



**D I R E C T
D E M O C R A C Y
I R E L A N D**

A National Citizens Movement

2016 General Election Manifesto



**A New Democracy
A Stronger Ireland
Equality, Opportunity, Sustainability**

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Direct Democracy Ireland
A National Citizens Movement

Published by:
Direct Democracy Ireland.

Publication Date:
Jan 2016

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It is an honour and a privilege to lead Direct Democracy Ireland into the 2016 General Election, potentially the most important General Election in the history of this state. A role, I have accepted with humility, excitement and with a profound sense of duty. I joined Direct Democracy Ireland because of what I believed it can do for our country, and more than ever I believe that Direct Democracy provisions are the only future safeguards for Irish Citizens.

We, in Direct Democracy Ireland have faced many challenges on our journey to date, but we all share a common vision for our country, and while we are all firm in our objectives, we will be flexible in our approach so as to encourage the People of Ireland, individually and groups, our fellow political parties and others to strive to implement a policy of returning the provisions of Direct Democracy to our Nations Constitution.

With the objective and vision of a Direct Democracy system being held in common with the National Citizens Movement and ourselves and alongside many like-minded ideas for better Governance, it is with great pleasure that I announce the joining of the two groups into one political force that will be known as Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement). Our ever increasing membership is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of the members of this Great and exciting new movement. Not since the Civil war have the People of Ireland come together to forge a new way forward, for a real and meaningful change from a system that has concentrated power that has always been controlled by an elite few to the detriment of Irish Society and its people at large. We look forward to a bright future where political and democratic power ultimately rests with the People of Ireland.

We are a new Political movement, we are young, but we are strong, we will stay the course and strive to improve by learning from the past and collectively building from a firm foundation upon which we will create together real change for our Nation and our People's future.

Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement) must concentrate its focus on the welfare of the People of Ireland, with particular attention to the most vulnerable in our society who have been abandoned by successive Governments and who have to endure the harshest austerity measures ever experienced by the people of this country.

Due to uncertainty regarding the makeup of future governments, the possibility of various coalitions, there is no guarantee any party will be able to fulfill their election promises. The only way for the public to have legislation implemented directly and for the general public to modernise our constitution is by Direct Democracy which is very successful in other countries. A finding of the Irish Constitution convention, by a large margin of 83%, was to support a call for a referendum on returning Direct Democracy to our Constitution. Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement) will present to the People of Ireland a genuine and realistic alternative to the current system of governance in this General Election of 2016.

We will work with our critics who obviously understand the Provisions of Direct Democracy but choose to snipe from a distance. Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement) will always be willing to form alliances with others if it's in the common good of the people in order to set about real and meaningful change.

Our drive is born of a determination to achieve a society of equals, a society that encourages collective decision making, and a society that empowers the People of Ireland and gives them a system of Government that is based on transparency and accountability and has the ability to deliver a better future for all. An Irish Society based on the needs of our community not on the economy, ultimately a drive to empower our Society to create an effective form of self-determination by having the ability to defend ourselves from those who may wish to enslave us.



A vote for a Direct Democracy Ireland A National Citizens Movement Candidate is a Vote for Direct Democracy, A New Democracy, and A stronger Ireland.

Pat Greene
Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement), Leader

I am delighted to announce the coming together of the National Citizens Movement (NCM) and Direct Democracy Ireland (DDI). All the members of the NCM look forward with great excitement and enthusiasm to the coming months working together with all the members of our new Movement now known as Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement). We are bigger stronger and better prepared than ever before, to face into what could arguably be the most important general elections of our country's history. I and many other members of the NCM have worked closely with many political activists from DDI over the last number of years.

We have worked together in the courts supporting families facing eviction. We have marched together against Water Charges Property taxes and all severe austerity measures that this Government has imposed on the Irish people. We have stood together side by side at local protests supporting residents trying to prevent water meters being installed against their wishes. We have worked very hard, together getting the truth out to the Irish people, on social media of what is really going on in this country. We cover the stories the private media and RTE won't cover, like the dangers of the TTIPP agreement, the danger to our health of fluoridating our water, exposing the unfairness within the judicial system to name but a few.

So it was no surprise to me that what started out as friendship and a shared common purpose (to oppose austerity and injustice in all its forms) has now turned into a strong political partnership that can become a major political force in Irish politics.

Never before in my 52 years have I felt such a powerful anger amongst ordinary people against not only this Government but successive Governments, an anger against politicians who have failed to represent the will of the people and a political system that is broken, a justice system that treats bankers and developers like gods and people facing eviction and the homeless like criminals. A health system that treats the sick and old no better than a third world country, leaving people on waiting lists to die and patients on trolleys suffer, an education system that is slipping way down the world rankings over the continuous lack of investment. Never before have I seen that anger within people organise itself, bring whole communities onto the streets, bring many more new Independent politicians and new parties into existence of which we are one. No one can argue that this is the greatest political awakening ever in Irish history, there are more people protesting on the streets and politically active than ever before.

History will be made at the next election. We at Direct Democracy Ireland want to be part of that history and that can easily be achieved if you the people put your trust in yourselves not politicians. What we are offering is to give you the power the Irish people and the political system you deserve after years of treachery, a system of Direct Democracy that gives the people the power for the first time to hold Governments to account, Which will ensure never ever again will we be forced to take on an odious debt, that was the "Bank Bail Out" a debt that was never ours in the first place.

By Returning the provisions of Direct Democracy to our constitution the Irish people could have the power to veto Government legislation you don't like or agree with. But the good news doesn't stop there. The hunger for Direct Democracy is growing throughout the country. With two new campaigns established "Reinstate 48" and the 1Year Initiative, both calling for people's initiated referendums and all working closely together with more sitting TD's signing up by the day.

Like The National Citizen Movement, Direct Democracy Ireland has also signed up the Right2Change movement which offers the Irish people a real and credible alternative anti-austerity Government that will put our people first with a costed budget plan to rid Irish society of Irish Water and Property tax and to fix many of the things that are really hurting Irish people in Health Housing and working in a job that pay below a livable wage.

The hunger amongst the people of Ireland for political change is at starvation levels and my advice to you the Irish people is feed that hunger and vote for a Direct Democracy candidate and take back your democracy and continue your votes along the line of Right2Change and 1Year Initiative candidates to give yourself a new Government that will put people first.

Alan Lawes

Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement), Meath



Introduction:

Our current system of Governance is **Representative Democracy**, whereby citizens elect individuals who should make decisions on our behalf on the back of election promises, promises that never seem to materialise. This system has failed the people of Ireland. We in DDI will introduce a political system of Governance in order to return power where it rightfully belongs, with we the People, so all citizens of our nation have an equal say in how the future of our country is forged.

The Irish People have a historic choice before them. Together, on polling day, we can vote to change the direction of our Nation, for a stronger Democracy for a New Ireland. We are a dynamic country with the prospect of a great future. It is also a country with many challenges. Working together, standing shoulder to shoulder our collective abilities will far outweigh our problems. Having elected Government's on promises of changes to Irish Politics, we, the Irish People should never elect their like again. Politicians have always asked you to trust in them, to trust their promises, which as you know have always been broken, we ask that this time you to trust in yourselves as we trust in you to do the right thing given the opportunity under Direct Democracy.

In this General Election DDI will be offering a change to the current system, to a more fair and accountable way of governing, something alien to this country since 1937 when the provisions of Direct Democracy were removed from the Irish Constitution. Direct Democracy Ireland are not about Left or Right politics it's about People, and Balance, DDI aims and objectives are to return the power, to where it belongs, with you the People.

A common complaint about representative democracy is that it creates a distant class of law-makers, elite who will often collude with other elites and vested interests, or become so detached from the lives of the general public, that they will make decisions that the public do not support. By contrast, in a Direct Democracy system, such corruption of decision-making is impossible if every citizen is an equally powerful participant in the process.

We in DDI along with the Sovereign People of Ireland are seeking the Constitutional Power to veto new legislation, initiate new laws and amendments to our Nations Constitution using People-initiated Referendums, in contrast to the current system of Government only initiated Referendums.

Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement) also known as DDI, was set up to be a new and positive political influence in today's modern Ireland. DDI will not simply regurgitate the same tired and unproductive antics offered by traditional politicians and will offer new solutions to solve old problems. One of the main failings of our society is how it deals with challenges from health to crime to social inequality a system that has a tendency towards treating the symptoms while ignoring the cause, this leads to ever increasing associated costs and problems that are never fully resolved.

DDI wish to change all this. We will strive to find the best and brightest ideas from home and abroad in order to achieve the best outcomes for the Irish people and to actually solve the problems of society instead of sweeping them under a carpet of government money.

Unfortunately and historically the established political parties in this country are embedded, and dependent upon perpetuating the existing broken system to guarantee their own survival. Furthermore we have continued to put our faith in those within the political elites and dynasties to solve the problems they themselves created in the first place. As Einstein once said: "You can never solve a problem on the level on which it was created" This statement rings true in today's Ireland and only a complete overhaul of the current political structure will enable us to change the direction from where we have come and in which we are heading, working together we can build a stronger Democracy. To simplify, our current system, it's like driving a Bus with a Broken wheel, but we don't fix the wheel we just keep changing the driver.

Ireland today is run by a political, social and economic way of thinking that has not changed in decades, and it has repeatedly failed us. Its failures are caused by a system that is flawed. Corruption, nepotism, and social collusion are endemic. The system is run by, and benefits the political elite riddled with family dynasties going back generations. Under the control of the party whip system we the voters are only offered candidates from this controlling group. It is not in their interest to run the country in a fair and just manner, hence current national and local policy reflects only the interests of those in control. This must change.

Through our own efforts and many others on social media our society is becoming acutely aware of an untouchable elite in this country whose sphere of influence spreads across government, senior civil service, the legal profession, banking, and corporate interests, including media. The message that the people receive is a carefully constructed one designed to limit the scope of debate within the parameters beneficial to the interests of the ruling group. Alternative solutions that threaten the power of the elite and might actually work in the interests of the population as a whole are generally not allowed to even discuss in the main stream media. The likes of our own Ben Gilroy and Anthony Connor have successfully supported people in the courts for years now, but this gets little or no mention. In DDI we will give an airing to all possible solutions from all sections of society without fear or favour, each investigated on its merits, not on hearsay, nor government spin.

If we want Ireland to become the best country for our children and grandchildren to live in we must stop repeating mistakes. DDI will not be restricted by political traditions or universally held political beliefs, or by general consensus, based on deliberately restricted information. If there are new solutions to old problems within our country then DDI intends to unlock those ideas.

We can no longer rely on a political class with vested interests to make choices for us and expect them not to act in their own self interest. A nation where the government controls the people is a failed nation. In a just and free nation the people control their government. This is the main driving principles of DDI. Government controlled by the people for the benefit of the people through a system of inclusiveness maintained by direct democracy. By returning to the provisions of Direct Democracy the people are the government and so it falls upon the people to guard our country justly for Equality, Opportunity and Sustainability for all.

Anthony Connor, Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement), Louth

Health:

Direct Democracy Ireland would like to create a new model for health in Ireland, a model where priority is placed on finding and curing the real causes of illness and disease. Replacing the current model where the vast majority of emphasis and cost is directed towards simply treating symptoms.

Our current health system measures its success by how many patients it treats in a defined period. The more it treats the more successful the health service. We believe the opposite is true. A properly functioning health service will see numbers of patients fall year on year as fewer people become ill or diseased. This can be achieved by eliminating the causes from all sources be they environmental, medical, food and drink, or lifestyle, and by taking responsibility for ones own health.

To adhere to the principle of personal sovereignty and freedom of choice DDI must pursue a fully inclusive health strategy that does not restrict or bar health treatment choices and embraces conventional western medicine, natural medicine and alternative healing methods, as well as the right not to participate in prescribed medicine.

We wish to put equality back into what has become a two tier health service with the slow and steady privatisation and parallel running down of our public service. We see vested interests at play in the corporatisation of our health and believe it is not in the people's best interests to be beholden to a health 'industry'.

We need radical changes to make health run on the basis of wellness rather than sickness.

- ⊗ State funded Universal health Service for all adopting a best international practice model E.G. the Canadian system.
- ⊗ Lift recruitment embargo on front line staff: healthcare's, technical staff, domestic and cleaning staff, catering staff, secretarial staff and support staff (not managers).
- ⊗ Recruit nurses and doctors immediately to return to 2008 level of staffing.
- ⊗ Move all private beds to private hospitals as the public finances lose out when there is a cross over.
- ⊗ Open all closed wards.
- ⊗ Open all closed theatres.

- ⌘ Increase carers allowance and support recognising the huge role carers provide to sick and dependant relatives.
- ⌘ Increase access to emergency mental health support to reduce suicide risk in all ages and especially younger people.
- ⌘ Increase accessibility for diagnostic services to primary care eg GP access to CT and MRI.
- ⌘ Develop a strategy where payment follows results, and results are based in health not illness.
- ⌘ Develop patient discussed healthcare with patients choosing development and change, guided by healthcare professionals.
- ⌘ Suspend HIQA pending review of its decisions and actions to date.
- ⌘ Suspend national children's hospital city site in favour of green field site as favoured by patients and relatives.
- ⌘ Require immediate workforce plan draft from HSE regarding staffing for the future to link in with forward planning education.
- ⌘ Reverse all FEMPI (Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest) cuts to primary care. The rationale is that healthcare absence costs more than its presence through time off work, time not productive, time not earning, diagnostic machine "down time", risk to ability to finance family, home, mortgage, extra people on sickness benefit or dole, extra people needing state housing, QUITE apart from the human misery it causes. These changes fund themselves but from a different budgetary stream as it were...
- ⌘ Demand a "zero tolerance" policy from every emergency department regarding patients on trolleys.
- ⌘ Recruit to 2008 levels of staff and ambulances.
- ⌘ Develop and implement a three year plan to end waiting lists.
- ⌘ Review consultant contracts to ensure move toward consultant and senior doctor-led care
- ⌘ Develop 24/7 approach to treatment and care facilities.
- ⌘ Demand all hospitals implement discharge planning starting day of admission.
- ⌘ Increase nursing home placements back to 2008 levels and beyond.

Ireland is on the brink of a major Mental Health crisis, The total numbers of people who die by suicide is higher than the combined numbers of people who die by Murder or who die in road traffic accidents, the Government are far too reliant on Voluntary organisations and ignore the seriousness of the issue, without these invaluable organisations like SOSAD, Pieta house, The Samaritans, Aware, Teen line, Child-line, Living link, Console, Reach out, Spun-Out, and many more Direct Democracy Ireland believes that mental health issues should be treated like all illnesses and treatment should be made ready available. And all Voluntary organisations in this area should be eligible for state funding.

Direct Democracy Ireland supports The National Ambulance Service Representative Association (NASRA) and their call for an end to cuts, savage cuts that have undoubtedly caused lives.

There are currently 1,121 people employed in the ambulance service in Northern Ireland covering six counties compared to 1,550 in the Republic covering 26 counties how can this be right on any level. Direct Democracy Ireland will insist on the number of people employed in the ambulance service to be doubled over the next term of Government. Source; SIPTU health division organiser.

The simple fact is that in the health service there are not enough frontline staff, ambulances or enough fully operational stations, putting the lives of people at risk daily, in the early days of austerity the Government said there would be no impact on frontline service, but this is clearly not true. The facts will prove that Staffing issues are being compromised by austerity.



Education:

The Irish education system has often been touted here as one of the best in the world. That may or may not be true but there is no point in being highly rated if the system rating criteria are not designed to measure the right attributes. This is our main concern in DDI. The general feeling is that standards have been slipping over recent decades. Complaints have come from colleges and industry that people leave school unable to think for themselves, they need telling to do everything. This is the key problem. We need to change the way we educate to foster independence of thought, not dependence upon instruction. We need people with new ideas not system thinking, and we cannot achieve this unless we change the way we educate. Currently we don't 'educate', we 'school', i.e. we teach children 'what' to think not 'how' to think. We teach them that repeating what you are told leads to success. That non-conformity will be punished or ridiculed. That authority must be believed and obeyed regardless of whether it is right or wrong. In essence the system is designed to create obedient little citizens to carry out the functions of the State. We cannot fix Ireland with this thinking. We need to create a generation of people who think differently.

A new, system where children can discover and develop their natural talents, whatever they are, not measure them all to the same standard. We must recognise that everyone is different and happy to reach their potential at whatever skill and level they choose. After all we need people of all academic and skill levels to make society work and all are equally valued. We can not continue to rate and fund schools by the number of children they force into taking the college rout when better options may exist for many students. We must remove the influence of corporations on how we educate. Our system is prioritising what it teaches to cater for a limited number of industries requiring a certain group of skill sets. Make these available to those who want them but don't force children into careers that are not their chosen field. This is hand in hand with the broadening of the industrial base in Ireland.

We need to broaden the range of information and opinion in our schools and colleges to widen the narrow perceived reality we are given. We will look at replicating some parts of the German system where a targeted number of apprenticeships in different skilled trades are targeted each year.

We all learn differently and have different skills, some cerebral, some practical, so methods for measuring success must adapt as you cannot rate a dog by its ability to climb a tree. Many people are just not suited to examinations. We have recently been propagandised that college leavers are benefiting from earning higher wages and so should pay back the college fees. College should not be exclusive to those who can afford it. Educating the population is essential for a booming economy. The biggest beneficiary is the State and the economy. It gets back many multiple of what is invested in the student when they are working. College education should be available to all who want it and when we have career alternatives to the pushing students into college who aren't suited then the system will have a lower drop out rate.

We need to sell Ireland around the world as a centre of education excellence. This is a great way to attract revenue from fees and research investment into colleges.

We can achieve this by introducing;

Primary

- ⊗ Free books.
- ⊗ Free transport.
- ⊗ Open nationwide Breakfast clubs in public schools to offer breakfast and lunch to children.
- ⊗ Freedom to choose uniform supplier ie parents can source uniform from anywhere.
- ⊗ Move to electronic and online books and reference mate

Secondary

- ⊗ Same as primary
- ⊗ Tertiary
- ⊗ State will fund all tertiary education academic fees for first degree
- ⊗ State will establish "uk style" student loans to assist with cost of living, repayable at maximum 5% income taken via revenue ONCE EMPLOYED AND EARNING OVER 20,000 a year. Written off after 20 years
- ⊗ State will 100% fund certain tertiary education grants for jobs it needs, to assist with cost of living- but tied to set periods of work for state services eg student nurses will receive a state income non-repayable as long as they then avail of a state guaranteed HSE job for tree years at the normal nursing wage. If they default eg leave the country, the whole amount is repayable.
- ⊗ This to apply to all third level education for approved state required jobs (health, education, etc).
- ⊗ The state will provide student accommodation at low cost and require the third level institutions to oversee and manage local arrangements
- ⊗ Teachers and class sizes in primary and secondary education
- ⊗ Class sizes will immediately be dropped to the EU norm, and all recently Irish-qualified teachers will be given substantive appointments to achieve this. As above teachers who complete their training in Ireland will have their training paid for as well as receive a cost of living subsidy in return for availing of a guaranteed substantive employment for three years in state education.

- Every euro spent on primary and secondary education returns some 100 fold in savings later. This from improved contribution to society, to the economy, in productivity, and work, in ideas and entrepreneurship. And in reduced costs of crime, including the massive cost to the state for every individual who ends up in jail as a result of a life of crime. Successive governments have failed completely in this regard working to a 5 year political timescale. People, and in this case, children, do not exist to a five year timescale. Countries which invest in children and young people's education reap the rewards and even have to close prisons due to a lack of customers...

Direct Democracy Ireland A National Citizens Movement will insist on a complete reversal of the government's move to phase out the Junior Cert as its going to have a detrimental effect on the quality of secondary education which is a vital stage in the education of every student. This will have a knock-on effect at tertiary/third level as has been mentioned in paragraph one.

A complete re-evaluation needs to be done regarding the subjects taught at primary and secondary level with a move towards more problem-solving, creative and practical subjects. This will lead to independent and innovative thinking. For instance:

- ⌘ Entrepreneurship should be taught as a subject as it will lead to a more self-reliant workforce and would greatly reduce Ireland's over reliance on multi-nationals to create jobs.
- ⌘ Nutrition and cooking should be taught in all primary and secondary schools to educate students on how to live a healthy lifestyle and would hugely reduce the budget needed for the health service.



Justice:

Direct Democracy Ireland A National Citizens Movement's aim is to create a society where there is equity in the law and justice for all. At the moment this is not the case. An, untouchable class exist in Ireland who are above the law unless they are brought to heel by their own peers. Justice dealt in the courts is dubious at best and is out of the financial reach of most. It is also under the monopoly control of a very expensive private society with their-own rules. This monopoly is unhealthy.

The justice system appears to be designed to intimidate anyone outside the BAR and this along with its many rules is the reason why most people fail in court. We need to make the arbitration of law a simpler, affordable, more user friendly service. The creation of law must also be reviewed in that we have seen legislation passing the Oireachtas seemingly repugnant to the Constitution and our human rights. It must be put back on a foundation that people understand, the difference between right and wrong. People need to be educated that their responsibility to each other not to cause harm, loss or injury is the basis of their choices in life as it must then be the basis of law. Only then will people understand the law. People do not understand a million clauses in thousands of Acts. People do not want or need to be regulated in every aspect of their lives. We need educating in the basics of responsibility for our actions in the interests of the common good.

With Direct Democracy reinstated we can design a template that will work and that will stop us running headlong down the same road as the UK and worse still the US where policing and regulation are utterly intrusive and invasive in people's lives. People there are now treated no better than cattle, and we do not want that here. We must remember in the Centenary year of the 1916 easter rising we are sovereign people and free to live here unimpeded as the proclamation announced. "We declare the right of the Irish people to the ownership of Ireland and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible"

Crime starts with social injustice. We need to reverse this growing trend where the gap between rich and poor is expanding. People in disenfranchised groups need peer representation at all levels of governance to give them a voice in solving this issue. We need to remove the reasons for gang culture. Take away their income streams. Even if this means legislating to de-criminalise their products to make the gangs' power base irrelevant, Invest in ideas that make crime pointless. Create a social system where people don't need crime to survive. Give people back their pride in their community and responsibility to maintain it.

DDI are very uneasy of hearing about serial rapists being let free, of dedicated burglars reoffending on bail, and of decent often elderly citizens being sent to jail for trivial offences- as well as the raft of evictions and anti-citizen assaults on democracy and freedom of speech which have been drifting in.

The current legal system is seriously flawed by a lack of "equity" (that is, true "justice", or a sense of right and wrong). It is hampered by paper based and case law restrictions which whilst essential for most ordinary cases, do not provide adequately for "equity".

DDI will reintroduce an ages old concept of a court of equity (originally a Chancellors court). This will be presided over by a panel of randomly selected citizens rather like those selected to perform jury service. Their role will not be to judge on the conformity of a case to existing case law, but rather whether a decision was "right" or "wrong" in the eyes of the ordinary person. This new court will hear appeals and be the highest court in the land, with a rotating panel, and will seek to redress the balance of justice toward that recognised and acknowledged as such by the ordinary citizen not just the banks or the big corporations.

The appointment of new judges will be removed from the political arena completely as will the appointment of the president. The appointments process for both will be reviewed to ensure impartiality and probity.

We recognise that for many incarcerated in our prisons, a life of crime has become almost inevitable given either mental health, social or educational problems including illiteracy. We will introduce as a matter of urgency a plan to eradicate illiteracy from all those with sentences under three years, and seriously seek to integrate them into society on their release subject to strict criteria and penalties upon re offending.

In DDI we acknowledge that recreational drugs are a serious and growing problem for justice, crime, health and society in general. We will instigate a serious countrywide debate on how best to reduce the supply of drugs as well as reduce the numbers of people both providing and using them. This will include new options hitherto not publicly discussed such as life sentences for drug dealing at one extreme, to legalisation and state provision with state registers of users at the other. By removing the "political scoring points" from the options we will have a true open and frank society-wide debate on drugs and DDI will implement the best solutions, chosen by the people.

We will recruit Gardai back to the 2008 numbers, and review a long term strategy for the force. DDI respect and commend the oath Gardai take and will help emphasise the importance of this guiding statement of protection of the people to new recruits as well as existing Gardai.

The closure of rural stations has been a disaster and increased massively the number of homes burgled, as well as reducing the likelihood of rural criminals being apprehended and charged. DDI will reopen the majority of rural stations after appropriate consultation with rank and file Gardai and the Garda Sergeants Association who represent the Gardai closest to the coalface.

An Garda Síochána

The promotion methods within the force will be scrutinised independently to ensure all Gardai have an opportunity for advancement, and the methods of whistle-blowing will be reviewed and enhanced with appropriate protection for those blowing the whistle.

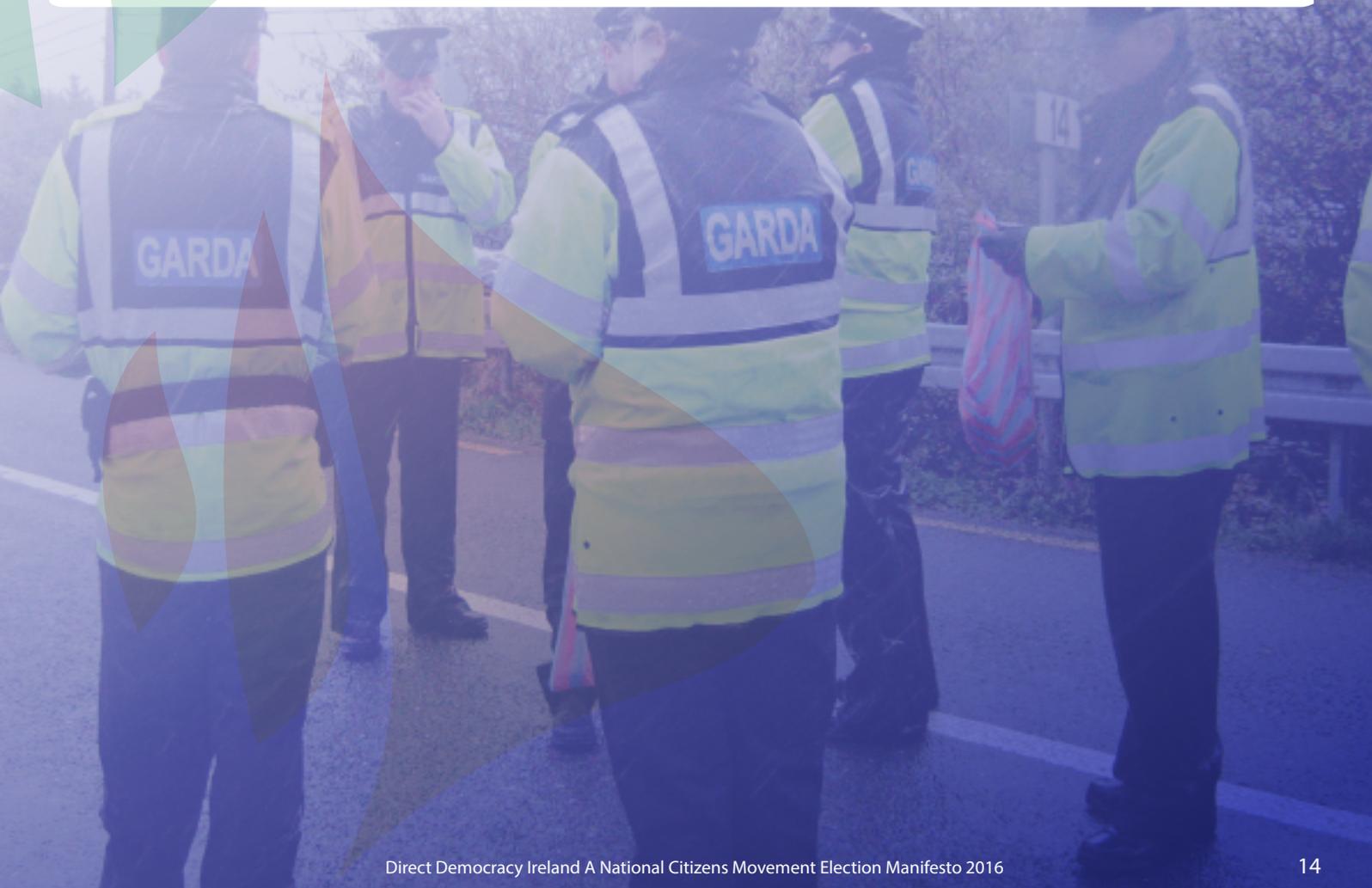
The rank of superintendent upwards is mostly by political appointment this system needs to be abolished, Appointments to sergeant can be based on favouritism rather than ability. There needs to be an external panel outside of An Garda Síochána to adjudicate on appointments. That is why moral is so bad because all the office staff are in management and they lack the ability of real policing. Some Gardai are now accountants on budgets rather than crime fighters. DDI agree in relation to reserves that they should get extra points towards the real job when doing the interview as a reward for service. Maybe adopt the English system of community officers ie police support officers they do lots of jobs like patrolling and policing marches events etc. These are paid by the police but at a lower rate. These support officers are acceptable to the English policing unions. The Gardai do not accept working with reserves willingly, If you are a €40k a year carpenter would you train someone who is doing your job for free the answer is no because you the worker would be laid off when u have trained the free worker. DDI believe the solution to this is, Many Gardai reluctantly have to retire after 30 Years service DDI would like to see those who would like to be re-hired as Radio room operators, as station office staff or even as fines and warrant officers have that option. This means you have experienced Gardai in your call centres radio rooms etc.

The Garda Reserve

The Garda Reserve was established by the introduction of the The Garda Síochána Act 2005. Their introduction was rushed by the then Minister for Justice Michael Mc Dowell and implemented without the agreement of the Garda Representative Association (GRA). Since its establishment the reserve force have failed to reach their full potential because of the lack of a proper agreement with the GRA. The force now has approximately 1,500 members. At present the Reserve members are partially trained volunteers who are deployed on duty under the supervision of their full time colleagues. While their volunteer contribution is very welcome their powers are very limited and their contribution could be far better utilised covering for their colleagues in the station carrying out lots of mundane clerical duties such as stamping passports that keeps lots of our fully trained and experienced Gardaí off our streets.

As a party we are fundamentally against any sort of jobsbridge or Volunteer reserve scheme replacing full time workers with volunteers who are being exploited rather than rewarded. But seen as many of these volunteers are already in place we would suggest the following proposal to be agreed with the GRA:

1. Reserve members will be returned to clerical duties in our Garda Stations releasing their fully trained and experienced Gardaí back onto the streets.
2. Reserve members will be rewarded for their great sense of civic duty by being automatically accepted into the main force or to remain on paid full time clerical work after they have served their probationary period and passed their medicals successfully.
3. Over the course of the next Dail the reserve force will be phased out and be replaced by full time members and clerical officers.





Environment:

Ireland is currently locked into a European wide energy policy that aims to link us with Europe in a grid. How will this benefit Ireland? Our energy needs are not high, but it will ensure Europe and UK can access energy generated here in Ireland, but unfortunately at the cost of our environment and our people.

Direct Democracy Ireland A National Citizens Movement is:

- ⊗ Calling for a Preference for renewable energy and defence of the environment.
- ⊗ In favour of underground cables instead of Pylons.
- ⊗ Against Fracking in any shape or form.
- ⊗ Calling for the Removal of fluoride from water.
- ⊗ Calling for the Reduction in use of pesticide, herbicide and fungicide and move toward organic farming.
- ⊗ Calling for the Banning of Genetically modified food.
- ⊗ Calling for the Reassessment of windmills as they are a blight on the landscape and we have concerns in regard to who benefits.
- ⊗ Direct Democracy Ireland see our energy resources being sold off to private investment companies without any recourse to the people or any income coming back to us. We would like to see this reversed. We believe that the ownership of our resources is a right. The stewardship of those resources should be to the benefit of the Irish people only
- ⊗ Our oil and gas should be developed by Ireland itself with our own expertise in the field. We want development of resources to be in line with social and environmental concerns and benefit our people. Revenue should be reinvested in a sovereign fund to develop Ireland's infrastructure and meet social needs.

We also aspire for energy independence for Ireland. Be that by oil and gas or by new energy technology that is fast coming on stream. The new technologies offer better, cleaner, safer long term solutions for local power generation. Local power generation removes the need for vast grid systems. We want Ireland to be at the forefront of this technology and gain independence from corporate interests. Revenue from oil and gas should also be used to develop new energy sources to make oil redundant except for manufacturing products.

Control of our own resources will give Ireland a huge trade tool with UK and Europe.

Water is also a natural resource and is in abundance. We believe, as with the health service, our public water supply has been deliberately talked down through state corporate media and poorly invested in to propagandise the myth that privatisation can save us and work efficiently.

Return the oil and gas to the ownership of the people and safely develop it with our own expertise as a national asset as has been done in Norway

- ⊗ Government tells us we can't do it ourselves but that is not true. Irish oil workers are worldwide. We have indigenous oil companies that work all around the world. There is huge expertise in oil and gas here and all we need is the will to set it up like Norway did.
- ⊗ Declare all resources, mineral, forestry, sea, air to be property of the Irish people.
- ⊗ Resources to be managed by and for the long term benefit of the Irish people rather than sold off for short term gain.

Direct Democracy Ireland is against fracking for shale gas anywhere in Ireland.

- ⊗ The experience of fracking to date in other countries has been of the gravest environmental and health concern.
- ⊗ Water tables are being polluted.
- ⊗ Countryside is being destroyed.
- ⊗ Human, animal and plant health is suffering.

Direct Democracy Ireland A National Citizens Movement is strongly opposed to any plans for the pylon grid, destroying Ireland's countryside just to supply energy to UK and EU.

- ⊗ No account has been taken in the economic argument for the cost to our tourist industry by destroying the very beauty spots that sell Ireland worldwide.
- ⊗ No account has been taken in the economic argument for the cost to our health service for future related illnesses.

We have questioned the blight effect of windmills around the country for the same reasons and that they are heavily subsidised and un-economic.

There is a danger to bird life.

They are being placed here by private contractors at no benefit to Ireland for foreign export for which we receive no benefit.

They are only for energy generation to UK and Europe because the planning laws in UK will not allow for this kind of environmental destruction, whereas our corrupted and politically subverted planning system is allowing this.

Direct Democracy Ireland is opposed to any water tax (Irish Water).

- ⊗ Water is a right and a basic element of life and as such cannot be sold for profit or.
- ⊗ Water is a right and a basic element of life and as such cannot be disconnected for non payment.
- ⊗ Water has been paid for by the people through general taxation since the state was founded. Hence this is simply paying twice.
- ⊗ We are totally against any water metering program now or in the future as it would leave the water system open to privatization.
- ⊗ We are all in favor of supporting the Right2Change 10 point plan but not the Rio Agreement

Removal of (Hydro-Fluoride Silica Acid – H₂SiF₆) from our water supply.

- ⊗ The policy of adding a medication to the water supply is unethical and breaches a multitude of human rights charters and legislation. For that reason alone it must be stopped as it has been in every other European country.
- ⊗ The mounting evidence of the damaging health & side effects of this chemical also invokes the precautionary principle as a matter of urgency.

Protecting the environment is a high priority and any decision we make in any other area of policy making should be measured against this. We must ensure that whatever we do, we leave the county better than we found it for the good of the next generations.

The Government, the planning authorities and the EPA have been known to turn a blind eye to many incidences that destroy our environment, especially where large corporations are involved. Pollution of the water table, de-mineralising soil, killing off wildlife, air pollution, hazardous chemicals used in farming and other industry. There are many more and the culture of sweeping it under the carpet must be stopped.



Food/ Farming/ Agriculture/ Fisheries

We believe that Ireland should become far less reliant upon imports and reinvest in home grown industry to produce the essentials. It seems ludicrous that Ireland imports basics like paper, timber, sugar, basic clothing and even wellingtons in a farming community. We should be able to do the basics for ourselves and the domestic economy will benefit. We must not lose the manufacturing base and become over reliant on service industry.

Food is our major field of expertise; we have the perfect country to grow it. Yet we are importing vegetables from abroad. This is nonsensical. We should be the organic centre of Europe. We have the capability to supply the whole of Europe with green clean food and be self sufficient.

Protecting Ireland's reputation and respectability as a quality food producer. Irish farm produce is one of our main exporters it is a mainstay of our economy both domestically and internationally. We are very good at it and we have the best land and weather in the world for the industry to thrive. So rather than forcing people off the land we believe that we in Ireland should do what we do best and take pride in it.

Rightly or wrongly Ireland has a reputation around the world as a green nation with clean food. This is a brand that Ireland should and can use to its advantage. We can build on that global brand to make us the 'go to' place for organic clean healthy food. Not only would this give us an extremely valuable slice of the food market but it would make for a healthier population.

A change in farming mentality is necessary to reverse the now 98% of farming that is dependent on herbicides, fungicides and pesticides. Once this trend is reversed we will see economic and health benefits to people and the environment. The depopulation of bees due to intense farming methods should be warning enough to make the change. Imagine what is doing to us?

We must also make better use of our excellent growing land much of which is left idle due to the way CAP is structured. This must be re-examined as a huge swathe of CAP funds are being funneled into the pockets of a wealthy elite who own vast tracts of land and have to do nothing with it to claim the CAP benefits without farming. It is in effect a money laundering trick that needs to be addressed

Many new crops could be very advantageous to farmers and the economy, when we think of all the industrial, food, health applications of hemp as just one example we see there is need to investigate new ways to open up new markets

We need to clean up our food and water if we are to avoid a health catastrophe here. People need educating to eat healthily, avoid processed food, and cook for themselves. These skills are not being passed on in the last generation.

We would like to see certain health problems being solved by removing their cause from the food chain and so we should insist that the harmful additives known to be in our food and water are removed.

In line with doing what we are good at we would like to see the re-emergence of our Atlantic fishing fleet. We currently only catch 2% of the fish caught in our own waters. This is the bargaining chip that the government and the EU do not like to mention when talking about good deals for Ireland. We believe this is an inordinate loss to our economy and the sustainability of life in the west of Ireland. We do not believe it is a good idea to hand over ownership of our continental shelf to the EU and thus our rights to fish. We believe Ireland has the skills to operate a world class fishing and food industry to boost the western economy. These EU quotas must be revisited and or more drastic measures might be necessary. Develop Ireland into the organic centre of Europe, building on the global green brand.

Grow larger percentage of organic food for home and export market.

Reduce the use of harmful pesticides fungicides and herbicides to achieve organic status.

Use natural horticultural methods for improving yield.

Keep Ireland GMO free, including imports.

Remove fluoride from water as it enters the food supply

Reform CAP to incentivise good land use and stop the CAP money laundering to vast land owners who don't farm

Making better use of the swathes of unused land with new crops or forests.

Use sustainable methods of forestry that allow other life and soil regeneration, as opposed to the soil stripping dead forests we currently grow and clear fell

Opening up a huge new economic growth area by growing and processing hemp

A whole new industry can start here in Ireland making everything from building materials to clothes, medicine to food, oil to paper, all from the one plant that grows more economically than any plant it competes with.

Export of hemp products, boost the economy.

Growing of hemp in lieu of a reformed CAP.

Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement)

35 Point Manifesto

1. Return the provisions and practices of Citizen Initiated Referenda to Ireland, via National Referendum and to enshrine this inalienable right in the current National Constitution (Bunreacht na hÉireann), through restoring and amending to modern Legal Standards Articles 47 & 48 from the 1922 Constitution of the Irish Free State. This is to create the situation whereby proposals approved by the people are implemented as a matter of course.

To provide the people of Ireland an alternative to the current model of governance which will ensure that election promises are kept and that the interests of the people of Ireland are the deciding factor in all decisions of the government.

To have the provisions of Direct Democracy as contained Articles 47 & 48 of the 1922 Irish constitution duly amended to modern standards and re-instated by a Referendum of the Sovereign Irish People of Ireland to our current National Constitution, (Bunreacht na hÉireann).

To revoke the present statutory powers of the Ireland's Finance Minister, the Department of Finance and that of the Irish Central Bank.

To create the situation whereby the Sovereign People of Ireland chose their own representatives via a consultative process in local communities, and are truly represented by their government.

To create the situation whereby a Government of Ireland is truly accountable for their actions.

To create the situation whereby the current arrangement of political parties in opposition to each other and employing the party whip system to enforce the party line becomes obsolete.

2. Put forward for consideration via Referendum to the People of Ireland a proposed Bill of Rights to include Fundamental Rights, Civil Rights and Social Goals.

Contrary to what many believe, we actually have very little or no rights, our courts and Government on a daily basis deny us what constitutional rights we currently have on issues from Health, education and justice, a formal declaration of the legal and civil rights of the people of Ireland is required as a necessity to bolster our actual constitutional rights.

DDI will establish an Independent National convention to Draft the Bill of Rights, Which should possibly include.

- ⊗ Right to Water.
- ⊗ Right to a Home.
- ⊗ Right to Health.
- ⊗ Right to Justice.
- ⊗ Allow people forced to emigrate from Ireland the right to vote.
- ⊗ Right to Education/Childcare.

The Government cannot introduce new Taxes or Laws without first getting the approval of the people.

3. Direct Democracy Ireland will call for the Maastricht, Lisbon and relevant Treaties to be revisited for the purpose of holding a referendum on Ireland's future within the EU/eurozone.

Membership of the EU's common market has had a profound effect on Irish employment trends. Many industries that used to be indigenous no longer exist here. Whole industries like sugar or paper have been replaced by imports. Our government concentrates all its efforts on steering us towards the IT, Pharmaceutical and financial services sectors.

Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement) is NOT anti EU/eurozone but we most definitely are Euro sceptic.

Were Ireland to withdraw from the EU, its subsequent relationship with the organisation could take several forms. A research paper presented to the parliament of the UK proposed a number of alternatives to membership which would continue to allow it access to the EU's internal market. These include remaining in the European Economic Area (EEA) as a European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member or a bilateral model along Swiss lines with a series of interdependent sectoral agreements.

The Irish people initially voted no to both referendums on the Nice and Lisbon Treaties. unconstitutionally, there were second referendums held on both of these issues, and it was then, following that the votes were swayed undemocratically in favour of the respective 'Yes' campaigns, With posters stating vote yes for jobs and the like, jobs that to this day have not materialised with unemployment at an all time high in Ireland and across Europe.

In relation to both the Nice and Lisbon treaties, the decision to force second referendums has been the subject of much scrutiny and widespread criticism. DDI firmly believes that the rejection of the Irish people's decision to vote no stands testament to the European Union's lack of regard for democracy and lack of regard for the right of the people in nation states to decide their futures.

Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement) desires a harmonious relationship with Europe and the EU. We do not however believe it is in the interests of Ireland to surrender to a Federalist agenda that has taken control in the current EU make up. All major parties in Ireland are unquestionably pro EU leaving an extremely large voter group disenfranchised. It is agreed that by 'sceptic' we mean that Ireland's legal, financial, trading and regulatory relationship with the rest of the EU and Europe will need to be reviewed at every level. This review will enable us to ensure that our relationship and dealings with the EU are in the best interests of Ireland and its people. DDI would support a Referendum to be held on Ireland's future with EU/eurozone on the same Date as the UK.

4. Direct Democracy Ireland will call for a full equitable and lawful investigation into the Irish Financial crisis of 2008 and the debt imposed on the Irish People by the EU/ECB/IMF and suspension of all payments until such an investigation is concluded.

Launch a full independent, international legal review of the bailout, which we hold to be an odious debt and illegal under international law. DDI believe that under international law and the Lisbon treaty bailouts are illegal. It is unlawful for a government to sell the birthright of a nation. The bailout is also unconstitutional under Bunreacht na hEireann article 6 which states: "All powers of government, legislative, executive and judicial, derive, under God, from the people, whose right it is to designate the rulers of the State and, in final appeal, to decide all questions of national policy, according to the requirements of the common good".

Since the bailout the Irish people have been forced into a disastrous situation financially, socially, and personally, which is clearly not according to the requirements of the common good. DDI intend to lawfully challenge the bailout on the above points and on any other lawful points discovered in the process of a review.

5. Direct Democracy Ireland strongly opposes the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership known as TTIP and the comprehensive economic and trade agreement known as CETA for being Anti-Democratic.

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a comprehensive free trade and investment treaty currently being negotiated – in secret – between the European Union and the USA.

Companies/corporations are intent on being included during the deliberations of new regulations and laws if their trade interests could be affected. The name for this is: "regulatory co-operation". It means that representatives of big business are invited to participate in expert groups to influence new draft laws, even before these are discussed in the elected parliaments. This undermines democracy!

The EU soon intends to sign two far-reaching trade agreements: one with Canada (CETA = Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement) and one with the USA (TTIP = Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership). The official line is that this will create jobs and increase economic growth. However, DDI is strongly opposed as the real beneficiaries of these agreements are not in fact citizens, but big corporations:

CETA and TTIP treaties will increase the power of multinationals at the expense of democracy and the common good. TTIP and CETA will be disastrous for Ireland and we must not allow them come to pass!

People lives are at risk when big corporations operate without controls in place the TTIP and CETA treaties aim to bypass any public concerns on health or economics.

6. Direct Democracy Ireland will seek a renegotiation of Ireland's EU membership fees, a percentage of all VAT collected from the Irish Tax payer is paid as a Membership fee.

Ireland currently pays an annual membership fee to be part of the EU these payments are on top of all moneys been paid towards the European financial crisis, Ireland is paying 42% of ALL European debts.

We pay these membership fees from all VAT collected hence the reason why our VAT is so HIGH!

7. Direct Democracy Ireland is opposed to any Evictions from the family home. We will demand an immediate halt to all such evictions and will amend the Land and Conveyance Act, known as the "eviction bill", and compel the banks to follow the existing guidelines to come to workable resolutions for all responsible and reasonable borrowers in financial distress.

Direct Democracy Ireland are not advocating that people do not pay their debts, payment arrangements must be adjusted to suit the reality in which Irish people now find themselves while releasing them from the pressures leading to depression, suicide and evictions. Ireland is The Irish People. The Irish People should always take priority over banks.

In November 2012 Spanish banks agreed to halt evictions of those in dire circumstances due mostly to protests and eviction resistance. Spanish Economy Minister Luis de Guindos said his government aimed "to introduce measures that ensure that no family acting in good faith will end up homeless because of the crisis. This is the commitment." Direct Democracy Ireland will similarly insist on a halt to evictions in Ireland to ensure that no Irish person acting in good faith will be made homeless, for a number of reasons.

Firstly, this crisis has been caused by the banks. If the banks hadn't destroyed the economy people would be able to pay their mortgages and wouldn't be defaulting. The Irish people bailed the banks out with billions of Euros. The banks were supposed to write down mortgages but still have not, and the banks are now making Irish people homeless. This is unacceptable, and it is very plain to see now that the banks will not compromise and that the Irish people are being appallingly treated by the banks.

Secondly, evictions are unconstitutional. Bunreacht na hEireann article 40.5 states: The dwelling of every citizen is inviolable and shall not be forcibly entered save in accordance with law. No person is permitted to enter a dwelling without either the permission of the occupant or in possession of a court warrant to evict, no such warrant exists. A court order for possession of the dwelling does not give permission for any person to forcibly remove families from their homes.

Irish people suffered the trauma of evictions for hundreds of years, it opens deep psychological scars hence the reason our forefathers gave us article 40.5 of our Constitution so we would not see the likes of the famine evictions again, and after supposedly gaining our independence and freedom evictions were unacceptable. Sadly we yet again find ourselves been evicted. Furthermore, it is apparent that there has been massive fraud involved in many mortgages. DDI will work with and support any groups investigating illegality in this area and working to bring the banks and financial institutions to account in this matter.

Bunreacht na hEireann article 41.1.1, literal Irish translation, states: The State acknowledges that the Family is the basic primary group-unit of/for society according to nature, and that it is a moral institution which has inalienable invincible rights which are more ancient and higher than any human statute. Bunreacht na hEireann does not mention banks at all.

The family is the primary unit of society and is therefore the most important aspect of Irish society. The banking sector is making Irish families homeless and causing Irish people, parents of children, to commit suicide. Therefore the banking sector and their practices regarding defaulting mortgage holders are unconstitutional and will be addressed to determine a solution which prioritises Irish people.

The Banks are currently taking possession of 4-5 homes a day, and have launched legal actions against thousands of home-owners struggling with arrears. The figures from the Central bank show various banks in Ireland have 1,588 repossessed homes on their books. We need the banks and the Government to get realistic, we need the Government to act in favour of the people for a change, it is fair to say the banks have had enough protection. It's now the turn of the people to be protected.

8. 10% Minimum debt relief on all Mortgages.

The crisis has been caused by the banks. The Irish people bailed out the banks with billions of Euros. The banks were supposed to write down mortgages but still have not; The Irish people are being appallingly treated by the banks. DDI will insist on a 10% Minimum write down on all Mortgages.

9. Debt Relief of up to 30% of mortgage payments for struggling families who cannot meet payments.

Payment arrangements must be adjusted to suit the reality in which people now find themselves while releasing them from the pressures leading to depression, family breakups, evictions and suicide.

10. Establish a National Housing Agency to provide much needed Social housing 10% of which must be made available as affordable housing.

At least 25% of the total housing required to be made available each year- from a mixture of new builds, existing state empty housing stock and state possession of vacant housing

11. The current status of Nationalisation of the banks to be continued. Controlled by the People

DDI will establish a review of the Bank in Ireland with a view to establishing a “peoples bank” owned by the state and run not for profit but for the benefit of the people of Ireland. The Public Banking system would be based loosely on the successful German system using the network of Post Offices and Credit Unions already in place to launch the system. This would also protect us from a future banking crisis as with the public system in place and not taking part in speculative banking they would be strong and plentiful enough that no Private Bank would be too big to fail.

12. Use vacant Houses in possession of Nama/Banks for the current social housing lists/homeless crisis.

A home of whatever standard should be a right. Nobody in Ireland needs to be homeless or at risk. There is no excuse for a housing list of many thousands of families when many tens of thousands of houses lie empty in the hands of NAMA and the Banks.

13. Tax/Fine banks and Local authorities on all Houses unoccupied for longer than four months.

Public authorities have an obligation to use all possible resources to confront the housing crisis

According to Figures there are currently 280,000 unoccupied houses in Ireland which means that there are 74 houses for every one homeless person in Ireland this is completely unacceptable.

Fines on banks will be aimed at forcing banks to make use of empty properties. Banks with unoccupied houses should have 4 months to find a tenant or face an additional charge of €10,000. If no action is taken after two months they should face another fine of up to €15,000.

Banks will think twice about evicting a family until that families housing needs are met.

14. Increase caps on rent allowance.

DDI will demand an increase in rent supplement.

DDI will demand rent certainty.

The gap between market rents and the rent supplement caps have been growing wider over the last 18 months. And with the Government's failure to raise rent supplements current rates will lock families into homeless services. The PRTB recently released figures that showed rents rose by 9.5% forcing many out of the rental market.

The current rent caps are not fit for purpose and with the Government's hands off approach the situation will only worsen.

The Local Property tax is a factor in rising rents. Landlords are not, rightly or wrongly absorbing this cost, they're passing it on to the tenant.

15. Direct Democracy Ireland will insist on 1.2% of GDP be spent on Childcare the current rate is 0.2%. The European average is 0.8%.

1.2% is based on the term of Government of 5 years, and with a structure in place start reduce it to the European average of 0.8%

Direct Democracy Ireland support adopting a best international practice model eg "Scandinavian Childcare"

Much can be learnt and adopted from the Nordic countries that have a long history of supporting investing in quality service which enable parents juggle their caring responsibilities and work life.

Direct Democracy Ireland will prioritise the development of quality, subsidised childcare and afterschool care for all children to support their development and remove barriers to work for parents. At the moment, services differ greatly in terms of quality and availability and they are far too expensive for parents forcing many out of the work force.

Direct Democracy Ireland fully supports and endorses the Hands up for Children Campaign.

16. Raise minimum wage in favour of a living wage to €11.50 per Hour.

Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement) also supports investigating the idea of a basic guaranteed income.

This may enable people to work at what they want to do rather than work to exist.

It may allow people to work for as many or as little hours as they choose to meet their own level of financial happiness. Hence it enables more people to be working.

It may remove the stigma from being unemployed in our current system as it given to everyone regardless of how much or little they choose to work to improve their standard of living.

It may remove the sense of indebtedness or slavery from the current system.

17. Abolish all Zero hour contracts.

When you consider we have a so called working class party as part of the government, you would think that Zero hour contracts would have been banned by now! But of course, this Government doesn't seem care less about the workers anymore! They're far more concerned about doing whatever it takes to hold on to power! And protecting the elite of the country.

The argument used by the business lobby for these contracts is that they provide businesses with flexibility. "Flexibility" in this instance is a code word for profit maximisation as workers on zero-hours contracts do not get sick pay, holiday pay or overtime.

The use of zero-hours contracts is especially popular in the retail and hospitality sector. McDonald's, a huge multi-national company making billions of dollars in profit each year, has over 90 per cent of its non-managerial staff in Ireland working on zero hours contracts.

Research shows, one of the most significant ways we can build a fairer and healthier society is by improving working conditions. Zero Contract hours leave it difficult to plan and budget for your daily life when you don't know when you'll be required to work and how much you'll be earning each week.

18. Abolish USC for all, Introduce a fairer system of taxation that will see that those who can pay more do.

USC was introduced in the emergency Budget of December 2010 as a temporary replacement for both the income levy and the health levy, or health contribution, and taxpayers became liable for it from 1 January 2011.

To abolish the USC without increasing income tax – is possible – the estimated €4 billion shortfall would have to be offset by increased revenues from VAT obtained by reducing our EU membership fee, corporation tax, and capital taxes.

20. Restructure the collection of Road Tax, to a more efficient and cost effective use of resources by absorbing it into the tax on motor Fuel. We will abolish the inefficient Road Tax System and identify part of the existing cost of fuel to replace the revenue stream.

Ben Gilroy of Direct Democracy Ireland first put forward this idea in 2013.

DDI has calculated a 1c per liter increase to abolish Road Tax.

With checks and balances that will allow for anomalies.

This will also stop the practice of;

- ⊗ Fraud, getting the car stamped the local gardai or switching ownership every few months to avoid paying the tax.

The army of public servant's who are in motor and tax offices collecting this tax, now that the driving licenses have been out sourced, would free up people to move to places where we do need staff. Also motor tax offices could be closed and sold or saving on expensive rent for these buildings.

It will also;

- ⊗ Be a fairer system, you use your car more, you use roads more, and you should pay more. The bigger a car the more petrol it uses so it would balance out.

Free up Gardai to concentrate on real crime instead of setting up check points to catch tax avoiders or chasing them down for nonpayment of fines arising from it, they can concentrate on real crime. We have dedicated courts for traffic offences, a very high percentage of offences are for no tax, big efficiencies to be made in this area alone.

- ⊗ Stop the inconvenience of paying car tax, the queuing up if you don't have a computer or you miss the payment date. A system of 'pay as you go' would be perfect.

The Government currently spends €600Million a year to dye Green Diesel and we lose approximately €125Million in State Revenue because of laundering. Not to mention the cost of the clean when Diesel sludge is dumped it would make more sense to have one Diesel at one price and allow businesses' checks and balances that will allow for anomalies.

Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement) would also;

- ⊗ Seek to Change the car insurance scheme to recognise best practice worldwide.
- ⊗ Option A: Insure car so that anyone qualified to drive can drive it under that insurance.
- ⊗ Option B: Insure the driver's ability so that they can drive any car insured.
- ⊗ Option C: A statewide non-profit group policy to cut costs.
- ⊗ Include NCT cost in insurance policy.

- ⊗ Huge saving in administration of insurance.
- ⊗ Cost of policing reduced.
- ⊗ Savings in customer costs as scheme not for profit.
- ⊗ Scrap VRT in line with EU directive.
- ⊗ Boost to car industry and associated industries.

21. Evaluation of all salaries and expenses of public representatives and politicians both past present to reflect the current economic situation. With a full Review of all pension payments.

The Taoiseach, The Tánaiste, every Cabinet minister, every single TD in the Dáil and senior civil servants working in this country are seriously over-paid.

DDI will demand an evaluation of all salaries, expenses, and pensions paid to all public representatives both past and present. With a view to cutting our cloth to measure.

22. Full review of requirements for companies and individuals submitting bids for public contracts. Accountability End cronyism, and companies and individuals that have bad track records should be excluded.

Companies and individuals submitting bids for public contracts should have a good track record.

Contracts should always be based on a best tender basis but we should always hire from within the state.

The planning authorities have in some cases fallen foul of political cronyism. We saw the results all too well with the development scandals around Dublin in the 1990s amongst many others. The worst offender possibly being the destruction of the world's best preserved Viking settlement to build the Dublin Corporation offices. This has not gone away and corporate political decisions are being made at planning level that ride roughshod over environmental, community and human rights still to this day. We must root out the culprits and put in people and systems that hold the tenets of good planning.

We must also remove the propaganda bias for urban against rural development. This has steadily depopulated our countryside and made ghost towns because generations of families cannot find a way to live in their home town due to planning restrictions. We need a balance to save these communities and our way of life from destruction.

23. Abolition of the Local Property Tax. (LPT). Abolition of Irish Water & Water Charges and Septic Tank charges.

DDI will seek the full abolishment of Irish Water, The Local Property Tax and Septic tank charges

Water is a right and a basic element of life and as such cannot be sold for profit.

Water is a right and a basic element of life and as such cannot be disconnected for non-payment.

Water has been paid for by the people through general taxation since the state was founded. Hence this is simply paying twice.

Irish water has once again proved itself to be yet another institution filled with political cronies on super salaries and is tantamount to a money laundering operation. This must end.

It is immoral and unjust to tax a family home the famous words from Enda Kenny DDI have campaigned vigorously against the Local Property Tax and septic tank charges.

We believe with so many struggling to pay their mortgages the Local Property Tax is the difference between having a roof over your head or not.

We have been lied to, most of the LPT collected is been used on the debunked Irish Water.

24. We will establish a publicly owned and run Water Board & Public Water Infrastructure which will oversee and provide Water Services financed from existing Taxation streams. We will also seek a Mandate by referendum for the People to enshrine their natural right to water in our Constitution.

Since the bailout the Irish people have been forced into a disastrous situation financially, socially, personally, which is clearly not according to the requirements of the common good, and state assets are been sold at fire sale prices which most defiantly is not in the common interest of the Irish people.

Halt the sale of state assets. Any contracts signed or sales completed in relation to state assets since the bailout will be treated as part of the original odious debt and fully investigated.

A referendum on water should also be broadened to include the municipalising of all natural resources in Ireland, not just water.

DDI fully endorse the Right2Change 10 point policy plan with the exception of the Rio De Janeiro declaration Article 18.8. In our minds this article threatens the people of Ireland with the possibility of future privatization and the loss of our 9.4 exemption. We will not now or ever agree to any type of domestic water consumption measurement eg; "Metering". Only 2% of Water usage in Ireland is domestic.

25. Permanent public ownership of ex-public (service & utilities) companies in strategic sectors for the growth of the country (railroads, airports, mail, ports, water, Gold, Zinc, E.S.B Gas/Oil) and other minerals.

Ireland is rich in natural resources. Much of these natural resources are being given away literally for nothing via contracts signed by amongst others an ex-minister subsequently convicted of fraud. DDI will launch a full, independent, transparent legal review of any and all such contracts.

26. Removal of (Hydro-Fluoride Silica Acid – H₂SiF₆) from our water supply.

The policy of adding medication to the water supply is unethical and breaches a multitude of human rights charters and legislation. For that reason alone it must be stopped as it has been in most other European country. Example: 90% of the ingredient in Prozac is Fluoride.

The mounting evidence of the damaging health & side effects of this chemical also invokes the precautionary principle as a matter of urgency.

To be used correctly Fluoride is not for ingesting, it is to be applied topically.

27. Retain the Current corporation Tax of 12.5%, Companies must comply fully. (No sweet-heart deals).

DDI will require all companies to actually PAY the 12.5% corporate tax rate which still represents a very attractable low European rate

28. We will introduce a progressive taxation system to help address the income inequality in our society so we can invest more appropriately in building the future for our children. We will require those who earn the most to contribute the most, and those who earn the least, to contribute the least.

DDI will introduce significant tax breaks however for high earners who demonstrably contribute to Irish Society either by providing a recognised essential service (eg manufacture) or by being a socially responsible good employer

29. Adoption of a 0.1% Tax on corporate financial transactions.

A 0.1% on corporate and financial transactions would yield huge revenue. Currently in the unregulated Shadow banking sector there are Investment Funds with assets of €1,634 billion.

30. Increase of subsidies for the unemployed. Increase social protection for one-parent families, Under 23's the aged, disabled, and families on low income

DDI will reverse the Labour Party/Fine Gael attack on the rights of the under 23's. They are being treated as second-class citizens by being paid less unemployment benefit/assistance than everyone else. This current policy makes no sense and is tantamount to forcing school and college leavers to emigrate. These people are our future and this 'brain-drain' needs to stop now.

31. Reverse all cuts to child benefit payments, cut all child benefits payments for those earning over €150,000 per household and an assessment all payments of child benefit been paid outside the state.

32. Reverse all Disability cuts, ie entitlement age etc.

33. On the Death of Irish Citizens abroad Repatriation will be funded by the state.

34. Reinstate the bereavement grant.

35. DDI will instigate a Referendum to be held to give Ireland's position on Neutrality constitutional protection.

This is required as a matter of urgency as Fine Gael in Government are on record as wanting to give away our treasured neutrality in place of a joint security pact with the EU. Also within the ever increasing Federal States of Europe there are increasing calls for the formation of a European Army, we can only avoid by constitutional protection.

It is with great pleasure, as the Founder and Honorary President of Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement), that I welcome this new Manifesto for the 2016 General elections.

I held the first meeting in a small hotel room in Dublin with group of friends and colleagues where I laid out an idea to set up a political Movement based on my experience of living and working in a country, that country being Switzerland, which has a Direct Democracy system and the benefits that it has bestowed on its People. Out of this meeting was Born Direct Democracy Ireland (DDI).

DDI and its members have stood strong and focused on the vision of a new Democracy, for a stronger Ireland, a Democracy that appreciates the need for change and the fact that we are a better Educated, Dynamic and technologically advanced People than we were almost a hundred years ago when we became a Representative Democracy.

I am very proud of the people who now drive this vision and have stayed true to its ideals.

The recent Joining of Forces of Direct Democracy Ireland and the National Citizens Movement I believe is a great leap forward and will make us a real force of strength in the upcoming election in the expectation of getting a DDI representative elected.

DDI were the first political movement in the history of the state calling for the return of Direct Democracy, a Democracy that our forefathers gave us in our Constitution of 1922 and has inspired a number of other groups in the call for its return.

The word is spreading and I believe it will soon become a political Tsunami of elected figures talking of and signing up to uphold and support the principles of Direct Democracy, and will be addressed in the Dail.

I believe we only need 'ONE' Elected Representative to bring this about.

The Constitutional Convention which was set up by the government voted 83% in favor of having a referendum on returning Direct Democracy to Ireland but this was suppressed and Ignored despite the clear message that was sent back to our Government

THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO IGNORE US IN 2016.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all candidates supporting the 1yi and the Reinstatement 48 campaigns the best of luck in the upcoming General Election of 2016.

Raymond Whitehead
Founder and Honorary President
Direct Democracy Ireland (a National Citizens Movement)





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IRELAND**

A National Citizens Movement



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