# Issue No. 1 - February 2024 TEACHING COUNCIL ELECTIONS

# **Elect ASTI Members to the Teaching Council**

#### **Vote online February 22nd – March 12th**

he term of office of the current Teaching Council comes to an end in April 2024. In advance of this date, elections for a new Teaching Council will be held from February 22nd to March 12th (12 noon).

The Teaching Council elections will be held online and all teachers registered on or before 30th September 2023 will receive voting instructions via email in February.

The ASTI has endorsed a number of teachers who are members of the ASTI to run in the Teaching Council elections.

The Teaching Council, which was established in 2006, is the regulatory body for teachers and its objectives include upholding standards in the teaching profession and in the professional development of teachers, and promoting the status of the teaching profession.

The Teaching Council is made up of 37 members, the majority of whom are serving teachers. Of 22 places reserved on the Council for registered teachers, six are nominated by the teacher unions (ASTI, TUI and INTO nominate two teachers each) and the remaining sixteen are elected by teachers. Seven teachers are elected by second-level teachers. See page 8 for electoral categories and constituencies.

#### **ASTI-Endorsed Candidates**

The ASTI has endorsed a number of candidates running in the secondlevel Teaching Council election constituencies. ASTI-endorsed candidates are ASTI members who have applied for and received endorsement using criteria set down by the ASTI Standing Committee.

ASTI-endorsed candidates have committed to promoting the interests of ASTI members if elected.

ASTI-endorsed candidate for ETB Sector - page 2

ASTI-endorsed candidate for Community & Comprehensive Sectorpage 3 ASTI-endorsed candidates for Voluntary Secondary Sector - pages 4-6

**VOTE FOR ASTI-ENDORSED CANDIDATES** 



Elect the ASTI-endorsed

candidate to the

**Community and** 

Comprehensive

Constituency.

Donal Cremin is the only ASTI-endorsed candidate contesting

the Community and

Comprehensive

Constituency.

See page 3.

candidate to the ETB

Sector. Ian Mc Colgan is the only ASTI-endorsed candidate contesting the

ETB Sector: Dublin and South Constituency.

See page 2.

IAN Mc COLGAN

## ASTI-endorsed candidate

#### Sector:

Education and Training Boards (Post-Primary) sector

### **Constituency**: Dublin and South

For all second-level categories and constituencies see page 8.



#### **VOTE FOR ASTI-ENDORSED CANDIDATES**

#### IAN Mc COLGAN

Constituency: EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARDS SECTOR –

**DUBLIN AND SOUTH** 

School: Castleknock Community College, Dublin

**ASTI Branch:** Dublin North West

#### **My Experience:**

As Chairperson of ASTI Community and Comprehensive Advisory Committee, which also encompasses ASTI members working in ETB schools, I have sought to bring key issues to the wider union and create awareness of the complex and political manoeuvring that must be undertaken by School Stewards in a system of dual union schools.

I have been working with School Stewards/individual members on issues such as:

- Covid-19
- Online teaching timetables
- Stress from initiative overload
- SLAR meetings
- Sick leave for serious illness
- Health and safety (including mental health)
- Equality issues

As a member of the ASTI Central Executive Council, I have worked to protect the rights/working conditions of teachers, regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation.

#### **My Key Priorities:**

- Teaching Council must play a key role in evaluating impact of cultural/education changes on teaching. The long-term effects of changes/proposed changes on the teaching landscape must be analysed and predicted.
- Teaching Council must tackle status of/negative attitudes towards teachers.
   The culture that has developed over the years is seen by the profession as aggressive and negative towards serving teachers and needs to change.
   Key words e.g., the heading "Fitness to Teach" on the website home page do little to inspire confidence. There needs to be more respect and sensitivity, including towards those who run into difficulties.
- Reduce registration burden.
   Apart from exceptional circumstances, teachers should only have to provide necessary data once.
- Teachers' right to be professional must include right to reasonable workload.
- No increase in registration fee.

**Email:** ianmccolgan@castleknockcc.ie

#### **DONAL CREMIN**

Constituency: COMMUNITY AND COMPREHENSIVE SECTOR

**School:** Scoil Phobail, Sliabh Luachra, Rathmore, Co. Kerry

**ASTI Branch:** Kerry

I care deeply about teachers and the teaching profession and vow to do my utmost to help support and protect my colleagues.

#### My agenda for change:

- 1. I will work to improve the service that the Teaching Council gives to teachers, especially:
- an efficient, timely response to queries
- effective communication with teachers
- a more streamlined, simplified vetting application procedure
- 2. The Teaching Council can do more to promote the teaching profession by:
- addressing the two-year PME programme, either reducing it to one year or changing to payment for year two
- highlighting the excellent work and innovation of classroom teachers
- acknowledging teachers' flexibility in recent curricular developments
- 3. Teacher registration must never be linked to, or dependent on, CPD
- 4. The Teaching Council must function within budget and ensure no registration fee increase

#### My involvement as a teacher representative:

- Active teacher representative for many years
- Previously member of Dublin North East and Cork North branches (currently Kerry Branch)
- School Steward (Community School & Voluntary Secondary) and BOM rep (Community School)
- ASTI Vice President
- Standing Committee Regional Representative
- CEC member
- Regional organiser
- Branch Officer
- Subject Rep for Engineering (JC & LC)/member of NCCA Development Group
- Previously member of Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW)
- Media experience (on behalf of ASTI)

#### **Guth Láidir do Mhúinteoirí**

Oibreoidh mé go díograiseach ar an gComhairle Mhúinteoireachta ar son:

- rath agus folláine múinteoirí
- gairm na múinteoireachta

#### **Cosain an Ghairm**

Déan teangmháil liom, más mian leat cúrsaí a phlé.

Email: cremindonal123@gmail.com



**DONAL CREMIN\*** 

## ASTI-endorsed candidate

#### Sector:

Community and Comprehensive School (Post-Primary) sector.

#### Constituency:

Connaught, Leinster, Ulster and Munster.

For all second-level categories and constituencies see page 8.

\*DONAL WILL APPEAR DANIEL (DONAL) CREMIN ON THE BALLOT PAPER.



**ADRIEANNE HEALY** 

ASTI-endorsed candidate

Sector:

Voluntary Secondary Schools (Post-Primary).

**Constituency**: Dublin and South.



#### **VOTE FOR ASTI-ENDORSED CANDIDATES**

#### **ADRIEANNE HEALY**

**Constituency:** VOLUNTARY POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS – DUBLIN AND SOUTH

**School:** St. Dominic's College, Cabra **ASTI Branch:** Dublin North-West

I will be a strong voice for teachers and represent your genuine concerns at national level.

#### My Experience:

 Teaching for 27 years in St Dominic's College, a Voluntary Secondary School, Dublin. ASTI School Steward (10 years) and ASTI member for 28 years.

#### Member of:

- ASTI Standing Committee, Region 15 (Dublin South West, Dublin North West)
- ASTI Finance Committee
- ASTI Posts of Responsibility Committee
- ICTU Women's Committee representing ASTI members (2nd term)
- ASTIR Editorial Board
- ASTI Regional Organiser Region 15 (3 years)
- Member of the ASTI Equal Opportunities Committee (4 years)
- Chair of Dublin North West Branch

#### **My Key Priorities:**

- Protecting teachers
- Ensuring a swift resolution to frivolous complaints before the Council
- Teaching Council registration should not be linked to participation in CPD
- Recruitment and retention of teachers is a huge issue presently which must be addressed, but not at any cost
- Standards in the profession must be upheld

I would greatly appreciate your support for the ASTI Teaching Council.

**Email:** ahealy@stdominics.ie

**Tel:** 086 324 5765

Category 2: Post-primary: Voluntary Secondary Schools Sector

**Geographical Constituency:** Dublin and South

**Area:** Carlow, Clare, Cork, Dun Laoghaire- Rathdown, Fingal, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Offaly, Tipperary, South Dublin, Waterford, Wexford, Wicklow and the city of Dublin.

The ASTI has endorsed three candidates for this constituency: Adrieanne Healy, Barry Hennessy and Pat Knightly.

For all second-level categories and constituencies see page 8.

#### **BARRY HENNESSY**

Constituency: VOLUNTARY POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS -

**DUBLIN AND SOUTH** 

School: Coláiste Éanna, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16

**ASTI Branch:** Dublin South 1

- ASTI member since 2000, mostly as a member of the Dublin South 1 branch
- Former ASTI school steward (Coláiste Éanna)
- ASTI subject representative for French
- ASTI representative on NCCA Junior Cycle MFL subject development group

I hold an Advanced Diploma in Law and Education from the King's Inns during which I studied the regulatory role of the Teaching Council in depth.

#### If elected my priorities are:

- Reducing PME courses to one year to reduce expense for student teachers and address teacher supply.
- Droichead should be expanded to include components such as the major dissertation and e-modules on the history of education and education law whilst NQTs are in paid employment.
- Review of subject requirements to remove unfair barriers to applicants with non-Irish or 'non-traditional' qualifications.
- Barrister-led review of the current fitness to teach process to assess relevance/proportionality of cases brought to hearing and sanctions imposed compared with other common law jurisdictions.
- Opposing any link between ongoing CPD and registration renewal unless agreed to by ASTI members.



**BARRY HENNESSY** 

ASTI-endorsed candidate

Sector: Voluntary Secondary Schools (Post-Primary).

**Constituency**: Dublin and South.

#### **TEACHING COUNCIL ELECTIONS – VOTING PROCEDURE**

Teaching Council Elections voting will take place online. Full instructions for online voting are being distributed by email to all registered teachers by the Teaching Council. You can vote securely on any device including PC, laptop, tablet or smart phone.

The ASTI urges all eligible members to vote for ASTI-endorsed candidates. ASTI-endorsed candidates have committed to supporting ASTI policy in the interests of ASTI members.

A system of Single Transferable Votes will be used, with teachers asked to vote for their chosen candidates in order of preference.



#### **PAT KNIGHTLY**

Constituency: VOLUNTARY POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS –

**DUBLIN AND SOUTH** 

**School:** St. Augustine's College, Dungarvan

**Branch:** Dungarvan

I am asking for your vote in the upcoming Teaching Council election.

As a long serving member of the ASTI, I will continue to fight to safeguard the conditions under which our members work.

#### **My Experience:**

- Standing Committee Representative Region 7 –
   Cork North, Dungarvan, East Cork, Fermoy, West Waterford (current)
- ASTI Special Education Committee (current)
- NCCA Special Education Development Group (current)
- Education Committee (4 years)
- School steward (10 years)
- Posts of Responsibility Committee (current)
- Finance Committee
- BOM representative (16 years)
- Branch Delegate
- Branch CEC representative

#### **My Key Priorities:**

- Protecting teachers
- Vexatious complaints are a huge concern for all teachers. I believe it is essential that complaints against a teacher are dealt with swiftly, at a local level and are not immediately escalated to the Teaching Council as is frequently the case.
- I am in favour of high-quality CPD. However, registration with the Teaching Council must never be dependent on CPD.
- Teacher supply is a huge issue and must be dealt with, however the integrity of the teaching profession must be maintained.
- I would greatly appreciate your support for Teaching Council elections.

Email: astiregion7@gmail.com



**PAT KNIGHTLY** 

ASTI-endorsed candidate

Sector:

Voluntary Secondary Schools (Post-Primary).

Constituency:

Dublin and South.



#### **ADRIAN GUINAN**

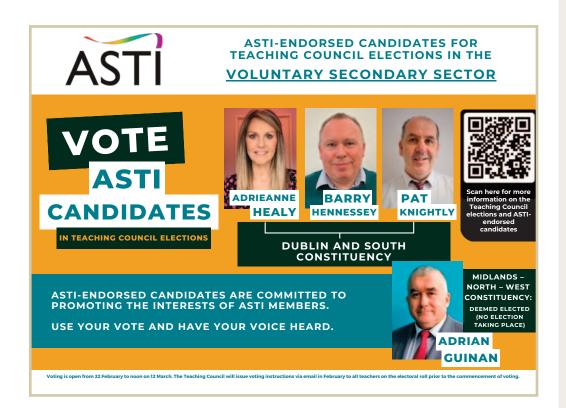
**Voluntary Secondary:** Midlands/North-West

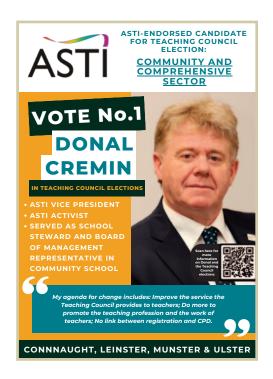
ASTI-endorsed candidate Adrian Guinan has been deemed elected to the Voluntary Secondary Schools (Post-Primary) Midlands/North-West Constituency.

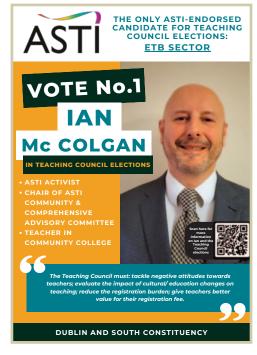


**ADRIAN GUINAN** 

Adrian was the only candidate running for this Constituency and therefore no election will take place. Adrian is a member of Kildare ASTI branch and his experience includes School Steward, Board of Management Rep, Branch Treasurer, Regional Organiser and Central Executive Council Rep.







Please use your vote
to ensure
ASTI-endorsed
candidates are elected
in the Teaching
Council elections



#### **Second-level Categories and Constituencies**

#### Category 2: Post-primary: Voluntary Secondary Schools Sector

**Geographical Constituency:** Midlands – North-West

**Area:** Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Kildare, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath.

Number of Teaching Council members to be elected: One

The ASTI has endorsed one candidate for the Voluntary Secondary Schools Sector Midlands-North West geographical constituency: **Adrian Guinan.**As there was only one candidate for this constituency Adrian Guinan is deemed elected.

#### Geographical Constituency: Dublin and South

**Area:** Carlow, Clare, Cork, Dun Laoghaire–Rathdown, Fingal, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Offaly, Tipperary, South Dublin, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow and the city of Dublin

Number of Teaching Council members to be elected: Two

The ASTI has endorsed three candidates for the Voluntary Secondary Schools Sector Dublin and South geographical constituency:

Adrieanne Healy, Barry Hennessy and Pat Knightly.

#### **Category 3: Education and Training Boards Sector**

Geographical Constituency: Midlands - North-West

**Area:** Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Kildare, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath.

Number of Teaching Council members to be elected: One

#### Geographical Constituency: Dublin and South

**Area:** Carlow, Clare, Cork, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Offaly, Tipperary, South Dublin, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow and the city of Dublin.

Number of Teaching Council members to be elected: Two

The ASTI has endorsed one candidate for the Education and Training Boards Sector Dublin and South Constituency: lan Mc Colgan.

# category 1 is for primary school teachers only. Categories 2, 3 and 4 encompass all types of second-level



schools

#### **Category 4: Community and Comprehensive School Sector**

Geographical Constituency: Connaught, Leinster, Munster and Ulster

**Area:** Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo, South Dublin, North Tipperary, South Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow; and the cities of Cork, Dublin, Galway, Limerick and Waterford

Number of Teaching Council members to be elected: One

The ASTI has endorsed one candidate for the Community and Comprehensive Sector:

Donal Cremin.