

Local politicians well represented in Seanad 2020 race

By Tony Galvin

GALWAY politicians are well represented among those nominated to run for the Seanad 2020 elections which are now underway in the wake of the General election. Nominations closed on Monday.

The Seanad has 60 seats and is made up of five vocational panels and two university panels, NUI and Trinity, of three seats each.

The Taoiseach of the incoming government gets to decide on 11 seats while incoming TDs, outgoing Senators and local authority councillors elect 43 Senators.

As it is uncertain who will be the incoming Taoiseach

there will be an anxious wait for some, especially former TDs who lost their seats in the election, to see if their party leader takes the top post and can throw them a traditional political life-line in the form of a Seanad seat.

This route will be particularly fraught in 2020 as the spoils will have to be divided between several coalition parties. Former Minister and Galway West TD Sean Kyne is running on the Cultural and Educational panel and he will also be hoping to receive a Taoiseach's nomination if he is not successful.

Cllr Aisling Dolan (FG) from Ballinasloe, who was only elected to Galway Co Council last year and put up a fine

showing in Roscommon-Galway at the general election, is running for the 11-seat Agricultural panel as is her constituency rival Eugene Murphy (FF) who lost his Dail seat last month.

On the five seat Cultural and Education panel list is Galway Co Council member Shane Curley (FF) along with his colleague Cllr Michael 'Mogie' Maher (FG) and the aforementioned Sean Kyne.

Mayo environmentalist and Green Party general election candidate Saoirse McHugh from Achill is also hoping for a seat on this panel.

The Labour Panel has 11 seats and failed Roscommon-Galway candidate Cllr Órla Leyden (FF), daughter of

Terry Leyden, is attempting to get one of these as is Galway City Green Party candidate Cllr Pauline O'Reilly.

The Industrial and Commercial panel had nine seats and veteran politician Cllr Pat Hynes (Ind) from Loughrea has put his name forward. So too have Cllr Ollie Crowe (FF), Galway City and Cllr Patsy O'Brien from over the border in Claremorris (FG), and city Social Democrat Niall Ó Tuathail.

Galway Co Council member Thomas Welby (Ind) is running for the seven seat Administrative panel.

Ballinasloe's Ronan Mullen is seeking to retain his seat on the NUI panel which has three seats as is Galway city native



Cllr Aisling Dolan is among the hopefuls seeking to become a Senator.

Alice Mary Higgins, daughter of President Michael D Higgins, also an outgoing Senator.

Women of African descent to talk Racism, Cancer and Mental Health

AMDALAH Africa Foundation (AMDALAH) presents African Women Roundtable and Intercultural EPIC Awards supported by Galway City Partnership and Galway Rural Development under the SICAP programme.

The event in the Ardilaun Hotel this Saturday, March 7 will host expert speakers on how racism and cancer affect women's mental health as well as honouring women and organisations. It will also feature entertainment and cultural displays.

The event aims to create a wider understanding of intersectional effects of cancer, racism

and mental health issues on migrants and to discuss experiences and barriers in accessing services for African women. The awards will be celebrating hard work and dedication by migrant women in their fields and Unite Africans and promote positive image of our cultural values.

This is a free event organised by Amdalah Africa Foundation, Galway City Partnership and Galway Rural Development and is open to everyone. Tea/coffee and finger food will be provided.

To register Contact: info.amdaf@gmail.com or 089 9541768.

