

Building resilient and flourishing communities:



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

PRIORITIES FOR THE 2024 LOCAL ELECTIONS

National Social Justice Committee APRIL 2024

SVP PRIORITIES

Local Elections occur every five years, shaping living areas for families, SVP supported individuals, and the broader community. The National Social Justice Committee highlights key Local Government priorities for positive community impact, urging candidates to consider them.

1. Secure Social and Affordable Housing



Local authorities must deliver sufficient social housing now and into the future.

Improve planning for Traveller specific accommodation and accessible housing for people with disabilities.

Prevent homelessness through targeted supports and funding.

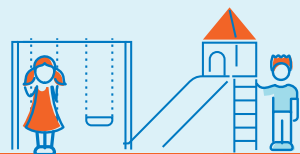
2. Warm and Good Quality Housing



Increase inspections and enforcement of rental standards.

Promote energy upgrades in social housing to combat energy poverty and achieve climate goals.

3. Child Friendly Communities



Focus on enhancing play and recreational facilities to improve the quality of local children's childhoods.

Questions for Local Candidates



SVP is non-political but believe a healthy democracy needs active public interest and participation. Here you will find some questions to consider asking local candidates. SVP members are encouraged to provide non-identifiable examples of support they've offered, addressing local issues and difficulties.

1. Housing



What is the biggest housing issue facing the local area and what are your policies to tackle it?



If elected, how will you help deliver more social and affordable housing in our local community?

2. Energy Poverty



How are energy poverty and poor housing standards impacting people in our community?



If elected, how would you work with the community to help address energy poverty and climate action?

3. Child Friendly Communities



How well do you think the Local Authority play, recreation and sports facilities are meeting the needs of children living in poverty?



If elected, what three policies or initiatives would you develop to improve the lives of children living in poverty in our community?

Roles and Responsibilities of Local Authorities

Local authorities are closest to communities and provide essential services such as:

- Housing including planning, provision of social housing, provision of the Housing Assistance Payments and inspections of private rented accommodation.
- Recreation, libraries, parks, sports and amenities.
- Environmental protection.
- Maintenance of roads.
- Fire services.
- Register of electors.

In 2023, Ireland's 31 local authorities spent around €6.7 billion, overseen by 949 County Councillors who make crucial policy decisions and advocate for constituents under a Chief Executive's management.

This publication has been produced by the Social Justice team in conjunction with the National Social Justice Committee. This leaflet is not a political manifesto and SVP is politically independent.



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