



Congratulations! You have made the decision to step into the world of politics. We are delighted that you chose to register with us for our free online **SHESchool**. Our aim in this foundation course is to demystify local politics. We solemnly promise that there is no homework involved and all you need is an hour and a half once a week, an email address, a device that connects to the internet, and a beverage of your choice to join in 😊

The overall aim of the SHE Project is to empower women to engage in electoral politics. We want to see more women being elected to councils especially in our rural constituencies. But this is not what our free online **SHESchool** is about right now. It is about explaining local politics, where you fit in, and what you can do to have a say in what goes on.

Our free online **SHESchool** is for anyone who wants to start to build up a bit of knowledge about what politics is and how politics works.

You can contact SHE in the following ways:

Email: info@seeherelected.ie
Phone/WhatsApp: 086 0320455
Twitter: @SeeHerElected
Facebook: @SeeHerElected



North West



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing,
Planning and Local Government

SHE is a joint initiative between 50:50 Northwest and Longford Women's Link. The project is funded by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

The Technical Stuff

To participate, you will need a computer/tablet/phone that connects to the internet. The device will have to have working speakers, mic and camera.

We are running the classes on zoom. A link will be sent to you in advance of each class.

If you haven't used zoom before, it's quite simple. You don't need to create an account. Just click on the link that will be sent to you on Wednesdays. The first time you use it, it might take a few moments to download the software.

There will be a password included in the email which you will need to enter when requested to join in.

You might find it useful to use headphones or a headset to reduce any background noise.

Don't worry about interruptions. We all know how toddlers/teenagers/dogs... can disrupt the best laid plans to have a bit of time to yourself. If you need to leave to tend to something, you can. But please come back!

To log on to each class, here's what to do

We will send you a link and any password in advance of the first class by email.

When it all goes wrong, here's what to do

Don't worry if your internet drops, tablet dies or any of the many other things that can go wrong when you are collaborating online.

Try logging back on. If you are unable to re-join, check your internet connection. Sometimes just turning your video off is enough to reconnect. If you have no internet connection at all, wait for a minute or two to see if it returns. If you end up with no internet connection you participate by phone as the link to the class will always include a phone number to dial in to listen. And if everything fails, then you ask to attend any class again the next time it is being run.

SHESchool 1
Active Citizenship and Political Language
Wednesday 14th October at 7pm

We begin with active citizenship. It is a phrase we hear a lot about, but what does it actually mean? In 2007 we had a Taskforce on Active Citizenship which told us it was largely about volunteering and being engaged in our communities. But this definition doesn't really see us having a say in what goes on, or being part of any kind of change. We explore a wider definition of active citizenship that allows us to do just that. We will finish the first class by looking at what is meant by left and right in political language, and whether people mobilising under either banner are within or beyond what we accept to be active citizenship.

SHESchool 2
Local Government
Wednesday 21st October at 7pm

Here we start to try and understand the purpose, structure and function of a council. We look at the relationship between the elected county councillors and the people who work as executives in the council, as well as who has power to do what. We look at the opportunities for active citizens to become part of the decision-making structures in county councils, and how that can happen to allow better decisions to be made without necessarily ever running for election.

SHESchool 3
Councillors
Wednesday 28th October at 7pm

This class examines the job and remuneration of the county/city councillor. We look at the gender breakdown of councillors, and work through the latest research on the barriers that women face in running for council elections. We finish by drawing the word feminism into the discussion about councillors and ask why so identify themselves as feminists.