

MORE WOMEN RUNNING FOR ELECTION IS AIM OF SPECIAL CORK PROGRAMME

The 'More Women for Election in Cork' programme runs to June, with tailored training events taking place in the council chamber in Cork City Hall.

Supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the events aim to engage, encourage and inspire women in all their diversity from across the county to consider getting involved in politics.

ENCOURAGING AND TIMELY

Lord Mayor Cllr Deirdre Forde welcomed the announcement, saying: "This is an encouraging and timely development as we begin to prepare for the 2024 local elections. I hope that we will reach equal 50/50 representation in our historic council chamber next year."

One of only six women to act as Cork City's first citizen, Cllr Forde said that this "startling statistic highlights the imperative to prioritise gender equality and diversity at local government level. I encourage the women of Cork to sign up for this fantastic opportunity."

Cllr. Mary Rose Desmond, Chair of Cork City Council's Women's Caucus said: "Cork City Council's Women's Caucus has been working to carve out a pathway to ensure more women

Cork City Council has partnered with Women for Election to deliver a free bespoke training and awareness programme over the coming months, aimed at increasing the number of women running for election in Cork City in 2024 and beyond.

are represented in the Irish political system.

"Currently, Cork City Council ranks 17th out of 31 local authorities for female representation. With this in mind, we need to ensure we are working together to see more women step forward and run for election; this is what will facilitate change. These training events will provide a practical framework to help encourage and guide women through the process of running for election."

AT THE DECISION TABLE

Paul Moynihan, Director of Corporate Affairs and International Relations at Cork City Council, said: "Just one in four councillors



Pictured (l-r): Colette Kelleher, Women for Election board member; Cllr. Mary Rose Desmond, Chair of Cork City Council's Women's Caucus; Ann Doherty, Chief Executive of Cork City Council; Caitriona Gleeson, CEO Women for Election and Lord Mayor Cllr Deirdre Forde.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

in Irish local government are women, yet women make up half our population. We need to see more women at the decision table making decisions that impact women's lives."

Caitríona Gleeson, CEO of Women for Election said: "We are delighted to be partnering with Cork City Council to deliver this innovative, informative and inspiring training and awareness programme for women in Cork City.

"With only six women currently elected to the 31 seats in Cork City Council there is an urgent need for lots of women to count themselves into politics. Women are already very active in running Cork across community, business, health, education and social services.

"However, they are not included in local and national political decision making, where decisions that affect lives are made every day. Women belong at every decision-making table and the time for women to get elected is now.

"In 2023 we hope to see women in all their diversity in Cork signing up for our training events and helping us achieve a healthy diversity of women and men elected to local and national government in the next 10 years."

Visit: www.womenforelection.ie/cork/ for programme and registration details.

[Introduction to Politics with Pat Montague](#)

Cork City Hall – Friday 24 March (1pm-3pm)

This session covered women in politics in Ireland, the functions of local councils, the Dáil and the Seanad, and gave an insight into what being a politician can involve.

Pat Montague went through the stages of how legislation is passed, and the role played by each house of the Oireachtas in these stages. This training session aimed to break down the Irish political system and structures, to inform potential candidates if they decide to run for political life or take their seat in the local council or in the Oireachtas.

An advocacy and strategy consultant working exclusively with the not-for-profit sector including trade unions charities and campaign groups, Montague has been engaged in the field professionally since the mid-1980s.

[‘Women Belong’ with Yemi Adenuga](#)

Cork City Hall – Friday 5 May (2pm-5pm)

Women make up 25% of councillors across Ireland and only 19% in Cork City. The ‘Women Belong’ training session is designed to provide encouragement, support and tools to encourage more women to put themselves forward for election or to get involved in politics and perhaps support other women to run for election.

Women all over Cork are actively running vital community projects, businesses, social services and so on. "We want to see this work reflected in the members of local county councils," is the message. "That's why we are working to increase the number of women in Cork City Chamber. Women belong in equal numbers in Cork City Hall."

This session will cover the tools to push past any fear and doubts when it comes to getting involved in politics. It will provide participants with a safe and encouraging space to ask questions, get advice and share concerns.

Yemi, a well-respected trainer in this area, will provide the

tools needed by women to take the next step on their journey to a political career. In 2019 Yemi Adenuga was the first black woman to be elected as a local councillor. She works with groups in areas such as resilience, pushing past fear and confidence.

[‘Power and Perseverance’ with Linda Kelly](#)

Cork City Hall – Tuesday 13 June (6.30pm-8.30pm)

The ‘Power and Perseverance’ workshop is for all the women who want to be or are already in politics. It will include discussions on confidence, how to gather oneself after a setback and rediscover why they got involved in politics or activism in the first place and will also feature ways of tapping into inner strength and banishing fears, exploring power, where it comes from and how to harness it.

The interactive workshop requires participations from those attending. Therefore, places are limited to 15, so register early to secure a spot! National Secretary with Fórsa trade union, Linda Kelly is also the founder of Women Ascend – an Instagram community space for women to explore their power and use it with purpose for progress.

WOMEN FOR ELECTION'S EQUIP CAMPAIGN SCHOOL

For women who are getting ready to run, rerun or be a campaign manager in the Local Elections in 2024 or the General Elections in 2025, Women for Election's EQUIP Campaign School is delivering a series of training programmes to build on their skills and knowledge to prepare for the campaign trail ahead.

Saturday 22 April – A full day in-person programme at the Tullamore Court Hotel.

Wednesday 26 April (6.30pm-9pm via zoom).

Wednesday 3 May (6.30pm-9pm via zoom).

Saturday 13 May – A full day in-person programme at Tullamore Court Hotel.

For further information visit: www.womenforelection.ie/training-programmes/equip-campaign-school/

