

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2019

COMMUNITY PLATFORM MANIFESTO

We need local councillors who value **community**, **decency** and **participation**.

Valuing our
vote on Friday
24 May 2019



Local government is central to our social, economic, and cultural development. Who we elect to represent us matters. What they stand for and their values is important. We want to elect political representatives who put people first and uphold our core values of community, decency and participation. The Community Platform asks the candidates running for local Council how they will make these a reality.

COMMUNITY

This means:

- people looking out for each other and having a sense of belonging
- communities that are welcoming, inclusive, and nurturing
- building communities that are socially, economically, culturally, and environmentally sustainable



DECENCY

This means:

- valuing people's shared humanity and human dignity, and having mutual respect
- compassion and mutual support
- everyone having a quality of life, with their needs met and a capacity to choose the life they wish to lead
- decent work, accommodation and services for everyone



PARTICIPATION

This means:

- people speaking up and having a say, with their views being heard and valued
- different voices and the perspectives of different groups in society having an influence to advance equality, social justice and sustainability
- active engagement in decision-making, rebalancing of power in this process, and investing resources to support this engagement



The Community Platform is an alliance of 30 national networks and organisations in the community and voluntary sector working to address poverty, social exclusion and inequality. The Platform has agreed a set of values that we look for in candidates running for the Local Elections.



COMMUNITY PLATFORM
CHALLENGING POVERTY & INEQUALITY

 @CommunityP_IRL

 communityplatform@eapn.ie
 www.communityplatform.ie

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2019:

My Values = My Vote

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

If elected, will you:

- work to create a sense of community and bring people in from the margins of our society?
- engage with communities where there is disadvantage, protect their interests and tailor the policies and services to their needs?
- foster creativity and creative expression through funding and support for community arts?
- be creative and innovative in designs you promote for the built environment?
- show leadership and courage in the face of competing interests?

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

If elected, will you:

- actively promote welcoming communities, and enable good relations between people?
- ensure the design and delivery of services, and planning is guided by the needs of people?
- secure improvements in the quality of life of those who experience poverty, social exclusion, and inequality?
- act as guardian of the natural and built environment?
- ensure the existence, maintenance, and accessibility of public spaces that meet local needs?
- ensure local government employees, and people who use local government services, are treated with dignity and respect, with their diversity valued and equality promoted?

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

If elected, will you:

- engage in a meaningful way with civil society organisations in achieving effective and creative services and programmes?
- review the participative institutional structures that are already in place in local government?
- ensure investment is made in people's capacity and opportunities to participate, in particular people in circumstances of poverty and inequality?
- promote processes of internal cultural change to re-balance power in the institutional structures and processes in place for civil society engagement?