



**Scouter's Edition**

# General Election

## ***The Crean Award:***

**Discovery:**

Patrol Activity

**Terra Nova:**

Task/Role in Patrol  
Patrol Activity

**Endurance:**

Patrol Activity

**Polar:**

Patrol Activity

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## ***SPICES***

Social

Character

## ***The Activity:***

**Objective:**

To run a mock election and explore the electoral system.

**Activity Type:**

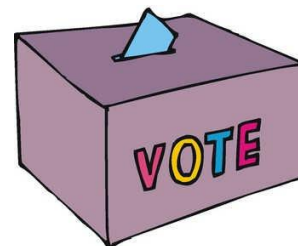
Troop Activity

**Roles:**

Activity Leaders

Candidates

Returning Officers





## Plan: Election

Running an election can be a fun activity, if you put a little effort in! Everyone can get into the spirit of having a campaign, making speeches, and convincing people to vote for you.

### Candidates & Seats

It is a good idea to go with three seats to be filled as this allows for the voting system to be demonstrated fully. Have at least five or six candidates to make it interesting. These should be scouts who are good talkers and will get into the spirit of the activity.

### Posters:

There are sample posters on the following pages. You can use these, or candidates can make up their own. The policies on these sample posters represent a simplified selection of the political positions in Irish elections. As much as possible

have the candidates reproduce these perspectives to ensure the election is based on policies rather than personalities! Have posters and literature up in your meeting place before the rest of the scouts arrive, set the right atmosphere from the start.

### Canvassing and Speeches

Allow time for the candidates to move around and canvass people. If you are running games or other activities, the candidates should take the time to meet everyone. Also, if you like, give each candidate two minutes to represent themselves and their views. Or, if some of the candidates like, run a quick debate on local issues, like opening a new swimming pool, or closing schools on Fridays

### Voting

There are sample ballot papers below. Print out enough for all scouts.





## Do: Election

On the night, have a scout, who is not a candidate, explain everything throughout the night. Make sure to keep things active and moving along. This is about having a practical and fun look at the election process!

### PR-STV

Proportional Representation (PR) is used in elections for the Dáil in the Republic of Ireland and for the Northern Ireland Assembly. This system helps give smaller parties and independents a fairer representation. PR-STV system (proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote). PR-STV allows the elector to indicate their first and subsequent choices for the candidates on the ballot paper.

### Voting

Explain the system to everyone. If you want hand out the ballots. Or maybe set up two polling stations where people have to call to.

- It is a secret ballot. This is important as no one can see how you vote, which means you can't be bribed or intimidated to vote a certain way.
- On the ballot paper all the candidates are listed alphabetically. A voter marks candidates in order of their preference. They put 1 in the box of the candidate they want to give their 1<sup>st</sup> preference to, 2 in the box of the candidate they want to give their 2<sup>nd</sup> preference to and so on. A voter can just write as many or as few preferences as they wish.
- If some marking other than numbers in descending order of preference is used – eg a tick or x in a box – the vote is considered invalid and is not counted.



## *The Right Stuff*



### **Vote: Kerri Kerry The Right Part**

**Low Taxes:** You deserve to spend your own money.

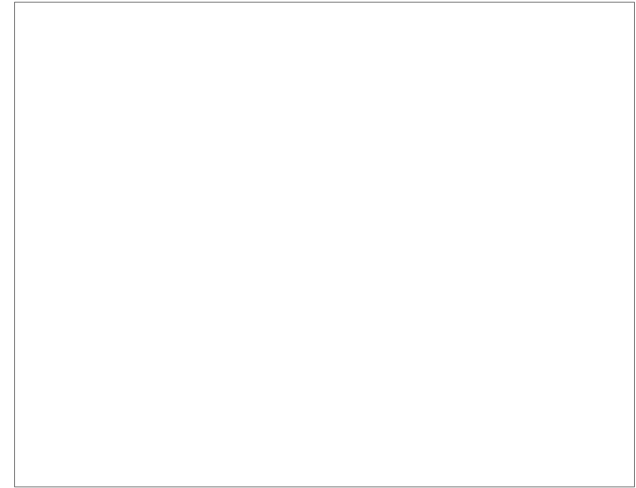
**Less Regulation:** More innovation and entrepreneurship, less big government

**Roads:** More and better roads to help reduce traffic.

**Security:** We need better security measures – You deserve to feel safe in your own home.

**Immigration:** Only legitimate refugees, in smaller numbers

## Vote 1: Mikey Mayo



### Lively Liberals

**Equality:** Let's make this a fair world for everyone – not just the majority.

**Community:** A programme for government that supports all communities.

**Environment:** A sensible approach that will save the planet for your children.

**Civil Liberties:** The right to speech for all.

**Transport:** A decent public transport system.

*A vote for Kerri is a vote for you!*

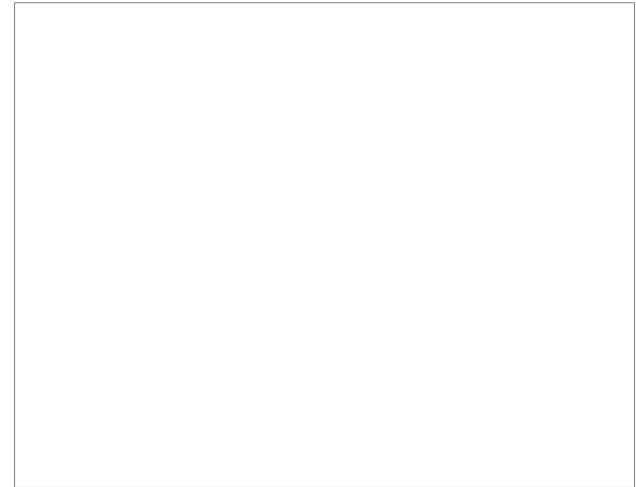
# **Vote Karol Cavan The Local Man!**



## **‘The Man you Know. The Man you Trust. The Man!’**

- Keep the hospital and post offices open
- A new road, fill the potholes
- Grants for local jobs
- Less National, more Local

# **Vote GREEN: Vote Cathy Carlow**



## *Greener and Cleaner Politics*

Effective Climate Change Policies  
More recycling and Eco-friendly homes  
Social Supports for the less well-off  
Better public transport is a MUST  
More local amenities  
Responsible business

# Liam Laois

## The Family Man



### **Family as the central unit of society.**

- Supporting family and community
- A Justice System that protects ordinary decent people
- Improvement to our collapsing schools, not to mind the education system.
- More hospital beds and more doctors – in other words a proper health system.
- Balance in the media

*Vote for your family, vote for Liam (Trad Party)*

# Lizzy Longford



***Send Lizzy to the Dáil ,  
to make it better for all***

An end to the farce that is the government!  
More affordable housing  
Cheaper TV licences  
Respect for the elderly and poor  
More green spaces for the youth  
Free bikes for everyone

***Give Lizzy your No.1 on the day***

# Scout Constituency

Please indicate candidates in order of preference.  
Mark with consecutive numbers ONLY.

Cathy Carlow \_\_\_\_\_

Karol Cavan \_\_\_\_\_

Kerri Kerry \_\_\_\_\_

Liam Laois \_\_\_\_\_

Lizzy Longford \_\_\_\_\_

Mikey Mayo \_\_\_\_\_

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Kerri Kerry \_\_\_\_\_

Liam Laois \_\_\_\_\_

Lizzy Longford \_\_\_\_\_

Mikey Mayo \_\_\_\_\_



## Do: Election

### Counting

Independent officials, called Returning Officers, oversee the counting process, appoint one for your count. First thing is gather and open all the ballots. Count them to make sure there is as many votes as people who voted. Then check if they are all valid, disposing of any spoilt votes.

Next calculate the quota, the minimum number of votes needed to guarantee the election of a candidate. Dividing the total number of valid ballot papers by the number of seats plus one and then add one. For example, if you have 1,000 ballots for three seats it would be 251 ( $1,000/4 (3+1)$ , then +1).

Sort the ballots according to the first preferences . If on this, the 1st count, anyone exceeds the quota

they are deemed elected. If they receive more than the quota, their surplus votes are transferred proportionality to the remaining candidates according to the number 2s. If no one else reaches the quota after this, the lowest of the remaining candidates is eliminated and their votes are transferred to remaining candidates according to the next preference indicated on them.

Counting continues until all the seats have been filled. If the number of seats left to be filled is equal to the number of candidates still in the running, those remaining candidates are declared elected without having reached the quota.

The Returning Officer makes the official announcement of the elected candidates.







## Review

What did you learn about the electoral system?

Did you enjoy doing it?

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What political arguments did you like?

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*What can we do next?*





# Review “SPICES”

## **Social**

- Relationships
- Communication Skills
- Other Cultures
- Community Involvement
- Promise & Law

## **Physical**

- Eat Well
- Personal Hygiene
- Balanced Lifestyle
- How Body works
- Physical Limitations
- Health Choices
- Access Help

## **Intellectual**

- Achieving Goals
- New Ideas/Creativity
- Learn from Decisions
- Team Member

## **Character**

- Promise & Law
- Friends & Friendships
- Plan before do
- Ensuring Fairness
- Respect
- Differences & Views
- Following Dreams
- Live the Scouting Spirit

## **Emotional**

- Aware of feelings
- Asking/Giving Help
- Responsibility for Emotions
- Controlling Emotions
- Going Further
- Beliefs & Values
- Developing Talents

## **Spiritual**

- Promise & Law
- Impact on Environment
- Reflection
- Changing Beliefs





## Scouter Notes

This is a fun activity with a civic focus. It helps Scouts understand the democratic process and the importance of voting.

In reviewing the activity, maybe the participating scouts could think about:

- What was the campaign like? Did you focus on the policies or the personalities?
- Did anyone change your mind?
- What was the counting like?

Ask the candidates:

- What was campaigning like? Was it easy or hard to convince people to vote for you?
- Would you think of becoming a politician?

The activity leaders should also think about:

- How organised were we?
- What was the hardest part?

From the **SPICES**, parts of the **Social** and **Character** area are relevant. In Social, communication skills are highly relevant, especially for the candidates. How did they communicate? Did they convey their message? For the voters, how did the messages differ? What worked, what didn't?

From Character, the activity can help scouts understand the importance of respecting others and their perspectives. Sometimes campaigns can be heated, but was everyone respected? What was it like after the campaign? Also, did the election ensure fairness? Did the right people get elected?

