

To whom it may concern,

I wish to make a submission supporting the return of the Lower Ormond area of North Tipperary to the Tipperary constituency in light of the upcoming review of the existing boundaries for election voting.

Recent alterations in the constituency boundaries meant that during the last general election people living in the Lower Ormond area had to vote in the new Offaly constituency, a constituency in which we have no stake in terms of our day to day lives and for candidates which are unfamiliar to us.

Not alone are residents expected to vote in a new county constituency but also in a province which has quite different and distinct social and economic priorities in terms of development of its infrastructure and amenities. The alienation of the voting population of the Lower Ormond district is reflected in the voting patterns displayed at the last election.

In a society all the citizens of the state should feel entitled to have a democratic say in how matters in their community impact on their lives. By denying citizens an opportunity to express their voice at the ballot box on local as well as national matters erodes peoples confidence in the democratic process.

Considering the recent amalgamation of North and South Tipperary County Councils and the efforts to unite Tipperary as one county, the breaking of county boundaries for election voting seems both undesirable and unreasonable.

While recognising the constraints imposed on the commission by the relevant act I am sure recommendation from the commission for amendment(s) to the Act could help highlight the anomalies caused by the rigid interpretation of its current provisions.

Gerald Flynn

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