

YOU DON'T JUST HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

YOU ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO RUN FOR ELECTIONS

Travellers standing as candidates in elections is a good way of making Travellers and Traveller issues visible.

There is a history of Travellers who have run for elections in Ireland including:

- Nan Joyce, became a proud and independent spokesperson for her people when she ran in the November 1982 general election. She received twice as many first preference votes as the anti Traveller groups she stood against in Dublin.
- Martin Ward who is a former Mayor of Tuam
- Tom Stokes who is a former Mayor of Longford
- Ellen Mongan, who was elected to Tuam Urban district council
- Rosaleen McDonagh who was the first Traveller to seek election to the Seanad and stood in both the 2002 and 2007 Seanad elections.
- Owen Ward, who was Elected to Tuam urban district Council

And many more.

By running for election, you can represent the voice of your community at a national level and vocalise the issues affecting your community.

If the elected official/s knows that you don't use your vote it could influence the amount of efforts they put into resolving the issue you come to them with.