



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Research and Information Service Briefing Note

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# Female Candidates in Local Elections in Northern Ireland

## 1 Introduction

This Note has been prepared in the context of the Assembly and Executive Review Committee review on women in the Northern Ireland Assembly<sup>1</sup>. The Note summarises female candidates by party in local elections in Northern Ireland.

## 2 Female Candidates in Local Elections in Northern Ireland

The following table shows percentages of female candidate by party and by year since 1997<sup>2</sup>. The table supplements that shown in a previous Note which summarises candidates for the 2014 local elections by party and gender<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Assembly and Executive Review Committee meeting 6 May 2014: <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Official-Report/Committee-Minutes-of-Evidence/Session-2013-2014/May-2014/Women-in-the-Northern-Ireland-Assembly-Research-and-Information-Service-Briefing/>.

<sup>2</sup> 1997, 2001 and 2011 figures are derived from Electoral Office results lists: <http://www.eoni.org.uk/Elections/Election-results-and-statistics>; 2005 figures are derived from results tables on the Ark website: <http://www.ark.ac.uk/elections/flg05.htm>; figures for 2014 are derived from the nomination papers published on individual council websites.

<sup>3</sup> Research and Information Service Briefing Note 48/14 *Candidates for the 2014 Elections in Northern Ireland by Gender*, 1 May 2014: [http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Documents/RalSe/Publications/2014/assembly\\_exec\\_review/4814.pdf](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Documents/RalSe/Publications/2014/assembly_exec_review/4814.pdf).

	1997	2001	2005	2011	2014
DUP	16%	14%	21%	24%	27%
SF	16%	19%	28%	29%	32%
UUP	12%	17%	11%	21%	15%
SDLP	22%	27%	29%	27%	33%
Alliance	33%	35%	31%	32%	30%
Green	29%	-	13%	27%	29%
TUV	-	-	-	13%	10%
UKIP	-	-	-	17%	9%
NI21	-	-	-	-	31%
PUP	9%	19%	8%	0%	12%
Conservative	38% <sup>4</sup>	38%	0%	0%	0%
Other	30%	26%	14%	17%	25%
Independent	2%	9%	9%	14%	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>24%</b>

Numbers of female independents, while increased in recent years, have remained traditionally low. This is significant due to the large numbers of independents which taken together would constitute the sixth largest grouping of candidates (fifth in some previous years).

The 'other' category in 1997, and to a certain extent in 2001, is also significantly affected by candidates standing for the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, all of whom were women.

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<sup>4</sup> As 'Conservative and Unionist'.