



Séamus O'Brien **Vote No.1**

Séamus O'Brien is the People Before Profit / ULA candidate for Wexford in the 2011 General Election

Elect Séamus O'Brien to take a clear message into the Dáil from the working people of Wexford:

Wexford General Hospital Campaign

Already at WGH

- 52 beds have been lost
- X-Ray department no longer operating round the clock
- A&E threatened with closure

We have the obscenity and indignity of patients lying on trolleys in corridors in one of the richest countries in the world. In May 2010 over 4000 people came onto the streets of Wexford to demand that services at WGH be maintained. This happened because of the hard work on the ground of Séamus and the Save WGH campaign. Disgracefully Minister of State in the discredited FF government, Sean Connick, refused to represent these demands to the Dáil.

It is essential to elect a TD, like Séamus, who will make no compromise with cuts at WGH but it is not enough and Séamus will continue to be active in the local campaign for:

- 24 hour A&E cover;
- Promised extension to A&E and the new Maternity Suite;
- Re-opening of St. Aiden's Ward;
- Building of Acute Psychiatric Unit on the grounds of W.G.H.

We want our wealth used to fund education, health and jobs - not to nurse the financial hangovers of the reckless gamblers and their casino capitalism

Who are People Before Profit / ULA ?

PBP have been campaigning since 2005 against attacks on public services and for an end to a system that puts the profit of big business before the needs of the majority.

The ULA is an alliance of groups including PBP, the Socialist Party and campaign groups who who are determined to offer the people of Ireland a genuine alternative to the bank-driven agenda of all other parties.

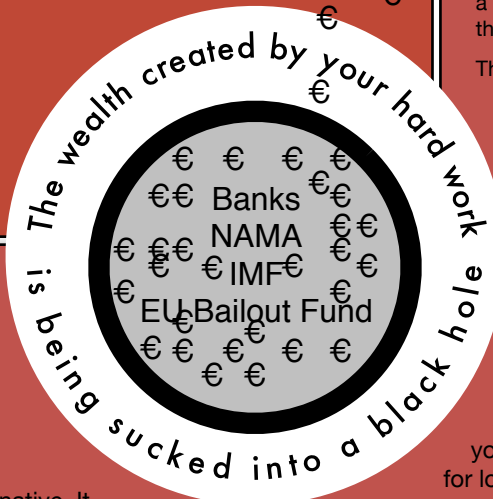
www.unitedleftalliance.org

The Economic Crisis

All other candidates will claim they have a different strategy for recovery but all offer the same fundamental prescription. The banks must be saved so we have to accept cuts.

Only ULA candidates offer a genuine alternative. It is not true that Ireland has suddenly become unproductive and that we simply can't afford to maintain our standard of living. In 2009 and 2010 Irish workers created more wealth per head of population than either France or Germany. The same is predicted for 2011. Irish banks, on the other hand, create not a cent of wealth. They pull wealth in from the real economy. By reckless and idiotic pursuit of ever greater profits banks have brought the economy to crisis point and plan to carry on in exactly the same way.

The reckless greed of the banks caused the crisis and you are being told you have to take your share of the blame in the national interest. Where was your share when the champagne-swilling super-rich were stashing away the nation's wealth in off-shore banks instead of investing it in health and education to ensure prosperity for the future ?



Nationalise The Banks

If elected, Séamus, like all ULA candidates, will use his Dáil platform to call for the nationalisation of all banks. A single bank, owned and controlled by you, serving your needs is the only solution for long term prosperity and stability. This bank would act like a giant credit union and seek to be a junior partner in your success, not the other way around.

Other candidates will tell you that this is reckless and nonsensical because they don't have the imagination to see an alternative. National debt is now 100% of GDP and Irish banks have debts of around €183 billion. Every cent of wealth generated this year will be owed to the vultures of the IMF, the European Central Bank and faceless venture capitalists. On top of that the banks owe more than one year's GDP. And the other candidates want you to carry on pouring money into the banks !

Séamus O'Brien says:

- not a cent more to the banks
- fund the hospitals and the schools
- invest for jobs

About The Candidate

Séamus works at Wexford General Hospital where he is a SIPTU shop steward. He lives in New Ross where both his parents were labour movement activists and where he has served as a councillor. Séamus has been instrumental in organising the recent Save Wexford General Hospital campaign.

As a TD Séamus will take the average wage of an industrial worker.

You can read his blog here:

www.redwexford.wordpress.com

Turn over for more details on the ULA programme and how Séamus will represent you

More Detail On What Séamus O'Brien Stands For

As a TD Séamus will

- **Support the ULA programme below**
- **Continue to campaign for Wexford General Hospital**
- **Expose in the Dáil Fine Gael's *Fair Care* initiative as a mechanism for further privatisation of healthcare**
- **Give a voice to campaigners and workers taking action in defence of jobs, health and education**
- **Speak out against spending €1 billion on the proposed Rosslare to Oylegate motorway**
- **Take only an average industrial wage and will oppose all attempts to drive down social welfare and the minimum wage**

The ULA Programme

The full text can be read at the ULA website

www.unitedleftalliance.org

1. The ULA rejects so-called solutions to the economic crises based on slashing public expenditure, welfare payments and workers' pay. There can be no just or sustainable solution to the crisis based on the capitalist market. Instead we favour democratic and public control over resources so that social need is prioritised over profit.
2. Those elected as part of the alliance will not do any deals or support any coalition with any of the right wing parties particularly Fianna Fail and Fine Gael. We are committed to building a mass left alternative to unite working people, whether public or private sector, Irish or migrant, with the unemployed, welfare recipients, pensioners and students in the struggle to change society.
3. The ULA says scrap NAMA and end the bailout of the banks and developers. Take the banks, finance houses, major construction companies and development land into democratic public ownership and use them for the benefit of people, not the profit of the few. We want to use resources, including the huge numbers of vacant properties, to provide facilities and social and affordable homes for all, to buy or rent.
4. Reduce total mortgages and repayments to affordable levels to reflect the real cost of the property and outlaw repossessions/evictions of families from their homes on the basis of inability to pay.
5. Ireland is not a poor country. Massive amounts of wealth were generated during the boom. The problem is that such wealth is in the hands of a tiny super-rich minority. We completely reject the notion that all this wealth has suddenly disappeared. It is also the case that many companies, especially multinationals, remain profitable.
6. The ULA stands for a progressive taxation system where corporation tax on the massive profits made in Ireland would be increased, which together with a steeply progressive income tax would shift the tax burden from working people to big business and the rich.
7. We oppose all stealth and double taxes including bin charges and plans to introduce water charges, a property tax, or a "household tax". We oppose the inclusion of the low paid in the tax net.
8. We call for a real social development programme that could create hundreds of thousands of jobs building necessary infrastructure like public transport, green energy projects, broadband, child care, schools, hospitals, health centres and other community facilities.
9. We oppose plans to sell off state companies. Instead these companies should be used as the vehicle for job creation.
10. Reduce the working week without loss of pay and create tens of thousands of jobs by sharing out the work.
11. No to compulsory work for dole schemes or fake jobs. We demand real jobs and a reversal of all the cuts in social welfare and benefit payments.
12. We demand proper state funding for a democratically run and secular education system, free for all from early childhood to university.
13. We want an end to inflated salaries, bonuses and expenses for top public servants and politicians. We want a cap on salaries and full public scrutiny of public spending. Public services should be run democratically with the full involvement of the workers, the service users and the wider community.
14. The ULA supports equality for all and the elimination of all forms of discrimination based on gender, race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, disability or age.
15. End all anti-asylum seeker and anti-immigrant laws and bias by the state. Give asylum seekers the right to work.
16. We call for major state investment in developing renewable energy. Through public ownership and democratic planning, the economy can be redirected onto a sustainable path.
17. We are opposed to incinerators as a solution to the waste problem because they pose serious health risks. We call for a proper integrated waste management plan, including a drastic reduction of packaging combined with a serious approach to recycling and composting.
18. We are opposed to the dictates of the EU and its neo liberal policies of curbing public spending and promoting austerity.
19. Our elected TDs will give full support to those unions and workers who oppose the Croke Park deal.

How Will The ULA Fund It's Programme ?

Funding is only a problem if you accept the bankers' agenda. Fine Gael, Labour, Sinn Féin, The Greens and the discredited Fianna Fáil party all accept the notion that banks generate wealth and so ordinary people in Ireland should bear the cost of saving them.

The ULA rejects this nonsense. The banking sector has not generated wealth it has created a national debt bigger than the nation's GDP.

It is Irish workers who create wealth and we continue to generate more than is spent on wages, public services and welfare. Far from being unable to afford to keep our present level of services we create enough wealth each year to increase provision to include the items called for in the ULA programme. In 2010 alone public spending could have been *increased* by some €55 billion without creating a deficit if we had not thrown wealth into the failed banks.

It is the other parties who need to come clean about their plans. They will try to convince you that if we all take a little bit more pain and take good care of "Irish" banks we will soon return to the glory days of the Celtic Tiger. Not much comfort to the hundreds of thousands who never experienced any of the benefits of sustained growth but it is far worse than that.

In 2010 almost €5 billion was paid by the state in interest alone. This is roughly 10% of tax revenue and with unemployment increasing and more money thrown at the banks this percentage will only rise. This is just interest, without actually reducing the debt. A cap of €9 billion has been set on the education budget until 2014. You are being asked to value the failed banks at more than half the total education budget indefinitely.

Ask yourself - and ask other candidates - how long would it take you to get back on your feet if you owed 100% of your annual wage, had to pay it back at more than 10% of your take-home pay and were still running up further debt ?

Those that accept that the banks must be saved are condemning Irish workers to a return to the poverty of the past. We will have a third world health service, a third world education service and our children and our grand-children will still be in hock to the banks.

Contact Séamus

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Follow the campaign

<http://twitter.com/seamusobrienpbp>