

# Lucinda Creighton

Don't blame the Government, Change it.



## The First Steps Forward

ELECTION  
MANIFESTO 07

# WELCOME

*The values upon which I base this manifesto are the values of Fine Gael, and they have been the basic values of this country for a century.*



Dear Resident,

After ten years of this Government, our streets are still unsafe, our hospitals are still overcrowded, our schools remain cramped, and our record on the environment is one of the worst in Europe.

We need a fresh start.

The values upon which I base this manifesto are the values of Fine Gael, and they have been the basic values of this country for a century.

Respect for law and order.

A belief in a fair deal for the weakest in society,

Giving every child the best start possible in life.

Respecting the world we live in.

In this election, we have a choice. We can return to power a Government that has spent ten years throwing our hard-earned money at problems and calling it a solution. A Government that thinks that a new headline each week is more important than the quality of life its citizens enjoy.

Or we can start afresh. We can harness the collective wealth, ingenuity, and passion of the Irish people and start applying practical, reforming solutions to the crises in health, education, justice, and the environment.

Together, let's change this government, and let's change this society for the better.

Regards,

Lucinda

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## ECONOMY €★

## Low Taxes

Fine Gael in government is committed to sharing the proceeds of growth fairly. Lucinda will argue for lower taxes for families and those on the lowest incomes.

## More support for families and those who chose to work in the home

FG will bring the Home Carers' Tax credit up to the same level as the individual tax credit (from €770 to €1760) which will mean almost €1,000 each year for those who carry out a caring role in the home. This credit has not been increased since 2002.

FG is committed to an increase in the standard rate tax band of €5,000 for all families, including one income families. This will mean that a one income family earning €50,000 per annum will be €1,050 better off.

If that one income family also avails of the Home Carers' Credit they will be €2,040 better off.

## Putting prosperity first

Fine Gael in Government introduced the lower rates of Corporation tax that have been so successful in attracting inward investment to Ireland. If elected, Lucinda will work to make sure that Ireland remains the most attractive option in Europe for inward investment.

# LOWER TAXES

# LESS REGULATION

# A MORE ATTRACTIVE, COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

*"Our economy is the platform for our success. I will never cast a vote that jeopardises our Prosperity"*



# A CRIMINAL RECORD ON CRIME

**2,683** Robberies involving Firearms

**3,295** Syringe attacks

**279** Murders

**572,307** Indictable Offences

**578,564** victims of this  
Governments' failure to  
address crime effectively.



## IT'S TIME TO DEAL WITH CRIME

## CRIME

**Protect the INNOCENT victim - not the offender**

- Deterrence is a crucial factor in the prevention of crime.
- 11,000 serious crimes (43 homicides) committed by people out on bail in past two years.
- Let judges electronically tag people accused of serious crime while out on bail.
- Fast track the State appeal process.
- Introduce a new Bail Act which spells out clearly the issues which must be considered.

**Introduce Sentencing Reform** THE PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE ENDS AT CONVICTION

- Tougher and more consistent sentencing.
- Prosecution should propose appropriate sentence. Prosecution speaks for the people, let the people be heard.
- Oireachtas should set sentencing tariffs, and if a judge departs from the guidelines (s)he must explain why. This way the judges' independence is maintained but greater transparency and accountability are introduced.
- End automatic remission of 25% for serious crimes. Remission must be earned through good behaviour and participation in rehabilitation/educational programmes.

*This Government has been 'dealing' with crime and the effects of crime since 1997. Here are a number of measures showing how a new Government would 'deal' with crime successfully.*

**Put more Gardai on the STREET and in our COMMUNITIES**

- We need more Gardaí on the ground where they are needed. Fine Gael and their partners in an alternative Government propose expanding the force to 15,000 members.
- Speed up the pace of reform within An Garda Síochána.
- The creation of a new Independent Garda Authority.
- Enhanced community policing, and a wide-ranging civilianisation programme.

**Security, Community, Law, Order, Respect, Values ... Let's win the fight against criminality together**

We want reassurance that someone is in control and that something is being done

It is the first responsibility of any government to protect its citizens. A government which fails to do this is a government that has failed. But a government that fails even to acknowledge the reality of the situation has failed us twice.

**The lesson from this Governments' decade of failure on**

**crime:** MODERATE responses to EXTREME problems only result in HALF MEASURES

**Crime affects all communities.**

# A SYSTEM IN PERMANENT CRISIS

**WARD A  
JOKE**

**Don't get sick...we're FULL  
say hospital's A&E chiefs**

**Stay away, hospital  
tells A&E patients**

**FURY AS HEALTH CRISIS HITS NEW LOW**

**Keep their word? Keep dreaming**

Why do we, election after election, believe politicians' promises when history shows they are rarely kept?

**As the Government refuses to make €600  
treatment available on medical cards...**  
**WOMEN  
TAKE OUT  
LOANS FOR  
CANCER  
VACCINE**



# BUILDING A HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE FUTURE CLEANER HOSPITALS, SHORTER WAITING TIMES, LESS BUREAUCRACY

HEALTH



The health system is in turmoil, but it can be fixed

## Step 1: Fix A&E first

- Deliver 2,300 additional beds,
- Introduce step-down facilities to include 1,500 more convalescence and long-stay community beds.
- Set up a network of Urgent Care Centres, led by GPs and trained nurses, equipped with diagnostics like x ray, blood tests, ultrasound, to deal with minor injuries. Three to be established in Dublin urgently with up to 15 planned nationwide.

## Step 2: Improve access to essential services. Saving lives with money well spent

- Set up a network of Urgent Care Centres, led by GPs and trained nurses, equipped with diagnostics like x ray, blood tests, ultrasound, to deal with minor injuries. Three to be established in Dublin urgently with up to 15 planned nationwide
- Use a 24/7 helpline and website to give worried parents easy access to basic medical advice
- Introduce a national screening programme to focus on prevention

## Step 3: Cut the Red tape. Leave the key decisions on treatment to the doctor and the patient

- Abolish the HSE – Doctors don't need extra layers of management, and they keep telling us, - let's listen
- Scale back on layers of management in Hospitals. Several hospitals now have more managers than doctors!
- Reward good work! St. Luke's in Rathgar is the BEST HOSPITAL IN THE COUNTRY, - according to its own patients. KEEP IT OPEN!

*"ONLY A GOVERNMENT THAT HAS GONE MAD WOULD SHUT THE COUNTRY'S BEST HOSPITAL.  
IT'S TIME FOR COMMON SENSE. IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE."*





**PLANNING**

**ENERGY**

**WASTE**

**CO2 EMISSIONS**



*Our island has been under siege due to an irresponsible approach to waste management, corrupt practices in planning and neglect of our green heritage.*

**ENVIRONMENT**

**PLANNING** has failed in Dublin. We have been subjected to high-rise developments, with little or no thought given to their impact on the local environment, the needs of existing communities or the requirements of new residents moving in.

**ENERGY** supply is a real cause for concern in Ireland, as in the rest of the world. No future planning has occurred at a national level to facilitate our transition from reliance on fossil fuels to bio-fuels.

**WASTE** production is reaching crisis levels across Ireland and particularly in Dublin. Ireland is nowhere close to its recycling and waste reduction targets. Rather than tackle the problem with lasting solutions, the Government simply wants to burn the waste, thus ensuring further environmental problems in the form of emissions.

**CO2 EMISSIONS** in Ireland are the worst in the world according to the Environmental Protection Agency. We score bottom of the list globally. This year the Government purchased carbon credits to buy time before E.U. sanctions are imposed. This is no solution to a problem that is escalating. When will we face up to it?

**Real Solutions –**

- Implementation of study on high-rise in Dublin City and integration into the National Spatial Strategy
- Ring-fencing of development levies on major developments for infrastructure schemes, such as water and sewerage, as well as services such as education and healthcare
- All petrol and diesel to contain a bio-ethanol mix
- 33% of all Irish electricity to be generated by renewable sources
- Develop a network of wind turbines to harness potential wind energy
- Prioritise waste prevention by imposing a range of duties on manufacturers in relation to supplying products in re-useable, refillable containers and providing tax relief for compliance with specific clean production practices
- Develop a national recycling infrastructure – harmonising standards across all local authorities, including nationwide kerbside collection of paper, plastic and composting materials and a minimum provision of bring centre per capita at a ratio of 1:15,000.



This Man promised his daughter he'd see her tonight before she goes to sleep.



TRANSPORT



He has a two hour commute home if he going to keep that promise.



We need an efficient transport system  
– Here's how we do it.

**TRANSPORT**

STOP 

## Make **Public Transport** a viable option for commuters

- Integrated ticketing: One ticket that can be used on bus, rail and Luas.
- In the short term more buses are essential – this Government has already spent €117 of your money on quality bus corridors and failed to increase bus numbers in Dublin over a six-year period.
- In the long term competition in the provision of bus services is the real solution.

## The largest car park in Europe, otherwise known as **the M50**

- Keep traffic moving.
- Buy out National Toll Roads and introduce barrier free election tolling.
- Allow multi-point tolling on the M50.

## Dart, Rail and Luas

- Electrify the Balbriggan, Kildare, Maynooth and Navan rail lines to extend Dart services to these areas.
- Locate a new commuter rail station in Dublin's Docklands.
- Introduce a comprehensive Metro system from Dublin City Centre to Swords via Dublin Airport, with an orbital metro line for the city.
- Join the existing Luas lines in the city centre and introduce a new line serving West Dublin.

## Integrated planning in Transport

A Dublin Transport Authority will ensure our transport system works as one unit, rather than a disjointed group of separate companies and will oversee traffic management in the greater Dublin area.

**It's not rocket science ... it's  
just a transport system that  
works.**

*"I believe every child deserves the quality education we can give them"*

**EDUCATION**

**Lucinda is committed to dramatically reducing class sizes in the next Dáil.**

## Did you know?

The Government calculates class sizes by dividing the total number of teachers in the country into the total number of pupils..... That's including special needs teachers, career guidance counsellors, principals, and all the other kinds of teachers that don't teach!!

And even with that bit of spin, they haven't got class sizes below thirty after a decade...

Of the 442,191 primary school children in full-time education for the 2005/06 school year:

- 2020 were in classes of between 1 and 9 pupils;
- 60,576 were in classes of 10 to 19;
- 105,663 were in classes of 20 to 24;
- 162,174 were in classes of 25 to 29;
- 101,608 were in classes of 30 to 34;
- 9,863 were in classes of 35 to 39;
- 287 were in classes of 40 and over.

Fine Gael is committed to reducing class sizes to 20 pupils to 1 teacher in the primary school system.

To achieve this it is estimated that up to 6,000 additional mainstream teaching posts would be required to reduce class size in all primary schools to 20 at a total cost of the order of €348 million. This sum is less than the Government spent in overruns and mismanagement in building the Port Tunnel. Surely our children are worthy of this investment.

***"EDUCATION IS THE ROAD TO PROSPERITY, LET'S FUND IT PROPERLY"***

Lucinda believes that education is the road to prosperity, and that it should be funded properly, - at all levels.

### Lucinda's 5 commitments on Education:

- 1) **Fund it properly** - Immediately increase Education funding to 5.5% of GDP, as recommended by the Government's Expert Group on Future Skills Needs.
- 2) **Stop the funding lottery** - End capitated funding of primary schools (funding per pupil) to give schools a chance to plan for the future.
- 3) **Encourage competition** - Introduce education vouchers, to give Parents a wider choice of schools for their child.
- 4) **Make teaching attractive** - A fair deal for trainee teachers, with regard to their training expenses, to encourage more people into the sector.
- 5) **Make learning attractive** - No to third level fees. Better grants for those in need.



"LET'S STOP TAXING YOUNG PEOPLE  
OUT OF THE PROPERTY MARKET"

HOUSING



## REAL STAMP DUTY REFORM

### Helping new families -Stamp duty effectively abolished for first time buyers.

Fine Gael will abolish stamp duty for first time buyers of second hand homes costing up to €450,000. A first time buyer of a second hand home costing €440,000 will save €26,400 under this measure.

### Helping growing families -Simplifying the stamp duty rates.

We will change the current rate structure from the current seven rates to three rates of 0, 5 and 9. This will benefit growing families who want to trade up to larger houses. A family buying a house for €650,000 will pay €23,000 less in stamp duty.

### Making stamp duty fairer.

We will also reform stamp duty so that owner-occupiers pay the higher rate only on the portion of the price over each threshold and not on the entire purchase price.

At present if a buyer buys a house €1,000 over the threshold he/she must pay the higher rate on the full price. For example if a buyer pays €636,000 he/she must pay the full 9% rate on the entire price ie €57,240.

Under Fine Gael's proposals, the first €100,000 is zero rated, the next €350,000 is paid at 5% (€17,500) and the balance is charged at 9% (€16,740), a total €34,240, giving a saving of €23,000.



# "Rewarding a lifetime of service"

One of the great achievements of our age is that people are now living longer. The population aged over 65 is growing rapidly and is forecast to increase by 400,000 by the year 2030, an increase of 50%.

## **The Solution: Facilitating Older People to remain living independently.**

- Budgets for maintenance, insulation and essential repair and appliances will be substantially enhanced.
- Support for security measures and social monitoring will be improved and the Community Welfare Officer will be given specific responsibility for its development.
- The Home Help budget will be doubled and the range of cover from home help services will be extended out of hours and at weekends.

## **Supporting an Active retirement**

Fine Gael is determined to expand the scope for an active retirement. Specific proposals include:

- Persons who continue to work after their retirement age will be allowed invest tax free a certain amount each year in a Security Fund for later use.
- A quota of lottery funds for active retirement programmes and modules will be put in place.
- Training in the use of Information Technology will be provided and subsidies for home IT equipment.
- Improved travel options will include the removal of the peak hour ban for those attending hospital appointments and the development of agreements with other EU States to allow older people avail of travel concessions when overseas.

## **Quality Residential Care**

Access to long-stay residential care is highly arbitrary and inequitable. The Nursing Home Subvention will be reformed so that support payments are:

- Based on the actual cost of care.
- Leave a reasonable amount for personal comforts to the patient.
- Guarantee to meet long-term costs where assets have become exhausted.
- An independent system for vetting the standards of all long stay care facilities will be put in place.
- A Register of facilities and of vacancies will be developed and act as a Clearing House so that the search for suitable long stay accommodation will become easier.



Facing into the General election campaign, Lucinda Creighton has an immensely hectic schedule, usually working 10 hour days for six or seven days a week. With polling day less than 60 days away, the editorial team caught up with Lucinda to discuss her plans and ambitions for the future.

### So, why politics, Lucinda?

Politics influences every aspect of our lives. It is too easy to shrug your shoulders and say "all politicians are the same". I believe that we deserve delivery of the highest quality services in health, education, transport and policing. I want to actively fight and campaign for improvements in Irish society. Politics, I believe, is an instrument to achieve good things. If you don't take responsibility for the things you believe in, nobody else will.

### Are there any specific qualities you think a politician needs?

A politician must have a clear conscience. He or she requires the qualities of honesty and integrity more than anything. If a politician is motivated by doing their best for the people they represent, it's a good start. Leadership is a quality sorely lacking in the politicians of today. A willingness to speak your mind with courage and conviction, even when the view espoused may be unpopular, shows the leadership that is necessary in politics.

### And what issues would you like to lead on?

Having experienced the grave shortcomings of our hospital system myself in recent years with my own parents, I am determined to be part of a Government which will cut hospital waiting lists and deliver a first class, equitable health service that befits a successful, wealthy nation like Ireland.



**"I believe that we deserve delivery of the highest quality services"**



**"Development must be sustainable and residents must be allowed have a meaningful input in the system"**



## INTERVIEW



**Like a lot of people of your age, you've travelled quite a bit. Is there anything you think we in Dublin can learn from elsewhere?**

Fifteen years ago, you were taking your life in your hands if you walked through Central Park in New York. Today it's a safe, secure amenity that's enjoyed by everyone in Manhattan. By adopting common sense measures in Dublin like those they used there, we could make this city a safer, more attractive place to live.

### What's the biggest issue specific to Dublin South East?

Development, development and more development! We have less green space than any other area in the city, yet the planners seem to want to build on every inch of it. I would like to influence a change in planning laws in this country. Dublin South East has been under siege by developers who have undue influence over the planning system. Development must be sustainable and residents must be allowed have a meaningful input in the system.

### Finally, Lucinda, if I had a vote in Dublin South East, why should I give it to you?

Because in five years time, I'm not going to let you be able to look me in the eye and say I wasn't worth it. Because I will work as hard as I can to fix the problems I want to see fixed. And because I'm asking you to give me a chance. I can't be more honest than that, really.

# *Lucinda Creighton*

DUBLIN SOUTH EAST



## **To contact Lucinda:**

Tel: 4976 248  
Email: [cllr\\_lucinda.creighton@dublincity.ie](mailto:cllr_lucinda.creighton@dublincity.ie)  
Website: [www.lucindacreighton.ie](http://www.lucindacreighton.ie)  
Constituency Office: 193 Lower Rathmines Road, D6

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