



Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality

February meeting

THE IRISH CONSTITUTION

Dr. Catherine Day,
Chair to the Assembly

Why this Assembly was called?



Article 41.2 – ‘Women in the home clause’



Article 41 - The Family

- 1.1 The State recognises the Family as the natural primary and fundamental unit group of Society, and as a moral institution possessing inalienable and imprescriptible rights, antecedent and superior to all positive law.

- 1.2 The State, therefore, guarantees to protect the Family in its constitution and authority, as the necessary basis of social order and as indispensable to the welfare of the Nation and the State.



Key focus for February meeting

- ‘Women in the home’ clause:
 - Keep, Delete, Replace?
- Recognise and protect non marital families?

Aim: to agree Ballot paper for voting in April



What is sequential voting?

- Sequential voting is where the next vote depends on the outcome of the previous vote.
- Sequential voting was done by the previous Assembly on the Eighth Amendment.



Example of Ballot on Constitution from previous Assembly

Ballot 2:

Do you think Article 40.3.3 should be repealed (i.e. deleted and not replaced) or replaced or amended?

	<u>Mark X in one box</u>
Option 1 - Article 40.3.3 should be repealed (i.e. deleted and not replaced)	
Option 2 - Article 40.3.3 should be replaced or amended	
Prefer not to state an opinion	

If a majority votes in favour of Option 1 proceed to Ballot 4A.

If a majority votes in favour Option 2 proceed to Ballot 3.



Example for Feb – ‘Women in the home’

Question 1

A. Retain

B. Simple deletion

C. Delete and replace

**If a majority votes A or B, then no further voting
If the majority votes C, then the vote continues to...**



Example for Feb – ‘ Women in the home’

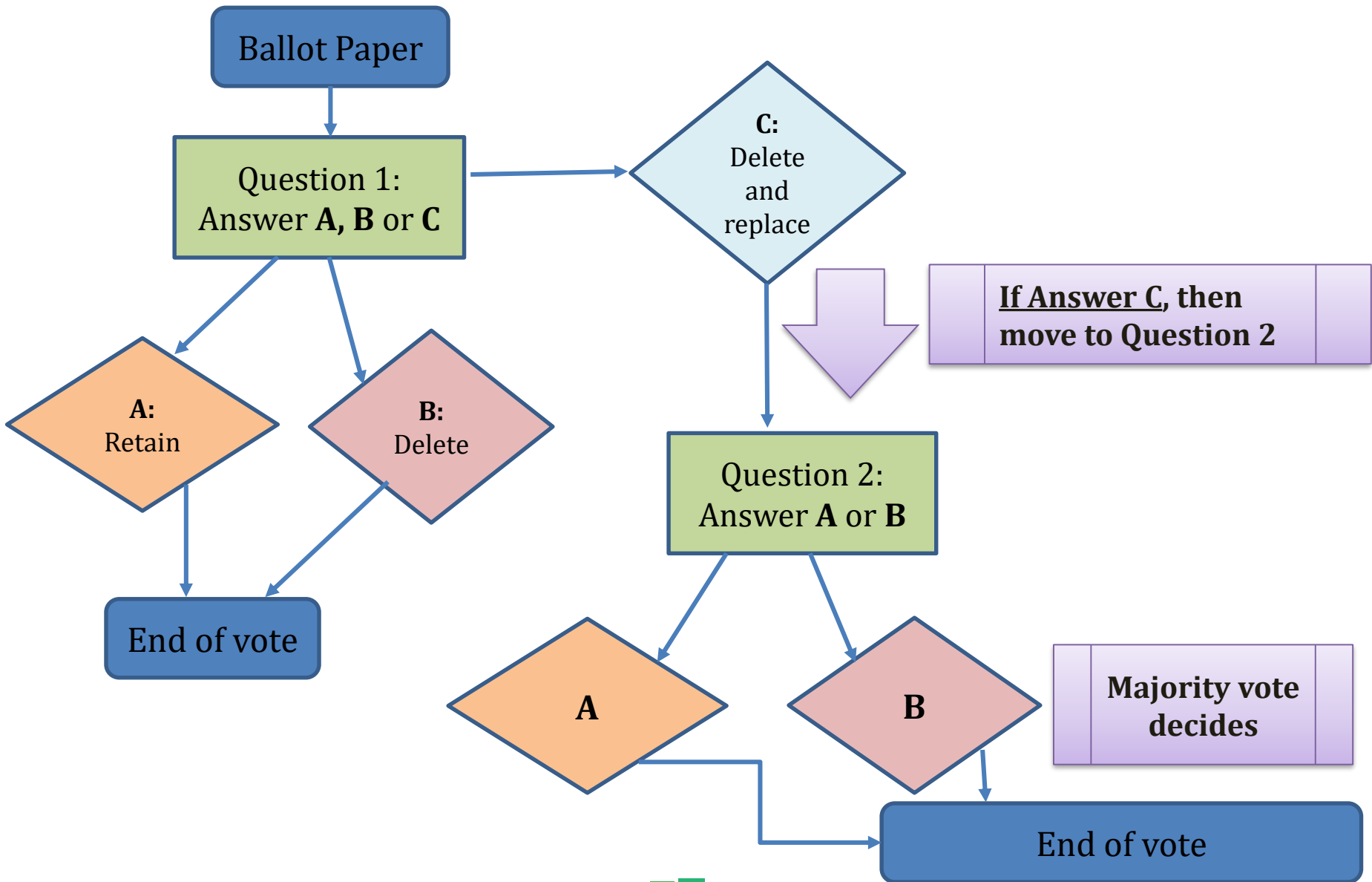
Question 2

If you voted C. to question 1, please choose option A or B below:

A. Replacing the text of Article 41.2 with X

OR

B. Replacing the text of Article 41.2 with Y





Approach to 13 February meeting

- Videos available in advance
- Paper in advance including draft questions for ballot paper
- Breakout groups to discuss these questions
- Legal experts available to answer questions at meeting
- Discussion of main issues in plenary format



Outline of 13 February meeting

- Aim: to agree what to vote on in April
- You will not be required to finally decide or vote on your position until voting in April
- You will be asked to agree the ballot paper on these constitutional issues



Other changes

- Slightly larger breakout groups
- Several plenary sessions during day
- Slightly longer day : 10 am -15.45
- One hour lunch break
- No feedback video recording after the meeting