



Nomination of a Candidate for the Office of President

Dublin City Council may choose to make a nomination for the Office of President. The relevant legislation is the 1993 Election of Presidents Act and the Presidential Elections (Forms) (Amendments) Regulation 2018 (SI 329 of 2018). The Presidential Electoral Order was signed on August 28th and nominations can be made on or after August 30th. The Returning Officer will close the nomination process at noon on the 26th of September. The ballot is due to take place on Friday 26th October.

A candidate seeking local authority nominations requires the nomination of four City/County Councils. A City/County Council may by resolution make **one** nomination per Council. The nomination of a candidate is a reserved function and is a matter for the Elected Members

The Council is required in the nomination form to confirm that the candidate is eligible to run for the Office, up until 28th August. To date, Dublin City Council has been asked to support the nominations of the following candidates: Kevin Sharkey; Sarah Louise Mulligan; Gavin Duffy; John Groarke; Gemma O'Doherty; Maria Goretti Moylan and James P. Smyth. Dublin City Council has also been approached by unnamed third parties on behalf of the "William Delaney 1957-1970 Campaign". The above candidates' interest has been acknowledged and they have been requested in return to give us their details and confirm in writing that they meet the eligibility requirements.

The legislation is explicit on the procedure once a Council resolution is adopted but does not give any guidance on what processes a Council should use during their deliberations. Dublin City Council may therefore agree its own procedures and adopt them by resolution at a properly convened meeting of the City Council.

The following options are open to the Council for consideration

1. To decide at this meeting not make a nomination. The suggested resolution would be ***"Dublin City Council hereby resolves not to endorse any candidate for the 2018 Presidential Election"***. All interested parties will be informed of the Council decision in this matter.

or

2. Dublin City Council may decide to further consider the matter and agree a date for a Special Meeting. The suggested resolution would be that ***"Dublin City Council hereby resolves to hold a Special Meeting on September xx at xxpm to consider requests for nominations it receives from persons wishing to contest the 2018 Presidential Election. The Council may, at its discretion, make a resolution to nominate a candidate"***

The adoption of the second motion would invite expressions of interest from additional potential eligible nominees to be made to the Lord Mayor within one week of this meeting.

The Council needs to have agreed procedure for the special meeting including the

- basis for invitation or exclusion of a candidate from a Special Meeting
- procedures at the meeting including speaking times, questions, webcasting
- selection of appropriate voting procedures whether based on largest number of votes received, incremental rounds of elimination or alternates. There are complexities involved in each voting option.

It is proposed that the City Council authorises the Lord Mayor and Group Leaders to agree a draft procedure for the process and to circulate to Members prior to the Special Meeting. Members who wish to make a submission on the process may do so by submitting their recommendations directly to the Lord Mayor. The procedures would be formally adopted at the commencement of the Special Meeting.

Deirdre Ní Raghallaigh
Senior Executive Officer
3rd September 2018