

#EVG

#EqualityVotesGalway

General Elections 2020 Manifesto

My Values = My Vote

A range of local organisations including Galway City Community Network, Galway City Partnership, Galway Traveller Movement, AMACH LGBT Galway, Cope Galway, Threshold 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 candidates standing for election in Galway West to ensure equality is at the heart of **your** representation.

We want a national government that VALUES DECENCY.

This includes progressing decent work, decent accommodation, decent transportation, and decent services for all in a healthy environment.

We want a national government that VALUES COMMUNITY.

This means supporting community, responding to diversity, combating inequality, discrimination and racism, and fostering creativity.

We want a national government that VALUES PARTICIPATION.

This means making decisions with the meaningful involvement of and for the benefit of people who experience inequality and poverty.



EUROPEAN UNION
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Department of Rural and
Community Development

An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail



Clár Gníomhachúcháin Pobail
agus Cúlmeirí Sóisialta



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My Values My Vote

We expect that, if you are elected as a TD for Galway West, you would commit to the following areas:

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 anti-racist 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 adopt a participative planning process and utilise the wealth of knowledge of all our people, particularly young people, children and older people.

- 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;
- Safeguard budgeting, expenditures, ring-fence revenues and set priorities for initiatives that strengthen human rights, equality, inclusion and accessibility;
- Expedite the implementation of the Public Sector Duty in full as set out in the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act (2014);
- Establish a Joint Oireachtas Committee on fully implementing, resourcing, monitoring and reviewing the United Nation Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, UNCRPD with the required levels of multi-annual funding to protect the rights of People with Disabilities;
- Support the convening of an inter-agency group to progress implementation of the National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy 2019-2021 and ensure adequate resources for the LGBT community in Galway with a focus on achieving a sustainable funding stream for this service for Teach Solais LGBT+ Resource Centre to act as a hub for the development of supports and services to the community;
- Commit to the enactment of strengthened Hate Crime, including Hate Speech legislation;
- Commit to the development of a new approach to the asylum seeking process including the introduction of a fair, transparent, supported and timely asylum process and an end to for-profit models of direct provision;
- Commit to the development and implementation of a National Action Plan Against Racism and the re-establishment of a National Anti-Racism and Intercultural Committee;
- Develop concrete action plans and allocate sufficient budget to fully implement the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021;
- Implement fully the key recommendations of the Joint Committee on the Key Issues affecting the Traveller Community;
- Support the full implementation of The Future of Policing in Ireland at both a national and local level;
- Commit to community policing based on real community engagement with an equality focus;
- Introduce a state insurance scheme for organisations and groups in the community, voluntary and environmental sectors;
- Advocate for the ending of the commissioning/procurement model for social inclusion services and supports;
- Address income inequality and ensure access to decent work and supportive employment services for those most distant from the Labour Market;
- Support increased resources for communities that experience educational disadvantage and address the disproportionately low levels of school enrollments, academic achievements and progression, at all levels of the education system;
- Expedite the adoption of the Traveller Culture and History in Education Bill 2018 to be in line with the Convention and relevant international human rights standards;
- Commit to and implement the Education Sustainable Development Goals.

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We expect that, if you are elected as a TD for Galway West, you would commit to the following areas:

Housing and Accommodation

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

- Commit to the recognition of housing as a basic human right and support a referendum for this to be enshrined in the constitution;
- Champion a declaration of a homelessness crisis in Galway City and County;
- Champion the development of an overarching Housing and Accommodation Strategy in Galway;
- Commit to develop and implement a Youth Homeless Strategy specifically for 18 to 25 year-olds;
- Ensure the implementation of a culturally appropriate Traveller Accommodation Plan and the draw-down of all available funds for Traveller accommodation;
- Ensure that publicly owned land is used for building programmes that will result in a mix of social and affordable homes and affordable rental scheme homes;
- Expedite the implementation of the Housing First model to end the current crisis in homelessness;
- Implement introduction of minimum BER standards in Local Authority social housing stock as part of a retrofit programme;
- Commit 7.5% of social housing in Galway to accessible housing for people with disabilities;
- Commit to building lifelong accessible housing that meets universal design standards, reflects the changing needs of a person or family and can be accessed and used by all people regardless of age, size, ability or disability;
- Increase funding for housing adaptation and mobility aids grants and promote awareness and the uptake of this scheme including landlords in the private rental sector;
- Reverse the decline in the number of people living in the city centre by reinforcing existing city centre communities and plan new city centre sustainable communities to achieve a living city;
- Accommodate a significant proportion of the population growth target in the National Planning Framework for Galway city in sustainable communities within a 15 minute walk of Eyre Square;
- Commit to a review of the Housing Assistance Payment;
- Proactively enforce new short term letting legislation which requires planning permission for lets.

Climate Action, Recreation and Amenity

The #EqualityVotesGalway Network believe that Galway should be a city where Climate Action is prioritised, and a climate emergency declared at a local level. We 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.

- Ensure the full implementation of The National Climate Action Plan 2019 To Tackle Climate Breakdown;
- Establish a clear implementation plan in relation to timelines of The National Climate Action Plan;
- Support the passing of the Climate Action Bill when it comes before the next Dáil;
- 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;
- 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.

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We expect that, if you are elected as a TD for Galway West, you would commit to the following areas:

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.

- Advocate for additional resources for the planning department to enable it to plan the sustainable development of the city to accommodate the growth of 50% in the city's population;
- Advocate for the preparation of statutory Local Area Plans for the Harbour Lands, the regeneration area on the east side of Eyre Square, Nuns' Island, the Headford Road south of the Bodkin junction (including the Dyke Road car park & Black Box), Sandy Road lands in public ownership, lands at Murrough and Roscam;
- Carry out equality assessments/equality proofing on all plans;
- 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 where cycle lanes are segregated from traffic and not be shared with pedestrians;
- Ensure that there are bus shelters at all bus stops;
- Advocate for a feasibility study on a light rail system;
- Provide innovative ways to ensure that people in direct provision can access public transport free of charge;
- Provide basic zebra crossings every 30m to 50m on Galway's streets to give pedestrians priority over vehicular traffic;
- Ensure public vehicles comply with universal design standards and promote the use of accessible vehicles to private transport companies;
- Fund not-for-profit transport services who provide essential door-to-door services to older people and people with disabilities;
- Create a new travel subsidy scheme for people with disabilities.

Health

The #EqualityVotesGalway Network believe that all citizens have a right to equality in relation to the provision of health care and ancillary services.

- Implement the full recommendations of Sláintecare with agreed budgets and timelines;
- Commit to the allocation of resources to fund older people and people with disabilities to stay in their own homes through the increased allocation of Home Help hours;
- Implement the motion passed by the last Dáil that recognised the rights of people with disabilities to a Personal Assistant Service;
- Commit to the introduction of the right to a Homecare Package on a statutory basis;
- Support increased resources for communities that experience higher health inequalities;
- Advocate for adequate mental health and wellbeing services in Galway.