



# Trevor Sargent TD

*Doing the Right Thing*

Working for Dublin North

[www.TrevorSargent.ie](http://www.TrevorSargent.ie)

February 2011

**Vote No.1**



green party  
comhaontas glas

# SARGENT SPEAKS OUT

In this candid interview, Trevor Sargent TD answers the questions many voters are asking.

**Voter: Do you regret going into government?**

**Sargent:** I regret only getting half of our Programme for Government implemented. However, in opposition we could not have protected education and the arts, ensured Ireland is kept in a good position to recover with good planning laws, tougher regulations and thousand of new jobs in growth sectors like renewable energy, artisan food and the new green economy.

*“In opposition we could not have protected education”*

**Voter: You made a promise not to lead the Green Party into government with Fianna Fáil. How come we ended up with the Green Party and Fianna Fáil in government?**

**Sargent:** I kept my promise. In 2007 Fianna Fáil had enough seats to form a government with or without the Green Party. 86% of Green Party members believed Ireland needed to be rescued after years of reckless bad planning, lax banking regulations and corrupt control of politics by vested interests. We could not stand back, unlike Labour and Fine Gael who could have formed a government with others in 2007 if they had wanted. The Green Party put

*“Labour and Fine Gael could have formed a government with others in 2007 if they had wanted”*

country before party interests. As a result, I resigned as Party Leader as I promised I would in such circumstances.

**Voter: Now that the IMF is in Ireland, how can you ask me for my number 1 vote?**

**Sargent:** The absence of the Green Party in government in previous decades allowed a culture of greed to drive government policy before 2007. The Green Party agreed Programme for Government insisted on proper bank regulation, proper planning, and measures to make Ireland

energy and food secure and internationally more competitive. We also insisted on a law to end corporate donations to politics.

*“Absence of the Green Party in government in previous decades allowed a culture of greed to drive government policies before 2007”*

**Voter: But you left government before getting that last measure, a ban on corporate donations!**

**Sargent:** The IMF loans which are needed to pay social welfare, fund health, education, pensions, etc. came with strict conditions. One was a four-year plan to be immediately put in place. The government at the time had less than two years left. We called an early election to give the next government a full term to implement the required four-year plan. If we are part of a new government we can then get the law to ban corporate donations passed.

**Voter: You called for an early election on November 22<sup>nd</sup> last. Why didn't leave government straight away?**

**Sargent:** Believe me, I wanted to go then and have an immediate election. Again, we had to put the needs of the country first. To prevent a greater risk of a

*“We were in government to implement a programme of measures to rescue this country from years of mismanagement”*

Eurozone crisis, Ireland needed to 1) agree terms with the EU/IMF, 2) agree a four-year plan, 3) pass a Budget and 4) pass the Finance Bill. With that in mind, we stated a general election date should be announced in late January.

**Voter: What do you say to the people who think you went along with Fianna Fáil?**

**Sargent:** The reality is, regardless of who our coalition partners were, we were in government to implement a programme of measures to rescue this country from years of mismanagement

*(Continued over)*



# Trevor Sargent TD *Doing the Right Thing*

by all parties, funded by vested interests. **The Green Party alone in Irish politics does not accept money from businesses, banks or trade unions.**

*“One Fianna Fáil former Minister in the Dáil recently said he felt the Regulator was now so rigorous as to remind him of ‘Oliver Cromwell’.*

In relation to Fianna Fáil, we had to fight for what we achieved. Professor Patrick Honohan, as a new and independent Governor of the Central Bank and Matthew Elderfield as a new rigorous Financial Regulator are now in place. However, we met some resistance to these appointments. One Fianna Fáil former Minister in the Dáil recently said he felt the Regulator was now so rigorous as to remind him of ‘Oliver Cromwell’.

## **Voter: Where now for you and the Green Party?**

**Sargent:** I believe the Green Party brings solutions to the problems we face as a country. We also bring values of honesty, integrity, hard work and ways to live well without relying on increasingly expensive energy. For example, I did not

*“I did not accept the severance pay I received as former Minister for Food and Horticulture”*

accept the severance pay I received as former Minister for Food and Horticulture. Instead I donated this €47,000 to the Dublin North Society of St. Vincent de Paul. I was later delighted to learn from their Area President, Mary Ita Niall, that the money was being distributed to each of the nine conferences in North County Dublin.

*Ultimately, how people act, and how they vote, is about making a choice. For me, I choose Green not greed. And I'm asking voters to make the same choice in the election.*



Despite the cynical tone, the Irish Daily Mail recognised that Trevor gave his €47,000 severance pay to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. (25 February 2010)

## **The Greens in Government-Top Achievements:**

- Helped create 20,000 green jobs through initiatives such as the National insulation Scheme and support for renewable energy projects
- Introduced Civil Partnership legislation to provide legal protection for same-sex couples
- Introduced the Planning Bill—an end to crazy development and unfinished estates
- Made Ireland more energy efficient through retrofitting and incentives to switch to greener cars
- Protected education - reversing budget cuts, maintaining pupil / teacher ratio

### **Education**

- Maintained pupil - teacher ratios
- Reversed severe education cuts in Budget 2009
- Reduced the increases in third level fees

### **Energy**

- Introduced National Insulation Scheme
- Retrofitted 100,000 homes
- Upgraded national electricity grid to provide for renewable energy
- Wind power supplying 15% of electricity market - on track to meet 40% by 2020

### **Environment**

- Introduced planning bill
- Massive investment in clean water supply
- Reintroduced extinct birds of prey
- Dublin Bay protected

### **Equality**

- Introduced Civil Partnerships Bill, providing legal protection for same-sex couples
- Increased funding for homelessness
- Protected the Equality Authority from being merged and marginalised

### **Health**

- Ensured introduction of cervical cancer vaccine

### **Planning**

- Introduced the Planning Bill, ensuring appropriate development built in the right places from now on
- Addressed the issue of management companies through the Multi-Unit Developments Bill
- Published draft guide to managing unfinished housing developments

### **Political reform**

- Introduced pay cuts for politicians
- Cut back on politician's expenses
- Lowered the number of junior ministers

### **Transport**

- Protection of Metro North
- Cycle to Work scheme
- €5,000 grant to switch to electric vehicle
- CO2 emissions-based car tax system

### **Waste**

- Undertook international waste review
- Increased landfill and incineration levies to encourage recycling



## **Trevor Sargent** *Doing the Right Thing*

- Delivering Metro North • Developing local employment • Doing the work on the ground

Constituency Office, 2 Glebeview House, Rivermall, Main St., Swords.  
☎ (01)8900 360 ☒ Trevor.Sargent@oir.ie ☎ www.TrevorSargent.ie

**Join in my election campaign; call the office - 01 8900 360**

**Vote  
No.1**

