

Irish presidential election candidates



David Norris
Independent

■ **Born:** Kinshasa, D.R. Congo (Age 67)

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 rape



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 in 1992



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

■ **Born:** Derry, Northern Ireland (61)

Has temporarily stepped down as N. Ireland's Deputy First Minister to run for president. Former IRA commander



Mary Davis
Independent

■ **Born:** Kinaffa, Co. Mayo (57)

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



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



Dana Rosemary Scallan
Independent

■ **Born:** London, England (60)

Winner of 1970 Eurovision Song Contest and performer of Christian music. MEP for Connaught/Ulster from 1999-2004

