

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

Conference Guide

We are delighted to welcome you to the Social Democrats 2026 National Conference. We have a full schedule of events during the conference, beginning at 6pm on Friday, February 6th, and concluding at 7pm on Saturday, February 7th. There will also be a social event on each evening.

We particularly value your attendance for **Holly's Leader's Speech** which will be **broadcast live on RTÉ One at 6:30pm on Saturday, February 7th**. The sessions between 12 and 1pm on Saturday will also be streamed live on the RTÉ News Channel and we would love to see you there.

Location

The event is being held at the Clayton Silver Springs Hotel, Tivoli, Cork T23 E244. If you are driving and NOT staying at the hotel overnight, on entering the hotel grounds, turn left up the hill and follow the road to the Conference Centre. If you are staying at the hotel overnight, on entering the hotel grounds, turn right into the hotel car park.

Timetable of Events

A full conference agenda is available overleaf. Please do not hesitate to contact the staff at the check-in desk if you have any questions.

Evening Events

In appreciation of your tremendous and ongoing efforts to support the party, we are delighted to host two social events in the main hotel. Finger food will be provided and attendees will be responsible for covering the cost of their own beverages.

Check-in

On arrival, please go to the check-in desk to collect your badge which must be worn at all times. Members with more than six months of continuous membership will receive a badge with a purple background, indicating their right to vote in elections for party positions and structures, and on conference motions. Members with fewer than six months of membership will receive a white badge and will not be entitled to vote on motions or in elections on this occasion.

If this is your first conference, please let us know at the check-in desk if we can assist you in any way.

Meals

Complimentary food and beverages will be available during the conference. Should you have any special dietary needs, please inform the catering team.

Conference Venue Layout

The venue has two floors. On the ground floor you will find the check-in desk which is in the main lobby where refreshments and food will also be served. The main hall, known as the Tivoli Suite, is also on the ground floor. Upstairs (only accessible on Saturday) you will find the breakout sessions in Harbour 4 and Harbour 7, the voting room (Harbour 6), a delegate lounge/rest area (Harbour 5), exhibition tables, and our merchandise stall. There is also a Quiet Room upstairs if you need a quiet break. Ask at the check-in desk for details. There is a lift to the upper floor by the check-in desk.

Duties of the National Conference

Firstly, we would like you to enjoy the event and meet with fellow delegates as we discuss how to make the most of the political opportunities that lie ahead of us. The conference will be a pivotal two days of constructive debate, energising speeches and practical workshops – to help us shape the future direction of our party and our country.

There are also official duties and powers of our National Conference to engage with, namely:

- **Accountability and Reporting:**

To receive and review reports on the activities of the National Executive, Parliamentary Party, National Council, General Secretary, Treasurer and Standing Orders Committee.

These reports will be presented on Friday evening.

- **Governance and Elections:**

To elect fundamental party roles and structures including the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, National Executive members and the Standing Orders Committee.

These positions are all crucial for strong party governance. You can cast your vote upstairs on Saturday from 9:30am to 2pm in room Harbour 6.

- **Constitutional Review and Party Direction:**

To debate and make decisions on proposals, submitted via motions to amend the Party's Constitution and decide upon the future direction of Party policies through motions submitted by both branches and the National Executive.

These motions will be discussed and debated during the conference and you will be invited to vote on each motion, and amendments, as presented throughout the two days. Please check the timetable for the time and location for each motion.

National Organisers Team

Be sure to say hello to our National Organisers team—Ruairí, Deirdre, and David—who will be situated next to the check-in desk. They are dedicated to supporting and growing local branch engagement and will be at the conference specifically to strengthen relationships with branches and members, and offer any assistance needed. If you are new to the Social Democrats, or this is your first conference, they can help connect you with other members.

Exhibitors

We will have a small number of exhibitors at the event on Saturday. They will be located in the upper floor corridor. Please take a moment to check them out.

Party Merchandise

The National Conference is the perfect opportunity to pick up your Social Democrats accessories. From our popular **More Mná sweatshirts** and **More Grá t-shirts** to **Social Doggocrats bandanas** for your pup, or a Public Services mug for your next Zoom call, there is something for everyone. And carry it all home in a new **Tote Bag Merchant tote bag**. Every purchase helps support our candidates in future elections.

Accessibility and Additional Needs

A lounge with priority seating is located upstairs in Harbour 5, which may be particularly helpful during mealtimes. A Quiet Room is also available on the upper floor should you need a bit of quiet space. Lift access to the upper floor is beside the check-in desk. Please do not hesitate to contact the staff at the check-in desk if there is anything further we can do to assist you.

Security

The safety of our members, staff and elected representatives is extremely important to us. While we have security measures in place, please report any unusual or suspicious activity directly to the staff at the check-in desk. This will help ensure the security of all our attendees at all times.

Lounge

If you would like to chill out, unwind or chat with fellow party members, we have provided a lounge area located in Harbour 5 on the upper floor. We kindly ask that you be mindful of priority seating reserved for those with additional needs. This lounge will be open on Saturday only.

Filming Permission

The conference will be filmed and photographed by the Social Democrats for archival purposes and there will be media outlets taking photographs and filming at the event. Please read the CROWD PHOTOGRAPHY/DIGITAL RECORDING RELEASE NOTICE displayed in the lobby. Should you have any queries regarding data protection, please contact gdpr@socialdemocrats.ie.

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DETAILS

