

VOTE NO. 1 JEFFREY DUDGEON

Litir um Thoghchán
Election Communication
Dublin University Constituency



Belfast 2011

Photography: Gavin Devine

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A NEW INDEPENDENT VOICE
TO REPRESENT TRINITY



Killarney 2009

Making history with your vote

I am asking you to make history by electing to the Seanad an Ulster Protestant from Belfast and a liberal unionist, allowing that voice to be heard, and proving that majoritarianism in Ireland belongs to the past.

With one vacant seat and David Norris a near-certain winner, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th preferences will be critical. I do however need sufficient No. 1 preferences to get high enough on the first count. Every preference will matter.

This may be the last Seanad election. Ireland's current crisis has however not been caused by its Upper House, rather by populist politics, an inept government, a powerless Dáil and a weak Department of Finance.

The Seanad has, over the decades, provided a platform for the country's minorities, its non-conformists and dissenters, and for voices from Northern Ireland. I can say things that are difficult for others to say. I therefore oppose its abolition.

A new voice for Trinity

I am seeking your vote as a dissenter with a northern accent, one who has only warm feelings for the Republic. Mine is perhaps a daring enterprise, which is why I would appreciate you taking a similarly adventurous step by voting for me.

In a real sense, we are heading back to a time before partition, when the differences between the two parts and peoples of Ireland were not as extreme as they became.

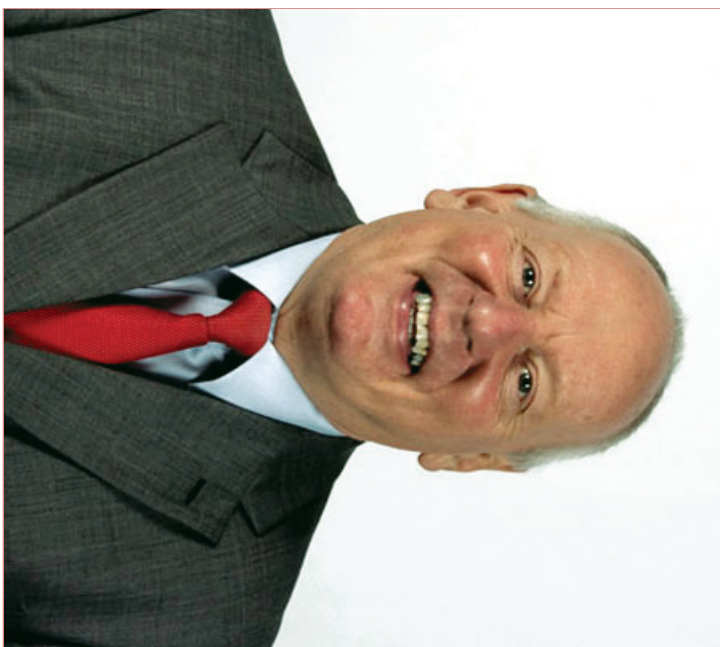
This is underlined by the Queen's imminent visit. It will not weaken the state's independence which I respect, as I respect *Bunreacht na hÉireann*, but happily illustrates a country at ease with its neighbours.

The next decade is however a time of danger, with commemoration of key century-old events, especially the Easter Rising. It could be an occasion for renewed bitterness and conflict. I will face up to that danger by pursuing a prudent and balanced approach to celebrating our history.

Why I am seeking your support

Shane Ross's election to the Dáil leaves a Seanad gap which I am well-qualified to fill. David Norris is certain to be a candidate for and, I hope, elected to the Presidency later this year.

With Gerry Adams now heading a 14-strong Sinn Féin team, the Oireachtas needs a differing voice from Northern Ireland.



Who am I?

Born in 1946 and brought up in Belfast, I was a student at Trinity (graduating in 1968) and earlier at Magee College where I was involved in the University for Derry campaign. The failure to site the university in the city was, I have long argued, the trigger for the Troubles.

Political involvement

After subsequent participation in the civil rights movement, I spent nearly two decades in organisations trying to normalise political life in Northern Ireland, regularise relations between the two parts of Ireland, and address community divisions.

These groups included the Workers Association for the Democratic Settlement of the National Conflict in Ireland which majored on ending the claim to Northern Ireland in Articles 2 and 3, the Campaign for Labour Representation which sought party membership in Northern Ireland, and the Campaign for Equal Citizenship, a broad group, again seeking to introduce mainstream politics as an alternative to the continuing sectarian conflict.

Strasbourg case success

I was also a successful plaintiff at the European Court of Human Rights in a six-year case against the UK whose 1981 judgement relating to the right to a private life led a year later to a law decriminalising male homosexual behaviour in Northern Ireland. This was a European first and one cited in major human rights jurisdictions.

Civil service career

From the 1980s I worked in the NI Health Service's superannuation section. I was also project manager for the computerisation of its pension system.

In 1995, I took a career break to join Robert McCartney, UK Unionist MP for North Down. I was his constituency office manager and parliamentary assistant, working with Conor Cruise O'Brien during the Stormont talks.

On return to the civil service, I was employed until 2008 on public health law, hospital-acquired infection, screening and immunisation.

Referendums in 1998 - north and south

Ireland's step change came with the 1998 referenda when the Republic voted to drop its claim to Northern Ireland and when the north endorsed the decision of the IRA to end its war in exchange for a guaranteed Sinn Féin place in government. That is not to say that the conflict was not horrifyingly bloody, long and needless.

Respecting that legitimising result – the first vote of the Irish people, as one, since 1918 – I left my job intent on working the new institutions later joining the UUP.

As Northern Secretary of the Irish Association for three years from 1999, I organised a number of important events in Belfast including *Ancestral Voices*, with five sons and daughters of the 1916-21 revolutionaries.

Roger Casement – The Black Diaries

In 1998, I started researching a book on Roger Casement, the Irish separatist and campaigner for the protection of the Congolese and the Peruvian Indians, hanged in 1916 for treason. The 692-page result in 2002 was *Roger Casement: The Black Diaries - With a Study of his Background, Sexuality, and Irish Political Life*.

It was largely, but far from exclusively, about the authenticity of the diaries although the controversy did not abate. I continue to research Casement's time in Germany and his political legacy. Recently I assisted the 2010 Nobel Prize winner for Literature, Mario Vargas Llosa, researching his new Casement novel, *El sueño del celto* in Co. Antrim.

I wrote my Casement book to correct myths and dispel conspiracy theories. That would be a continuing task.

If elected, and looking forward, I will work to rebuild Ireland's confidence, capitalising on our economic interdependence and resisting attempts to draw us back into conflict.

Supporters of my candidacy include

Dennis Kennedy	Professor Bill (W.J.) McCormack
Professor Roy Foster	Dr Brian Lacey
Ruth Dudley Edwards	Gerry Lynch
Brian Garrett	Dr Austen Morgan
Senator Eoghan Harris	Professor Arthur Aughey
Professor Henry Patterson	Lady Daphne Trimble
Professor Liam Kennedy	Gordon Lucy
Michael McDowell	Michael McGimpsey
(Washington)	(NI Minister of Health)

Contact details and website

A biography and details of my views, history, interests and writings is at www.jeffreydudgeon.com. I would be pleased to hear from electors on their issues and concerns at jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com or write to 56 Mount Prospect Park, Belfast, BT9 7BG. You can also follow the campaign on my Facebook page.

Delivering for you in the Seanad

Trinity

- Representing the college, its academics, staff, students and graduates.
- Promoting *alumni* activity in the state, in the UK and worldwide.
- Supporting liberal scholarship and academic freedom.

Ireland

- Using my political knowledge, experience and maturity working in the Seanad.
- Critically supporting reforms in the new government's National Recovery programme.
- Removing discriminatory Irish language restrictions on entrance to and employment in schools, colleges and universities.
- Proposing radical re-negotiation of the bailout arrangements with the EU and IMF.
- Joining inter-parliamentary bodies that link the Oireachtas, Westminster and the NI Assembly.
- Tackling youth unemployment by innovative public sector employment practice including job sharing and fewer expensive redundancies.
- Seeking a law required by the 2010 judgement of the European Court of Human Rights to protect the equal constitutional right to life of the mother.
- Reviewing the Croke Park Agreement and revisiting the McCarthy report on the public service.
- Enhancing rights and protections for women, minorities and migrants and encouraging diversity.
- Reducing drastically the pension privileges of Ministers, Oireachtas members and other state officials.

Northern Ireland

- Calling for issues of the past to be examined through historical rather than expensive judicial enquiries.
- Reviewing the Republic's funding of €500 (£400m) for the unwanted A5 road dualling project from the N2 into Northern Ireland.
- Arguing that teacher appointments in Protestant and Catholic schools in Northern Ireland should not be exempt from fair employment and EU law.