



**Tithe an
Oireachtais**
**Houses of the
Oireachtas**

Education Programme

VOTING

YOUR VOTE

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Voting is an essential element of democracy. Resident Irish citizens aged 18 and over can vote at all elections – Presidential, Dáil, European and Local. Your vote is important. It is your constitutional right to vote.

Sometimes just a handful of votes can make the difference. In the general election in February 2011 in the Galway West constituency Seán Kyne from Fine Gael was elected to the fifth seat in that constituency with a margin of just 17 votes. On the 13th Count he had 9,112 votes and his nearest challenger, Catherine Connolly (Independent) had 9,095.

But in the May 2002 general election the result in one constituency was even closer. In the Limerick West constituency there was just one vote separating two candidates! However, not everybody uses their vote at an election and if just a couple of more people turned out to vote, the result could have been completely different!