



VOTE No. 1 MICHAEL

FITZMAURICE

**STANDING
WITH
THE PEOPLE**

**Independent candidate
for the Roscommon/Galway
Constituency**

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IF YOU ELECT ME TO ROSCOMMON/GALWAY, I WILL FIGHT FOR:-

- The development of infrastructure in the West of Ireland which will lead to sustainable Employment.
- Family Farms: West of the Shannon we need to support the Family Farm.
- We need fair prices, justice and equality. We need to break monopolies so that Factories and large retailers are not able to manipulate prices and destroy the sustainability of smaller producers.
- More investment by IDA and Enterprise Ireland in support of SME's
- Health Services - I will fight for a better & fairer Health Service for all. The closure of Roscommon A&E & Mental Health services in Ballinasloe has left a vacuum and Staff shortages in all hospitals which needs to be addressed urgently.
- Local businesses in our towns and villages need improved infrastructure, access to Broadband and assistance in creating new Employment opportunities and more investment in infrastructure.
- A high quality water supply and proper sewage systems for our towns and villages to allow for sustainable economic development. Problems in Roscommon/Galway need to be addressed.
- Rainwater harvesting incentives to reduce the overall cost of supply.
- The right of people to cut their own turf, in their own bogs, for their own use.
- To enable communities to maintain the viability of their local schools.
- The development of our tourism potential as a means of creating employment.
- The return of our emigrant children to decent jobs in their own localities.
- The protection of our most vulnerable people, our elderly, our people with disabilities, our unemployed and those living in isolation.
- The retention of services in our local areas – We need to HALT the shutdown of local services: – Our Local Schools, our Garda Stations, our local Post-offices and our local Businesses.
- The retention of a sustainable population in our rural areas which in turn will support our local towns.
- Proactive policies at local and national level to ensure people can continue to live in the countryside.
- Support for Tax Reliefs on childcare fees and abolition of USC starting with low to middle income families.
- The introduction of proper setback distances for wind turbines. I have grave doubts about the economic Viability of Wind energy.

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INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR ROSCOMMON/GALWAY

Agriculture

For generations the family farm has been the backbone of our economy. Today, in most of our rural communities, less than 10% of our families are totally dependent on agriculture. I will fight for fair treatment for farm families. Rules and Regulations are crippling rural Ireland and I will continue to oppose the ever-increasing sets of laws which make life more difficult. The EU and successive Irish governments have failed to address our problems. Rules on slurry spreading, environmental designation, Turf-cutting, One-off houses, Fencing and land improvements all have a disproportionate impact on the small farmer. We also need to find solutions to our Flooding problems which had such devastating effects on so many families.

EU regulation adds to escalating costs and poses a serious threat to the viability of family farms. Farmers are entitled to a fair return for their produce and their work but this is not always reflected in the Cattle prices in Ireland. We need to re-open the Live Export market and create farmer-owned co-ops to break the monopoly of the Beef Barons. Equally, sheep farmers need to be listened to as proposals at the moment will wipe out the Hill farmer. In spite of the fact that our farmers are not being properly rewarded for producing an excellent product our consumers are still paying 'top-dollar' for their meat.

We must strive to become self-sufficient by growing our own food as far as possible. A tiered farm support system is required to target proportionately higher payments towards small farms. The situation where the bulk of CAP payments are paid to the wealthy cannot be allowed to persist. Young farmers and farmers who have no/low BPS should be brought to national standard immediately.

Dairying is the buzz-word of the moment but I have urged farmers to be cautious. Farmers must examine carefully if their farm can remain sustainable if there is heavy borrowing or if the market suddenly changes. Historically, it has been shown that when there is a substantial increase in the production of a raw material, there is likely to be a fall in unit prices.



Education

Education is a right that every child is entitled to. Our local schools need to be protected as they are vital in the retention of rural population as well as giving our villages and towns a sense of identity. We must be proactive in making sure that services are available in all areas. Rural schools have done their communities proud and are essential to the basic fabric of our areas. In the area of Educational funding it is clear that Middle Ireland often struggles to access Third Level.

Health

I will fight for the better and fairer health service for all. The closure of Roscommon A&E and Mental Health Services in Ballinasloe is another step in the decimation of local services in rural Ireland.. It is unacceptable to see General, Mental and Maternity health services being downgraded or closed. I will continue to fight for funding for Sacred Heart Hospital and all other Health services in our constituency. Disability services must also be supported as it is clearly wrong to target the most vulnerable in our society for cut-backs. T.D.s need to stand up for our rural areas, our small towns and our Health Services. Let us send a strong message to Government that cut-backs in rural Ireland must stop. Let me continue to be your messenger and I will ensure that your message is heard loud and clear!

Tourism

Tourism in Roscommon/Galway needs to be promoted. Successive governments have abandoned our area with the result that most of the Tourism development money is being spent elsewhere.

Apprenticeships

An Independent TD can make a real difference and have an influence in Dáil Éireann – An example of this was the detailed policy on Apprenticeships which I presented in the Dáil earlier this year. For too long, the role of Apprenticeships as a pathway to a rewarding career was forgotten but I have shown the need for our educational and training agencies to renew their support for Apprenticeships so that they can make a real contribution to business and enterprise in Ireland.

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Business

Our "Rural Recovery and Reinvestment Plan" sets out strategies to promote development in rural areas.

We must foster an environment which encourages the creation of employment opportunities. Our costs must be competitive and so we need the required infrastructure and services. High speed broadband is essential in rural areas.

Ireland needs balanced economic development. Recent proposals to pipe water from the Shannon to Dublin to support jobs in the capital are a case in point. Why not move jobs to where the resources are?

Enterprise projects can be developed in Rural Towns/Villages if incentives are created such as allowances on Rates.

Ireland's natural resources Fish, Oil, Gas, and Timber must be used for the benefit of her people.

We import €6bn of vegetable and fruit – much of which could be grown at home. Restarting our sugar beet industry, would reduce our imports, reduce imports of cattle feed and provide farmers with a cash crop. The abandonment of this industry was a mammoth mistake.



Services

Credit Unions, Post Offices, Rural Garda Stations and all local services need our support. Housing needs must also be addressed urgently.

Bogs

As Chairman of TCCA, I have consistently campaigned for the Rights of domestic turf cutters to cut their own turf for their own use, on their own turf banks.

I have worked and will continue to work to find solutions to the Turf cutting issue through dialogue and legal means until the problems are solved and I will continue to vindicate the right of turf-cutters to harvest turf for their own use.



Water Supply and Harvesting

Firstly, urgent attention is required to sort out water quality in Roscommon/Galway. Nobody should have to pay for water which is not up to the required quality. I have worked on several large water and sewage schemes and have direct experience of what is required to establish and maintain successful schemes. Everybody has a right to good quality drinking water and all of our towns should have adequate sewage facilities. The government should also incentivise the installation of rainwater harvesting systems.

Flooding

Recent flooding has reminded us once again of the lack of action on the cleaning and dredging of our rivers over the decades. I will continue to advocate for authority to be given to one agency to have overall responsibility for water levels and flood prevention on the River Shannon and main tributaries such as the Suck and Shiven. I support the dredging of rivers, the use of flood plains and the erection of Flood defences.



CHARTER OF THE INDEPENDENT ALLIANCE – PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES:

1. Strip politicians of power to make political appointments.
2. No party whip. Revolution, not token reform, in workings of Dáil Éireann needed
3. Radical revival of rural Ireland. Save declining communities.
4. Banks: If no reform, no privatisation; middle Ireland needs protection from banks.
5. Equal rights, opportunity and access to justice for all regardless of gender, creed or age.
6. Prioritise the needs of small business so they can stimulate job creation.
7. All insiders in public life or guardians of public money must be held accountable.
8. Ireland should remain within the European Community but regulations which are an obstacle to progress must be opposed.
9. The vulnerable: absolute protection for the old, sick and people with disabilities.
10. A complete overhaul of our justice system is necessary.

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Introduction



My roots go deep into the soil of Ireland. I am from a small farm in the parish of Glinsk/Creggs on the Roscommon-Galway border. I am fully acquainted with the difficulties of small family farms. I am married to Maria and have two daughters and a son. My greatest hope is that your children and mine will be free to build a decent life for themselves, should they wish, here in the west of Ireland. I am committed to doing everything in my power to make this hope a reality.

I am chairperson of the Turf Cutters and Contractors Association (TCCA), and have fought and continue, along with others, to fight for the right of Irish people to cut their own turf, for their own use, in their own bogs.

I have played a part in many local organisations and fully understand the importance of keeping small local groups alive and playing their part in the fabric of our communities.

I was a member of the BOM of our local school when we mounted a major fund-raising campaign to save our school with the aid of "a limousin bull" .. I have been actively involved in the GAA all my life and continue to encourage our youth to participate in all types of sports for their mental, physical, social, and character development. I ask you to let me continue to serve you as your TD. To do so, I need your Number One Vote. Together, We Can make a Difference, Together We Can Succeed.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.

Michael Fitzmaurice

My Vision



Since you first gave me the opportunity to represent you in Dáil Éireann I have succeeded in putting the spotlight on Rural Ireland like never before. I was one of four TD's nominated for the "TD of the year" award on the Vincent Browne show recently and this was mainly due to the fact that I had managed to get politicians right across the house to focus on the lives of people west of the Shannon.

Highlighting rural issues was the first step of a journey for me and now I ask you to let me continue in a determined effort to stop the tide of decline and to be a voice for the family farm, for our rural towns and villages and for our rural way of life.

Businesses can be established in or relocated to rural towns and villages if the proper incentives and policies are put in place.

There is a future for Rural Ireland – Let us be the generation to secure that future!

"Ní neart go cur le chéile"

**Together we can build a new future,
Together we can succeed !**

Le chéile - we can make Roscommon/Galway and Ireland a better place.



Contact Michael at 086 1914565 or 089 4625894 Office 090 6628479

Visit Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/michael.fitzmaurice.378

Find out more about the Independent Alliance at : <https://www.facebook.com/TheIndependentAlliance>

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