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Candidates for the 2016 Dáil Election by Gender

1 Introduction

The Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive Review Committee (AERC) published the report on its review into women in politics in the Assembly in March 2015¹. The Committee identified a range of barriers to women's participation in politics and considered mechanisms to increase the representation of women. Legislation for candidate quotas was considered as a mechanism, but was not agreed by the Committee.

In the Republic of Ireland, Section 42 of the Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Act 2012² provides for the financial punishment of political parties that do not have 30% of either sex standing as candidates in the next election, and 40% of either sex in any election after seven years from the first election, by a 50% reduction in state funding.

This paper briefly considers the impact of this legislation on the appointment of candidates for the Dáil elections to be held on 26 February 2016.

¹ AERC (2015), *Report on Women in Politics and the Northern Ireland Assembly*, Belfast: NI Assembly;

http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/reports/assem_exec_review/women-in-politics.pdf.

² Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Act 2012: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2012/en/act/pub/0036/index.html>.

2 Candidates in the 2016 Dáil Election by Gender

In the 2011 Dáil election, 15% of the candidates were women and 15% of the candidates returned in the election were women³. For the 2016 election, 29.6% of candidates are women, almost doubling the proportion of female candidates from 2011.

Appendix 1 gives the figures for candidates for the 2016 election by gender, party and constituency⁴. The map at Appendix 2 illustrates this data. This section briefly summarises some of the key points from that data.

All of the major parties succeeded in meeting the 30% quota. Of the minor parties, those with a single candidate (Communist Party of Ireland, United People, Irish Democratic Party and Workers and Unemployed Action Group) only fielded males and one multi-candidate party did not make the quota (Direct Democracy Ireland). Two of the three Catholic Democrat candidates are female and both of the Fís Nua candidates are female.

Percentages of female candidates by party are as follows:

Party	Male	Female	% Women Candidates
Fine Gael	61	27	31%
Fianna Fáil	49	22	31%
Sinn Féin	32	18	36%
Labour	23	13	36%
Social Democrats	8	6	43%
Anti-Austerity Alliance – People Before Profit	18	13	42%
Green Party	26	14	35%
Renua	18	8	31%
Direct Democracy Ireland	16	3	20%

³ 'Women and the 2011 General Election in Ireland', Centre for the Advancement of Women in Politics, Queen's University Belfast, accessed 17 February 2016: http://www.qub.ac.uk/cawp/IrishElections/Women%20and%20the%202011%20General%20Election%20in%20Ireland_CAWP.doc.

⁴ The figures are taken from the 2016 election web pages of RTE, accessed 16 February 2016): <http://www.rte.ie/news/election-2016/constituencies/>.

Fís Nua	0	2	100%
Workers' Party	3	2	40%
Catholic Democrats	1	2	67%

The average of female candidates is brought down by the large number of independents standing in the election⁵. The proportion of female independents is 20% (33 of 165).

It can be concluded that, in terms of larger party representation, the quota has been successful in significantly increasing the proportion of women candidates.

One of the 40 constituencies (Kildare South) has more female than male candidates. One constituency (Limerick County) has no female candidates.

⁵ For the purposes of this paper, independents, Independent Alliance and Independents 4 Change are considered together.

Appendix: Candidates for the Dáil Election 2016 by Gender

	FG		FF		SF		Lab		SD		AAA-PBP		Green		Renua		Indep.*		DDI		Fís Nua		Workers Party		Cath. Democ.		Other**		Total		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Carlow-Kilkenny	3	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	4
Cavan-Monaghan	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	5	
Clare	2	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	5	
Cork East	3	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	3	
Cork North-Central	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	
Cork North-West	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	11	2	
Cork South-Central	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	3	
Cork South-West	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	5	
Donegal	2	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	3	
Dublin Bay North	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	3	
Dublin Bay South	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	4		
Dublin Central	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	7		

	FG		FF		SF		Lab		SD		AAA-PBP		Green		Renua		Indep.*		DDI		Fís Nua		Workers Party		Cath. Democ.		Other**		Total		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Dublin Fingal	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	12	4
Dublin Mid-West	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	11	5	
Dublin North-West	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	4	
Dublin Rathdown	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	
Dublin South-Central	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	5	
Dublin South-West	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	5	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	8	
Dublin West	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4	
Dún Laoghaire	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	5	
Galway East	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4		
Galway West	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	5	
Kerry	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	3	
Kildare North	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	5	

	FG		FF		SF		Lab		SD		AAA-PBP		Green		Renua		Indep.*		DDI		Fís Nua		Workers Party		Cath. Democ.		Other**		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Kildare South	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	
Laois	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2		
Limerick City	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	3	
Limerick County	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0		
Longford-Westmeath	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	5	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	13	5		
Louth	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4		
Mayo	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4		
Meath East	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	5		
Meath West	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1		
Offaly	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	4	
Roscomm. - Galway	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4		
Sligo-Leitrim	3	0	3	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	3		
Tipperary	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	11	2	
Waterford	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	5		
Wexford	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	6		
Wicklow	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	6		
Total	62	26	49	22	32	18	23	13	8	6	19	12	27	14	18	8	132	33	16	3	0	2	3	2	1	2	4	0	391	161

*Includes Independent Alliance and Independents 4 Change: **CPI, United People, Irish Democratic Party, WUAG

Appendix 2: Candidates by Gender and Constituency

