

Presidential Election 2011

Background

The 13th election for President of Ireland was held on October 27th 2011. It was contested by seven candidates, three of which were selected by political parties. The remaining independent candidates were nominated by county or city councils. Two constitutional referendums (Judicial pay, and Oireachtas Inquiries) and a by-election for a vacant Dáil seat in the Dublin West constituency took place on the same day.

The presidential candidates were as follows;

Mary Davis, Sean Gallagher, Michael D. Higgins, Martin McGuinness, Gay Mitchell, David Norris and Dana Rosemary Scallon

Site selection

The selection process was carried out by Della Murphy and Catherine Ryan of the NLI

Crawl parameters

1. A focused, thematic web crawl based primarily on the Presidential Election 2011 with some focus on the referendums (Judicial Pay, Oireachtas Inquiries) and the By-election in Dublin West on October 27th 2011.
2. 70 sites pre-election capture and 10 sites post-election capture.
3. The first crawl took place mostly around 13th-18th October and the second 9-10th November.

General Selection Criteria

1. Website presence. Websites were evaluated on the basis of use. Only those sites that received regular and recent updates were included. Token websites were in the main excluded.
2. Technical reasons. Websites that were 'clunky' or that contained substantial moving image (YouTube) or flash were more likely to be excluded as there was no certainty around final capture.
3. Cut-off date. Sites had to be selected by the 7 February which meant that some sites may not have been up and running in a meaningful way by that time and were therefore not included.
4. Women Candidates. Much has been made of the dearth of women candidates in this election. We consciously tried to include women candidates and have 9 out of 51 candidates, slightly higher than the national average at 17.6%.
5. Twitter is being captured by the Library of Congress (USA) so where decisions between sites for inclusion were tight our preference was for the non-Twitter sites.

Scope and Content

- This collection includes election candidate sites, political party sites, official government sites, political commentary sites and new media sites.
- A one off snapshot of 70 sites was taken pre-election along with a post-election harvest of 10 sites, of which some sites were taken from the selection of 70. The choice of only 10 sites for a post-election capture stemmed from the nature of the election. A presidential election traditionally does not have as much potential to engender changes of policy as that of a general election and is also a much smaller race with significantly less candidates, so it was expected that discussion and analysis would exist at a lesser degree post-election.
- The websites themselves were chosen to present a rounded picture of activity at election time with more formal information communicated on the official government, candidate and independent body websites and more reactive comment and analysis on the political commentary and news media sites. Only websites that received regular updates were included.
- 'Clunky' sites with substantial moving image (YouTube) and Flash were excluded
- Single issue sites or groups were in the main excluded unless the subject matter complemented the NLI's existing collections
- In relation to political commentary websites, the potential for duplication with General Election 2011 was avoided where possible. Views from Northern Ireland were included, and an Irish Language academic was consulted in relation to potential Irish language blog websites. The Irish blog awards were also consulted. Staff of the NLI were also asked to contribute potential sites for inclusion

- A particular effort was made to include a selection of news media sites in this web crawl with national, regional, and emigrant and immigrant publications included. Aside for 'content' reasons this was done because many regional newspapers were under considerable financial pressure and in danger of folding at the time.
- Unfortunately a small number of newspaper sites did not capture very well and have had to be excluded from the final results, such as the Leinster Express, Metro Eireann and the Dundalk Democrat.
- On this occasion a number of relevant threads from politics.ie including one relating to the judicial pay referendum did not capture. Also Queer ID did not capture.
- By the time of the 2nd crawl, Michael D. Higgins website had redirected to www.president.ie

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Collection of key websites relating to the 2011 Irish Presidential Election held on October 27th 2011. The collection includes election candidate sites, political party sites, political blogs and a small number of official government sites.

Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in 2011 Presidential Election Collection
An Spailpín Fánach	http://spailpin.blogspot.com/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016111749/http://spailpin.blogspot.com/ http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111110151551/http://spailpin.blogspot.com/
Áras an Uachtaráin	http://www.president.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131414/http://www.president.ie http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111114105115/http://www.president.ie
Blanchardstown Gazette	http://www.gazettegroup.com/blanchardstown/news.shtml	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111020151110/http://www.gazettegroup.com/blanchardstown/news.shtml
Boards.ie - Elections Forum	http://www.boards.ie/vbulletin/forumdisplay.php?f=1431	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111020151110/http://www.boards.ie/vbulletin/forumdisplay.php?f=1431
Bock the Robber	http://bocktherobber.com/category/society/politics	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016111743/http://bocktherobber.com/category/society/politics
Broadsheet.ie	http://www.broadsheet.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016112444/http://www.broadsheet.ie/ http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111020172129/http://www.broadsheet.ie/
Business and Finance	http://www.businessandfinance.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111026101417/http://www.businessandfinance.ie/

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Candidate.ie	http://candidate.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111021054122/http://candidate.ie/
The Cedar Lounge Revolution	http://cedarlounge.wordpress.com/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016111820/http://cedarlounge.wordpress.com/ http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111103122107/http://cedarlounge.wordpress.com/
Christian Solidarity Party	http://www.comharcristai.org/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131414/http://www.comharcristai.org/
Communist Party of Ireland	http://www.comunistpartyofireland.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131414/http://www.comunistpartyofireland.ie/
Connacht Tribune	http://www.galwaynews.ie/connachttribune	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111020151110/http://www.galwaynews.ie/connachttribune
Cork Feminista	http://corkfeminista.wordpress.com/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016111907/http://corkfeminista.wordpress.com/
Cork Politics	http://corkpolitics.ie/wp/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016111807/http://corkpolitics.ie/wp/

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Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in 2011 Presidential Election Collection
Dana Rosemary Scallon	http://www.danaforpresident.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131422/http://www.danaforpresident.ie/
David Norris	http://norrisforpresident.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131414/http://norrisforpresident.ie/
Éirigí	http://www.eirigi.org/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016114106/http://www.eirigi.org
Election 2011	http://election2011.ie	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016114531/http://election2011.ie
Elections Ireland	http://electionsireland.org/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131414/http://electionsireland.org/
Fianna Fáil	http://www.fiannafail.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131416/http://www.fiannafail.ie/
Fine Gael	http://www.finegaele.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016120429/http://www.finegaele.ie/
Fis Nua	http://fisnua.com/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131414/http://fisnua.com/
Foinse	http://www.foinse.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111027152248/http://www.foinse.ie/

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Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in 2011 Presidential Election Collection
Gay Mitchell	http://gaymitchell2011.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131422/http://gaymitchell2011.ie/
Green Party	https://greenparty.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016112134/http://www.greenparty.ie/en
Guth an Phobail	http://www.guthanphobail.net/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131414/http://www.guthanphobail.net/ http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111114105117/http://www.guthanphobail.net/
Irish Central	http://www.irishcentral.com/topics/Irish+presidential+race	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111020151110/http://www.irishcentral.com/topics/Irish+presidential+race
Irish Economy	http://irisheconomy.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016112448/http://irisheconomy.ie/
Irish Election Literature	http://irishelectionliterature.wordpress.com/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016111823/http://irishelectionliterature.wordpress.com/ http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111114110355/http://irishelectionliterature.wordpress.com/
Irish Polling Report	http://irishpollingreport.wordpress.com/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016133346/http://irishpollingreport.wordpress.com/

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Jason O'Mahony	http://jasonomahony.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111017104346/http://jasonomahony.ie/
Jude Collins	http://judcollinsjournalist.blogspot.com/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111026124242/http://judcollinsjournalist.blogspot.com/
Labour	http://www.labour.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131414/http://www.labour.ie/ http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111114105115/http://www.labour.ie/
Leinster Leader	http://www.leinsterleader.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111026101417/http://www.leinsterleader.ie/
Limerick Leader	http://www.limerickleader.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016190932/http://www.limerickleader.ie/
Maman Poulet	http://www.mamanpoulet.com/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016111742/http://www.mamanpoulet.com/
Martin McGuinness: the People's President	http://www.thepeoplespresident.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111026101444/http://www.thepeoplespresident.ie/
Mary Davis for President	http://www.marydavis.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131415/http://www.marydavis.ie/
MerrionStreet.ie	http://www.merrionstreet.ie/en/	

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Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in 2011 Presidential Election Collection
		http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016112958/http://www.merriestreet.ie/
Michael D. Higgins : The President who will do us proud	http://www.michaeldhiggins.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131414/http://www.michaeldhiggins.ie/ http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111114105115/http://president.ie/
Munster Express	http://www.munster-express.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111103133715/http://www.munster-express.ie/
Northern Standard	http://northernstandard.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111120131901/http://northernstandard.ie/
Offaly Express	http://www.offalyexpress.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111026101417/http://www.offalyexpress.ie/
Political Reform.ie		http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016112139/http://politicalreform.ie/ http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111110142628/http://politicalreform.ie/
Political World	http://www.politicalworld.org/forumdisplay.php?f=131	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111020151110/http://www.politicalworld.org/forumdisplay.php?f=131
Politico.ie	http://politico.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016111916/http://politico.ie/

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Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in 2011 Presidential Election Collection
		http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111114105440/http://politico.ie/
Politics.ie – 2011 Irish Presidential Election Forum	http://www.politics.ie/forum/irish-presidential-election-2011/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111020151112/http://www.politics.ie/forum/irish-presidential-election-2011/ http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111114110127/http://www.politics.ie/forum/irish-presidential-election-2011/
Politics.ie Judicial Pay Referendum	http://www.politics.ie/forum/judicial-pay-referendum-2011/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111020151123/http://www.politics.ie/forum/judicial-pay-referendum-2011/
Politics.ie Oireachtas Inquiry	http://www.politics.ie/forum/oireachtas-inquiry-referendum-2011/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111020151131/http://www.politics.ie/forum/oireachtas-inquiry-referendum-2011/
Polski Express	http://polskiexpress.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111026101422/http://polskiexpress.ie/
PresidentialElection.ie	http://presidentialelection.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131418/http://presidentialelection.ie/
Progressive Economy	http://www.progressive-economy.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016135136/http://www.progressive-economy.ie/
Referendum 2011	http://www.referendum2011.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111026101417/http://www.referendum2011.ie/

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Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in 2011 Presidential Election Collection
RTE Presidential Election	http://www.rte.ie/news/presidentialelection.html	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111020151110/http://www.rte.ie/news/presidentialelection.html http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111114110330/http://www.rte.ie/news/presidentialelection.html
Sean Gallagher : for an Independent President	http://www.seangallagher.com/2011/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131433/http://www.seangallagher.com/2011/
Sinn Fein	http://www.sinnfein.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131414/http://www.sinnfein.ie/
Slugger O'Toole	http://sluggerotoole.com/region/ireland/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016111912/http://sluggerotoole.com/
Stephen Spillane	http://www.stephenspillane.com/blog/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016111742/http://www.stephenspillane.com/blog/
The Journal	http://www.thejournal.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016114810/http://www.thejournal.ie/
The Pensive Quill	http://thepensivequill.am/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111020155449/http://thepensivequill.am/
An Chomhdháil	http://www.cppc.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131414/http://www.cppc.ie/

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Website Name	Live Website	Archived Website in 2011 Presidential Election Collection
Phobail / The People's Convention		
Tuam Herald	http://www.tuamherald.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111026101419/http://www.tuamherald.ie/
United Left Alliance	http://www.unitedleftalliance.org/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016175812/http://www.unitedleftalliance.org/
People Before Profit	http://www.peoplebeforeprofit.ie/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131414/http://www.peoplebeforeprofit.ie/
Socialist Party	http://www.socialistparty.net/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111026101417/http://www.socialistparty.net/
Workers' Party of Ireland	http://workerspartyireland.net/	http://collection.europarchive.org/nli/20111016131414/http://workerspartyireland.net/