



SECTION D: PERSONAL DETAILS

WHAT POLITICAL PARTY ARE YOU A MEMBER OF?

- Fianna Fáil Fine Gael Labour Green Party
 Sinn Féin Progressive Democrats Socialist Party
 Workers Party Non-Party

WHAT CITY, TOWN OR COUNTY COUNCIL ARE YOU A MEMBER OF?

GENDER:

- Male Female

AGE:

- Under 35 35-50 50-65 Over 65

WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION?

- Full time public representative Farmer Teacher
 Professional Civil servant Self-employed Other

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A COUNCILLOR?

- a) 0-4 years b) 5-9 years
 c) 10-14 years d) 15-19 years
 e) 20-25 years f) 25+ years

NAME (optional): _____

"DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT?"

If you would like to give further opinions or would like us to contact you about the survey please attach another sheet with the detail

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey. Please return to Seanad using enclosed envelope by Friday the 11th April.



A JOINT SURVEY ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM AND DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYORS



BY
Senator MARK DALY
 AND
Senator JIM WALSH



SECTION A: THE DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT

(including Directly Elected Mayors)

1. HOW LONG SHOULD THE TERM OF A MAYOR OR CATHAOIRLEACH OF A LOCAL AUTHORITY BE?

- a) 1 year
- b) half term - 2.5 years
- c) Full term - 5 years

2. WOULD YOU SUPPORT THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYORS?

- a) Yes
 - b) No
- (if no skip to question 8)

3. WHERE WOULD YOU SUPPORT THE ELECTION OF DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYORS?

(You may tick more than one box)

- a) In Dublin City Council
- b) In all cities
- c) In all towns
- d) In all counties

4. WHAT POWERS SHOULD DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYORS HAVE?

- a) The same as at present - ceremonial and chairing of meetings
 - b) Executive powers like county manager
 - c) Executive powers shared with CPG and Council
 - d) Other (please state)
-

5. ON WHAT BASIS SHOULD THE DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR BE EMPLOYED?

- a) Part time basis with a part time salary
- b) Full time basis with a full time salary
- c) The same as at present

6. WHAT SHOULD THE NOMINATING PROCESS BE IN THE ELECTION OF A DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR?

(you may tick more than one box)

- a) Open to the public the same as a local authority election
- b) Similar to the presidential election whereby a certain amount of councillors are required to nominate any prospective candidates
- c) Only those who are or have been councillors allowed stand as a candidate
- d) Only those who are or have been public representatives allowed to stand as a candidate (eg TDs, Senators)
- e) Candidates nominated by parties
- f) Candidates nominated by Community groups

7. DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS TO MAKE REGARDING THE ISSUE OF DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYORS?

8. DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A NEED TO RE-BALANCE THE POWERS OF THE COUNTY MANAGER AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES?

Yes No

9. DO YOU FEEL THAT LIMITATIONS ON YOUR POWERS HINDER YOUR ABILITY TO WORK FOR YOUR CONSTITUENTS?

Yes No

10. DO YOU THINK THE COUNTY MANAGER HAS TOO MUCH POWER?

Yes No Don't know





11. IF YES, SHOULD THE POWERS OF THE COUNTY MANAGER BE TRANSFERRED TO:

- a) A directly elected mayor
- b) The mayor/cathaoirleach
- c) The mayor/cathaoirleach and the CPG
- d) The Corporate Policy Group
- e) The collective decisions of Councillors

If you ticked e) please describe how you see it working in practice:

12. DO YOU THINK ANY LOCAL AUTHORITY POSITIONS SHOULD BE FULL TIME?

(you may tick more than one box)

- a) Cathaoirleach
- b) Cathaoirleach & Leas-Cathaoirleach
- c) All councillors
- d) Chair of SPC's
- e) Chair of Committees

13. FOR A MORE EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM DO YOU THINK THAT THE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS SHOULD BE

- a) Increased
- b) Decreased
- c) Stay the same

SECTION B: SUBSIDIARITY

14. DO YOU THINK LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS SHOULD BE GIVEN INCREASED POWERS FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT?

Yes No

15. DO YOU FEEL THAT POWER SHOULD BE DEVOLVED TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS?

(you may tick more than one box)

- Childcare
- Community Development
- Disability and mental health
- Drugs strategy
- Economic Development
- Education
- Environmental issues
- Healthcare
- Policing
- Policies on Care of the Elderly
- Public Transport
- Road Safety
- Sports Funding and Policy
- Tourism
- Welfare
- Other (please state)

16. DO YOU THINK THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES SHOULD HAVE MORE REVENUE RAISING POWER?

Yes No

17. IF YES, WHAT SOURCES OF REVENUE WOULD YOU SUGGEST:

Local Income Tax Local sales tax Property
 Rates Water Charges Fines
 Other (please state) _____

18. HAS YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY USED SECTION 109-110 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 TO RAISE A COMMUNITY FUND?

Yes No

19. WOULD YOU AVAIL OF THIS PROVISION IN FUTURE?

Yes No





SECTION C: RESOURCES AND TRAINING

20. HOW MANY HOURS A WEEK ON AVERAGE DO YOU DEVOTE TO YOUR WORK AS A COUNCILLOR?

- a) Under 10 b) 10-20 c) 20-30
 d) 30-40 e) More than 40
 (please state how many hours) _____

21. DO YOU HAVE AN OFFICE DEDICATED TO COUNCIL BUSINESS?

- a) Yes, In my home
 b) Yes, In council buildings
 c) Yes, In another location
 d) No

22. IF YES, HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO RUN YOUR OFFICE ANNUALLY?

- a) 0-€1,000 b) €1,000 – €2,500
 c) €2,500 – €4,000 d) €4,000 +

23. WOULD YOU AVAIL OF A TAX CREDIT OR ALLOWANCE TO BUILD AN OFFICE FOR YOUR COUNCIL WORK IN YOUR HOME OR ELSEWHERE?

- Yes No

24. WHO DEALS WITH YOUR ADMINISTRATIVE AND SECRETARIAL WORK?

- a) Myself
 b) My spouse/ partner
 c) Other family members
 d) Paid Staff

25. IF AVAILABLE WOULD YOU MAKE USE OF A POOLED SECRETARY IN THE COUNCIL BUILDINGS, AS AVAILABLE IN FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL?

- Yes No

26. IS THERE A PARTY OR GROUP ROOM AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL BUILDINGS FOR YOUR USE?

- Yes No

27. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DOES YOUR COUNCIL SUPPLY?

(you can tick more than one box)

- a) Computer
 b) Laptop
 c) Printer
 d) Mobile phone
 e) Postage Facilities
 f) Other (Please state) _____

28. DO YOU THINK THAT THE CURRENT CONFERENCE EXPENSES SYSTEM SHOULD BE REFORMED?

- Yes No

29. DO YOU THINK COUNCILLOR TRAINING IS ADEQUATE?

- Yes No

30. DO YOU THINK THE CONFERENCE ALLOWANCE (OR PART THERE OF) SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- a) Constituency travel
 b) Merged with representation allowance
 c) Office allowance
 d) Payment for attending in-house training
 e) Other (please state) _____

