

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**  
**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL**  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 11.00am**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:**

Cllr David Collins

Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:**

Comh. /Cllr. S. Broderick, J. Charity, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, S. Cunniffe, P. Feeney, T. Grealish, L. Harney, M. Hoade, C. Keane, D. Kelly, D. Killilea, G. King, M. Lee, M. Maher, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, S. McHugh Ryan, E. F. Parsons, M. Regan, N. Thomas, O. Turner and S. Walsh

**Bail ar line:**

I. Canning, G. Finnerty, A. Harney, P. Keaveney, M. Kinane, M. Leainde, P. Mac An Iomaire, E. Mannion, M. McNamara

**Oifigh:**

Mr. L. Conneally, Chief Executive, Mr. Michael Owens, Director of Services, Ms. J. Brann, Meetings Administrator, Mr. M. O Donnchadha, Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge, Ms. H. Riordan, Staff Officer, Ms. T. Costello, Assistant Staff Officer, Ms. L. O'Donnell Assistant Staff Officer, Mr. P. Scannell, A/Assistant Staff Officer.

**Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.**

**ITEM NO. 1 PRESENTATION BY APPLICANTS FOR NOMINATION AS  
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE**

**4584(b)**

The Cathaoirleach stated that this is a Special Meeting of Galway County Council, convened for the purpose of considering a nomination of a Presidential candidate. Any potential nominee/s will be put forward for further consideration by the Elected Members at the Plenary Meeting on the 22nd of September 2025 where a formal resolution may be passed if agreed.

On 3rd September 2025, James Browne, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued the Presidential Order appointing Friday, 24th October 2025, as Polling Day for the forthcoming Presidential Election. Under the provisions of Article 12 of the Constitution and Section 16 of the Presidential Elections Act 1993, a candidate for the Office of President of Ireland may be nominated by four County or City Councils.

30 candidates sought the support of Galway County Council. Of the 30 candidates, 8 accepted the invitation to the Special Meeting and 5 attended. All 5 are deemed eligible for nomination.

All information provided by the candidates has been circulated to Councillors for their consideration. To be eligible for election as President, candidates must be an Irish citizen who is 35 or older.

Candidates that are deemed eligible by way of submission of a copy of their valid passport and declaration form to Galway County Council are listed alphabetically by surname as follows: Abbas Ali O'Shea, Nicolas Delehanty, Aidan Harrington, Séana Kerr, Joseph Chikelue Obi, Gearoid O'Dubhthaigh, Lucy-Anne O'Leary and Gerben Uunk.

He reminded everyone that contributions should continue to reflect the standards set out in the Code of Conduct and the Standing Orders of Galway County Council. He asked everyone to maintain the respectful and dignified tone that this chamber

expects. Each candidate is allocated a maximum of 10 minutes. After all candidates have presented Members will then be afforded the opportunity to address questions to either all or specific potential candidates. Each presentation will be timed. The bell will ring at the end of the maximum 10-minute timeslot. All Candidates present are obliged to adhere to these times.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the applicants who had accepted the Council's invitation to address the Special Meeting of Council. He invited those candidates present who wish to present to the council in schedule order.

The following potential candidates were not present in the Chamber; Abbas Ali O'Shea, Nicolas Delehanty and Joseph Chikelue Obi.

The Cathaoirleach invited Aidan Harrington, Séana Kerr, Gearoid O'Dubhthaigh, Lucy-Anne O'Leary and Gerben Uunk to address the Council in turn and outline their reasons for seeking the nomination and their vision for the office should they be successful.

The Members of the Council then raised queries and comments and were responded to by each of the relevant applicants.

The Cathaoirleach thanked each presenter for their contributions and acknowledged the work of Corporate Services staff in preparing the Special meeting today. He expressed his disappointment at the potential candidates that did not present themselves to the Members today. He adjourned the meeting for 10 minutes to allow the Members consider their nominations.

**ITEM NO. 2 TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATION BY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL OF A PERSON TO BE A CANDIDATE AT THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 16 OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ACT 1993.**

4585 (b)

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that he would now proceed to calling for a proposal and seconder for a nomination from the Members.

No candidate was proposed by the Members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the candidates for presenting to the Council and wished them the best for the future. He confirmed that as no candidate was proposed by the Members that Galway County Council will not nominate a candidate for the Presidential Election.

### **Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin**

### **Submitted, Signed and Approved**

**Cathaoirleach:**

  
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**Date:**

22/9/2025  
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