

My name is James Breen and I am an Independent candidate for the upcoming Co. Council election. I am married to Eileen (Galvin). We have four grown up children. Daughter Eilis (Neville), sons Damian, Ciaran and Ruairi. Damian is the only one living away, he is in San Francisco. We also have 6 grandchildren. I am a farmer and I could not imagine my life without the land.

My interests are in in GAA, swimming, singing, traditional music, rugby and people in general.

I was first elected to Clare County Council in 1985 and to Dail Eireann in 2002 to 2007. I had the privilege of being re-elected to Clare County Council in 2009.

If I am successful in the election to Clare County Council I will vigorously oppose any increase in the Property Tax which will be managed by the Council from 2015. I will campaign for a reduction in Commercial Rates and Water Charges in order to give small businesses and the town of Ennis a chance to thrive. I will keep pressure on the Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the IDA to secure a major industry for Ennis.

I will continue my fight for a proper Health Service in Clare. I want to stop the inhuman and degrading treatment of patients waiting on trollies day after day in Limerick Regional Hospital.

I want to ensure that people with disabilities have a voice in Local Government Reform and to support them in participating fully in employment, further education and in their community.

The Mental Health Budget must be increased and ring fenced in order to create awareness in the general public of the various services available and encourage people to use them. I would like to see organisations such as Headstrong's Jigsaw set up in every county in order to support adolescents' positive mental health.

I will advocate for the protection of the small family farms and will peruse incentives to keep young people involved in farming and ensure that we get a fair deal from CAP. It is vital to stop the decline in rural areas and create vibrant sustainable communities where people can maintain a good standard of living and be safe and secure in their own homes.

I will work hard to make sure that Broadband is rolled out in rural areas so that they can develop economically and socially.

I will continue to put pressure on the Government to guarantee no opportunity is lost in the plight of the illegal immigrants living and working in the USA .

I will campaign for a complete review of speed limits in the county with a greater input from the general public.

I want to see all unfinished housing estates in the county taken over by the Local Authority and that a special fund is provided by the Department of the Environment to allow this to happen; where a bond is in place that this should be used.

If elected will continue my hard work with honesty, truth, experience and straight talking.