

Joe Costello is an experienced and committed public representative. He has lived and worked most of his life in Dublin Central as a teacher, trade unionist and community activist. He has represented the people in Dublin Central at national and local level for many years as a Minister, TD and City Councillor. He is married to Emer and they live in Stoneybatter.

Joe is currently a Dublin City Councillor and Spokesperson on Urban Regeneration. He is working with local urban communities to make Dublin an attractive place to live and work.

Joe is working to improve Bus Connects and Metrolink so that Dublin can have quality public transport and safe cycleways without destroying communities and streets.

It is important that the people who represent you in Dáil Éireann have experience and commitment. Joe has a strong track record of delivering results for his constituents.

Joe is standing for election to Dail Éireann in Dublin Central and is looking for your No1 vote.







# THERE ARE MAJOR ISSUES FACING THE COUNTRY IN 2020:

## **HOUSING**

The housing and homeless crisis is a national scandal with the number of homeless people exceeding 10,000 in 2020. A new Dáil must declare a housing emergency, stop evictions, control rents and initiate social and affordable home building programmes.

### HEALTH

Waiting lists for patients are at crisis point. Record numbers of sick people are waiting for beds in our over-crowded hospitals. The cost of the new Children's Hospital is astronomical. The Government is spending a fortune but is failing dismally to protect people's health.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Government has failed to meet any of its climate change targets and Ireland is facing severe financial penalties from the EU in 2020. Carbon reduction policies must be implemented urgently and biodiversity and sustainability promoted. Our planet and our country are at stake.

## **A LIVING WAGE**

The economy is thriving yet more and more families are unable to make ends meet. The cost of accommodation, services and utilities have sky-rocketed under this Government. Legislation for a living wage to cover the real cost of living must be a priority for the next Dáil.

## TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

Our towns and cities are getting more and more congested. This Government has failed to invest in bus, light and heavy rail services, safe cycleways and pedestrian routes. A new Dáil must ensure investment in a proper integrated public transport service.

## **EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE**

Education is no longer free with "voluntary contributions" at second level and new charges at third level. Childcare is hugely expensive for parents and is grossly underfunded by the Government. The sector is now in crisis. The new Government must prioritise education and childcare.

### **PENSIONS**

Pension entitlements are being eroded. This mean-minded Government gave no increase in the state pension for 2020. Increasing the state pension age to 67 in 2021 and 68 in 2028 will force retirees at 65 years to sign for Jobseeker's Benefit for the intervening years and will impoverish many pensioners. We will freeze the pension age at 66.

These are all major issues that need to be addressed urgently by the next Dáil.

Joe has the vision, experience and determination to make a positive contribution to dealing effectively with these key issues.

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