

ELECTRONIC VOTING FROM HOME TOPS THE POLL!

The majority of Irish people favour electronic voting from home in future elections and referendums, in addition to the introduction of a national identity card, according to the findings of a nationwide survey by the Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Software.



The survey found that almost six out of ten people (58%) favoured electronic voting from home in elections and referendums.

Just over 1,000 people participated in the study in October, which found that almost six out of ten people (58%) favoured electronic voting from home in elections and referendums. In contrast, just one in three (30%) opposed the idea, and 12% answered 'don't know'.

Data privacy and cybersecurity research company Lero, which was commissioned RED C Research to conduct the survey, also found that seven out of ten people (69%) favoured the introduction of a national identity card.

The card would be accessible by them and public services including local authorities and schools and colleges, while just



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17% were opposed to a national ID card while 14% responded 'don't know'.

Prof Brian Fitzgerald, Lero's Director, said Irish people's support for the introduction of electronic voting and a national ID card has remained remarkably consistent. "Irish people are clearly at home in the digital world. This survey confirms they are comfortable with having important elements of their lives, such as elections and personal records, move online," he added.

SECURE ACCESS TO SERVICES

Prof Regina Connolly from Dublin City University Business School said the survey's findings highlighted the increasing digital literacy of Irish people. "National identity cards are used in most EU countries and have potential to fundamentally reshape the relationship between citizens and the state. They provide faster, safe and secure access to government services, increase transparency and strengthen the economy. However, public



'buy-in' is essential for the success of ID cards and this survey provides encouraging evidence in that regard," she added.

A similar survey of more than 1,000 adults, which was conducted by RED C for Lero in June 2018, also found that a majority (59%) favoured electronic voting from home for elections and referendums, while 75% were in favour of a national ID card. For this latest survey, RED C interviewed a random nationally representative sample

National identity cards have the potential to fundamentally reshape the relationship between citizens and the state, notes Prof Regina Connolly, DCU Business School.

of 1,001 adults aged 18+ online between 8-13 October 2020.

Lero, the Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Software, brought together expert software teams from universities and institutes of technology across Ireland in a co-ordinated centre of research excellence with a strong industry focus.

Hosted by the University of Limerick, Lero's academic partners included Dublin City University, TCD, UCD, Maynooth University, NUI Galway, UCC, Institutes of Technology in Tralee, Dundalk, Waterford, Limerick and Cork.