

Ireland's key election issues and red lines



Fianna Fáil
Micheál Martin

Party in meltdown, blamed for humiliating bailout by EU and IMF. Contesting fewer than half of all 166 seats in Dáil – lower house

■ **Job losses:** 439,000 out of work, 13.4% of work force

■ **Spending cuts:** Budget deficit stands at 32.3% of GDP, national debt at 105% of GDP

■ **Bailout:** Ireland is paying 5.82% interest for €85 billion EU-IMF package. All other parties have pledged to renegotiate “punitive” deal

■ **Corporation tax:** All parties agree that Republic's low 12.5% corporation tax is non-negotiable

■ **Emigration:** More than 100,000 young people expected to leave by April 2012



Fine Gael
Enda Kenny

Jobs: Invest €7bn in infrastructure projects – funded from state asset sales and national pension reserve – to create 100,000 jobs

Cuts: Reduce state spending by €2 for every €1 raised in tax, €6bn cut over four years. Pledge not to raise income tax. Lose 30,000 civil servants, close 145 quangos, privatize services such as passport office

Banks: Anglo Irish Bank and Irish Nationwide to be wound down by end of year

Mortgages: Increase interest relief to 30% in order to ensure people do not lose their homes

Political reform: Pledge to scrap *Seanad* – partly-elected Senate – and cut number of MPs in *Dáil*



Labour Party
Eamon Gilmore

Jobs: New National Employment Service to provide “one stop shop” for job seekers

Taxes: Scrap 48% top rate plan

Mortgages: Guarantee that homeowners do not lose their properties

Green Party
John Gormley



Jobs: Protect education, vital for job creation

Health: Invest in primary healthcare

Sinn Féin
Gerry Adams



Jobs: Establish job creation programme

Cuts: Will not inflict cuts on lower and middle-income families. Scrap Universal Social Charge, new 2%-7% tax introduced in January

Banks: Must be restructured