

VOTE

No. 1

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SHANE ROSS

Litir um Thoghchán
Dublin South Constituency



NEGATIVE EQUITY, UNEMPLOYMENT AND EMIGRATION

Social welfare recipients are not alone in suffering cuts in their standard of living. Middle class Ireland has suffered equally. Negative equity has been accompanied by unemployment. Emigration has often followed. Child benefit has been cut.

We cannot rely solely on vague hopes for the export sector to boost employment. We need to stimulate growth in the areas most likely to respond. Growth rate predictions have already been downgraded with the Central Bank's forecast for 2011 falling from 2.4% to 1%.

The multinational sector, the engine of Ireland's growth in recent years, can provide additional employment and growth in the future. Overseas investment, which already provides hundreds of thousands of jobs, should be further incentivised. Our success in attracting foreign capital is due to our well-educated young population and our 12.5% corporate tax rate.

We should reduce our corporate tax rate from 12.5 % to below 10% to attract further foreign investment, to stimulate exports, to increase employment and reduce emigration.

SMALL BUSINESSES

Small businesses have featured among the worst victims of the economic collapse. Above all, they are bleeding because of the lack of normal lending facilities coming from the banks.

Measures must urgently be introduced to improve the cash flow crisis in small businesses. These should include a reduction in water charges, widespread incentives for the indigenous sector, cuts in energy costs to small operations, tax credits for staff training and an employment maintenance programme. Ireland cannot afford to allow small businesses to suffer any further damage from the bank-induced recession.

Such measures should be accompanied by modernisation in the public service to support the necessary competitive edge.

NO THIRD LEVEL FEES

Every qualified Irish citizen should be entitled to equality of opportunity in education. This means that all third level education should be free, allowing those with lower incomes to access a third level education regardless of their personal circumstances.

HOW WOULD THIS BE PAID FOR?

Wasteful expenditure is endemic. Shane's co-authored best selling book 'Wasters' exposed waste in all sectors of the public finances. Quango numbers should be reduced by 80%. Semi-states like FÁS (€1billion), CIE (€280m subsidy), the HSE (€13.5 billion) and Enterprise Ireland should be cut to the bone to pay for the education of our young people. Sales of state assets should be considered where appropriate.



Shane outside the FÁS headquarters

SHANE ROSS BRINGS NEW POLITICS TO DUBLIN SOUTH



Shane Ross and his wife Ruth Buchanan canvassing at the bungalow in Sandyford where he was born.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Shane Ross is a native of the Dublin South constituency. He was born in Sandyford, reared in Stepaside, attended school in Dundrum and lived in Dublin South's Carrickmines until four years ago.

He is married to broadcaster Ruth Buchanan. They have two children. Shane has been writing for the Sunday Independent for fifteen years.

As an Independent Senator he has campaigned for reform of the banks, the removal of the M50 toll booths and an end to political cronyism. He led a shareholders revolt at Eircom.

He used the Freedom of Information Act to expose FÁS. Shane is author of two best-selling books, "The Bankers" and co-author of "Wasters".

If you want to join the volunteers in my campaign please contact me at shanerosscampaign@gmail.com

Visit my website at www.shane-ross.ie

Follow me on Twitter: @SenShaneRoss

Follow me on Facebook: [facebook.com/Senator.Shane.Ross](https://www.facebook.com/Senator.Shane.Ross)



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CRONYISM

Political cronyism has infected Irish politics. As a senator and journalist Shane has exposed cronyism in the banks, at FÁS, at CIE and throughout the state system. Shane has campaigned to force an end to the practice of putting political favourites on well-paid state boards. If elected to the Dáil he will initiate measures to bring candidates for these jobs for public questioning before Dáil committees.

Shane has worked tirelessly to stop the explosion of quangos, used by governments as an outlet for patronage.

BANKING

Bankers have brought Ireland to its knees. Shane has been challenging the banks for fifteen years in the Seanad and at Annual General Meetings. Shane has been an advocate for small shareholders in the face of greed and recklessness in the boardroom. He wants to see bankers made accountable for their actions. He wrote a best-selling book "The Bankers - How the banks brought Ireland to its knees".



Shane outside Anglo's headquarters

DÁIL REFORM/END TRIBAL POLITICS

Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael have promoted civil war politics. Real political debate is non-existent. The election system ensures that local issues take priority over legislation.

Why is the Dáil chamber always empty?

Because TDs are in their offices doing constituency errands rather than legislating. Multi-seat constituencies under PR should be replaced by smaller units with single seats. Elected TDs would then be able to spend more time in the Dáil chamber, as they will no longer be forced to compete pointlessly with constituency rivals doing 'favours' for constituents. We must see an end to "pothole politics".

Dáil committees must be given powers to compel witnesses to attend. Some bankers and directors of semi-states have refused to appear before TDs and Senators. Legislators must return to the business of legislation.

RENEGOTIATE THE IMF/EU DEAL

The humiliation of the Irish nation in the bailout from Europe and the IMF has robbed us of our national sovereignty. We accepted a deal that was dictated by the interests of foreign bankers, not Irish citizens.

We must renegotiate the deal. Those who recklessly lent money to Irish bankers should pay the price of their recklessness. Bondholders should be forced to share the pain with Irish citizens.

The penal 5.8% rate of interest being charged to Ireland is a surrender to the speculators who lent money to the big Irish banks. Barring miracles, we are unlikely to be able to meet these payments over the long-term, leading to our probable national default.

Our response should be to impose debt forgiveness on the bondholders in a renegotiated deal.

Alternatively, an orderly default could restore our credit rating in a short period of time as investors will mark a disciplined restructuring as a low point in our economic fortunes.