

# General Election Manifesto

## 5 Point Plan for a New Ireland



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*Please contact me if you would like to join my campaign*



# Contents

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1. Introduction – Michael Ryan
2. Manifesto Summary – The Issues Addressed
3. Manifesto Summary - 5 Point Plan for a New Ireland
4. Sharing the Pain – All TDs to **serve** for Minimum Wage
5. Political Reform – Central and Local Government
6. The Diaspora – Ireland’s Global Resource
7. The Irish Volunteers – Answer Ireland’s Call
8. Financial Crisis – Referendum

# Introduction

## Michael Ryan



- **Michael Ryan** from Rathcoole, Co. Dublin is a 40 year old Management Consultant based in London. Michael emigrated to the UK over 15 years ago and has for the last 3 years commuted from Dublin to London for work. Michael is a Chartered Management Accountant and a Member of the Project Management Institute
- Over the last 3 years Michael has been involved in many local community events and in particular has organised the World's Largest Charity Walk in Rathcoole, raising in excess of €25K for the Irish Cancer Society and successfully winning the local community a place in the Guinness Book of Records
- Michael is a past pupil of Scoil Chronain and the Holy Family Community School Rathcoole
- **Why Vote for Michael?** Michael is standing as an Independent, self financed, candidate in his home constituency of Dublin Mid West for two main reasons:
  - Firstly, as this is the most important General Election in Ireland's history, Michael believes we should all get involved, where possible, and not just sit on the sidelines and comment. After careful consideration of the options available, Michael decided to write down 5 policies he was prepared to vote for and then make them available to anyone who was interested. These policies are detailed within this document
  - Secondly, as a Graduate educated at the Irish taxpayers expense, who has spent all his working life abroad Michael believes that the Irish Diaspora need a voice in Irish politics in order to promote their greater involvement in helping Ireland through its current crisis. If it can be proven that an Irish person based abroad can successfully enter an Irish election then far more Irish emigrants of all backgrounds and experience can see that there is a way to reconnect with the future of Ireland



# Manifesto Summary

## The Issues Addressed



### Issues

If we are to bear a Financial burden it has to be equitable

People have lost faith in political system

How to embrace our greatest natural resource

How people can get involved and make a difference

We need expert guidance on a most critical issue

### Policies

Share the Pain

Political Reform

The Diaspora

The Irish Volunteers

Financial Crisis

### Actions

TD to Serve for Minimum Wage

Introduce minimum standards to hold Ministerial Office

Enfranchise our Emigrants and harness their contribution for Ireland

National Scheme to promote volunteering for Ireland

Hold Referendum on Strategy for EU/IMF Bailout

# Manifesto Summary

## 5 Point Plan for a New Ireland



Share the Pain	Political Reform	The Diaspora	The Irish Volunteers	Financial Crisis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The "Low Paid" couldn't afford the Celtic Tiger Party so why should they pay for it...?</li> <li>• Lets show real leadership if that is the answer....</li> <li>• All TD's to Serve 3 Months at Minimum Wage</li> <li>• If I become your TD I commit to doing this</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring Government salaries in line with EU counterparts</li> <li>• Reduce No. of TD's</li> <li>• Reform the Seanad</li> <li>• Facilitate non elected professionals serving on Dail Committees</li> <li>• Introduce Qualifications to hold Ministries</li> <li>• Audit Bank Accounts of all elected representatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give our Emigrants a Voice - let them Vote</li> <li>• Encourage them to take an active part in Ireland's future</li> <li>• Help the Irish Family stay together - tax breaks for Parents long haul flights</li> <li>• Who says we have no one else to borrow from - a small contribution from a lot of people goes along way!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are a talented, confident people lets all make a difference - join a Party, form a Party, but above all use your vote</li> <li>• National Scheme to facilitate talented, skilled individuals volunteering at home in areas of a real National need</li> <li>• Put your ideas forward don't leave it to others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have a confession - I don't understand the impact of the options we have to address the current Crisis</li> <li>• I need an impartial, qualified individual to explain it to me</li> <li>• Then unhindered by Politicians or their other Policies I want to cast my vote on what to do</li> <li>• Referendum on Finance Crisis - its all our Futures</li> </ul>

# Sharing the Pain

## All TDs to **serve** for Minimum Wage



- There is a misconception that we all partied and that therefore we should all share the pain. As a result the first action taken by the leaders of the country was to hurt the vulnerable people at the lower earning elements of society. Is it possible that these are the people who had “partied” to the same extent as our leadership class:
  - Pensioners
  - Social Welfare recipients
  - Minimum Wage employees
- I think real leadership is required if our Leaders believe these measures are a fair and equitable response to the Financial Crisis – therefore I propose that all TD’s should work for the minimum wage for 3 months to experience the true impact of this measure
- If elected, I pledge to serve 3 months as a TD at the National Minimum Wage rate

# Political Reform Central & Local Government



- Bring Irish Government salaries in line with comparable EU economies
- No Dail Pensions payable until Retirement Age
- Move the Day of all future Elections to Saturday to facilitate emigrants and the average working person in Ireland to get to a Polling Station
- Reduce the number of TD's by 25%
- Reform the Seanad
  - The Seanad does provide a platform for several talented and experienced politicians to contribute to the political wellbeing of the country. Many Senators serve with distinction on Dail Committees. I think it's important this quality isn't lost
  - However, the Seanad needs to be reformed to operate in a more cost effective manner with less time serving political appointees
- Facilitate the involvement of non elected, suitably qualified individuals on relevant Dail Public Committees, to ensure highest level of expertise is working to safeguard our interests
  - These should be suitably qualified experienced individuals who are also leaders in their field – for example involving Michael O'Leary on Transport
  - These individuals would be appointed by the President in the interests of the people
- Introduce minimum subject matter qualifications for all Ministerial appointments
- Introduce minimum qualifications for all County Council seats and in specific instances such as Planning, that the Councillors undergo training which enables them to fulfil their roles adequately
- To guard against corruption over all elected representatives, introduce mandatory quarterly audits of Bank Accounts by independent Accountants (not Civil Servants)

# The Diaspora Ireland's Global Resource



- It's time to stop whingeing about Emigration and turn Ireland's largest natural resource into a positive and to do this we must empower our Emigrants. We claim the global economy ruined Ireland's economy well let's turn our global resource to our advantage:
  - Let's give them the Vote – if you hold an Irish Passport and left Ireland in search of employment you can vote in the Constituency of your schooling. The advantage is threefold:
    - The Emigrants are largely our talented, expensively trained Graduates and they will be disenfranchised and disillusioned with home for ever if we don't involve them in the running of the Country at a National level (not at a County Council level). This breaks families all over Ireland apart on a personal level and on a national level we will have wasted our collective investment in their education
    - By involving them, we get their interest and gain world experience, to help Ireland in all the challenges we face
    - Finally, it encourages all future Irish Governments to engage with our Diaspora, by enfranchising them and giving them a voice. No Irish Government Minister can ever again say "it's too small an island for us all to live in..." Try saying that at Dublin airport!
  - Provide Tax breaks to parents to visit their sons and daughters in long distance Countries, specifically – America, Australia and New Zealand. We need to invest in the fabric of the Irish family unit and reduce the financial burden on these parents
  - Move the day of all future National Elections and Referendums to Saturday, to facilitate more of our migrant workers who leave the country on a weekly basis to vote
  - It's a two way street – ask our Diaspora to make a small regular contribution to the future generations so they don't have to emigrate. A very small contribution from a global Diaspora can make a massive contribution – could match any EU bailout, lets help OURSELVES!!!



# The Irish Volunteers

## Answer Ireland's Call



- This is our JFK moment and what better man to inspire us than an Irish American President who proved what any Irishman or woman is capable of achieving. We now need to see what we can all do for Ireland, not just our elected representatives:
  - It's time to look in the mirror and ask yourself "what can I do for Ireland?"
- At an individual level we all have many talents, abilities and different experiences. The very success and diversity of Ireland over the last 10 years means that we possess the most positive, confident, hard working and open minded Irish generation ever. Its time that we all asked what can I do to help. We can do this individually:
  - Get involved in Politics – don't be a critic, try and make a difference
  - Exercise your Vote – at the most critical point in Ireland's history, stand up and be counted
  - Look to your Community – Central Government hasn't all the answers, lead your own initiatives to make a difference in your area
  - Propose your ideas that have greater impact beyond your area, don't be shy, your elected representatives won't have all the answers, propose your own!
- At a National Level, we need to get away from the Public / Private Sector divide and see how both can help each other for the greater good of the country:
  - Develop a National Scheme between Central Government and our largest Private Sector Companies and facilitate secondment of private sector individuals to help out in relevant Government Departments. We possess massively successful indigenous and multinational corporations in Ireland who have a vested interest in the success of our economy. Work with these people to utilise the skills their corporations possess in the country's interest
  - This would tap into the huge groundswell of talented Irish people who volunteer their skills all around the World to help Third World Countries – its time to now volunteer at Home!

# Financial Crisis Hold a Referendum



- The Financial Crisis is what this Election is all about and 99.9% of the population don't have a sufficient grasp of the issue to weigh up the pro's and con's of the various options available to us
- We possess a small handful of suitably experienced and qualified, non elected individuals who do understand this and who do understand the impact of whether we:
  - Keep paying the bailout as currently structured
  - Default on the EU/IMF bailout
  - Send a negotiating team of Irelands best businessmen and politicians, regardless of their current electoral status, to renegotiate with the EU/IMF
  - Burn the bondholders
- I would like to see a panel of suitably qualified, independent experts address the Nation on live television, no one man road shows, and explain the issue fully and their respective proposed course of action
- **I then propose a National Referendum, unclouded by other Government policies or personalities, in which the people provide the elected Government with a clear mandate to act on this critical issue and it be held following an appropriate period for people to reflect upon and consider the issue with the undivided attention it deserves**