

Re-elect a tireless campaigner for working people

General
Election
2007

10 Years of Fianna Fail / PD government...

Two million workers have created enormous wealth in Ireland. However for the last ten years, the Fianna Fáil/ Progressive Democrat Government has allowed big business, big builders and developers to take the lion's share, to make gigantic profits for themselves, but at enormous cost to working people and their communities.

- Thousands of houses and apartments have been built without basic infrastructure such as schools, public transport, childcare or community facilities;
- Our health service is in crisis;
- Traffic gridlock has reached breaking point;
- Hundreds of children with no places in primary school this September and 40% of our children are in classes of over 30 – the second highest pupil:teacher ratio in Europe;
- Aer Lingus and Telecom Éireann handed over to the Stock Exchange sharks through privatisation;
- Wages and decent working conditions in construction and other areas threatened by "a race to the bottom" as seen in Gama, Irish Ferries and, now, Aer Lingus;
- Young people shackled to 40 year mortgages to buy an ordinary home – hundreds of thousands priced out of the market - all for the greed of speculators and developers;
- Developers allowed to set up unregulated estate management companies which charge rip-off fees.

These issues arise directly from political decisions by politicians who put corporate profits before the interests of working people.

Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and the Progressive Democrats are linked by a thousand ties to the property developers and construction firms who have benefitted massively from the political decisions of these politicians at the expense of communities.



JOE

HIGGINS

TD

SOCIALIST
PARTY

VOTE
No. 1

or highest
possible preference

Joe Higgins TD - a committed fighter for the community

Since his election to the Dáil in 1997, Joe Higgins has been a tireless fighter for the rights of working people and working class communities. As an activist for more than 20 years in Dublin West, he has:

- Strenuously highlighted and opposed the speculation and profiteering that brought about rocketing rent and house prices;
- Endured a month in Mountjoy Jail in 2003 when he refused to abandon his constituents' protest against the bin tax;
- Strenuously fought the privatisation of public companies like Aer Lingus;
- Actively campaigned with householders and apartment owners against rip-off management company fees, forcing a pledge for early legislation from the Government;



- Struck a major blow in support of decent wages and conditions for all workers when he led the successful campaign against the Gama exploitation machine;
- Strongly opposed the catastrophic invasion of Iraq and the use of Shannon Airport by the US Military;
- Stood with local communities in campaigns to stop mobile phone masts too close to schools and homes;
- As a County Councillor, fought for proper planning for communities, for crucial green belts and against corrupt rezonings;
- Led the Anti Water Charges Campaign in the mid-1990's to secure the abolition of this hated double tax;
- Led the campaign in the early 1990's to stop property speculators and corrupt politicians scuppering the building of the Blanchardstown Centre;
- Led the successful campaign in 1987 to halt the threatened closure of Blanchardstown Hospital.



Joe Higgins and Socialist Party Councillor Ruth Coppinger work as a team in representing the people of Dublin West

Living on a Worker's Wage

As a T.D. for the last ten years, Joe Higgins has lived on the wage of an ordinary worker and donated the remainder of his salary to the Socialist Party's fight for a political alternative and a wide range of campaigns. If re-elected to the Dáil, that policy will continue. The Socialist Party does not accept money from big business.

A Powerful Voice That Must Continue to be Heard

For ten years, Joe Higgins has been the strongest voice in Dáil Éireann in defence of the interests of working people. Even the millionaire owned media often refer to him as a powerful contributor to Dáil debates and "the real opposition". Time and again he has uncompromisingly challenged Taoiseach Bertie Ahern over his Government's privatisation and pro big business policies.

**Help us return Joe Higgins to Dáil Éireann -
Please get in touch if you would like to help,
contact JOE: 618 3038 / joe.higgins@oireachtas.ie**

**VOTE
No. 1**

or
highest
possible
preference

JOE HIGGINS TD