



# 2024 LOCAL ELECTIONS

## #YOURVOTECOUNTS

## COMMUNITY MANIFESTO

### #EqualityVotesGalway

A range of local organisations including Galway City Community Network, Galway City Partnership, Galway Traveller Movement, Amach LGBTI+, Shining Light Galway, United Women Galway, Universities of Sanctuary and Galway Communities Against Racism and Discrimination are working collaboratively to put **equality at the heart of local representation**.

The #EqualityVotesGalway Network have developed this manifesto calling on all local candidates to ensure equality is at the heart of **their** representation. The following priorities were identified by the Network as crucial.



### SOCIAL INCLUSION, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The #EqualityVotesGalway Network believes that Galway should be a city that responds to the needs of its communities especially those who are most marginalised. A city 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 actively promotes inclusion and that recognises, celebrates, promotes and values diversity. A safe city with 24/7 crisis intervention for those with mental health difficulties. A city that is universally accessible and user friendly where we plan by design.

This planning should draw on the experiential knowledge of all our people including seldom heard groups, such as young people, older residents, new and minority communities, disabled people and those groups who find themselves marginalised by society.





All local state agencies and public bodies Implement the Public Sector Positive Duty across all services and provide training on the Positive Duty, equality, and diversity for staff in line with their obligations under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014.

**If elected, we expect you to:**

- **Advocate for a Social Inclusion Officer to be appointed to Galway City Council;**
- **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;**
- **Actively support the Traveller community to vindicate their rights;**
- **Promote the full implementation of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of People with Disabilities;**
- **Support the development and implementation of a *Community Safety Strategy*.**



## **ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY**

The #EqualityVotesGalway Network believes in participatory democracy as complementary to representative democracy.

**If elected, we expect you to:**

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

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



## **HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION**

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

**If elected, we expect you to:**

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



## **RECREATION AND AMENITY**

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

**If elected, we expect you to:**

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





## PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND 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 pedestrian-friendly, cycling friendly, disability friendly and child friendly infrastructure. A city where healthy choices are easy to make.

If elected, we expect you to:

- Carry out equality assessments/equality proofing on all plans;
- Ensure social impacts of planning are considered;
- Ensure that planning takes place through a cultural lens;
- Ensure planning includes the needs of the Traveller community and other ethnic minorities;
- Ensure that relevant communities are consulted with at a relevant stage and their participation is sought in relation to planning;
- Ensure all new developments have community facilities built in;
- Increase the number, safety and convenience of cycle lanes in the city;
- Ensure that the presence and needs of people who walk and cycle are reflected in all road schemes and planning;
- Ensure that there are bus shelters at all bus stops;
- Provide innovative ways to ensure that people in direct provision can access public transport free of charge;
- Ensure adequate controlled traffic crossings throughout the city matching walking desire lines and valuing and respecting the time of people who walk or wheel;
- Provide raised zebra crossings at all roundabouts.



**GALWAY COMMUNITIES**  
AGAINST RACISM & DISCRIMINATION  
BUILDING COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY



Galway City Partnership  
Comhpháirtíocht Chathair na Gallímhhe



Galway City  
Community Network



Galway  
Traveller  
Movement



AMACH! LGBT  
GALWAY CLG

Universities of Sanctuary