi-fixed term parliaments for Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann were introduced, how long should the parliamentary term be?	
Question 2	Mark X in one box
Option 1: Four years	
Option 2: Five years	

Question 3-

Please Mark X in one box below.

In the event that fixed term parliaments for Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann were introduced, which of the following systems would you favour?	
Question 3	Mark X in one box
Option 1: An absolutely fixed term (i.e. one that <u>cannot</u> be cut short)	
Option 2: A semi-fixed term (i.e. one that <u>can</u> be cut short)	

Question 4-

In the event that semi-fixed term parliaments for Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann were introduced, whose approval should be needed for an early general election to be held?		
Question 4	Please indicate your view in respect of each of the following by marking an X on each row	
	Yes	No
a) The Cabinet		
b) A majority of Dáil Éireann		
c) A super-majority of Dáil Éireann (e.g. two thirds)		
d) The President		