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# UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

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## Irish General Election Called

### A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

The relationship between Ireland and the US is not determined by election cycles, it is deeper than politics. It is a bond of family and friendship.

Like all families, we will agree and disagree on issues. I believe President Trump and the new Congress will continue to do the right thing by Ireland and stand up for the Good Friday Agreement. There are also many points of difference between the US and Ireland on foreign policy, in particular on the urgent need for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Just as the US has ended its election campaign an Irish General Election has been called. The Taoiseach and leader of Fine Gael, Simon Harris confirmed that the election will be held on Friday, November 29th.

Since partition, one hundred years ago, Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil had controlled both government and opposition in Dublin, swapping between elections.

The historical difference between Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael is rooted in their relative positions in the Civil War of 1922-1924. One hundred years on there is little or no policy difference and a shared desire to stay in power.

Fine Gael came to power in 2011 on the back of overinflated property costs and a banking crisis that had occurred under the watch of the Fianna Fáil Government. In 2016 Fianna Fáil kept a new minority Fine Gael government and in 2020 the two parties entered government together.

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turn, Mary Lou McDonald became the first woman and first Sinn Féin President to lead the official opposition.

Thirteen years of Fine Gael Government and we have again a housing crisis with rising rents, property costs, and homelessness at a time when the Irish economy is booming.

Since the founding of the State, neither party has progressed in Irish unity. Today they are resistant to even planning, preparing, or advocating for unity.

Despite claiming that the election would be held in the New Year, the government has now opted for the shortest possible campaign of three weeks before Christmas. Their thinking is that with softening Sinn Féin poll numbers, a short campaign will not allow time to interrogate their record in Office.

In 2020 the electorate made Sinn Féin a mandate to lead change. This election the challenge will be for Sinn Féin to increase its vote to build an alternative to the past 100 years of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael. Tonight is the start of canvassing. I'll keep you up to date on progress.

It will be a busy three weeks but one that represents a historic opportunity to elect a government of real change in Dublin and to progress the cause of Irish Unity.

Have a great weekend.  
Is mise,

Ciarán

**Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America**

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## **We are out to win this election and change the government – Mary Lou McDonald TD**

Mary Lou McDonald has said Sinn Féin is out to win the General Election to change the government.

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launch of the party's campaign for her own constituency of Dublin Central where she is joined on the ticket by Councillor Janice Boylan.

Ms McDonald stated people have a real choice between the repeated failures of Fine Gael and Fine Fáil governments or to back a new Sinn Féin-led government for working people, families and communities.

Teachta McDonald said, "We are contesting this General Election to win and change the government. If Sinn Féin wins, working people win, families win, communities win. "We want to bring the voices of ordinary people directly into the corridors of power. That's where their voices belong. And with a Sinn Féin led government that is where their voices will stay. We can do this, we can make history.

"Simon Harris and Micheál Martin believe that they have it all sewn-up. That they are waltzing back into government after the election. I think the people will have something to say about that.

"This General Election presents the people with a clear choice. To choose more of the same with another Fine Gael- or Fianna Fáil-led government or to choose a new government for working people led by Sinn Féin. Our message is clear. We are asking people to vote to change the government.

"Not only do we in Sinn Féin have the plans to make people's lives better ready to implement from day one in government, we have the best people, the strongest team in the field, and we have the political will. We ask for our chance to lead, and we will not let you down."

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## New Dates for Irish Unity People's Assembly: Diaspora in New York & DC

Join us in New York and Washington, DC in January 2025 for the next meetings of the Irish Unity People's Assembly: Diaspora.

Featuring John Finucane, MP, the Assembly will include an address about the current status of work towards Irish Unity, a Q&A session, and small group discussion about the role of the Irish Diaspora.

The event is free and registration is required. Tickets and more information available in the links below.

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## ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND



**Monday, January 27th, 2025**

**Washington, DC**

**Laborers' International Union of North America**  
905 Black Lives Matter Plz

### Featuring John Finucane, MP

A conversation with the diaspora, the descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.



AN COIMISIÚN  
UM THODHCHAÍ  
NA hÉIREANN

## ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND



**Thursday, January 30th, 2025**

**Rockland County, NY**

**Rockland GAA**

### Featuring John Finucane, MP

A conversation with the diaspora, the descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.



AN COIMISIÚN  
UM THODHCHAÍ  
NA hÉIREANN

## Pre-Election Video Update

Sinn Féin Representative to North America Ciarán Quinn and Friends of Sinn Féin US Director Greg O'Loughlin review some of the logistics of the upcoming elections in the south, provide an update on the Legacy Act, and more. [Watch it now and share with anyone who wants to learn more!](#)



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# Remove from only is inevitable. All

## interview with Pat Cullen, MP

Pat Cullen was elected as MP for Fermanagh South Tyrone in July 2024. She is the youngest of seven children and grew up in Co Tyrone. She is married with two children, and recently became a grandmother. Pat holds a degree in Nursing and a Master's in management and qualified as a registered nurse in 1985 working in a range of community and clinical healthcare settings, before becoming a director of nursing. She has held senior roles within nursing, including Director of Nursing at the Public Health Agency and advisor to the Department of Health, before joining the Royal College of Nursing in 2016 and became the director of the College in NI in 2019. Pat is an honorary professor of Queen's University.

### What is your earliest political memory?

My earliest political memory is the time of the blanket protest and then the no-wash protest. Whilst I was very young, I remember this so well. Every night, our mother brought us together for the rosary and she offered the first decade for the men on the blanket and the women in Armagh. The second decade was 'to banish' the British army from our shores and to keep us safe from their hands. I remember her very words and the significance of her prayers. I also knew the families around our townland and throughout Carrickmore that were suffering as a result of British rule and the impact it was having. I also remember the impact of our home being constantly searched and destroyed for no reason and the unjustness of this invasion of our rights and privacy.

### What is the biggest change you have seen in your lifetime?

The biggest change, without question was the announcement of the Good Friday Agreement. I will never forget the 10 April 1998. My husband and I had taken the children away for the weekend to Ennis. It was my husband's birthday. The children were eight and three and they kept wanting us to build a snowman with them as it had snowed the previous night. They kept asking why we were watching the TV and crying. We knew their lives were going to be so different to ours. Both of us worked in the health service and seen first hand the impact of the conflict on everyone we treated and just knowing that change was ahead of us was unfathomable. I will never forget that day.

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## New Merch Shop Now Open!

Show your support for Irish Unity and Friends of Sinn Féin USA with one of our new T-Shirts! Get a few stickers and put them on your laptop, water bottle, car, bike, or journal, and let everyone know that it's time for unity!

**All shirts are made in America, union printed, and carbon neutral!**

Visit the [Friends of Sinn Féin USA Merch Shop Here](#).

Use Code OCTOBER24 for 10% off of your order through October 31, 2024.

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