

A PROPOSAL FOR THE REVISION OF CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTORAL AREAS IN 2008

IMPACT OF POPULATION SHIFT ON ELECTORAL AREAS WITHOUT ADJUSTMENT

Cavan		Persons	Reps	Optimum	Surplus	Deficit	% Of Optimum
	Bailieborough	17,104	7	17,921		817	95.4%
	Ballyjamesduff	16,776	6	15,361	1,415		109.2%
	Belturbet	11,178	5	12,801		1,623	87.3%
	Cavan	18,945	7	17,921	1,024		105.7%
		64,003	25	64,004*	2,439	2,439	

Source: CSO Census 2006

*Rounding

PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE Mid Cavan/West Cavan (Belturbet)

Cavan	Persons	Reps	Optimum	% Of Optimum			
Bailieborough	15,501	7	17,921	95.4%			
Ballyjamesduff	18,018	6	15,261	109.2%			
Belturbet	12,621	5	12,801	98.6%	363	538	542
					Carafin	Killykeen	Crossdoney
Cavan	17,502	7	17,921	97.7%	-363	-538	-542
					Carafin	Killykeen	Crossdoney
	64,003	25	64,004*				

Source: CSO Census 2006

*Rounding

West Cavan (Belturbet)

The population of County Cavan has increased significantly of late. This increase is concentrated mainly in the south of the county and around Cavan town. Although the population has stabilised in the more rural areas of north and west Cavan the growth in population elsewhere could result in a decline in the level of representation in the west of the county. This proposal seeks to consolidate the traditional rural area of west Cavan in order to address some of the issues of possible disenfranchisement which would otherwise arise here as a result of population changes elsewhere in the county. This would be achieved by adding the three rural Electoral Districts to the west of Cavan Town: Carafin, Killykeen and Crossdoney which form a natural extension of the area to the West Cavan (Belturbet) area thus avoiding splitting up rural communities which have their own focus which in this area is not necessarily town driven. This will allow a natural continuum to remain as a five (5) Seat Area and so retain a sufficient level and balance of representation in this important rural area in the west of the county.

Mid Cavan (Cavan town and environs)

Changes to the boundaries of this area over time have given rise to the situation wherein natural rural parish based communities find that they may be divided between different county electoral areas for administrative convenience. One such is the Parish of Lavey represented by the Electoral Divisions of Cuttragh, Stradone (part of) and Waterloo, the first two in Cavan County Electoral Area and the latter in Bailieborough County Electoral Area. For the community of this elongated but narrow rural area which does not contain an urban centre the community infrastructure is divided with Churches, Schools and Community Centre in the Cavan Area but the well developed GAA Sports Facilities in the Bailieborough Area. The polling booths for the southern part of the Stradone ED and Waterloo ED are both in the same location although the voters are voting in different County Electoral Areas. Waterloo was previously part of the Cavan County electoral Area and it is hoped that consideration could be given to reuniting the area.

Conclusion:

This proposal overall seeks to offer the best possible outcomes for both urban and rural areas keeping a balance between both and ensuring that the traditional vibrant rural communities of the county areas which do not necessarily have an urban focus at all continue to be represented by people from their areas while also ensuring that the emerging urban communities where in some cases people who have recently joined the community may feel that they have a limited stake in that community are fully represented.

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Co. Carlow - Revision
of Electoral Areas
2008

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