

**Sub 16/110**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The creation of municipal areas have brought much transparency to the antiquated system, which had proceeded it.

The abolition of the old UDC system (a throwback to a time of British rule) has enhanced democracy and reduced bureaucracy.

The logical progression in the formation of constituency boundaries for general elections is for these boundaries to be made up of whole municipal districts.

Fracturing municipal districts to create general election boundaries leads to a less than democratic situation, whereby an otherwise arbitrary division of municipal areas leads to an advantage given to candidates originating from the more geographically unified electoral areas. Case in point Mayo which had 4 electoral seats, all of which came from the three largely intact municipal areas of the old West Mayo Constituency and none from the former East Mayo Constituency, which conversely is the area now seeing the greatest rise in population in all of the recent CSO census, with Claremorris growing faster than any other area of Mayo.

We see no problem with electoral areas crossing county borders, however in doing so, they must respect and keep intact the respective municipal area boundaries. i.e. Rather than dividing municipal areas in the formation of general electoral areas, as a rule, the general electoral area should be made up of whole municipal areas.

Sincerely,

Claremorris Chamber of Commerce Management Team.