

Referendums 2011-2015

Background

Between 2011 and 2015 there were an unprecedented 8 referendums held in Ireland. The web archive of the National Library of Ireland contains websites relating to all of them. For information on the **Marriage Equality Referendum of 2015**, please see separate article. This article relates to the seven remaining referendums from 2011-2015

As the web archive was only in pilot project phase in 2011 the relevant referendum websites for 2011 are contained within the Presidential Election collection, and from 2012-2015 the size of each referendum collection was determined by a number of factors, namely financial resources available, other web archive collections being undertaken in the same year, and amount of information online relating to the subject matter of the referendum. The subject matter of the referendums varied from children's rights and referendums requiring ratification under European law to judges' pay and abolition of the Seanad.

May 2015	Marriage Referendum and Age of Presidential Candidates Referendum
Oct 2013	Abolition of Seanad Éireann Referendum and Court of Appeal Referendum
Nov 2012	The Children Referendum
May 2012	Fiscal Stability Treaty Referendum
Oct 2011	Judges' Remuneration Referendum and Houses of the Oireachtas Inquiries Referendum

Site selection

Catherine Ryan, Siobhan O Donovan, Della Murphy and Joanna Finegan have been involved in site selection over the years. All were or are members of staff of the NLI.

Crawl parameters

The number of sites for each crawl is as follows;

May 2015	Marriage Referendum and Age of Presidential Candidates Referendum (49)
Oct 2013	Abolition of Seanad Éireann Referendum and Court of Appeal Referendum (26)
Nov 2012	The Children Referendum (27)
May 2012	Fiscal Stability Treaty (9)
Oct 2011	Judge's Remuneration Referendum and Houses of the Oireachtas Inquiries Referendum (2)

The majority of crawls took place in and around the dates of the actual referendums. The referendums in 2011 took place at the same time as the Presidential election.

Scope and content of resulting collections

- Political party sites were crawled as part of all referendums with the exception of the Fiscal Treaty referendum which was a very small collection, and in this instance the political party sites were crawled later on in the year for the second and more prominent Children Referendum of 2012
- Attempting to represent both sides of the debate in a referendum is always one of the most difficult aspects of the selection process in relation to referendums. On the one hand it is important to collect a balanced number of sites relating to both sides, but that is only possible if those campaigning on both sides are equally active online and do not decline permission to participate in the web archive collection. In the case of the Children Referendum in 2012 for example the 'yes' side seemed to be more active online based on the number of sites available to archive.
- The Referendum commission website is included in every referendum collection except for the Fiscal Treaty Referendum

- Certain sites archived in 2012 have already disappeared, e.g. Campaignforchildren.ie and futurematters.ie
- We try and include commentary websites (e.g. Slugger O'Toole, Boards.ie) to provide an alternative viewpoint to websites containing official information and the political party point of view. This is particularly the case from 2011-2013 where social media sites were not used as a campaign tool in the manner they were used in the Marriage Referendum in 2015.

Abolition of Seanad Éireann and Court of Appeal Referendums: Web Archive Collection

Collection of websites relating to the Referendum on the Abolition of Seanad Éireann and the Referendum on the Court of Appeal, both held on 4 October 2013

Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in Abolition of Seanad Éireann and Court of Appeal Referendums Collection
Boards.ie	http://www.boards.ie/vbulletin/forumdisplay.php?f=99	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.boards.ie/vbulletin/forumdisplay.php?f=99
Cibus Mentis.ie	http://cibusmentis.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.cibusmentis.ie
Democracy Matters	http://www.democracymatters.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.democracymatters.ie/
Elections Ireland.org	http://www.electionsireland.org/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://electionsireland.org/
Fianna Fáil	http://www.fiannafail.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.fiannafail.ie/
Fine Gael	http://www.finegae.ie	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.finegae.ie/

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Future Matters	http://futurematters.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.futurematters.ie/
Green Party	http://www.greenparty.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.greenparty.ie/
Jason O'Mahony	http://jasonmahony.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://jasonmahony.ie/
Labour	http://www.labour.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.labour.ie/
Law Society	http://www.lawsociety.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.lawsociety.ie/
Lawyers for Seanad Reform	http://lfsr.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.lfsr.ie

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Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in Abolition of Seanad Éireann and Court of Appeal Referendums Collection
Ógra Fianna Fáil	http://www.ogra.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.ogra.ie/
Political Reform	http://politicalreform.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://politicalreform.ie/
Political World	http://www.politicalworld.org/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://politicalreform.ie/
Politics.ie	http://www.politics.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.politics.ie/
Referendum Commission 2013: Seanad & Court of Appeal	http://referendum2013.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://referendum2013.ie/
RTÉ News	http://www.rte.ie/news/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.rte.ie/news/
Sinn Féin	http://www.sinnfein.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.sinnfein.ie/

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Sluggertoole.com	http://sluggerotoole.com/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://sluggerotoole.com/
Socialist Party	http://socialistparty.net	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.socialistparty.net/
The Cedar Lounge Revolution	http://cedarlounge.wordpress.com	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://cedarlounge.wordpress.com/
The Journal.ie	http://www.thejournal.ie	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.thejournal.ie/
Twitter: SeanadReform	https://twitter.com/SeanadReform	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://twitter.com/SeanadReform/
Worker's Party	http://workerspartyireland.net/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://workerspartyireland.net/

Abolition of Seanad Éireann and Court of Appeal Referendums: Web Archive Collection
 Collection of websites relating to the Referendum on the Abolition of Seanad Éireann and the Referendum on the Court of Appeal, both held on 4 October 2013

Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in Abolition of Seanad Éireann and Court of Appeal Referendums Collection
Young Fine Gael	http://yfg.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.yfg.ie/

The Children Referendum: Web Archive Collection

Collection of key websites relating to The Children Referendum held on 10 November 2012

Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in The Children Referendum Collection
Barnardos	http://www.barnardos.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.barnardos.ie/
Boards.ie	http://www.boards.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.boards.ie/ https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.boards.ie/
Campaign for Children	http://www.campaignforchildren.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.campaignforchildren.ie/
Children's Rights Alliance	http://www.childrensrights.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.childrensrights.ie/
Christian Solidarity Party	http://www.comharcristai.org/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.comharcristai.org/

Department of the Environment	http://www.environ.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.environ.ie/en/



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Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in The Children Referendum Collection
Department of the Taoiseach	http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/
Éirígí	http://www.eirigi.org/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.eirigi.org
Fianna Fáil	http://www.fiannafail.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.fiannafail.ie/

Fine Gael	http://www.finegael.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.finegael.ie/
Green Party	http://www.greenparty.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.greenparty.ie/
Human Rights.ie	http://www.humanrights.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.humanrights.ie/



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Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in The Children Referendum Collection
Iona Institute	http://www.ionainstitute.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.ionainstitute.ie/
Irish Election Literature	http://iriselectionliterature.wordpress.com/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://iriselectionliterature.wordpress.com/

		https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://irishelectionliterature.wordpress.com/
ISPC	http://www.ispc.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.ispc.ie/landing
Labour Party	http://www.labour.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.labour.ie/
MerrionStreet.ie	http://www.merrionstreet.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.merrionstreet.ie/
Parents for Children	http://www.parentsforchildren.eu/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.parentsforchildren.eu/index.html



The Children Referendum: Web Archive Collection

Collection of key websites relating to The Children Referendum held on 10 November 2012

Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in The Children Referendum Collection
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Political World	http://www.politicalworld.org/forumdisplay.php?f=131	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.politicalworld.org/forumdisplay.php?f=131
Politico.ie	http://politico.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://politico.ie/
Politics.ie	http://www.politics.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.politics.ie/
Sinn Féin	http://www.sinnfein.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.sinnfein.ie/
Referendum Commission	http://www.refcom.ie/en/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.refcom.ie/en/
Referendum Commission 2012: Children Referendum	http://www.referendum2012.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444*/http://www.referendum2012.ie/

The Children Referendum: Web Archive Collection

Collection of key websites relating to The Children Referendum held on 10 November 2012

Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in The Children Referendum Collection
Socialist Party	http://www.socialistparty.net/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.socialistparty.net/
TwoRightsNow.org	http://www.tworightsnow.org/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.tworightsnow.org/
Worker's Party	http://www.workerspartyireland.net/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.workerspartyireland.net/

Fiscal Stability Treaty Referendum: Web Archive Collection

Collection of key websites relating to the Referendum on the Fiscal Stability Treaty held on 31 May 2012

Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in Fiscal Stability Treaty Referendum Collection
Austerity Treaty.ie	http://www.austeritytreaty.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.austeritytreaty.ie/
Brian M. Lucey	http://brianmlucey.wordpress.com/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://brianmlucey.wordpress.com
Leave the Euro; Vote No	http://leavetheeurovoteno.com/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://leavetheeurovoteno.com/
Political Reform.ie	http://politicalreform.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://politicalreform.ie/
RTE News	http://www.rte.ie/news/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.rte.ie/news/
Sluggor O'Toole	http://sluggerotoole.com/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://sluggerotoole.com/

Fiscal Stability Treaty Referendum: Web Archive Collection

Collection of key websites relating to the Referendum on the Fiscal Stability Treaty held on 31 May 2012

Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in Fiscal Stability Treaty Referendum Collection
Stability Treaty.ie	http://www.stabilitytreaty.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.stabilitytreaty.ie/
The Journal.ie	http://www.thejournal.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.thejournal.ie/
Vote No 2012	http://www.voteno2012.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.voteno2012.ie/

Judges' Remuneration and Oireachtas Inquiries 2011 Referendums : Web Archive Collection

Collection of key websites relating to the Referendum on Judges' Remuneration and the Referendum on Houses of the Oireachtas Inquiries, both held on 27 October 2011.

Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in Judges' Remuneration and Oireachtas Inquiries Referendums Collection
Referendum Commission 2011: Judges' Remuneration & Oireachtas Enquiries	http://www.referendum2011.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.referendum2011.ie/
Politics.ie	http://www.politics.ie/	https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/*/http://www.politics.ie/