Social Democrats

Saoirse MACKIN

Local Election Candidate for ***Cork City North-West***



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The Social Democrats

I joined the Social Democrats because I believe the potential, and desire, for ***change*** *in Ireland is huge.*

The Social Democrats are a new party for a new era - not defined by old loyalties, old politics, old policies, cosy business connections or jobs for the boys.

Ireland is a rich country. It should not be such a struggle for workers and families to get by.

People deserve affordable housing; access to quality healthcare; genuinely free education; reliable transport; good local services and a sustainable environment.

Changes to political choices can help us achieve all that - and more.

I am proud to do my bit to **help build the better Ireland** I know we can become.

Yours sincerely,

Saoirse





Saoirse Mackin



Party Leader, Holly Cairns TD

The Housing Crisis

There are solutions to the housing crisis – but we need a complete ***change in approach*** *and the* ***political will*** *to act.*

The Social Democrats want to make housing affordable - for students, workers, families and older people - and build communities that thrive.

We have a plan to build 10,000 genuinely affordable homes and 12,000 social homes every year.

We want to increase the tax on vacancy - to bring tens of thousands of empty homes back into use - and tackle dereliction.

Housing is the biggest challenge we face as a society, but failure is not an option.

We can, and we must, do so much better.





Cost of Living

*The cost of living is **too high**.*

The Social Democrats believe investing in quality public services, is the best way to drive down costs.

We have a plan for universal access to healthcare that is free at the point of need.

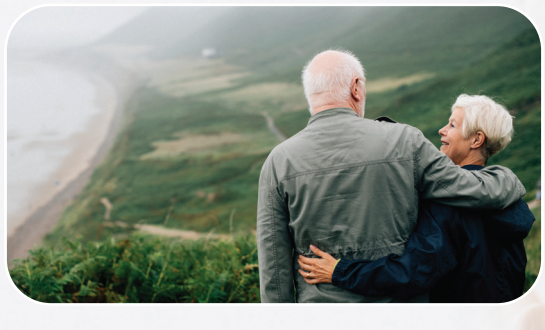
Our education plan would ensure primary, secondary and third level education is genuinely free.

Investment in social and affordable housing would reduce housing costs.

Our childcare plan would reduce fees by 75%; increase paid parental leave to 12 months and increase maternity and paternity benefit to €350 per week.

We would increase pensions and other core social welfare rates by €25 per week.







Climate Change

*We are **running out of time** to meet our climate targets and protect nature.*

We must introduce a retrofitting scheme that is affordable for families.

Investment in major public transport infrastructure is key.

We need a new semi-state company to invest in off-shore wind - and reduce the cost of energy.

We must ensure a fair transition for workers and farmers - and incentivise sustainable farming to protect nature.



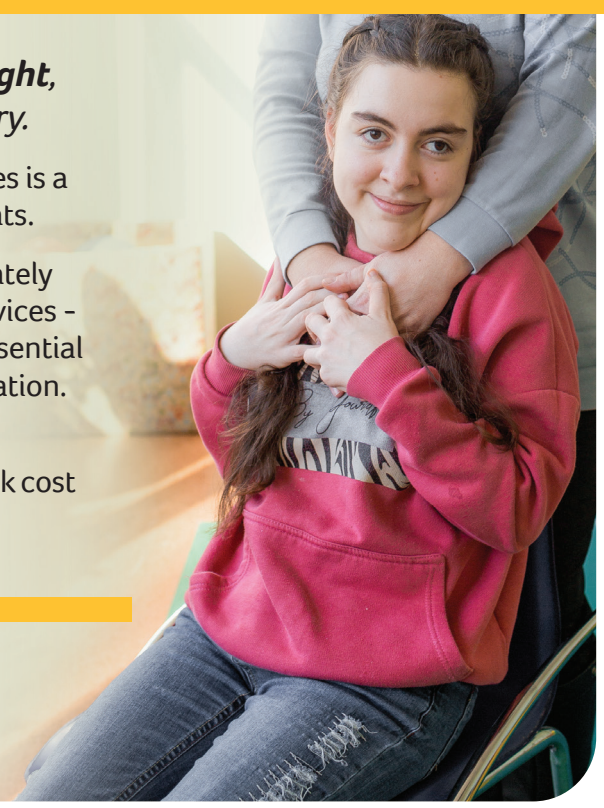
Disability Services

*Disability services **are a right**, they should not be a lottery.*

Transforming disability services is a priority for the Social Democrats.

In Government, we will adequately invest to provide essential services - like an assessment of need, essential therapies, transport and education.

The cost of disability must be recognised with a €30 per week cost of disability payment.



SAOIRSE MACKIN

*Hi, I'm Saoirse Mackin and I'm your Social Democrats Local Area Rep for **Cork City North-West**.*

I live in Blackpool, currently work as a Community Engagement Officer and also study part-time in UCC. I am deeply passionate about representing the people of Cork City North-West and I love the communities I represent.

I am a strong voice on local issues, and I work hard to make our communities a great place to live for everyone.

My priorities if elected are:

- **An inclusive, fair, and just society** with **affordable housing** as a priority.
- **Excellent cycling infrastructure** to ensure everyone - including children - can get where they need to safely and efficiently.
- **Improved public transport** that you can rely on.
- **Better local amenities** including upgrading parks, green spaces, playgrounds, and sports facilities.

If you have any issues affecting your area, please do get in touch with me through social media, phone, email or through my website. **I look forward to hearing from you.**



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