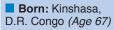
Irish presidential election candidates



David Norris Independent

rape



First openly gay man elected to public office in Ireland. High in polls despite controversy over clemency letters he wrote for ex-partner convicted of statutory



Michael D. Higgins Labour Born: Limerick,

(Age 70) Labour Party president, author, poet, broadcaster and intellectual. Prominent human rights campaigner, first recipient of Seán

MacBride Peace Prize



Gay Mitchell Fine Gael

Born: Dublin, (Age 59)

Defeated by Enda Kenny for Fine Gael leadership in 2002. Former Lord Mayor of Dublin. Pro-life advocate who has previously sought clemency for U.S. death row inmates

Martin McGuinness Sinn Féin

Northern Ireland (61)

stepped down as

N. Ireland's Deputy First Minister to run for president. Former IRA commander



Seán Gallagher Independent

Born: County Cavan (49)

Successful entrepreneur and star

of Ireland's Dragon's Den television show. Co-founder of home-related technology company



in 1992

Mary Davis Independent

Born: Kinaffe, Co. Mayo (57) Long-time campaigner

for rights of children with intellectual disabilities. CEO of 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games, held in Dublin

Dana Rosemary Scallon

Independent Born: London, England (60) Winner of 1970



Eurovision Song Contest and performer of Christian music. MEP for Connaught/Ulster from 1999-2004