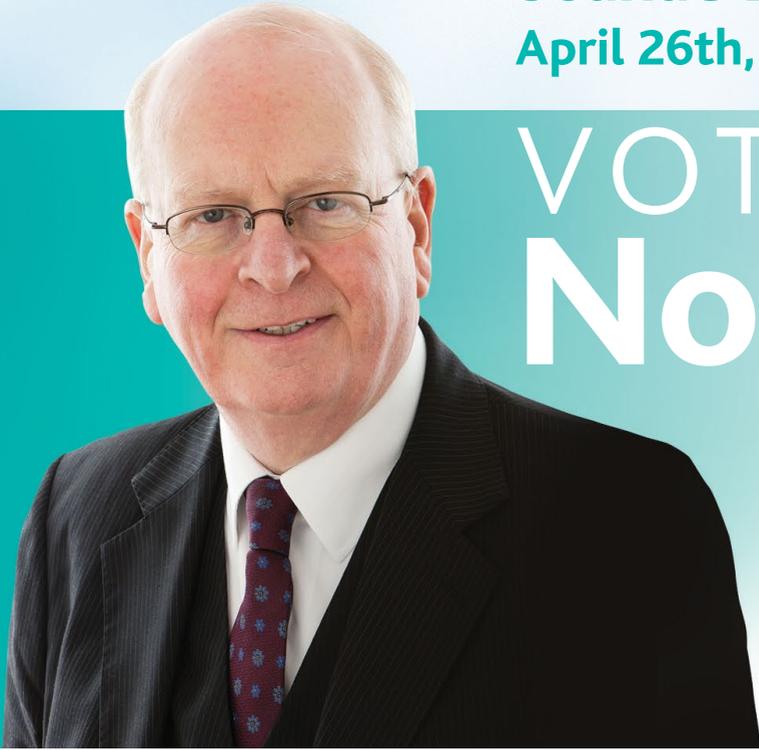


Seanad Election
April 26th, 2016

VOTE
No.1



Michael McDowell

**Independent Candidate
for Seanad Éireann,
NUI Panel**

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*I would be privileged and grateful if you would give me your **Number 1** vote in the forthcoming election to the **NUI panel of Seanad Éireann**.*

”

VOTE
No.1



Dear Fellow Graduates of the NUI,

In October 2013, the Irish people rejected the proposed abolition of the Seanad. I, along with Senator Feargal Quinn, Senator Katherine Zappone and others, campaigned for its retention on the promise that Seanad Éireann could be reformed into a vibrant and dynamic chamber with an important role to play in Irish democracy.

That reform is yet to take place, and I am seeking your support in order to make it happen. Seanad Éireann needs members who recognise its potential and who are passionate about its transformation.

During my time as Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Tánaiste, I witnessed first-hand the thoughtful and insightful contributions of senators from across the political spectrum. This experience underscored to me the ability of Seanad Éireann to make a valuable contribution to the legislative process.

I am now seeking a mandate from the graduates of the National University of Ireland to lead change from within Seanad Éireann and complete the job that the Irish electorate started when it rejected the abolition of our Seanad.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael McDowell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael McDowell

What role does Seanad Éireann play?

Seanad Éireann has the following important constitutional functions:

- Seanad Éireann provides a non-confrontational consideration of all legislation
- Important legislation is frequently initiated in the Seanad rather than the Dáil
- Important private members' bills have been tabled by senators dealing with many issues of social policy and law reform
- Seanad Éireann must give prior approval to EU proposals for enhanced co-operation, the Shengen Acquis, and Ireland's 'opt-out' of EU measures on freedom, justice and security
- Seanad Éireann can petition the President to put important bills to the people by referendum
- Seanad Éireann has a veto over any proposal to impeach the President, to remove judges from office, or to remove the Comptroller and Auditor General from office
- Up to two members of the Seanad may be appointed to cabinet as government ministers.

How can Seanad Éireann be reformed?

Over the last three years, two important reform proposals have been tabled: the Quinn/Zappone Bill in 2013, and the recommendations of the Working Group on Seanad Reform in 2015. Unfortunately, both sets of proposals remain unimplemented.

Without the need for constitutional change, the following radical Seanad reforms could be passed by the Oireachtas:

- Universal franchise in Seanad Elections, with a vote for every Irish citizen
- A diaspora vote for emigrants and Irish citizens living in Northern Ireland
- Online voter registration and voting
- A reconstitution of the vocational panels and a more limited electoral role for Oireachtas members and councillors
- A redefined role for the Seanad in North-South relations, the consideration of secondary EU legislation, and the consideration of reports from statutory bodies and regulators.

About Michael McDowell



Michael McDowell lives in Dublin, and is married to Professor Niamh Brennan and they have three sons. He is the youngest grandson of Eoin Mac Néill, a co-founder of Conradh na Gaeilge and the founding President of the Irish Volunteers.

Michael graduated from UCD with a B.A. in Economics, Politics, Jurisprudence and Roman Law in 1972. During his time in UCD, he was a member of the L&H and was auditor of the Law Society. He is currently an Adjunct Professor in the UCD Sutherland School of Law, and his wife Niamh is the Michael MacCormac Professor of Management in the UCD Quinn School of Business.

Michael was elected as a TD for Dublin South East in 1987, 1992 and 2002. He served as Attorney General from 1999 to 2002, as Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform from 2002 until 2007, and as Tánaiste from 2006 until 2007.

As a committed, reformist republican by conviction, I offer five policy principles in this election:

1. Supporting sound and sustainable economic policies so that the success of a growing economy will be fairly shared among all our citizens and across our regions
2. Supporting liberal and inclusive social policy reform and protecting the weak, vulnerable and marginalised in our society
3. Reforming our parliament and local democracy to make government truly accountable to the people, especially by reforming the Dáil and the Seanad
4. Advocacy for diversity, accessibility, and excellence at all levels of Irish education – primary, secondary, and university and other third level education
5. Supporting Ireland's EU membership while always protecting Ireland's national interests against being submerged in an EU super-state

For more information please visit: www.michaelmcdowell.ie