Dr Robert Barry and Barbara Love

Analysis of Transferred Votes in the Northern Ireland Assembly Election 2011

(This paper has been revised to include updated figures provided by the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland on 16/06/2011)

NIAR 282-11

This paper provides an analysis of transferred votes in the Northern Ireland Assembly election held on 5 May 2011. It supplements the main analysis of the election results presented in the document entitled “Northern Ireland Assembly Election 2011” published by the Northern Ireland Assembly on 17 May 2011.

Key Points

In the Northern Ireland Assembly election 2011 the majority of Unionist transfers were from Unionist parties while the majority of Nationalist transfers were from Nationalist parties. This was also the case in the previous Northern Ireland Assembly election in 2007.

The total number of transferred votes was lower compared with 2007, due to the smaller number of candidates in this election.

Of the five main parties:

- The UUP\(^1\) received the highest number of transfer votes from other parties;
- Alliance\(^2\) received the lowest number of transfer votes from other parties;
- The highest number of transfers to other parties were from UUP candidates; and,
- The lowest number of transfers to other parties were from SDLP candidates.

Thirty four of the 108 successful candidates were elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly on first preference votes only. The remaining 74 successful candidates were elected on the basis of first preference votes and vote transfers.

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\(^1\) Corrected figures supplied by Electoral Office for Northern Ireland on 16/06/2011
\(^2\) Corrected figures supplied by Electoral Office for Northern Ireland on 16/06/2011
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1 Overview

A lower number of votes were transferred in the 2011 Northern Ireland Assembly election than in the previous election in 2007 (81,495\(^3\) compared with 104,182 excluding within-party transfers), reflecting in part the lower turnout in the most recent election but primarily due to the smaller number of candidates. An analysis of transferred votes revealed that the majority (87\%) of Unionist votes were transferred from Unionist parties while the majority (89\%) of Nationalist votes were transferred from Nationalist parties. **When within-party transfers\(^4\) are excluded:**

- Three quarters (74\%) of transfers from Unionist voters\(^5\) went to other Unionist party candidates, a decrease from 79\% in 2007. As with 2007, 12\% went to Nationalist party candidates.

- Just under two thirds (64\%) of transfers from Nationalist voters\(^6\) went to other Nationalist party candidates. While there was no change in the proportion of transfers to other Nationalist parties, the proportion transferred to Unionist parties decreased from 13\% to 6\%. The proportion of transfers from Nationalist voters to other parties increased accordingly.

- When compared with 2007, the proportion of transfers to Alliance increased slightly.

2 Transferred votes by Party

Of the five main parties:

- The UUP received the most transferred votes from other parties while Alliance received the lowest number of transfers from other parties. In the 2007 election the SDLP received the most transferred votes from other parties while Sinn Féin received the fewest.

- Most transfers to other parties were from UUP candidates while the lowest number of transfers to other parties were from SDLP candidates.

\(^3\) Corrected figures supplied by Electoral Office for Northern Ireland on 16/06/2011
\(^4\) transfers to other candidates in the same party
\(^5\) i.e. voters whose previous preference was for a Unionist party (UUP, DUP, TUV or PUP) candidate.
\(^6\) i.e. voters whose previous preference was for a Nationalist party (SDLP or Sinn Féin) candidate.
DUP candidates received a total of 33,251 transferred votes, 16,835 of which were transferred from their own party and 16,416 were transferred from voters of other parties. Excluding own party transfers, most transfers (62%) came from other Unionist voters while 36% were from other voters. Only 2% came from Nationalist voters. Compared with 2007 transfers, a lower proportion of transfers (excluding own party transfers) came from other Unionist votes (65% in 2007) and a higher proportion came from other voters (33% in 2007). The proportion from Nationalist voters remained unchanged at 2%.

Sinn Féin candidates received a total of 26,887 transferred votes, 19,738 of which were transferred from their own party and 7,149 were transferred from voters of other parties. Excluding own party transfers, most transfers (75%) came from other voters (i.e. those voting for parties that are neither Nationalist nor Unionist). Almost a quarter (22.4%) of transfers came from SDLP voters while only 2.2% from Unionist voters. Proportionally, transfers to Sinn Féin remain broadly unchanged from the 2007 election.

7 Corrected figures supplied by Electoral Office for Northern Ireland on 16/06/2011
Ulster Unionist Party candidates received a total of 31,333\textsuperscript{8} transferred votes, 10,223 of which were transferred from their own party and 21,110 were transferred from voters of other parties. Excluding own party transfers, most transfers (63\%) came from votes that were neither Nationalist nor Unionist while 36\% came from voters of other Unionist parties and 2\% from Nationalist voters. Compared with 2007 transfers, a lower proportion of transfers came from other Unionist votes (42\% in 2007). The proportion from Nationalist voters also decreased from 7\% in 2007 while a higher proportion of transfers came from other voters (51\% in 2007).

SDLP candidates received a total of 26,292 transferred votes, 6,883 of which were transferred from their own party and 19,409 were transferred from voters of other parties. Excluding own party transfers, the highest proportion of vote transfers (55\%) came from other voters, 29\% came from Sinn Féin voters and 16\% from Unionist voters. Compared with 2007 transfers, a lower proportion of transfers (excluding own party transfers) came from Sinn Féin voters (39\% in 2007) and Unionist voters (13\% in 2007) while a higher proportion came from other voters (48\% in 2007).

Alliance candidates received a total of 8,027 transferred votes, 1,243 of which were transferred from their own party and 6,784 were transferred from voters of other parties. Excluding own party transfers, half of vote transfers (50\%) came from other voters, 26\% came from Nationalist voters and 24\% from Unionist voters. Compared with 2007 transfers, a lower proportion of transfers (excluding own party transfers) came from Nationalist votes (32\% in 2007) and from other voters (55\% in 2007) while a lower proportion came from Unionist voters (13\% in 2007).

The TUV candidates received a total of 2,979 transferred votes, 563 of which were transferred from their own party and 2,416 were transferred from voters of other parties. Excluding own party transfers, most transfers (73\%) came from Unionist voters while 26\% came from other voters. Less than one per cent were transferred from Nationalist Voters. The TUV did not exist for the 2007 Assembly elections, having been formed in December of that year. In the 2011 elections there was one seat won by the TUV.

The Progressive Unionist Party candidates received a total of 469 transferred votes, all of which were transferred from voters of parties other than the PUP. Most of these transfers (73\%) came from Unionist voters, with 25\% coming from other voters and 2\% from Nationalist voters. The PUP lost its only seat in the 2011 election.

\textsuperscript{8} Corrected figures supplied by Electoral Office for Northern Ireland on 16/06/2011
The **Green Party** candidates received a total of 2,075 transferred votes, more than two thirds (69%) of which came from candidates that were neither Unionist nor Nationalist. The Green Party received the least transferred votes from Unionist voters (9%). Transfers from Nationalist voters made up a fifth (21%) of votes transferred to the Green Party. The Green Party won one seat in the 2011 election. Compared with 2007 transfers, a lower proportion of transfers (excluding own party transfers) came from Unionist voters (17% in 2007) and a higher proportion came from other voters (63% in 2007) while the proportion from Nationalist voters remained relatively unchanged (20% in 2007).
Analysis of Transferred Votes in the Northern Ireland Assembly Election

2011 Election - Votes Transferred from Other Parties

2007 Election - Votes Transferred from Other Parties
3 Transferred votes by Constituency

Thirty four of the 108 successful candidates were elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly on first preference votes only while the remaining 74 were elected on the basis of first preference votes and vote transfers.

The table shown below presents the number of candidates in each Constituency that were elected on first preference votes only. This table is then followed by a series of charts which present the election results for each Constituency showing first preference and transferred votes for each candidate (candidates above the horizontal line in each chart were elected).

Table 1: No. of candidates elected on first preference votes only by Constituency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One candidate elected on first preference votes only</th>
<th>Two candidates elected on first preference votes only</th>
<th>Three candidates elected on first preference votes only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belfast East</td>
<td>Belfast North</td>
<td>Fermanagh and South Tyrone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belfast South</td>
<td>Belfast West</td>
<td>Newry and Armagh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Antrim</td>
<td>Foyle</td>
<td>North Antrim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Londonderry</td>
<td>Lagan Valley</td>
<td>South Antrim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Down</td>
<td>Mid Ulster</td>
<td>Strangford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Down</td>
<td>West Tyrone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Bann</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Analysis of Transferred Votes in the Northern Ireland Assembly Election

2011 Election Results - Belfast East

- Peter Robinson (DUP)
- Robin Newton (DUP)
- Sammy Douglas (DUP)
- Judith Cochrane (All)
- Chris Lyttle (All)
- Michael Copeland (UUP)
- Dawn Purvis (Ind)
- Brian Ervine (PUP)
- Philip Robinson (UUP)
- Niall O Donoghue (SF)
- Harry Toan (TUV)
- Martin Gregg (Green)
- Ann Cooper (BNP)
- Magdalena Wolska (SDLP)
- Tommy Black (Soc)
- Kevin McNally (WP)
- Stephen Stewart (Ind)

Quota: 4622

- 1st Pref Votes
- DUP Transfers
- UUP Transfers
- SF Transfers
- SDLP Transfers
- Alliance Transfers
- TUV Transfers
- Green Transfers
- PUP Transfers
- Other Transfers
Analysis of Transferred Votes in the Northern Ireland Assembly Election

2011 Election Results - Belfast North

- Gerry Kelly (SF)
- Nelson McCausland (DUP)
- Alban Maginness (SDLP)
- Carol Ni Chuilin (SF)
- William Humphrey (DUP)
- Paula Bradley (DUP)
- Fred Cobain (UUP)
- Billy Webb (All)
- JJ Magee (SF)
- Raymond McCord (Ind)
- John Lavery (WP)

Quota: 4782

Legend:
- 1st Pref Votes
- DUP Transfers
- UUP Transfers
- SF Transfers
- SDLP Transfers
- Alliance Transfers
- TUV Transfers
- Green Transfers
- PUP Transfers
- Other Transfers
Analysis of Transferred Votes in the Northern Ireland Assembly Election

2011 Election Results - Belfast South

Quota: 4616

- Anna Lo (All)
- Alasdair McDonnell (SDLP)
- Michael McGimpsey (UUP)
- Alex Maskey (SF)
- Conall McDevitt (SDLP)
- Jimmy Spratt (DUP)
- Ruth Patterson (DUP)
- Clare Bailey (GP)
- Mark Finlay (UUP)
- Brian Falcón (PBPA)
- Nico Torregrosa (UKIP)
- Paddy Meehan (Soc)
- Paddy Lynn (WP)
- Samuel Charles Smyth (PROC)

Legend:
- 1st Pref Votes
- DUP Transfers
- UUP Transfers
- SF Transfers
- SDLP Transfers
- Alliance Transfers
- TUV Transfers
- Green Transfers
- PUP Transfers
- Other Transfers
Analysis of Transferred Votes in the Northern Ireland Assembly Election

2011 Election Results - Belfast West

Paul Maskey (SF)
Jennifer McCann (SF)
Fra McCann (SF)
Alex Attwood (SDLP)
Sue Ramsey (SF)
Pat Sheehan (SF)
Brian Kingston (DUP)
Gerry Carroll (PBP)
Bill Manwaring (UUP)
Colin Keenan (SDLP)
John Lowry (WP)
Pat Lavor (Soc)
Dan McGuinness (All)
Brian Nolan (Ind)

Quota: 4950

- 1st Pref Votes
- DUP Transfers
- UUP Transfers
- SF Transfers
- SDLP Transfers
- Alliance Transfers
- TUV Transfers
- Green Transfers
- PUP Transfers
- Other Transfers
Analysis of Transferred Votes in the Northern Ireland Assembly Election

2011 Election Results - East Antrim

Sammy Wilson (DUP)
Stewart Dickson (All)
Alastair Ross (DUP)
David Hilditch (DUP)
Roy Beggs (UUP)
Oliver McMullan (SF)
Rodney McCune (UUP)
Gerardine Mulvenna (All)
Gordon Lyons (DUP)
Ruth Wilson (TUV)
Justin McCamphill (SDLP)
Daniel Donnelly (GP)
Steven Moore (BNP)

Quota: 4147

1st Pref Votes
DUP Transfers
UUP Transfers
SF Transfers
SDLP Transfers
Alliance Transfers
TUV Transfers
Green Transfers
PUP Transfers
Other Transfers

Northern Ireland Assembly, Research and Information Service
2011 Election Results - East Londonderry

- Gregory Campbell (DUP)
- John Dallat (SDLP)
- Cathal O'Hosin (SF)
- George Robinson (DUP)
- David McClarty (Ind)
- Adrian McQuillan (DUP)
- David Harding (UUP)
- Bernadette Archibald (SF)
- Thomas Conway (SDLP)
- Barney Fitzpatrick (All)
- Boyd Douglas (TUV)
- Lesley Macaulay (UUP)

Quota: 4961

Legend:
- 1st Pref Votes
- DUP Transfers
- UUP Transfers
- SF Transfers
- SDLP Transfers
- Alliance Transfers
- TUV Transfers
- Green Transfers
- PUP Transfers
- Other Transfers
Analysis of Transferred Votes in the Northern Ireland Assembly Election

2011 Election Results - Fermanagh and South Tyrone

- Michelle Gildernew (SF)
- Maurice Morrow (DUP)
- Tom Elliott (UUP)
- Arlene Foster (DUP)
- Sean Lynch (SF)
- Phil Flanagan (SF)
- Tommy Gallagher (SDLP)
- Kenny Donaldson (UUP)
- Alex Elliott (TUV)
- Pat Cox (Ind)
- Hannah Su (All)

Quota: 6858

Legend:
- 1st Pref Votes
- DUP Transfers
- UUP Transfers
- SF Transfers
- SDLP Transfers
- Alliance Transfers
- TUV Transfers
- Green Transfers
- PUP Transfers
- Other Transfers
Analysis of Transferred Votes in the Northern Ireland Assembly Election

2011 Election Results - Foyle

William Hay (DUP)
Martina Anderson (SF)
Raymond McCartney (SF)
Mark H. Durkan (SDLP)
Colum Eastwood (SDLP)
Pat Ramsey (SDLP)
Eamonn McCann (PBPA)
Paul Fleeming (SF)
POI Callaghan (SDLP)
Paul McFadden (Ind)
Keith McGrellis (All)
Terry Doherty (Ind)

Quota: 5550

Bars represent different types of votes and transfers.
Note: Corrected figures supplied by Electoral Office for Northern Ireland on 16/06/2011.
2011 Election Results - Newry and Armagh

Conor Murphy (SF)
Danny Kennedy (UUP)
Cathal Boylan (SF)
William Irwin (DUP)
Dominic Bradley (SDLP)
Mickey Brady (SF)
Thomas O'Hanlon (SDLP)
Barrie Halliday (TUV)
David Murphy (All)
Robert Woods (UKIP)
James Malone (Ind)

1st Pref Votes  DUP Transfers
UUP Transfers  SF Transfers
SDLP Transfers  Alliance Transfers
TUV Transfers  Green Transfers
PUP Transfers  Other Transfers
Quota: 6645

Northern Ireland Assembly, Research and Information Service

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2011 Election Results - North Antrim

- David Moloney (DUP)
- Paul Frew (DUP)
- Daphne McKay (SF)
- Mervyn Storey (DUP)
- Robin Swann (UUP)
- Jim Allister (TUV)
- Declan O’Loan (SDLP)
- Evelyne Robinson (DUP)
- Bill Kennedy (UUP)
- Jayne Dunlop (All)
- Audrey Patterson (TUV)

Quota: 5760

- 1st Pref Votes
- DUP Transfers
- UUP Transfers
- SF Transfers
- SDLP Transfers
- Alliance Transfers
- TUV Transfers
- Green Transfers
- PUP Transfers
- Other Transfers
2011 Election Results - South Down

Margaret Ritchie (SDLP)
Willie Clarke (SF)
Jim Wells (DUP)
John McCallister (UUP)
Catriona Ruane (SF)
Karen McKevitt (SDLP)
Eamonn O'Neill (SDLP)
Naomi Bailie (SF)
Henry Reilly (UKIP)
Cadogan Enright (GP)
David Griffin (All)

Quota: 5961

1st Pref Votes
DUP Transfers
UUP Transfers
SF Transfers
SDLP Transfers
Alliance Transfers
TUV Transfers
Green Transfers
PUP Transfers
Other Transfers
Analysis of Transferred Votes in the Northern Ireland Assembly Election

2011 Election Results - Upper Bann

- John O'Dowd (SF)
- Sydney Anderson (DUP)
- Stephen Moutray (DUP)
- Sam Gardiner (UUP)
- Joanne Dobson (UUP)
- Dolores Kelly (SDLP)
- Johnny McGibbon (SF)
- Colin McCusker (UUP)
- Harry Hamilton (All)
- David Vance (TUV)
- Sheila McQuaid (All)
- Barbara Trotter (UKIP)

Quota: 6052

Legend:
- 1st Pref Votes
- DUP Transfers
- UUP Transfers
- SF Transfers
- SDLP Transfers
- Alliance Transfers
- TUV Transfers
- Green Transfers
- PUP Transfers
- Other Transfers
### Annex A  

**Table 2: Transferred votes by Party**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transfers from</th>
<th>Transfers to</th>
<th>Transfers to</th>
<th>Transfers to</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DUP</td>
<td>UUP</td>
<td>TUV</td>
<td>PUP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unionists</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUP</td>
<td>16835</td>
<td>5145</td>
<td>1073</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UUP</td>
<td>8066</td>
<td>10223</td>
<td>695</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUV</td>
<td>1794</td>
<td>1934</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUP</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>27023</td>
<td>17800</td>
<td>2331</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nationalists</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDLP</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>386</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Others</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance</td>
<td>1464</td>
<td>3700</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4228</td>
<td>9337</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>5842</td>
<td>13220</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>116</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>33251</td>
<td>31333</td>
<td>2979</td>
<td>469</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:** Transfers have been rounded to nearest whole number  
Excludes votes that could not be transferred (e.g. if next preference already elected or excluded)  
Includes votes that were transferred more than once  

Corrected figures supplied by Electoral Office for Northern Ireland on 16/06/2011
### Annex B: List of Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DUP</td>
<td>Democratic Unionist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UUP</td>
<td>Ulster Unionist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUP</td>
<td>Democratic Unionist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDLP</td>
<td>Social Democratic and Labour party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF</td>
<td>Sinn Féin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APNI</td>
<td>Alliance Party of Northern Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUV</td>
<td>Traditional Unionist Voice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UKIP</td>
<td>United Kingdom Independence Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UKUP</td>
<td>United Kingdom Unionist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBPA</td>
<td>People Before Profit Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUP</td>
<td>Progressive Unionist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP</td>
<td>Workers’ Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>Green Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC</td>
<td>Socialist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIWC</td>
<td>Northern Ireland Women's Coalition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>Independents</td>
</tr>
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</table>