

The Limerick Local Elections of 1920

An online exhibition organised by Limerick Museum and the Limerick Library Service as part of the Limerick City and County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme and funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Regional Museums Exhibition Scheme.



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Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
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Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**
Limerick City
& County Council



Eamon de Valera (1882-1975)

who served as President of Dáil Éireann
from 1919 to 1921

Éamann de Valera (1882-1975)

a d'fhóin mar Uachtarán Dháil Éireann
ó 1919 go 1921



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Commemorating the 1920 local elections

The local elections of 1920 were among the most important in Irish history for three reasons: first, they were the first to use proportional representation (PR); second they were the last to be held throughout the island of Ireland and third, they resulted in Sinn Féin and their Labour allies taking control of the local authority system outside the future Northern Ireland.

Following the Sinn Féin victory in the general election of 1918 and the meeting of the first Dáil in 1919, the Dáil established a 'counter-state' headed by President Eamon de Valera and his Cabinet, which operated in opposition to the British administration. As part of this, W.T. Cosgrave, later head of the Irish government after independence was appointed as first Minister for Local Government.

The last local elections in Ireland had been held in 1914 as those due subsequently had been postponed due to the First World War. Accordingly, the next local elections were due in 1920. In 1920, the right to vote was confined to male and female householders and occupants of a portion of a house. This meant that, for example, adult children living with their parents could not vote.

In 1920, there were 258 elected councillors in Limerick. The membership of the three urban authorities totalled 70, of whom 40 sat on Limerick City Council and 15 each on Newcastle West and Rathkeale Town Commissioners. The membership of the rural counties totalled 188, of whom 168 were elected to the eight Rural District Councils and 20 to Limerick County Council.

Toghcháin áitiúla 1920 a chomóradh

Bhí toghcháin áitiúla 1920 ar cheann de na toghcháin ba thábhachtaí riamh i stair na hÉireann ar na trí chúis seo a leanas: ba iad na chéad toghcháin inar baineadh leas as ionadaíocht chionmhar; ba iad na toghcháin deiridh a reáchtáladh ar fud oileán na hÉireann ina hiomláine; agus de bharr na dtoghchán sin, fuair Sinn Féin agus a gcomhghuaillithe, Páirtí an Lucht Oibre, smacht ar chóras na n-údarás áitiúil lasmuigh de Thuaisceart Éireann (mar a leagadh amach í ina dhiaidh sin).

I ndiaidh bhua Shinn Féin in Olltoghchán 1918 agus chasadh an chéad Dáil in 1919, bhunaigh Dáil Éireann 'fritstáit' faoi cheannas Éamon de Valera agus a Chomh-aireachta chun feidhmiú i gcoinne rialtas na Breataine. Mar chuid de sin, ceapadh W.T. Cosgrave, a chaith tréimhse ina Thaoiseach i ndiaidh neamhspleáchas na tíre, mar Aire Rialtais Áitiúil sa Chéad Dáil.

Reáchtáladh toghcháin áitiúla in Éirinn in 1920 agus cuireadh na cinn a bhí le reáchtáil ina dhiaidh sin ar ceal de dheasca an Chéad Chogadh Domhanda. Dá réir sin, tharla sé go raibh na chéad toghcháin áitiúla eile le bheith ann in 1920. In 1920, ní raibh cead vótála ach amháin ag fir agus mná ar shealbhóirí tí nó ar áititheoirí i gcuid de theach iad. Dá bharr sin, mar shampla, ní raibh cead vótála ag daoine fásta a raibh cónaí orthu lena dtuismitheoirí.

In 1920, toghadh 258 comhairleoir i Luimneach. B'ionann 70 agus líon iomlán na gcomhaltaí sna trí údarás uirbeacha, agus toghadh 40 díobh sin do Chomhairle Cathrach Luimnigh agus toghadh 15 comhairlí an ceann do Choimisinéir Baile an Chaisleáin Nua agus Coimisinéir Baile Ráth Caola. B'ionann 188 agus líon iomlán na gcontaetha tuaithe agus toghadh 168 díobh sin do na hocht gComhairle Tuathcheantair agus toghadh 20 díobh do Chomhairle Cathrach Luimnigh.

TOWN OF RATHKEALE, TO WIT.

THE FOLLOWING BYE-LAWS

Having been made by the Rathkeale Town Commissioners, and submitted to the Lord Lieutenant, His Excellency has been pleased, by Order bearing date the 14th July, 1857, to approve of and confirm the same. —

TOWNS' IMPROVEMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1854,

WITH RESPECT TO SLAUGHTER-HOUSES,

TOWN OF RATHKEALE,
To WIT.

1st. Every Slaughter-House or place used as a Slaughter-House in said Town, shall have the Floor Flagged, or Paved with Stones or Brick. The Walls, inside and outside, and Ceilings, shall be washed with Lime wash, colored or uncolored, at least once in every Month. The Floor shall be cleanly swept, and all Tables, Benches, Seats, and Utensils therein shall be Washed, at least, once in every day, and continually kept clean and sweet. — The mass of the proof of such Washing and Sweeping to lie with the Owner of such Slaughter-House. No Filth, Offal, or Refuse Matter shall be suffered to collect or remain in any such Slaughter-House, nor shall any Blood be allowed to be on any part of the Walls, inside or outside, or of the Floor, Ceiling, Doors, Windows, or Wooden Works thereof. Nor shall any Blood or Bloody Field be suffered to remain in any vessel in said Slaughter-House, or outside the Door thereof. And every Registered Owner of any Slaughter-House as aforesaid, shall, for each offence, as aforesaid, and for each repetition thereof, be liable to a Penalty not exceeding **TWENTY SHILLINGS**.

2nd. No Animal shall be Slaughtered, or Dressed, in or near the Doorway of such Slaughter-House, so as to be within view of the Passengers in the street, nor shall any Animal, in a Partly Dressed State, be hung, or placed in, or close to the door of such Slaughter-House, so as to be within view of the Passengers in the street, and every Registered Owner of a Slaughter-House, for each such offence, and repetition thereof, shall be liable to a Penalty not exceeding **TWENTY SHILLINGS**.

DAVID O'HANLON, M.D., J.P., Chairman.
STEPHEN CASEY, Town Clerk.

Town Commissioners' Office, April 17th, 1860.

Printed at "THE MUNSTER NEWS" Office, 5, Rutland Street, Dublin.

Rural Local Authorities in County Limerick

Limerick County Council

It had twenty-eight members consisting of twenty members who were directly elected and the chairmen of the eight Rural District Councils. It was headed by a Chairman elected annually by the councillors for a one-year term.

Boards of Guardians

There were five poor law unions with their headquarters in County Limerick: Croom, Kilmallock, Limerick, Newcastle West and Rathkeale. Parts of Limerick and Kilmallock Unions were in Counties Clare and Cork respectively. In addition, parts of County Limerick were in Listowel, Mitchelstown and Tipperary Unions. They were governed by directly elected Boards of Guardians headed by a Chairman elected annually by the guardians for a one-year term.

Rural District Councils (RDCs)

There were eight of these in County Limerick. Each board of guardians was also automatically the RDC, their membership was identical and there were no separate elections. Each was headed by a Chairman elected annually by the councillors for a one-year term. The Chairman of each RDC was given an automatic seat on the local county council. Where a poor law union crossed a county boundary the poor law union was split for district council purposes.

RDC Comhairle Tuathcheantair	Number of Members Líon na gComhaltaí	Poor Law Union Aontas Dhí na mBocht	Number of Members Líon na gComhaltaí	County in which HQ is situated Contae na Ceanncheathrún
Croom Cromadh	20	Croom Cromadh	20	Limerick Luimneach
Newcastle (West) An Caisleán Nua	32	Newcastle (West) An Caisleán Nua	32	Limerick Luimneach
Rathkeale Ráth Caola	25	Rathkeale Ráth Caola	25	Limerick Luimneach
Kilmallock Cill Mológ	24	Kilmallock Cill Mológ	30 (including 6 in Cork) 30 (lena n-áirítear 6 i gCorcaigh)	Limerick Luimneach
Limerick No 1 Luimneach Uimhir 1	48	Limerick Luimneach	55 (including 7 in Clare) 55 (lena n-áirítear 7 i gCo. an Chláir)	Limerick Luimneach
Glin An Gleann	6	Listowel Lios Tuathail	37	Kerry Ciarraí
Mitchelstown No 2 Baile Mhístéala Uimhir 2	6	Mitchelstown Baile Mhístéala	17	Cork Corcaigh
Tipperary No 2 Tiobraid Árann Uimhir 2	7	Tipperary Tiobraid Árann	26	Tipperary Tiobraid Árann
Total Iomlán	168			

Údaráis Áitiúla Tuaithe i gContae Luimnigh

Comhairle Contae Luimnigh

Bhíodh 28 comhalta ar Chomhairle Contae Luimnigh lena n-áirítear 20 comhalta a thogthaí go díreach agus cathaoirleach amháin ó gach ceann de na hocht gComhairle Tuathcheantair. I ngach ceann de na Comhairlí Tuathcheantair, thoghadh na comhairleoirí Cathaoirleach gach bliain chun a bheith i gceannas ar an gComhairle ar feadh tréimhse bliana.

Boird na gCaomhnóirí

Bhíodh cúig aontas dhlí na mbocht ann a raibh a gceanncheathrú acu i gContae Luimnigh: Cromadh, Cill Mológ, Luimneach, An Caisleán Nua agus Ráth Caola. Tharla sé go raibh cuid d'Aontas Luimnigh agus Aontas Chill Mológ i gContae an Chláir agus i gContae Chorcaí faoi seach. Chomh maith leis sin, bhí codanna de Chontae Luimnigh in Aontas Lios Tuathail, in Aontas Bhaile Mhístéala agus in Aontas Thiobraid Árann. I gceannas ar na hAontais, bhíodh Boird Chaomhnóirí arna dtoghadh go díreach. Thoghadh na caomhnóirí Cathaoirleach gach bliain ar feadh téarma bliana.

Comhairlí Tuathcheantair

Bhíodh ocht gComhairle Tuathcheantair i gContae Luimnigh. Tharla sé go huathoibríoch go mbíodh gach bord caomhnóirí ina Chomhairle Tuathcheantair, bhíodh na comhaltaí ceannann céanna i gceist agus níor reáchtáiltí toghcháin ar leith. I gceannas ar gach ceann de na comhairlí seo, bhíodh Cathaoirleach arna thoghadh go bliantúil ag na comhairleoirí ar feadh tréimhse bliana. Thugtar suíochán ar an gcomhairle contae áitiúil go huathoibríoch do Chathaoirleach gach ceann de na Comhairle Tuathcheantair. I gcás go raibh aontas dhlí na mbocht ar dhá thaobh na teorann idir dhá chontae, roinntí é chun críocha na gcomhairlí tuathcheantair.

In 1920, Rathkeale was the administrative centre of Rathkeale Board of Guardians and had its own town council.

Ba í Ráth Caola lárionad riaracháin Bhord Bardachta Ráth Caola sa bhliain 1920 agus bhí a comhairle baile féin suite ann.



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Urban Local Authorities in County Limerick

Limerick Corporation/City Council

Limerick City was a separate administrative county from the rest of Limerick. It was governed by a council of forty members who were directly elected. The eight members who polled the highest number of votes were called aldermen. The city was divided into five electoral areas called wards. The Council was headed by a Mayor elected annually by the councillors for a one-year term.

Town Commissioners

There were two of these in County Limerick, Rathkeale and Newcastle West, governed by directly elected Town Commissioners. Each was divided into an East Ward returning eight members and a West Ward returning seven members. Both Town Commissioners were headed by a Chairman elected annually by the commissioners for a one-year term.

Údaráis Áitiúla Uirbeacha i gContae Luimnigh

Bardas/Comhairle Cathrach Luimnigh

Ba chontae riaracháin ar leith ón gcuid eile de Luimneach í Cathair Luimnigh. Bhíodh sí á rialú ag comhairle de 40 comhalta arna dtoghadh go díreach. Thugtaí bardasaigh ar na hochtar comhaltaí a fuair an líon ab airde vótaí. Bhíodh an chathair roinnte ina cúig thoghlimistéar ar a dtugtaí bardaí. Gach bliain, thoghadh na comhairleoirí Méara chun bheith i gceannas ar an gComhairle ar feadh téarma bliana.

Coimisinéirí Baile

Bhí dhá Choimisinéirí Baile i gContae Luimnigh, Ráth Caola agus an Caisleán Nua, agus thogtaí go díreach iad chun na bailte a rialú. Bhí an dá áit sin roinnte ina mBarda Thoir a thoghadh ochtar comhaltaí agus Barda Thiar a thoghadh seachtar comhaltaí. Gach bliain, thoghadh na Coimisinéirí Baile Cathaoirleach chun bheith i gceannas ar feadh tréimhse bliana.

Name of local authority <i>Ainm an Údaráis Áitiúil</i>	Number of Members <i>Líon na gComhaltaí</i>
Limerick City Council <i>Comhairle Cathrach Luimnigh</i>	40
Rathkeale Town Commissioners <i>Coimisinéirí Baile Ráth Caola</i>	15
Newcastle West Town Commissioners <i>Coimisinéirí Baile an Chaisleáin Nua</i>	15
Total <i>Iomlán</i>	70

The Town Hall, Rutland Street, headquarters of Limerick Corporation from 1846 to 1990.

Halla an Bhaile, Sráid Rutland, ceanncheathrú Bhardas Luimnigh ó 1846 go 1990.



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Eamon de Valera was brought up in this labourer's cottage built in 1885 by Kilmallock Board of Guardians

Tógadh Éamann de Valera aníos sa teachín coiteora seo a thóg Bord Bardachta Chill Mocheallóg sa bhliain 1885

Functions of Local Authorities in County Limerick

In 1920, local government had a wide variety of functions. Many modern functions were not part of their remit, such as planning, protection of the environment and the arts. However, unlike their modern counterparts, they administered the health service and enjoyed much greater autonomy from central government. In County Limerick, these services were distributed amongst the various local authorities, while in Limerick City, the Council provided a full range of services, with the exception of health.

City Council

Collection of a property tax called rates; building and maintaining of roads; water supply and sewerage; gasworks; public health; and social housing.

County Council

Collection of a property tax called rates, part of which it passed on to the Poor Law Unions and Rural District Councils; building and maintaining of roads.

Boards of Guardians

Healthcare: running the workhouses and hospitals.

Rural District Councils

Water supply and sewerage; public health; social housing.

Town Commissioners

Social housing; street lighting; markets; and allotments.

Housing

One of the most important functions of local government in 1920 was social housing. At this time, Ireland had the most advanced social housing system in the world. In turn, County Limerick the highest outputs of social housing in Ireland. By 1893, 1,469 labourer's cottages had been built in the county, second only to 2,444 in County Cork. However, the population of Cork was three times that of Limerick. By 1893, Kilmallock Board of Guardians had built 544 cottages, more than any other union in the country. Limerick City Council built 133 social houses between 1887 and 1920.

Feidhmeanna Údarás Áitiúil i gContae Luimnigh

In 1920, bhí réimse leathan feidhmeanna ag an rialtas áitiúil. Ní raibh go leor de na feidhmeanna nua-aimseartha, amhail pleanáil, agus an comhshaoil agus na healaíona a chosaint, mar chuid dá sainchúram. Murab ionann agus údarás áitiúla sa lá atá inniu ann, rinne siad an tseirbhís sláinte a riar agus ba mhó ar fad an méid saoirse a bhí acu ón rialtas láir. I gContae Luimnigh, dáileadh na seirbhísí seo i measc na n-údarás áitiúil éagsúla, agus i gCathair Luimnigh, ba í an Chomhairle a chur réimse iomlán na seirbhísí, seachas sláinte, ar fáil.

Comhairle Cathrach

Cáin mhaoine ar ar tugadh 'rátaí' a bhailiú; bóithre a thógáil agus a chothabháil; seirbhísí uisce agus séarachais a sholáthar; oibreacha gáis; sláinte poiblí; agus tithíocht shóisialta.

Comhairle Contae

Cáin mhaoine ar ar tugadh 'rátaí' a bhailiú, agus cuid di a chur ar aghaidh chuig Aontais Dhlí na mBocht agus na Comhairlí Tuathcheantair; bóithre a thógáil agus a chothabháil.

Bord na gCaomhnóirí

Cúram sláinte: tithe na mbocht agus na hospidéal a reáchtáil.

Comhairlí Tuathcheantair

Seirbhísí uisce agus séarachais a sholáthar; sláinte phoiblí; tithíocht shóisialta

Coimisinéirí Baile

Tithíocht shóisialta; soilsiú sráide; margaidh; agus cuibharrinn.

Tithíocht

Ceann de na feidhmeanna ba thábhachtaí a bhí ag an rialtas áitiúil in 1920 ná tithíocht shóisialta. Ag an am seo, bhí an córas tithíochta sóisialta ab fhearr ar domhain in Éirinn. Dá réir sin, bhí na haschuir ab airde tithe sóisialta in Éirinn i gContae Luimnigh. Faoin mbliain 1893, bhíothas tar éis 1,469 teach coiteora a thógáil sa chontae, gan ach contae eile amháin chun tosaigh orthu ón dtaobh sin, i.e. Contae Chorcaí agus 2,444 teach coiteora tógtha ann. Is díol suntais é áfach go raibh daonra Chontae Chorcaí trí oiread daonra Chontae Luimnigh. Faoin mbliain 1893, bhí Bord Caomhnóirí Chill Mológ tar éis 544 teach coiteora a thógáil, líon ní ba mhó ná aon aontas eile sa tír. Thóg Comhairle Cathrach Luimnigh 133 teach sóisialta idir 1887 agus 1920.



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, JANUARY, 1920.

Sinn Fein Manifesto

The coming Municipal Elections are fraught with vital possibilities for the future of our Nation. SINN FEIN guarantees within the independent Nation equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens and endeavours to inculcate the duties of citizenship and the unselfish fulfilment of the responsibilities imposed thereby. With this object in view SINN FEIN puts forward Candidates whose honesty of intent and straight-forwardness in action is unquestionable and who possesses the moral courage essential to secure the sovereign authority of the national will of the people as already established.

In Municipal affairs all SINN FEIN Candidates stand for PROGRESS, PURITY AND EFFICIENCY OF ADMINISTRATION.

To attain this object, successful Sinn Fein Candidates will endeavour to have all clerical appointments made on the results of open competitive examinations, and in the consideration of all other appointments and promotions will be guided only by the merit, qualifications and service of the Candidates, and by so doing end the insidious system of jobbery and corruption.

THE EXPENDITURE IN IRELAND OF THE RATES RAISED IN IRELAND.

To achieve this object preference will be given to Irish products and goods of Irish manufacture (produced under trade union conditions) and everything possible done to nurture and advance Irish trade and industries.

HOUSING.

The systematic provision of proper housing for the citizens and the abolition of insanitary houses and areas, the provision of recreation grounds, baths and other public conveniences where and when needed, to ensure the happiness and comfort and to safeguard the health of the people.

HEALTH.

The provision of a system of adequate living-out allowance to the aged and infirm. The fosterage in healthy houses for children without parents. The establishment of efficient medical and nursing service under the control of County and County Borough Councils in substitution of the present degrading Poor Law System.

Provision of meals and proper medical and dental inspection for children attending schools. Maintenance of the highest efficiency in Public Health Service.

FOOD.

The proper supervision of all channels of Food supply to prevent adulteration, uncleanness and spread of disease.

The encouragement of the Garden allotments scheme as an incentive to thrift and industry.

THE PROMOTION OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE.

By making Irish an essential subject for all Municipal examinations and helping by every means in their power to nurture and spread the native tongue.

EDUCATION.

Establishment of Public Halls for Lectures, Libraries and Technical Classes in accordance with technical requirements. Granting of Trade and University Scholarships embracing all Trades, Industry, Commerce and Agriculture. In connection with the latter the provision of proper demonstration plots to ensure practical training for all interested in Horticulture Forestry and Agriculture in all its branches.

GENERAL.

Notwithstanding the ban against the publication of this programme by the British administration, it is being put into operation, even though for the first time in history the elected parliamentary representatives of the Irish people have been imprisoned for meeting in connection with it, and affecting the material progress of the country.

Election and Parties

There were two sets of local elections in 1920, both throughout Ireland and in Limerick: those for urban authorities (city and town councils) in January and rural authorities (county and rural district councils) in June. Outside Ulster, the principal parties were the Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP) which had controlled virtually all local authorities since 1899 and the newly reorganised Sinn Féin Party led by Eamon de Valera, in alliance with the Labour Party.

Interestingly the IPP had lost control of Limerick City Council in 1918, two years before the local elections. On 23 September 1918, Alphonsus O'Mara, an avowed supporter of Sinn Féin, had been elected Mayor by 23 votes to 18. O'Mara's Mayoralty, which lasted until January 1920, was a time of transition from IPP to Sinn Féin supremacy which was completed after the 1920 local elections.

In January 1920, all forty seats on Limerick City Council were contested by a total of 78 candidates: 40 for Sinn Féin, 9 for Labour and 29 for Ratepayers and Independents. Sinn Féin won 26, Labour 5, Ratepayers 5 and Independents 4. In Newcastle West, there was no contest and the entire council (8 Sinn Féin and 7 Labour) was returned unopposed. The same happened in Rathkeale, where Sinn Féin won 13 and 2 Labour seats without a contest.

The rural elections resulted in an even more decisive victory for Sinn Féin. Sinn Féin won all 20 directly elected seats on Limerick County Council, of which sixteen were returned unopposed. The four contested seats were all in the Kilmallock electoral area, where Sinn Féin won easily. None of the elections to the Rural District Councils in County Limerick were contested, except for the Castletown District of Croom Rural District Council. Consequently, Sinn Féin won all the seats on all of the Limerick RDCs.

Toghchán agus Páirtithe

Reáchtáladh dhá bhabhta de thoghcháin áitiúla ar fud na hÉireann in 1920: tharla na toghcháin le haghaidh údarás uirbeacha (comhairlí cathrach agus comhairlí baile) i mí Eanáir agus tharla na toghcháin le haghaidh údarás tuaithe (comhairlí contae agus comhairlí tuathcheantar) i mí an Mheithimh. Lasmuigh de Chúige Uladh, ba iad na príomhpháirtithe i gceist ná Páirtí Parlaiminteach na hÉireann, a raibh geall leis na húdaráis áitiúla go léir faoi cheannas aige ó bhí 1899 ann, agus Sinn Féin, a bhí atheagraithe as an nua agus é faoi cheannas Éamon de Valera, i gcomhpháirtíocht le Páirtí an Lucht Oibre.

Is díol suntais é go raibh Páirtí Parlaiminteach na hÉireann tar éis smacht a chailliúint ar Chomhairle Cathrach Luimnigh in 1918, dhá bhliain roimh na toghcháin áitiúla. Ar an 23 Meán Fómhair 1918, toghadh Alphonsus O'Mara, tacaí dílis de chuid Shinn Féin, ina Mhéara agus 23 vóta i gcoinne 18 vóta aige. Bhí O'Mara ina Mhéara go dtí mí Eanáir 1920 agus ba thréimhse aistrithe í ó ardcheannas Pháirtí Parlaiminteach na hÉireann go hardcheannas Shinn Féin, aistriú a cuireadh i gcrích go hiomlán le toghcháin áitiúla 1920.

I mí Eanáir 1920, chuaigh 78 iarrthóir san iomlán san iomaíocht le haghaidh na 40 suíochán ar Chomhairle Cathrach Luimnigh: 40 le haghaidh Shinn Féin, 9 le haghaidh Pháirtí an Lucht Oibre agus 29 le haghaidh na nIócóirí Ráta agus na 5 suíochán, na hIócóirí Ráta 5 shuíochán agus na hIarrthóirí Neamhspleácha 4 shuíochán. Sa Chaisleán Nua, ní raibh iomaíocht ar bith i gceist agus atoghadh an chomhairle go léir (8 le haghaidh Shinn Féin agus 7 le haghaidh Pháirtí an Lucht Oibre) gan aon iarrthóir ina gcoinne. Tharla an rud céanna i Ráth Caola, áit ar bhuaigh Sin Féin 13 shuíochán agus Páirtí an Lucht Oibre 2 shuíochán gan aon iarrthóir eile ina gcoinne.

Bhí bua ní b'fhéarr fós ag Sinn Féin sna toghcháin tuaithe. Bhuaigh Sinn Féin gach ceann de na 20 suíochán a toghadh go díreach ar Chomhairle Contae Luimnigh agus baineadh 16 suíochán díobh sin amach gan aon iarrthóir eile ina gcoinne. Bhí an ceithre shuíochán eile i dtoghcheantar Chill Mológ agus bhuaigh Sinn Féin gan aon stró iad. Ní dheachaigh aon iarrthóir eile san iomaíocht sna toghcháin do na Comhairlí Tuathcheantair i gContae Luimnigh, ach amháin i gCeantar Bhaile an Chaisleáin, ceantar de chuid Chomhairle Tuathcheantair Chromadh. Dá bharr sin, bhuaigh Sinn Féin na suíocháin go léir ar gach ceann de Chomhairlí Tuathcheantar Luimnigh.

Sinn Féin election manifesto for the 1920 local elections

Forógra toghcháin Shinn Féin do thoghcháin áitiúla 1920



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Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh
Limerick City & County Council

Seán Wall (1882-1921)

Seán Wall (1882-1921) was born near Bruff, County Limerick. He worked as a builder and specialised in farm buildings and creameries. He was also interested in technology such as machinery for making cheese, milk-powder and milking cows. Later he advocated the introduction of hydro-electric power.

In 1918, Wall was put in command of the newly created East Limerick Brigade of what was soon to be called the Irish Republican Army. During the War of Independence, he organised the capture of the RIC barracks in Ballylanders and the destruction of the RIC barracks in Kilmallock (both in 1920). During his period in charge, the East Limerick Brigade established the IRA's first flying column (a small mobile independent military unit). He was Chairman of Limerick County Council (1920-21). Sean Wall was killed in battle by the Black and Tans at Newtown, Annacarty, County Tipperary on 6 May 1921.

Seán Wall (1882-1921)

Rugadh Seán Wall (1882-1921) gar don Bhrú, Contae Luimnigh. Ba thógálaí é, agus bhí foirgnimh feirme agus uachtarlanna mar speisialtóireacht aige. Bhí suim aige freisin i gcúrsaí teicneolaíochta amhail innealra chun cáis agus púdar bainne a dhéanamh agus ba a chrú. Ní ba dhéanaí in a shaol, bhí sé go mór ar son na cumhachta hidrileictreach a thabhairt isteach.

In 1918, cuireadh i gceannas é ar Bhriogáid Luimnigh Thoir ar bhriogáid nuabhunaithe in Óglaigh na hÉireann í. Le linn Chogadh na Saoirse, d'eagraigh sé gabh bheairic Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann i mBaile na Londraigh agus scrios bheairic Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann i gCill Mológ (tharla an dá eachtra seo in 1920). Le linn a thréimhse i gceannas, bhunaigh Briogáid Luimnigh Thoir an chéad cholún reatha (aonad beag míleata taistil neamhspleách) de chuid Óglaigh na hÉireann. Bhí sé ina Chathaoirleach ar Chomhairle Contae Luimnigh (1920-21). Maraíodh Seán Wall le linn catha leis na Dúchrónaigh sa Bhaile Nua, Áth na Cairte, Co. Thiobraid Árann ar an 6 Bealtaine 1921.

The Seán Wall monument in Bruff, County Limerick, which was unveiled by President Sean T O'Kelly on 12 October 1952

Séadchomhartha Sheáin de Bhál, an Brú, Contae Luimnigh, a chuir an tUachtarán Seán T Ó Ceallaigh i láthair an 12 Deireadh Fómhair 1952



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Michael O'Callaghan (1879-1921)

Michael O'Callaghan's family owned the City Tannery at Lower Gerald Griffin Street which had been established by his grandfather Eugene (1800-81). A member of Sinn Féin, Michael O'Callaghan (1879-1921) sat on Limerick City Council (1911-21) and was Mayor (1920-21). A few weeks after his term of office ended, he was shot dead by the Black and Tans in his own house, 'St. Margaret's Villa' on the North Strand. Half an hour later, his successor as mayor, George Clancy was also murdered. Both O'Callaghan Strand, where he had lived, and O'Callaghan Avenue, Kileely were later named in his honour.

Michael's wife Kathleen (Kate) O'Callaghan (1885-1961) was born near Macroom in County Cork, and worked as a senior lecturer in education at Mary Immaculate College. After her husband's murder, she sat in Dáil Éireann for the Limerick City-Limerick East constituency for two years (1921-23) and opposed the Treaty. During the Civil War, she was arrested and imprisoned in Kilmainham jail, where she went on hunger strike.

Michael O'Callaghan (1879-1921)

Bunaithe ag a sheanathair Eugene (1800-81), ba le muintir Michael O'Callaghan Teanús na Cathrach ar Shráid Ghearóid Uí Ghríofa Íochtarach. Agus é ina bhall de Shinn Féin, thogh Michael O'Callaghan (1879-1921) do Chomhairle Cathrach Luimnigh (1911-21) agus chaith sé bliain ina Mhéara (1920-21). Cúpla seachtain i ndiaidh dó a théarma oifige a chur i gcrích, lámhach agus mharaigh na Dúchrónaigh é ina theach féin, 'Bailtín San Maighréad' ar an Trá Thuaidh. Leathuair an chloig ina dhiaidh sin, maraíodh George Clancy, an duine a tháinig i gcomharbacht air mar mhéara. Ainmníodh Trá Uí Cheallacháin, áit a raibh cónaí ar Michael, agus Ascaill Uí Cheallacháin, Cill Liaile, in ómós dó ina dhiaidh sin.

Rugadh bean chéile Michael, Kathleen (Kate) O'Callaghan (1885-1961) gar do Mhaigh Chromtha i gContae Chorcaí agus bhí sí ina léachtóir sinsearach san oideachas i gColáiste Mhuire gan Smál. I ndiaidh dhúnmharú a fhir chéile, bhí sí ina Teachta Dála do thoghcheantar Chathair Luimnigh-Luimneach Thoir ar feadh thréimhse dhá bhliain (1921-23) agus bhí sí go mór i gcoinne an Chonartha. Le linn Chogadh na gCarad, gabhadh agus cuireadh i bpríosún í i bPríosún Chill Mhaighneann, áit a ndeachaigh sí ar stailc ocrais.

Michael O'Callaghan,
Mayor of Limerick
(1920-21)

*Mícheál Ó Ceallacháin,
Méara Luimnigh
(1920-21)*

George Clancy,
Mayor of Limerick.

*Seoirse Mac
Fhlannchadha,
Méara Luimnigh*



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Emily Crowe (1867-1941)

One of the greatest pioneers of female political activism in the history of Limerick was Emily Crowe, the first woman member of either Limerick City or County Council. A native of Limerick City, she was born in 1867, one of the eleven children of John Hurley a grocer and his wife Margaret. In 1896 Emily Hurley married Timothy Crowe a butcher and they lived at 25 Sarsfield Street overhead his butcher's shop. Together, they had four children.

During the period 1912-23, especially in the 1916 Rising and War of Independence, women played a more prominent part in Irish public life than at any period before the 1960s. Emily Crowe was part of this trend. She was a prominent member of Cumann na mBan and Sinn Féin in Limerick. In the 1920 local elections, she was elected as the first ever female member of Limerick City Council. She was also a member of Limerick Board of Guardians. One of her nephews was Robert (Bobby) Byrne (1889-1919), the prominent trade union official and Sinn Féin activist whose death sparked the Limerick Soviet of 1919.

In 1925, Emily Crowe retired from Limerick City Council. She died on 5 May 1941 and was buried in Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery.

Emily Crowe (1867-1941)

Bhí Emily Crowe ar dhuine de na ceannródaithe bha mhó riamh i Luimneach ó thaobh ghníomhaíochas polaitiúla na mban, agus í an chead bhean riamh a toghadh do Chomhairle Cathrach nó Comhairle Contae Luimnigh. Rugadh í gCathair Luimnigh í in 1867, duine de na 11 leanbh a bhí ag John Hurley arbh ghrósaer é agus a bhean chéile Margaret. In 1896, phós Emily Hurley Timothy Crowe, ar bhúistéir é, agus bhí cónaí orthu thuas staighre sa siopa búistéara, 25 Sráid an tSáirséalaigh. Bhí ceathrar leanaí acu.

Le linn na tréimhse 1912-23, go speisialta le linn Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916 agus Chogadh na Saoirse, bhí ról ní b'fheiceálaí ag mná i saol poiblí na hÉireann ná mar a bhí acu le linn aon tréimhse eile roimh na 1960idí. Ba chuid den treocht seo í Emily Crowe. Ba bhall iomráiteach í de Chumann na mBan agus de Shinn Féin i Luimneach. I dtoghcháin áitiúla 1920, toghadh í do Chomhairle Cathrach Luimnigh, an chéad bhean riamh chun an ról sin a ghlacadh. Ba bhall freisin í de Bhord Caomhnóirí Luimnigh. Ba nia léi Robert (Bobby) Byrne (1889-1919), an t-oifigeach ceardchumann agus gníomhaí Shinn Féin mór le rá a spreag a bhás Sóivéid Luimnigh 1919.

In 1925, chuaigh sí ar scor ó Chomhairle Cathrach Luimnigh. Fuair sí bás ar an 5 Bealtaine 1941 agus adhlacadh i Reilig Chnocán San Labhrás í.

Emily Crowe (1867-1941) pioneer of female participation in Limerick politics

Emily Ní Conchra (1867-1941), ceannródaí rannpháirtíocht na mban i bpolaíocht Luimnigh



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LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL.

Minutes of Proceedings of Limerick County Council at
Annual Meeting held in the Council Chamber,
on Friday. 25th June, 1920

Present—Messrs. Blackwell, Cahill, Coleman, Cranwitch, de Lacy, Dunne, Laffan, Leahy, Lynch, McCann, McDonough, Mackey, Manahan, O'Shea, Quaid, Roche, Michael Ryan, Patrick Ryan, Tobin, Wall, Hynes, Naughton, O'Dwyer, Purcell and Noonan.

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE.

The declarations of acceptance of office were signed.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.

Mr. Mackey proposed, Mr. Wall seconded, and Resolved:—"That Mr. Patrick Ryan be moved to the temporary chair."

CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS.

Mr. Manahan proposed, Mr. Roche seconded, and Resolved:—"That the Council do not proceed to co-opt any additional members."

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN.

Mr. de Lacy proposed, Mr. Mackey seconded, and Resolved:—"That Mr. John Wall be appointed Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year."

Mr. Wall having signed the declaration of acceptance of office as Chairman moved the following Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Roche, and passed unanimously:—

ALLEGIANCE TO DAIL EIREANN

"That this Council of the elected representatives of the Limerick County Council at a duly convened meeting hereby acknowledges the authority of Dail Eireann as the duly elected Government of the Irish People, and undertakes to give effect to all decrees duly promulgated by the said Dail Eireann in so far as same affect this Council. That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Republican Minister for Foreign Affairs for transmission to the Governments of Europe, and to the President and Chairman of the Senate and House of Representatives of the U.S.A."

It was further ordered that 30 copies of the foregoing Resolution, authenticated by the official seal of the Council, be forwarded by hand to the Secretary of Dail Eireann for transmission to the various Foreign Governments.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Mr. Coleman proposed "That Mr. John Hynes be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year." Mr. O'Dwyer seconded.

Mr. Laffan proposed "That Mr. A. Mackey be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year." Mr. Cahill seconded.

On a Poll their voted for Mr. Hynes—Messrs. Coleman, Cranwitch, de Lacy, Manahan, Roche, Michael Ryan, Hynes, O'Dwyer, Purcell and the Chairman (10).

For Mr. Mackey—Messrs. Blackwell, Cahill, Dunne, Laffan, Lynch, McDonough, Mackey, Quaid, Patk. Ryan, Tobin and Naughton (11).

There being no further proposal the Chairman declared Mr. Mackey elected Vice-Chairman.

PLEDGE OF SUPPORT AGAINST BRITISH MILITARISM.

Mr. de Lacy proposed, Mr. Mackey seconded, and Resolved:—"That we, the members of the Limerick County Council, hereby pledge our moral and material support to the men who are now engaged in what may well be described as the final stage in the struggle against British Militarism."

DEPUTATION

Declaring for the Dáil

Following the 1920 local elections, the Dáil Department of Local Government was worried about local authorities severing all connection with the British authorities. Some in the Department hoped that local authorities might be able to retain links with both the Irish and British governments, as they did not want to see British loans for housing or other purposes lost to them. However, many of the newly elected urban and rural counties did not agree and rushed to break their connection with Britain.

On 30 January 1920, Limerick City Council met for the first time since the local elections and voted to 'hereby acknowledge Dáil Eireann as the lawful government of Ireland', and to tender 'its full allegiance.' It was followed soon afterwards by the Town Commissioners of Rathkeale and Newcastle West. On 25 June, Limerick County Council did likewise at its first meeting after the elections. Later in June, Limerick RDCs number 1 and 2 and the Boards of Guardians of Limerick, Rathkeale and Kilmallock followed suit. Some of the other RDCs and Boards of Guardians in Limerick held out for fear of losing British financial assistance, but by the end of September 1920, all had tendered their allegiance to the Dáil.

This represented the first time in its entire history that the Limerick local government system voted in favour of a complete severance with the British connection.

Géillsine do Dháil Éireann

I ndiadh thoghcháin 1920, bhí an Roinn Rialtais Áitiúil de chuid Dháil Éireann buartha faoi na húdaráis áitiúla ag cur deireadh iomlán lena nasc le húdarás na Breataine. Bhí daoine áirithe sa Roinn den tuairim go mbeadh na húdaráis áitiúla in ann naisc áirithe a choinneáil le Rialtas na Breataine agus le Rialtas na hÉireann toisc nár theastaigh uathu cailliúint amach ar iasachtaí ón mBreatain le haghaidh tithíochta agus rudaí eile. Níor chomhaontaigh roinnt de na contaetha uirbeacha agus tuaithe nuathofa leis an tuairim sin áfach agus bhí deifir orthu an nasc leis an mBreatain a bhriseadh go hiomlán.

Ar an 30 Eanáir 1920, tháinig Comhairle Contae Luimnigh le chéile den chéad uair ó bhí na toghcháin áitiúla ann agus vótáil sí chun 'aitheantas a thabhairt do Dháil Éireann mar rialtas dleathach na hÉireann' agus 'géillsine iomlán a thabhairt di'. Rinne Coimisinéir Baile Ráth Caola agus Coimisinéir Baile an Chaisleáin Nua amhlaidh go luath ina dhiaidh sin. Ar an 25 Meitheamh, vótáil Comhairle Contae Luimnigh díreach mar an gcéanna ag a céad chruinniú i ndiadh na dtoghchán. Roimh dheireadh mhí an Mheithimh, rinne Comhairlí Tuathcheantair Uimhir 1 & 2 agus Boird Caomhnóirí Luimnigh, Ráth Caola agus Chill Mológ an rud ceannann céanna. D'fhan cuid de na Comhairlí Tuathcheantair agus Boird Caomhnóirí eile i Luimneach tamall ar eagla go gcaillfidís amach ar cúnamh airgeadais ón mBreataine,

Limerick County Council votes
allegiance to Dáil Eireann

Vótáilann Comhairle Contae Luimnigh ar
son na dílseachta do Dháil Éireann



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Aftermath

As a result of the declaration of allegiance to the Dáil by Irish local authorities, British rule in Ireland suffered a major blow as the British authorities virtually lost control of the entire country. Throughout the War of Independence (1919-21), local government played a decisive and important part in undermining the British regime.

Following independence, successive Irish governments reduced the number of local authorities in the state. In Limerick, the Boards of Guardians were abolished in 1922 and the Rural District Councils in 1925. Rathkeale Town Commissioners were abolished in 1926 and Newcastle Town Commissioners in 1941. In 2014, Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council were amalgamated to become Limerick City and County Council. In 2020, Limerick had 40 elected councillors, less than one sixth of the 258 elected councillors that it had in 1920.

The poor law unions and RDCs were replaced by Boards of Health and Public Assistance which consisted of ten members appointed by the City or County Council and was responsible for health, social welfare and social housing. Later their functions were transferred to the City and County Council. In 1971, the health functions given to the Mid-Western Health Board (1971-2004) before it in turn was subsumed into the Health Service Executive in 2005.

The Sinn Féin Party that had taken over Irish local government in 1920 split in 1922 into pro-Treaty and anti-Treaty factions. The pro-Treaty group became Cumann na nGaedheal in 1923 and Fine Gael in 1933. In 1926, the anti-Treaty group split into Fianna Fáil and Sinn Féin.

I ndiaidh na stoirme

Ba bhuille trom do rialú na Breataine in Éirinn an mionn dílseachta a thug údaráis áitiúla na hÉireann do Dháil Éireann mar b'ionann agus a chaill údaráis na Breataine smacht ar an tír ar fad leis. I rith Chogadh na Saoirse (1919-21), bhí ról cinniúnach tábhachtach ag an rialtas áitiúil maidir leis an mbonn a bhaint ó réimeas na Breataine.

I ndiaidh neamhspleáchais, laghdaigh rialtais i ndiaidh rialtas líon na n-údarás áitiúil sa stáit. I Luimneach, cuireadh deireadh le Bord na gCaomhnóirí in 1922 agus leis na Comhairlí Tuathcheantair in 1925. Cuireadh deireadh le Coimisinéirí Baile Ráth Caola in 1926 agus le Coimisinéirí Baile an Chaisleáin Nua in 1941. In 2014, rinneadh Comhairle Cathrach Luimnigh agus Comhairle Contae Luimnigh a chomhnascadh mar Chomhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh. In 2020, toghadh 40 comhairleoir i Luimneach, thart ar aon séú den 258 comhairleoir a bhí ann in 1920.

In áit aontais dhlí na mbocht agus na gComhairlí Tuathcheantair, cuireadh ann Boird Sláinte agus Cúnaimh Phoiblí ar a raibh 10 gcomhalta arna gceapadh ag an gComhairle Cathrach nó ag an gComhairle Contae agus bhí na Boird sin freagrach as cúrsaí sláinte, cúrsaí leasa shóisialaigh agus cúrsaí tithíochta. Ina dhiaidh sin, aistríodh a bhfeidhmeanna chuig an gComhairle Cathrach agus Contae. In 1971, sannadh na feidhmeanna sláinte ar Bhord Sláinte an Mheán-Iarthair (1971-2004) sular comhchuimsíodh an Bord sin i bhFeidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte in 2005.

In 1922, tharla scoilt i Sinn Féin, an páirtí a bhí tar éis ceannas a fháil ar rialtas áitiúil na hÉireann in 1920, agus fágadh an páirtí ina dhá leath: grúpa amháin ar son an Chonartha agus an grúpa eile i gcoinne an Chonartha. Bhunaigh an grúpa a bhí ar son an Chonartha Cumann na nGaedheal in 1923 agus tugadh Fine Gael orthu ó 1933 ar aghaidh. In 1926, scoilt an grúpa a bhí i gcoinne an chonartha ina dhá ghrúpa éagsúil - Fianna Fáil agus Sinn Féin.

In 1922, Limerick city was one of the major battlegrounds of the Civil War

Bhí Cathair Luimnigh ar cheann de na láithreacha móra cogaidh sa Chogadh Cathartha sa bhliain 1922



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