



# Nick Delehanty

RIGHT-WING activist and small businessman Nick Delehanty is running for president, declaring in a statement to right-wing news website *Gript* that “we have major problems around housing, public expenditure, accountability and of course our immigration system”. The 35-year-old has never won an election, has little political experience to speak of and has next to no chance of getting on the ballot. Despite all this, he still managed to raise over €15,000 via crowdfunding in just a week. This display of enthusiasm is surely not to be ignored.

Delehanty has built up an online profile by calling out the Government for overspending, particularly in regards to Ipas centres. He recently claimed to have revealed that the parents of Keir Starmer’s wunderkind, Morgan McSweeney, were paid over €8m by the Irish state for their work in this area.

Delehanty’s own family is not without government contracts. His father, Nicholas Delehanty, was paid €93,400 by the State from 2004 to 2007 to store the ill-fated e-voting machines of the 2002 election. While addressing the topic in the Dáil in 2011, then local government minister Phil Hogan confirmed that the returning officers of the given counties were responsible for the storage of the machines.

Nick is also not without political party connections, counting former minister and presidential hopeful Mary Hanafin among his cousins. More exotic, perhaps, is another cousin, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, former IRA chief of staff and Sinn Féin president.

Delehanty lists not owning a house in his mid-30s as one of his qualifications to run for president. He currently runs “Dublin’s only outdoor doggy daycare”, Barkleys, which reported a €70,000 loss in 2024. Prior to this he was a corporate lawyer at Arthur Cox.

As he exited the legal world during Covid, Nick began promoting newly minted cryptocurrencies on Twitter, encouraging his followers to buy various coins and tokens in order to flip a profit. He interviewed people in the crypto space on his YouTube channel, *The Daily Millennial*. All of his videos on cryptocurrency have been deleted but he still sings the blockchain’s praises now and then on his social media.

Delehanty’s first foray into electoral politics was his unsuccessful run last year for council in Dublin South East Inner City. He received only 374 first-preference votes but garnered attention for his provocative posters, brandishing slogans such as “No More Tent City” and “Make Crime Illegal”.

During the campaign he turned to fringe publications to get his message out, including the esoteric, Gaelic revivalist journal *Meon*. The site is explicitly anti-capitalist, which doesn’t exactly gel with small business owner Delehanty. The journal’s general anti-establishment tilt and aversion to immigration is likely what led it to interview him.

The furthest Delehanty has gone in opposing immigration was on former Irish women’s rugby head coach Greg McWilliam’s podcast, where he voiced support for a Danish-style immigration system, a uniquely strict doctrine. But he has no problem associating with commentators

whose rhetoric is far more extreme than his. He appeared on former Renua president Eddie Hobb’s podcast *CounterPoint*, alongside X personality UberBoyo (aka Steafan Fox), a frequent poster on eugenics, who espouses the Great Replacement theory.

Delehanty himself says nothing racist or xenophobic but never pushes back against the more radical voices he often rubs shoulders with. In April he was at a large anti-immigrant protest in Dublin, which was attended by presidency rival Conor McGregor and neo-Nazi Justin Barrett (see *The Phoenix* 1/5/25).



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Delehanty has also found friends in the accelerationist movement. The Effective Accelerationist movement has come to prominence recently, with high-profile followers such as venture capitalist Marc Andreessen bringing the ideology to the Trump administration. The once fringe and cult-like ideology – it argues for unrestrained technological progress and large-scale deregulation – has made its way to Ireland and Delehanty attended the launch of the Éire Accelerationist movement in Dublin last year.

He was recently spotted jogging with AI entrepreneur and member of the European Accelerationist movement Gary Tiscovschi as a part of his presidential campaign, alongside Dean Keating of Breaking Point (see *The Phoenix* 10/7/25) and former Irish Freedom Party candidate Con Óg Ó Laoghaire.

In November’s general election, Delehanty put up a more impressive performance, scoring 1,542 first preferences in Dublin Bay South, overtaking former TD Kate

O’Connell on transfers from Aontú. He received a relatively high-profile endorsement in this race from Independent MEP Michael McNamara. The admiration goes both ways as Delehanty told Goldhawk he would love to see McNamara as taoiseach.

McNamara endeared himself to the anti-establishment crowd during his time as chair of the Oireachtas Covid committee (see *The Phoenix* 4/6/20) but he is yet to endorse Delehanty for the presidency.

Another ally of Nick’s is Cork councillor Albert Deasy, who recently appeared alongside him at a Breaking Point event in Athlone. Deasy is currently the highest donor to Delehanty’s campaign, donating €300 on his GoFundMe page.

To get on the presidential ballot in September, Nick will need the support of four councils or 20 Oireachtas members. He acknowledges that the Oireachtas path is his most likely (or least unlikely) route to getting on the ballot and claims he has “strong interest” from 10 (unnamed) Oireachtas members. Assuming these votes actually materialise, how does Delehanty make up the other 10 votes?

There is zero chance of Fianna Fáil adopting him as its candidate and Fine Gael has chosen Mairead McGuinness, while Labour, the Soc Dems and the far left have gone for Catherine Connolly. And SF wouldn’t see him as its saviour. This leaves about 18 Oireachtas non-Government members – excluding the Government-tied regional Independents – who could potentially support Delehanty.

Aontú is trying to whip together a nominating bloc from these deputies and a few others in order to select an alternative, conservative-leaning candidate to shake up the race. As such, for this bloc’s endorsement Nick must compete with previous presidential candidate Peter Casey and ex-Libertas leader Declan Ganley. The war for social media attention is also a difficult one, with Ireland’s foremost diplomat McGregor boasting a few million more followers than Delehanty.

In the fantastic scenario whereby Nick secures a nomination and becomes president, he envisions a “team of people” in the Áras to help him investigate Government contracts. This is certainly a new take on the office.

Despite it being most unlikely that Nick will be on the presidential ballot, the enthusiasm displayed through his fundraising efforts is undeniable. There is an energetic and rightward-leaning segment of the population that might take to Delehanty’s anti-establishment rhetoric. But with strong political ties needed to be nominated and broad support to be elected, is the D4 dogsitter barking up the wrong tree?