

# Designated poster areas FAQ

## Is the Green Party going to unilaterally stop using posters to lead the way? If not, why not?

Whether we like it or not, with posters loosely regulated as they are now, they are an essential part of establishing name recognition and show that small parties are in the race. There is a significant correlation between postering and success in elections (ref Liam Weeks and Aodh Quinlivan, *All Politics is Local*, 2009). Unilaterally forgoing their use would effectively mean eliminating Greens from national and local government, where they have done much more to highlight the plastic and waste crisis we are facing.

We are seeking to level the playing field for all and to reduce resource usage and the effect of money on politics, while retaining the benefits of posters - informing the electorate about parties and candidates, and driving up turnout.

It's fairer, cleaner, safer and less wasteful.

## What are the benefits of the proposed system?

- All parties would have equal space
- The boards would be closer to eye level, so could contain more useful information about policies, platforms and candidates, if they so wished.
- The boards would be more carefully erected by the local authorities, and could be removed in between elections.
- The much disliked visual impact of elections posters would be largely eliminated, without losing the awareness raising benefits of postering.

## What other countries use this system?

-Almost all of Western Europe uses designated postering areas of some sort, including Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Austria, Spain, Italy, and many others.

## How would it work in Ireland under this amendment?

- Posters would be limited to areas designated by the local authorities during election campaigns.
- We would envisage one board being assigned to each party, with two or three boards being made available to independents.
- Regulations for their operation would remain with the relevant department, as appropriate.

## Would this apply to all elections?

- Yes, all local, European, Presidential and General elections would be covered.
- Posters advertising local meetings etc are handled by different legislation, and would not be affected (these posters are not allowed during election campaigns under current law).

## What about posters on private land? Would this apply to billboards, etc?

-No. The existing legislation governing these areas would still apply. People would be free to erect poster on their own private land within the existing regulations.

## How are you doing it?

-Green Party Senator and Ireland South candidate Grace O'Sullivan has put down an amendment to the government's European Parliament Election (Amendment) Bill 2019, which will be debated in the Seanad on Wednesday from 15:45.