

#EVG

EqualityVotesGalway

Local Elections 2019

My Values = My Vote

A range of local organisations including Galway City Community Network, Galway City Partnership, Galway Traveller Movement, Amach LGBTI+, Cope Galway, the Bridge Project, the Disability Federation of Ireland, Access for All and the Galway Anti-racism Network are working collaboratively to ensure that *equality is at the heart of local representation*.

By adopting the three values underpinning the manifesto developed at a national level by the Community Platform - community, decency, participation - the #EqualityVotesGalway Taskgroup have developed this manifesto calling on all local candidates to ensure equality is at the heart of *their* representation.

We want a local government that **VALUES DECENCY**. This includes progressing decent work, decent accommodation, decent transportation, and decent services for all in a healthy environment. Local government workplaces should be inclusive and reflective of the wider communities they serve.

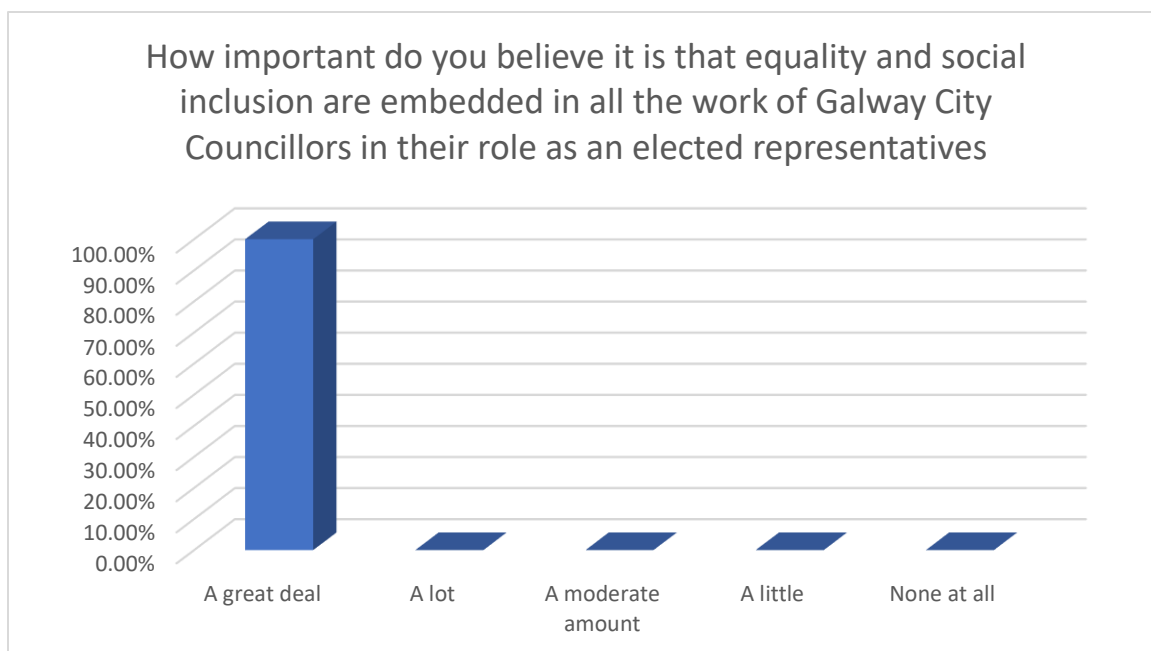
We want a local government that **VALUES COMMUNITY**. This means supporting community, responding to diversity, combating inequality, and fostering creativity

We want a local government that **VALUES PARTICIPATION**. This means making decisions with the meaningful involvement of and for the benefit of people who experience inequality and poverty

Community	Decency	Participation
<p><i>This means:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● people looking out for each other and having a sense of belonging ● communities that are welcoming, inclusive, and nurturing ● building communities that are socially, economically, culturally, and environmentally sustainable 	<p><i>This means:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● valuing people’s shared humanity and human dignity, and having mutual respect ● compassion and mutual support ● everyone having a quality of life, with their needs met and a capacity to choose the life they wish to lead ● decent work, accommodation and services for everyone 	<p><i>This means:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● people speaking up and having a say, with their views being heard and valued ● different voices and the perspectives of different groups in society having an influence to advance equality, social justice and sustainability ● active engagement in decision-making, rebalancing of power in this process, and investing resources to support this engagement



The following #EqualityVotesGalway priorities reflect and will serve to give implementation to these three values



Social Inclusion, Local Development and Community Development

The #EqualityVotesGalway Network believe that Galway should be a city that listens, where there is meaningful participation of all communities in the decisions that affect their lives that goes beyond consultation and is without tokenism. An antiracist city that recognises, celebrates, promotes and values diversity. A safe city with 24/7 crisis intervention for those with mental health difficulties. A city that is universally accessible and user friendly where we plan by design and utilise the wealth of knowledge of all our people, particularly young people, children, and older people. If elected, we expect you to:

- Ensure the full implementation of the Galway City LCDC Equality and Human Rights Statement and extend implementation beyond the LCDC to all areas of Galway City Council, including the Council itself;
- Show leadership and courage in the face of competing interests, ensuring inclusion for communities and groups that face exclusion, protect their interests and tailor policies to their needs;
- Ensure that funding through the small grants schemes is made available to marginalised community groups;
- Ensure support for the LGBTI+ community, one of the most under-resourced communities in Galway City, by ensuring ongoing support for Teach Solais, as a critical intervention for a very marginalised community;
- Promote anti-racism and anti-discrimination practices;
- Actively support the Traveller community to vindicate their rights;
- Promote the full implementation of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of People with Disabilities;
- Support the development and implementation of a community safety strategy.

Housing and Accommodation

The #EqualityVotesGalway Network believe that Galway should be a city without homelessness, with an adequate, affordable, sustainable supply of universally accessible, quality housing and appropriate accommodation for all who need it, including Travellers. If elected, we expect you to:

- Champion a declaration of a homelessness crisis in Galway City and a Homeless Action Plan;
- Champion the development of an overarching Housing and Accommodation Strategy;
- Ensure the implementation of a culturally appropriate Traveller Accommodation Plan and the draw-down of all available funds for Traveller accommodation;
- Ensure the timely turn-around of vacant social housing units;
- Ensure that there are adequate and timely responses to the maintenance needs of local authority accommodation.

Recreation and Amenity

The #EqualityVotesGalway Network believe that Galway should be a city where everyone has access to local, accessible and inclusive recreational facilities and amenities, enhancing the lives of those who use them and contributing to the physical and mental health of all in the community. A city where facilities are developed in full consultation with all in the local area, especially those who are often excluded. If elected, we expect you to:

- Recognise children's right to play and the right of all to appropriate recreation and amenity facilities;
- Ensure that all recreation and amenity facilities are fully accessible to all;
- Provide funding to subsidise access to all local authority facilities for families that cannot afford access;
- Ensure ongoing funding for park wardens;
- Ensure that existing Biodiversity and Blue/Green spaces are protected and enhanced including the creation of additional Wildlife Corridors and promoted as accessible recreational facilities for all.

Planning, Transport & Infrastructure

The #EqualityVotesGalway Network believe that Galway should be a city where all policies, plans and processes are future proofed, inclusive and participatory with good urban land use planning and well-connected regional development which balances priorities between those who live here and those who commute in and out of the city. A city of universal accessibility where all people can access services and facilities. A city with a pedestrian-friendly, cycling friendly, disability friendly and child friendly infrastructure. A city where healthy choices are easy to make. If elected, we expect you to:

- Carry out equality assessments/equality proofing on all plans;
- Ensure social impacts of planning are considered;
- Ensure that planning takes place through a cultural lens
- Ensure planning includes the needs of the Traveller community and other ethnic minorities;
- Ensure that relevant communities are consulted with at a relevant stage and their participation is sought in relation to planning;
- Ensure all new developments have community facilities built in;
- Increase the number and safety of cycle lanes in the city;
- Ensure that there are bus shelters at all bus stops;
- Provide innovative ways to ensure that people in direct provision can access public transport free of charge;
- Increase the number of controlled traffic crossings throughout the city;

Accountability and Transparency

The #EqualityVotesGalway Network believe in participatory democracy as complementary to representative democracy. If elected, we expect you to:

- Familiarise yourself with GCCN's **Guidelines for Successful Community Engagement: Galway City Community Network Policy on Participation, Representation and Consultation**¹ and support their implementation on an ongoing basis;
- Respect and support the contribution from the Community, Voluntary and Environmental sectors on the Local Community Development Committee, the Strategic Policy Committees, the Joint Policing Committee and the Galway Sports Partnership, including equal treatment for representatives;
- Commit to meetings with GCCN and the #EqualityVotesGalway Network twice a year to discuss progress on the commitments contained in this Manifesto.



¹ <https://galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/GCCN-Guidelines-for-Successful-Community-Engagement.pdf>