

AN ACTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO ALL THE ESTABLISHMENT PARTIES

*Joe Higgins makes a
REAL difference*

JOE HIGGINS is a powerful voice for working people in the Dail. During Party Leaders' Questions to Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, he has exposed the real nature of the Fianna Fail/PD Government as an agent for speculators and big business interests. **JOE HIGGINS** has been the real opposition.

JOE HIGGINS stands out from Fine Gael and Labour. They have proved incapable of being a real opposition because on all fundamental issues they agree with the present government. In government they too would bend to big business interests, putting their profits ahead of people's needs and better public services.

As a committed socialist, **JOE HIGGINS** is the only TD who poses a consistent alternative to all the establishment parties - the need for real democratic, public control over resources in the interests of the majority rather than for the greed of a few.

As none of the main parties represent the interests of working people, **JOE HIGGINS** believes that, in order to tackle issues and bring about fundamental change, people need to organise themselves in the communities and workplaces.

JOE HIGGINS helps working people to get organised. He has used his position in the Dail to build campaigns on vital issues such as the fight for workers' rights, opposition to stealth taxes such as bin charges and for proper planning and infrastructure like schools and public transport.

On 24 May, give **JOE HIGGINS** your number 1 vote so he can continue to build a real alternative to all the establishment parties that have failed us.

on 24 May

VOTE No.1
or highest possible
preference

JOE

HIGGINS

SOCIALIST PARTY TD manifesto

Plan for people's needs

The Socialist Party believes the wealth exists to provide good public services and improved quality of life for all. However, economic growth has been wasted. The government's failure to properly invest in infrastructure and plan for people's needs, combined with privatisation, has caused the crises in health, education and transport. They are selling off or giving away vital resources and utilities like the Corrib Gasfield and the ESB. By helping speculators and developers to maximise profits, they have put buying a home beyond many workers.

Fine Gael / Labour would impose similar policies. On councils where they are a majority they've done nothing to solve the problems facing people. In government it would be the same. That the Greens and Sinn Fein would go into government with either Fianna Fail or Fine Gael is a sell out of anyone who hoped those parties would be a radical alternative.

The Socialist Party will not be part of any big business government. Our alternative is based on planning for people's needs, not private greed. In this election the Socialist Party has a real prospect of getting additional TDs elected, particularly Clare Daly in Dublin North. Help us build a new movement that really fights for working people.

Public transport can end traffic chaos

■ Our daily traffic misery in Dublin 15 results from developers being allowed to build thousands of new houses and apartments without the necessary public transport infrastructure.

JOE HIGGINS TD SAYS

■ Create unbroken bus corridors into the City Centre with an additional 100 buses for Dublin 15.

■ Local bus services to serve Blanchardstown Town Centre and all local destinations.

■ Fast track extension of rail line from Clonsilla to Dunboyne and the Metro.

■ Trains with 8 carriages minimal every 10 minutes or less at peaktime.

■ Build Park&Ride for bus and train services on the outskirts of Dublin 15.

■ Scrap tolls on the M50.

■ For decisive State investment in a real public transport system for Dublin, with a network of trains, trams and buses.

■ No Privatisation: for public control of the transport system with a democratic authority having a majority of representatives from transport workers and working people who use the service together with representatives from local government.



For better education & childcare

■ Ireland has the second highest class sizes in the EU. In Fingal 39% of primary pupils are in classes of 30 or more.

■ Thousands of children won't have a place in primary school this September.

■ It's a myth that we have free education in this country. Parents can no longer afford to carry the cost of childcare and education.

JOE HIGGINS TD FIGHTS FOR:

■ The state should provide free secular education from pre-school to university.

■ 100% funding for schools to end the need for "voluntary contributions" and constant fund raising by parents.

■ Invest to reduce the pupil:teacher ratio to 15:1.

■ Provide resource teachers and eliminate waiting times for assessing pupils with special needs.

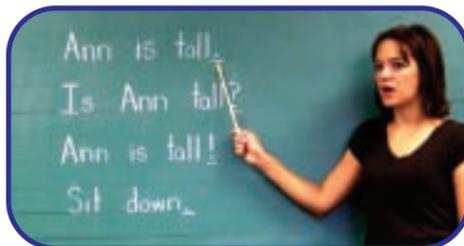
■ Emergency action to guarantee school places for every child. No to new housing developments unless adequate school provision is guaranteed.

■ End the scandal of

children in temporary classrooms or substandard schools.

■ Free childcare and pre-school education for all children.

■ Access to before and after school care and holiday clubs on school premises funded by the state.



Affordable housing for all

In the 10 years of Fianna Fail/PD government -

■ The cost of buying a home has increased by 350%!

■ The actual cost of building a house has increased by only 50%!

JOE HIGGINS TD SAYS:

■ No to 40 year mortgages where people pay up to three times the cost of their home to the banks.

■ Control the price of building land and make house prices reflect the real cost of building. Scrap stamp duty.

■ End management company rip-off.

Force builders to fully finish housing estates on time and councils to take responsibility for essential utilities immediately.

■ End local authority waiting lists. For an emergency state building programme to provide social housing for all who need it.



RE-ELECT A WORKERS' TD



■ For many years now Joe Higgins has championed workers' rights in Dail Eireann - powerfully defending the wages and conditions of Irish and migrant workers by exposing abuse and exploitation such as in Irish Ferries and in Gama Construction.

■ Joe Higgins lives on the average industrial wage, donating the balance of his salary to the Socialist Party and a wide range of campaigns and causes.

Invest in people's health

■ 18,000 hospital beds in the 1980s - only 12,000 today, despite a 25% growth in population.

■ 25% fewer doctors, 75% fewer specialists, and much less facilities than other European countries.

■ This government still only spends 90% of the average of the original 15 EU states on health. The health crisis is caused by a lack of resources.

■ Government privatisation is giving massive tax breaks to beef baron Larry Goodman and his ilk, so they can turn healthcare into a money making racket.

■ Private healthcare costs more but offers only very limited treatments. Healthcare must be provided on the basis of people's needs - not profit.



JOE HIGGINS TD CAMPAIGNS FOR:

■ A free publicly owned National Health Service, properly funded through a progressive taxation system to provide prompt healthcare for all so that people have no need for health insurance.

■ Use the wealth for public health. For massive investment to provide the beds, facilities and staff required to resolve the crisis at A&E and abolish long waiting lists for treatment.

■ Support nurses' claims for pay & shorter working week.

■ Scrap GP and prescription charges.

■ For free primary healthcare. Fully equipped health centres in all communities, with teams of GPs, chemists, dentists, nurses, physiotherapists and social workers, including after hour services and health education.

■ Provide the resources including proper payment for carers so, wherever possible, the elderly can be looked after at home. For the state to provide comprehensive, quality nursing home care for all who need it.

■ No more subsidies to private care or privatisation. Consultants employed in the public sector should only be entitled to do public work.

For more detailed information on these and other issues, visit our special election section at

www.socialistparty.net

The Socialist Party is part of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI) www.socialistworld.net

JOE HIGGINS TD

An unrivalled campaigning record of over 20 years!

Jailed in 2003 for representing communities

While strongly in favour of waste reduction, recycling and composting, Joe Higgins exposed the bin charge as a stealth tax on working people and in late 2003 was sent to Mountjoy for standing by the communities who fought the double tax.



Joe Higgins TD and Cllr. Clare Daly being led away to Mountjoy Prison for their opposition to bin charges.

Defeating the Water Charges in 1990s

Joe Higgins was Chairman of the campaign that organised tens of thousands of PAYE householders and forced the abolition of the water charges in December 1996.

Preventing Closure of Blanchardstown Hospital - 1987

Savage cuts by the Fianna Fail Government meant Blanchardstown Hospital faced a threat of closure in 1987. Joe Higgins and local residents launched the Defend Blanchardstown Hospital campaign which secured the hospital's future. James Connolly Hospital continues to play an indispensable role.

Breaking up the GAMA's Exploitation Machine - 2005

In 2005, Joe Higgins exposed the gross exploitation at GAMA Construction. Knowing that the abuse of migrant workers was a threat to decent wages and conditions for all, Joe Higgins helped achieve a major victory and showing how to defeat the "race to the bottom." GAMA was forced to pay out up to €40 million in back money and pay the legal rates.

Fighting the Management Fees Rip-Off - 2006

In October 2006, Joe Higgins brought to national attention the rip-off of management companies fees being foisted on new housing estates and apartments as in Tyrrelstown and Ongar. He is leading a campaign to end the management fees rip-off.



Joe Higgins TD has fought alongside Dublin West communities against rip-off management fees.

Support and assistance

As a councillor since 1991 and as a TD since 1997, Joe Higgins has dealt with thousands of constituents and community groups giving support and assistance on a wide range of issues.

Challenges ahead

There are crucial issues which can only be tackled by strong campaigning such as the disgraceful shortage of school places and the need for social and public infrastructure. The EU Commission will push the next government to re-introduce water charges. To give leadership and support on these and other issues, Joe Higgins' continued presence in the Dail is vital.



Joe Higgins speaking against the give away of the Corrib Gasfield in Mayo to Shell.

On other issues...

WORKERS' RIGHTS:

Resist bosses imposing wage competition and a race to the bottom between workers. For a mass trade union recruitment campaign and militant action to ensure decent pay and conditions for both Irish and migrant workers. End "social partnership".

WOMEN'S RIGHTS:

Women suffer the worst pay and conditions and are still paid on average 16% less than men. The trade unions must take action to enforce equal pay. Extend paid maternity leave to 52 weeks. Support the choices of women with crisis pregnancies including the provision of abortion facilities through the health service.

NO DISCRIMINATION:

Cater for the needs of people with disabilities. No to racism. No discrimination in rights or entitlements on the basis of gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity or nationality.

ENVIRONMENT:

Tackle global warming by forcing big business to make radical cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. For state investment so that by 2020 more than 50% of Ireland's energy is from renewable sources.

TAXATION JUSTICE:

Scrap all stealth and double taxes including the bin tax and plans to introduce water charges. Fund proper public services and social welfare, including a proper, living state pension, through progressive taxation that shifts the tax burden on to big business and the rich.

CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

People have the right to live without fear of intimidation or violence. For democratic community controlled police services. Cut across anti social behaviour, invest in the educational, economic and leisure needs of young people.

NORTHERN IRELAND:

For a real and lasting solution based on unity of Catholic and Protestant communities not the sectarian politicians. For a socialist solution to the national question.

INTERNATIONAL:

US military out of Iraq and Shannon. Oppose imperialist wars including any attacks on the Iranian people. No to the big business dominated EU. For a Socialist Europe for the majority not the multinationals!

SOCIALIST POLICIES:

No to the capitalist market that promotes greed over public need. For socialism, where the natural resources, the banks and key sectors of the economy are taken into democratic working class ownership and control. For a democratic socialist plan to provide for the needs of the majority and create a society based on co-operation not competition.

Vote No. 1
JOE HIGGINS Socialist Party

Join us today - Return to Socialist Party, P.O. Box 3434, Dublin 8 / 01 6772592. Email us at info@socialistparty.net

For more information on what we stand for, go to www.socialistparty.net