



Northern Ireland
Assembly

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Election Report: Northern Ireland Assembly Election, 5 May 2022

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This paper provides an analysis of the Northern Ireland Assembly elections held on 5 May 2022, and compares the outcome with the 2017 election. The paper also includes an analysis of historic voter turnout and results by party and constituency.

Key Points

- The Northern Ireland Assembly election on 5 May 2022 left the parties with the following number of seats:

Sinn Féin	27
Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)	25
Alliance Party of Northern Ireland	17
Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)	9
Social Democratic and Labour Party	8
Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV)	1
People before Profit Alliance (PBPA)	1
Independents	2

- Compared with 2017, Alliance was the only party in the election to experience net gains, with the capture of nine additional seats. Sinn Féin was unchanged on 27 seats, while net losses were experienced by the SDLP (-4 seats), DUP (-3 seats), the Green Party (-2 seats), and the UUP (-1 seat).
- Sinn Féin had the highest share of first preference votes, (29.0% compared with 27.9% in 2017), followed by the DUP (21.3% - down from 28.1% in 2017). The Alliance Party share of the vote rose from 9.1% in 2017 to 13.5% in 2022. The UUP were next with 11.2% - down from 12.9% in 2017 and the SDLP (9.1% - down from 11.9% in 2017). The TUV significantly increased its first preference vote share, from 2.6% in 2017 to 7.6%, while the Green Party vote dropped from 2.3% to 1.9%.
- Of the 90 MLAs elected in 2022, 32 are women (compared with 27 in 2017). The proportion of female MLAs increased to 35.6 per cent (from 30% in 2017).
- Turnout ¹ in the election was 63.6 per cent (compared with 64.8% in 2017).
- A total of 239 candidates contested the election (compared with 228 in 2017).

¹ Votes polled expressed as a percentage of the total eligible electorate.

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1 Introduction

The current Northern Ireland Assembly² was established under the terms of the Belfast / Good Friday Agreement and was first elected on 25 June 1998. Legislative powers and executive authority for the Northern Ireland Government Departments were devolved to the Assembly from 2 December 1999.

Since devolution, the Northern Ireland Assembly has been suspended on five occasions, with the fourth of these occurring on 14 October 2002³. Despite this, an election for the second session of the Assembly eventually went ahead on 26 November 2003.

The Assembly remained suspended, however, after the second election, although the Northern Ireland (St Andrews Agreement) Act 2006 provided for a Transitional Assembly to take part in preparations for the restoration of devolved government in accordance with the St Andrews Agreement. This Transitional Assembly helped to create the conditions for a third Assembly election, which took place on 7 March 2007. Restoration took place on 8 May 2007.

The fourth Assembly election took place on 5 May 2011, and the first meeting of the new Assembly transpired on 12 May 2011. The fifth Assembly election occurred on 5 May 2016, and the first meeting ensued on 12 May 2016. The Assembly was dissolved on 26 January 2017, and the sixth Assembly election took place on 2 March 2017. The mandate ended on Monday, 28 March 2022 with dissolution, and elections to the new, seventh Assembly took place on Thursday, 5 May 2022.

2 The Constituencies

The 18 Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies (WPCs)⁴ are currently used for the Assembly elections (see Map 2.1 below). Until the March 2017 election, six seats were allocated to each constituency, giving a total of 108 seats. Following the *Stormont Fresh Start Agreement* in 2015, The Assembly Members (Reduction of Numbers) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 provided for a

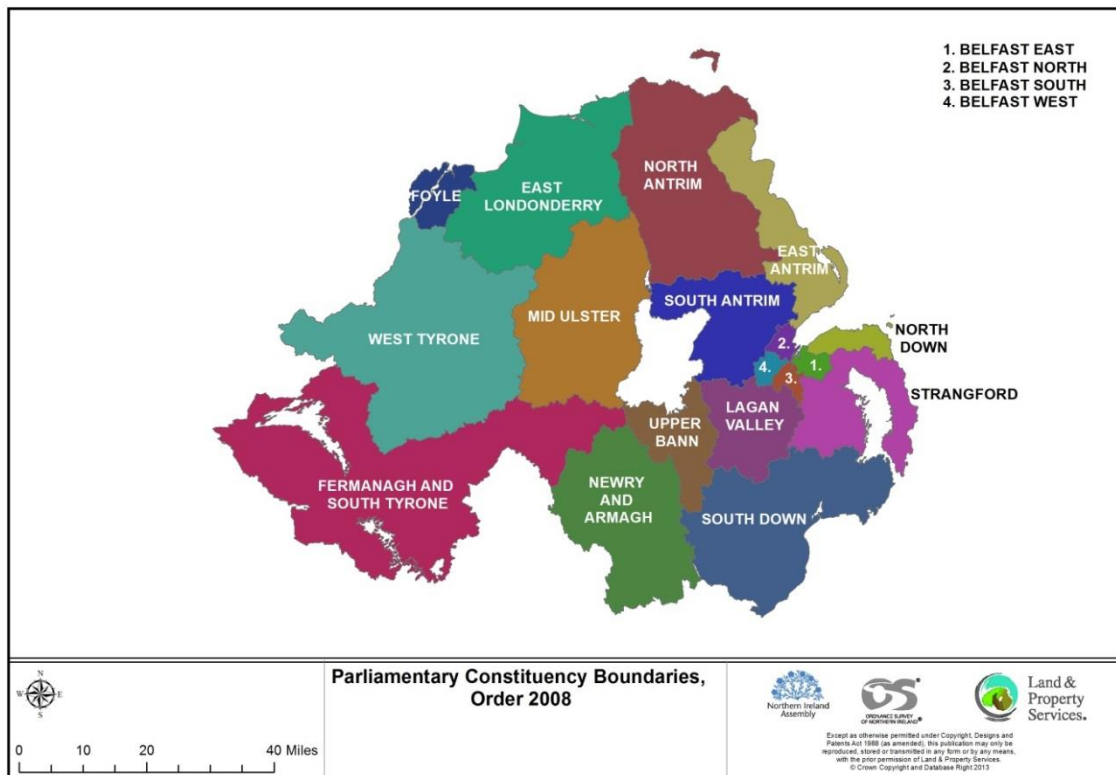
² Previous Assemblies were elected in Northern Ireland on 28 June 1973 and 20 October 1982 (see <http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/issues/politics/polit.htm>).

³ The first suspension took place on 11 February 2000, shortly after devolution, and lasted until 29 May 2000; two further one day suspensions took place on 11 August 2001 and 22 September 2001. The fourth suspension began on 14 October 2002 and lasted until 8 May 2007. The fifth suspension was triggered by the resignation of the deputy First Minister on 9 January 2017 and lasted for three years until 11 January 2020.

⁴ Profiles of the 18 constituencies can be found on the Northern Ireland Assembly Website, at <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/research-and-information-service-raise/constituency-profiles/>

reduction of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from 108 to 90 for the first election following the 2016 election. This was took place on 2 March 2017. There are now five seats per constituency.

Map 2.1 Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries



3. The Candidates

A total of 239 candidates stood for election in May 2022, eleven more than in March 2017 when 228 put themselves forward, see Table 3.1. Sinn Féin had the largest number of candidates (34), followed by the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) with 30, and the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) with 27. Alliance were next with 24 candidates, followed by the Social Democratic and Labour Party SDLP with 22, and the Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV) with 19. The Green Party put forward 18 candidates, while the People Before Profit Alliance (PBPA) and Aontú both had 12. Of the remaining smaller parties, the Workers' Party fielded six candidates, followed by the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP) with three candidates, the Socialist Party and the Irish Republican Socialist Party (2 each). The Conservative and Unionist Party, Cross-Community Labour Alternative, The Heritage Party and The Resume Party all had one candidate each. There were 24 Independent candidates.

Table 3.1 2022 Election Candidates by Party and Gender

Party	Male	Female	Total	% Female
Sinn Féin	15	19	34	55.9
DUP	23	7	30	23.3
UUP	19	8	27	29.6
Alliance	12	12	24	50.0
SDLP	12	10	22	45.5
TUV	17	2	19	10.5
Green Party	9	9	18	50.0
PBPA	5	7	12	58.3
Aontú	7	5	12	41.7
The Workers' Party	4	2	6	33.3
PUP	3	0	3	0.0
Socialist Party (Northern Ireland)	1	1	2	50.0
Irish Republican Socialist Party	2	0	2	0.0
Conservative and Unionist Party	1	0	1	0.0
Cross-Community Labour Alternative	1	0	1	0.0
Heritage Party	1	0	1	0.0
The Resume Party (NI)	1	0	1	0.0
Independent	19	5	24	20.8
Totals	152	87	239	36.4

The number of female candidates increased from 70 in 2017 to 87 in 2022, representing 36.4 per cent of all candidates, compared with 30.7 per cent in 2017. The increase in the proportion of female candidates continued the upward trend which has been evident since 2007, when only 47 women (18%) stood for election.

Sinn Féin had the highest number and proportion of female candidates of the five main parties (19 out of 34), accounting for 55.9 per cent of their total list of candidates, followed by Alliance (50%, 12) and the SDLP (45.5%, 10). Close to a third of UUP candidates (29.6%, 8) and a quarter of DUP candidates (23.3%, 7) were women.

Of the smaller parties, PBPA had the largest proportion of female candidates (58.3%) with seven out of 12, followed by the Green Party (50%, 9) and Aontú (41.7%, 5). The TUV and The Workers' Party had two female candidates each, while five independent candidates (20.8%) were women.

4. Turnout

Table 4.1 presents the voting statistics for Election 2022. The total eligible electorate in May 2022 was 1,373,731 (compared with 1,254,709 in March 2017), an increase of 9.5 per cent. The total number of votes polled was 873,787 which represented an increase of 61,004 (7.5%) on the 812,783 votes cast in the 2017 election.

The official turnout⁵ was 63.6 per cent of the eligible electorate, a small decrease on the 2017 figure (64.8%). While overall turnout was down on the previous election, it was still the fourth highest in the series of seven elections since 1998 (see Table 4.2) and considerably higher than in 2011 or 2016.

Table 4.1 2022 Voting Statistics by Constituency

	Eligible Electorate	Poll	Valid Votes	Invalid Votes	% Turnout
Belfast East	70,123	43,840	43,248	592	62.5
Belfast North	75,801	46,796	46,027	769	61.7
Belfast South	73,497	47,306	46,938	368	64.4
Belfast West	68,727	44,440	43,664	776	64.7
East Antrim	67,699	40,693	40,235	458	60.1
East Londonderry	72,959	44,796	44,360	436	61.4
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	78,963	54,560	53,743	817	69.1
Foyle	77,343	47,674	46,864	810	61.6
Lagan Valley	81,562	51,543	51,033	510	63.2
Mid Ulster	75,168	52,274	51,689	585	69.5
Newry & Armagh	87,156	59,693	58,884	809	68.5
North Antrim	81,935	51,220	50,624	596	62.5
North Down	70,176	42,198	41,743	455	60.1
South Antrim	76,950	46,195	45,736	459	60.0
South Down	84,046	55,631	54,952	679	66.2
Strangford	70,775	41,345	40,865	480	58.4
Upper Bann	91,149	56,954	56,101	853	62.5
West Tyrone	69,702	46,629	45,994	635	66.9
Northern Ireland	1,373,731	873,787	862,700	11,087	63.6

⁵ Turnout is calculated by taking the total number of votes cast (including invalid votes) and dividing by the eligible electorate.

Compared with 2017, turnout increased in three constituencies (Belfast South, Lagan Valley and North Down); was unchanged in three (East Antrim, South Down and Upper Bann) and fell in the remaining twelve constituencies. The largest falls were in Fermanagh and South Tyrone (3.5 percentage points), Foyle (3.4 percentage points) and Mid Ulster (2.9 percentage points) ⁶. Table 4.2 lists the turnout at every Assembly election since 1998.

Table 4.2 Turnout in Assembly Elections 1998 – 2022

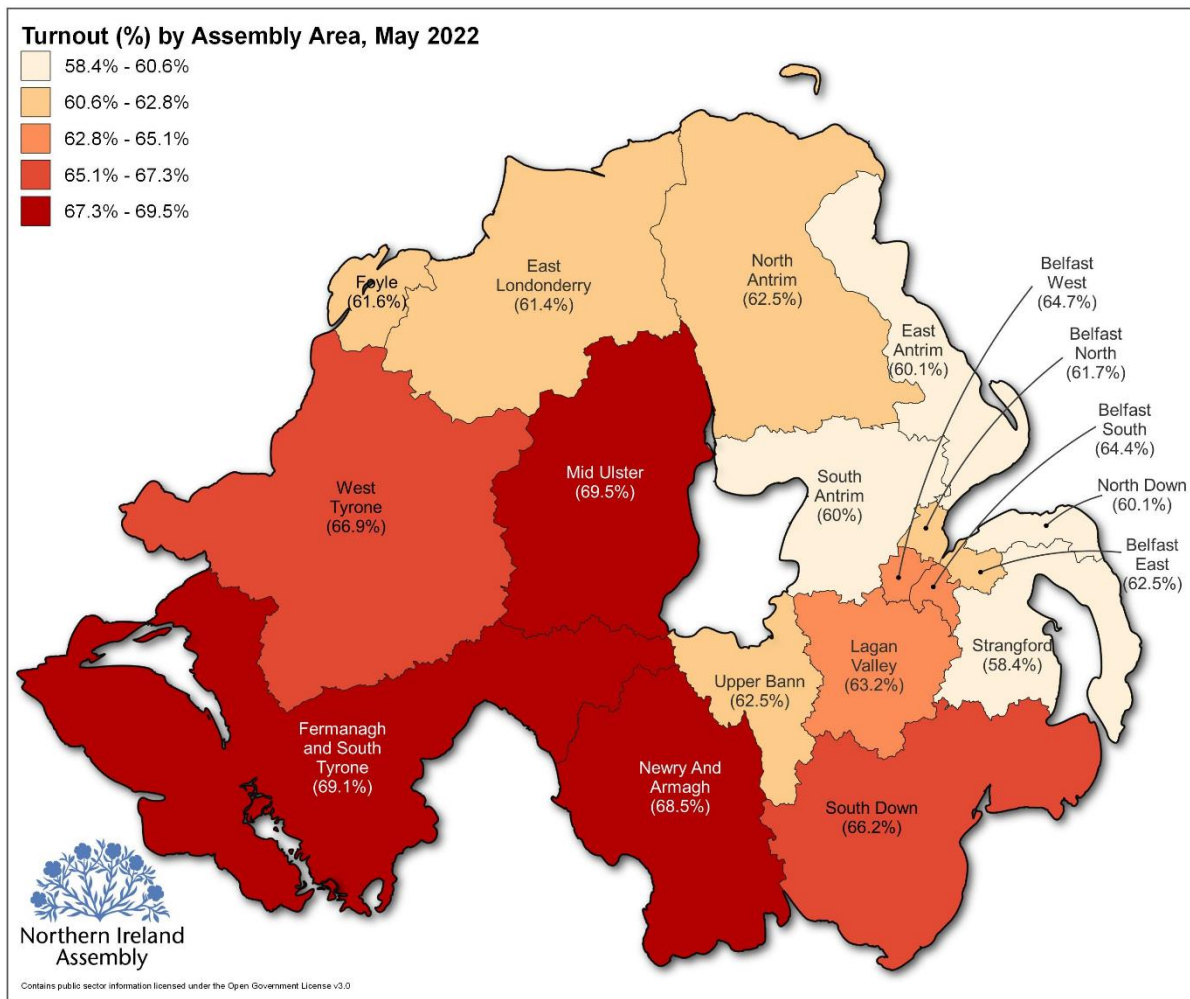
Constituency	1998 %	2003 %	2007 %	2011 %	2016 %	2017 %	2022 %
Belfast East	66.6	60.7	60.0	53.6	57.2	63.0	62.5
Belfast North	67.3	62.3	60.9	50.3	52.5	61.8	61.7
Belfast South	67.4	62.6	62.4	52.4	54.3	64.0	64.4
Belfast West	70.5	65.9	67.4	57.9	57.8	66.8	64.7
East Antrim	60.9	56.5	53.5	47.8	51.0	60.1	60.1
East Londonderry	67.7	61.8	60.9	54.1	50.8	62.7	61.4
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	79.4	72.9	71.2	69.0	64.6	72.6	69.1
Foyle	72.0	63.5	63.9	57.8	56.0	65.0	61.6
Lagan Valley	65.7	61.4	60.0	53.1	53.2	62.6	63.2
Mid Ulster	84.4	74.9	73.1	65.4	58.8	72.4	69.5
Newry and Armagh	77.3	70.2	70.8	61.3	59.3	69.4	68.5
North Antrim	69.0	63.3	61.3	54.8	52.9	63.2	62.5
North Down	60.2	54.5	53.8	45.9	49.6	59.2	60.1
South Antrim	64.2	59.5	58.6	50.1	51.0	62.4	60.0
South Down	73.7	65.6	65.0	58.1	53.8	66.2	66.2
Strangford	61.6	57.1	54.5	48.6	50.3	60.9	58.4
Upper Bann	72.3	64.2	61.1	55.3	54.4	62.5	62.5
West Tyrone	79.4	73.2	71.7	64.0	59.9	69.9	66.9
Northern Ireland	70.0	64.0	62.9	55.7	54.9	64.8	63.6

Source: Electoral Office for Northern Ireland (1998 – 2022)

Table 4.2 and Map 4.1 (overleaf) reveal that the highest turnout rates were recorded in the predominately nationalist constituencies of Mid Ulster (69.5%), Fermanagh and South Tyrone (69.1%), Newry and Armagh (68.5%), and West Tyrone (66.9%). The lowest turnouts were in East Antrim (60.1%), North Down (60.1%), South Antrim (60.0%) and Strangford (58.4%).

⁶ Percentage points refer to the difference between two percentages, e.g. the difference between 60% and 55% is five percentage points.

Map 4.1 Turnout (%) by Constituency, May 2022



While overall turnout was slightly down on the 2017 figure, it is worth noting that, because the size of the eligible electorate had increased since 2017, the total number of first preference votes cast in May 2022 was actually higher in every constituency than in March 2017 (see Table 4.3 overleaf). Overall, there were an additional 59,385 valid votes cast, compared with 2017.

Table 4.3, Comparison of First Preference Votes, 2017 -v- 2022

Constituency	2017	2022	+ Difference
Belfast East	40,357	43,248	2,891
Belfast North	41,486	46,027	4,541
Belfast South	43,053	46,938	3,885
Belfast West	40,344	43,664	3,320
East Antrim	37,424	40,235	2,811
East Londonderry	41,873	44,360	2,487
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	52,263	53,743	1,480
Foyle	44,616	46,864	2,248
Lagan Valley	45,069	51,033	5,964
Mid Ulster	49,678	51,689	2,011
Newry and Armagh	54,918	58,884	3,966
North Antrim	48,094	50,624	2,530
North Down	37,739	41,743	4,004
South Antrim	42,344	45,736	3,392
South Down	49,399	54,952	5,553
Strangford	38,785	40,865	2,080
Upper Bann	51,548	56,101	4,553
West Tyrone	44,325	45,994	1,669
Northern Ireland	803,315	862,700	59,385

Source: Electoral Office for Northern Ireland

5 Overall Results

The election resulted in significant changes to the composition of the Assembly which largely favoured Sinn Féin and Alliance. Table 5.1 presents a summary of the overall results of the 2022 Assembly Election. Sinn Féin overtook the DUP to become the largest party in the Assembly with 27 seats, followed by the DUP (25), Alliance (17) the UUP (9), and the SDLP (8). The TUV retained its sole seat, as did the People before Profit Alliance (PBPA). The Independent Member for East Londonderry (Claire Sugden) retained her seat, and Alex Easton (North Down, formerly DUP) was also returned as an independent Member.

In terms of seats, Alliance was the only party to make electoral gains in the May 2022 election, more than doubling their representation, from eight seats in 2017 to 17, an increase of nine. The SDLP lost one-third (4) of their previous 12 seats. The DUP lost three seats, the UUP one seat, while the Green Party lost both of its two seats.

Table 5.1 Assembly Election 2022 – Overall Results, compared with 2017

Party	Seats	+/-	First Preference Votes	Vote Share (%)	+/- (pp)
Sinn Féin	27		250,385	29.0%	+ 1.1
DUP	25	-3	184,002	21.3%	- 6.7
Alliance Party	17	+9	116,681	13.5%	+ 4.5
UUP	9	-1	96,390	11.2%	- 1.7
SDLP	8	-4	78,237	9.1%	- 2.9
TUV	1		65,788	7.6%	+ 5.1
Green	0	-2	16,433	1.9%	- 0.4
PBPA	1		9,798	1.1%	- 0.6
Independents/Others	2	+1	44,986	5.2%	- 1.6
Totals	90		862,700	100.0%	

Including the Independent Members for East Londonderry and North Down, the designated Unionist parties have a total of 37 seats, the Nationalist parties have a total of 35 seats, while the parties with an 'Other' designation (Alliance and PBPA) have 18 Members.

Table 5.2 (overleaf) lists the first preference votes obtained by the five main parties and three of the smaller parties in both 2017 and 2022. Sinn Féin's tally rose by 26,140 (11.7%) to 250,385, while the DUP vote fell by 18.4 per cent, from 225,413 to 184,002. Alliance out-performed all other main parties, with a 60 per cent increase in first preference votes, from 72,717 in 2017 to 116,681 in 2022. The UUP vote dropped by 6,924 (6.7%) while the SDLP experienced a

fall of 17,721 votes (18.5%), from 95,958 in 2017 to 78,237 in 2022. This had severe consequences for the party, as it resulted in the loss of four seats (one-third of their entire representation in the Assembly).

By contrast, the TUV, which fielded candidates in all 18 constituencies, saw their first preference vote more than triple, from 20,523 in 2017 to 65,788 in 2020, an increase of 220 per cent. While the Green Party vote declined by a modest 2,094 votes, this was enough to lose them their two Assembly seats. This was in contrast to the PBPA, which recorded a loss of 4,302 votes but still retained their sole seat.

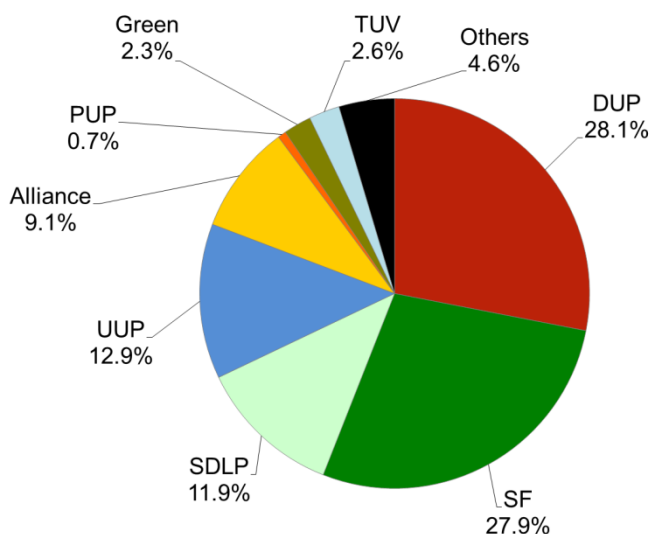
Table 5.2 First Preference Votes – Comparison with 2017

Party	2017	2022	Difference	% change
Sinn Féin	224,245	250,385	26,140	11.7%
DUP	225,413	184,002	-41,411	-18.4%
Alliance Party	72,717	116,681	43,964	60.4%
UUP	103,314	96,390	-6,924	-6.7%
SDLP	95,958	78,237	-17,721	-18.5%
TUV	20,523	65,788	45,265	220.6%
Green Party	18,527	16,433	-2,094	-11.3%
PBPA	14,100	9,798	-4,302	-30.5%

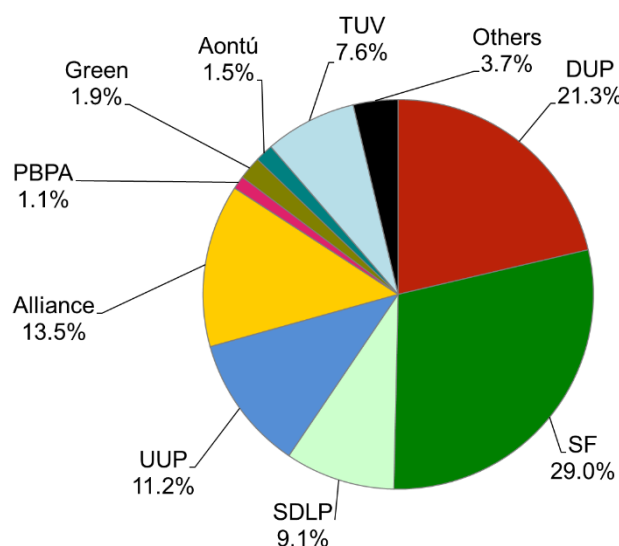
6 Individual Party Performance

This section analyses the performance of the main political parties. While the emphasis is on comparisons between 2022 and 2017, Tables 6.1 and 6.2 also contain data on all the preceding polls since 1998.

2017 Share of Vote (NI)



2022 Share of Vote (NI)



The May 2022 election resulted in **Sinn Féin** (27 seats) becoming the largest party in the Assembly. They retained all their seats and the party’s share of first preference votes rose from 27.9% in 2017 to 29.0%.

Table 6.1 Seats by Party, 1998 - 2022

	1998	2003	2007	2011	2016	2017	2022
Sinn Féin	18	24	28	29	28	27	27
DUP	20	30	36	38	38	28	25
Alliance	6	6	7	8	8	8	17
UUP	28	27	18	16	16	10	9
SDLP	24	18	16	14	12	12	8
TUV				1	1	1	1
PBPA					2	1	1
Green			1	1	2	2	0
Independent/Others	3	1	1	1	1	1	2
UKUP	5	1					
PUP	2	1	1				
NIWC	2						
Northern Ireland	108	108	108	108	108	90	90

The **Democratic Unionist Party** (25 seats) returned to the Assembly with three fewer Members than in 2017 (Table 6.1). The party lost seats in North Down, North Antrim and Strangford, with a reduced share of first preference votes (21.3 % compared with 28.1% in 2017) – see Table 6.2.

Table 6.2 Share of First Preference Votes by Party

	1998 %	2003 %	2007 %	2011 %	2016 %	2017 %	2022 %
Sinn Féin	17.6	23.5	26.2	26.9	24.0	27.9	29.0
DUP	18.1	25.7	30.1	30.0	29.2	28.1	21.3
Alliance	6.5	3.7	5.2	7.7	7.0	9.1	13.5
UUP	21.3	22.7	14.9	13.2	12.6	12.9	11.2
SDLP	22.0	17.0	15.2	14.2	12.0	11.9	9.1
TUV				2.5	3.4	2.6	7.6
Green	0.1	0.4	1.7	0.9	2.7	2.3	1.9
Aontú							1.5
PBPA				0.8	2.0	1.8	1.1
Independent/Others	5.8	4.2	4.5	3.0	4.8	2.5	3.7
UKUP	4.5	0.8	1.5				
PUP	2.5	1.2	0.6	0.2	0.9	0.7	
NIWC	1.6	0.8					
Totals	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The **Alliance Party** (17 seats) enjoyed a particularly successful election with a gain of nine seats across the constituencies of Belfast North, Belfast South, East Antrim, Lagan Valley, North Antrim, North Down, South Down, Strangford and Upper Bann. The Party's share of first preference votes rose from 9.1 per cent in 2017 to 13.5 per cent in 2022.

The **Ulster Unionist Party** (9 seats) lost one seat overall (East Antrim), and its share of first preference votes fell from 12.9 per cent in 2017 to 11.2 per cent.

The **SDLP** (8 seats) lost four seats, to end the election with their smallest number of seats since the Assembly was formed (in 1998 the party won 24 seats). Losses occurred in Belfast North, Lagan Valley, Upper Bann and South Down. The party's share of first preference votes fell from 11.9 per cent in 2017 to 9.1 per cent.

The **Traditional Unionist Voice** retained its single seat in North Antrim and saw a substantial rise in first preference votes, from 20,523 in 2017 to 65,788 in 2022.

The **Green Party** lost its two seats (Belfast South and North Down) against the backdrop of a marginal fall in their vote share, from 2.3 per cent to 1.9 per cent.

The **People before Profit Alliance** retained their single seat in Belfast West. Their share of first preferences fell from 1.8 per cent in 2017 to 1.1 per cent.

The **Independent** Member for East Londonderry, Claire Sugden, retained her seat and was joined by Alex Easton, Independent Member for North Down (formerly DUP).

7 Women in the 2022 Assembly Election

A total of 32 female Members, representing 35.6 per cent of all Members of the Assembly, were elected on 5 May 2022 (Table 7.1). Eighty-seven female candidates stood for election (36.4%), which was 17 more than in 2017.

The Assembly figures compare favourably with Dáil Éireann, where 22.5 per cent of TDs are female (February 2020 election). The Scottish Parliament (45%) has the highest percentage of women representatives in UK parliaments, followed by the National Assembly of Wales (43.3%) and the House of Commons (34.6%).

Sinn Féin, with 15 female Members (55.6%), has the largest number and proportion of women MLAs, followed by Alliance (8 Members, 47.1%), and the DUP (6 Members, 24.0%). Two SDLP Members are female, plus one Independent Member. Two out of the five main parties (Sinn Féin and Alliance) have a female leader.

Table 7.1 Seats by Party and Gender

Party	Male	Female	Total	(%) Female
Sinn Féin	12	15	27	55.6
Alliance	9	8	17	47.1
DUP	19	6	25	24.0
SDLP	6	2	8	25.0
UUP	9	0	9	0.0
TUV	1	0	1	0.0
PBPA	1	0		
Independents	1	1	2	50.0
Totals	58	32	90	35.6

8 Results by Constituency

Maps 8.1 and 8.2 (overleaf) show the party with the largest share of first preference votes per constituency in 2017 and 2022. The maps neatly illustrate the changing fortunes of the three main parties, the DUP, Sinn Fein, and Alliance. In the 2017 election, the DUP had the largest share of first

preferences in 11 of the 18 constituencies, while Sinn Féin were the largest party in the remaining seven. In 2022, Alliance became the largest party in Belfast South, Belfast East and North Down, while Sinn Féin captured the largest share of first preferences in Belfast North. In summary, the DUP had the largest share of first preferences in six constituencies, Sinn Féin were top in nine, and Alliance had premier position in three.

Table 8.1 (below) shows the distribution of seats by party for each constituency (with 2017 in brackets).

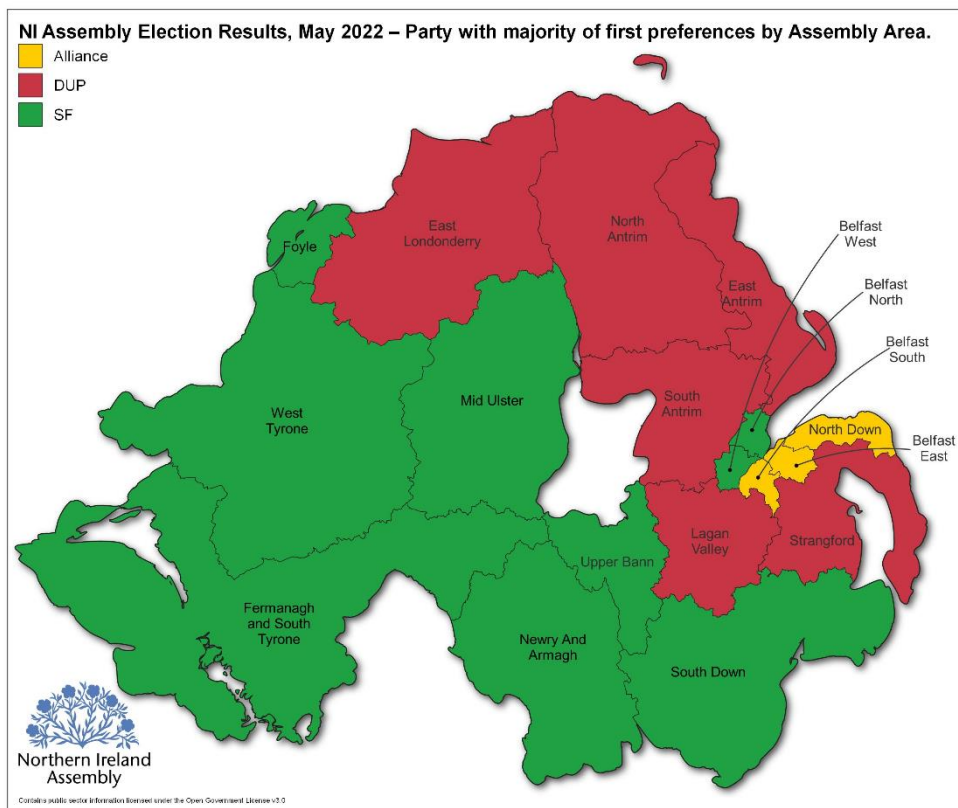
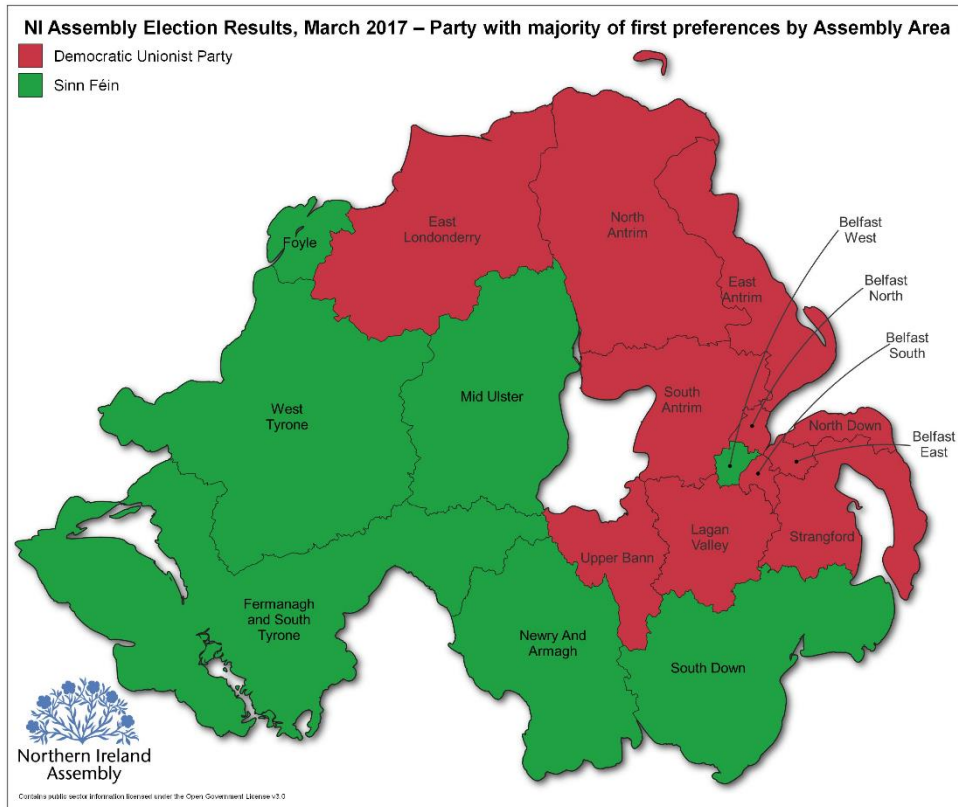
Table 8.1 Seats by Party and Constituency: 2022 (v 2017)

Parliamentary Constituency	Sinn Féin	DUP	Alliance	UUP	SDLP	TUV	PBPA	Green	IND
Belfast East		2 (2)	2 (2)	1 (1)					
Belfast North	2 (2)	2 (2)	1		(1)				
Belfast South	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (1)		1 (1)			(1)	
Belfast West	4 (4)						1 (1)		
East Antrim		2 (2)	2 (1)	1 (2)					
East Londonderry	1 (1)	2 (2)			1 (1)				1 (1)
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	3 (3)	1 (1)		1 (1)					
Foyle	2 (2)	1 (1)			2 (2)				
Lagan Valley		2 (2)	2 (1)	1 (1)	(1)				
Mid Ulster	3 (3)	1 (1)			1 (1)				
Newry and Armagh	3 (3)	1 (1)			1 (1)				
North Antrim	1 (1)	1 (2)	1	1 (1)		1 (1)			
North Down		1 (2)	2 (1)	1 (1)				(1)	1
South Antrim	1 (1)	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (1)					
South Down	2 (2)	1 (1)	1		1 (2)				
Strangford		2 (3)	2 (1)	1 (1)					
Upper Bann	1 (1)	2 (2)	1	1 (1)	(1)				
West Tyrone	3 (3)	1 (1)			1 (1)				-
Northern Ireland	27 (27)	25 (28)	17 (8)	9 (10)	8 (12)	1 (1)	1 (1)	- (2)	2 (1)

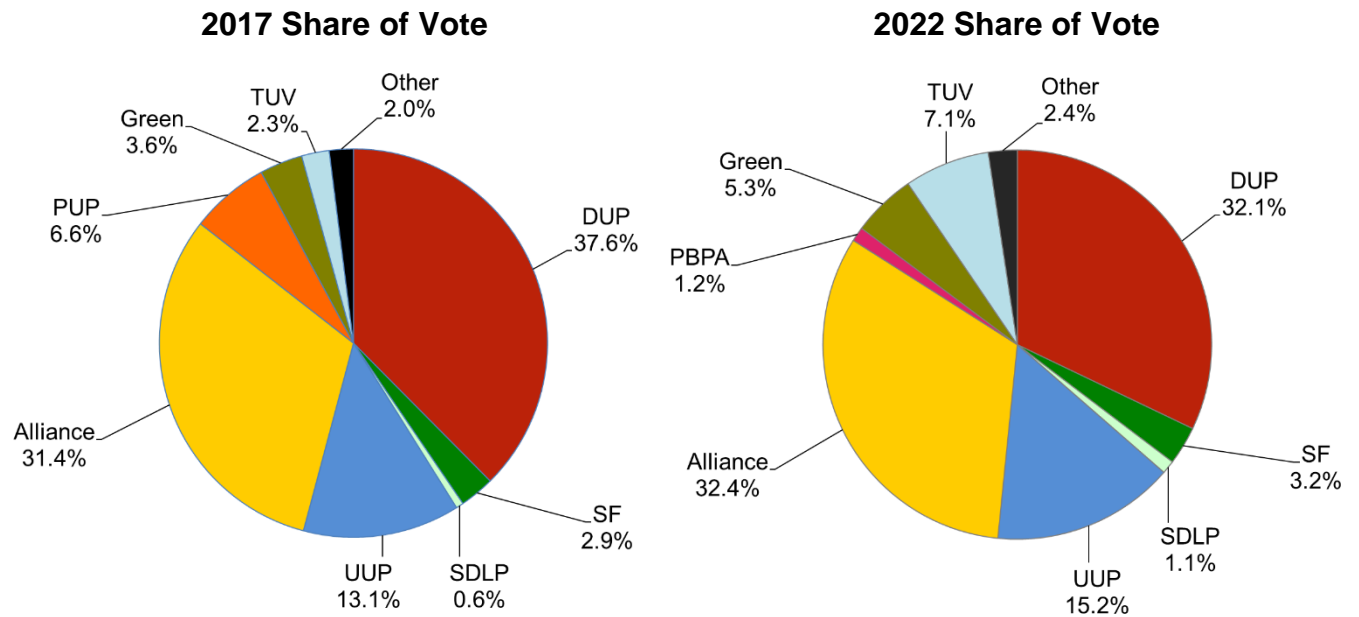
The individual constituency results, with each party's share of first preference votes ⁷, are presented as pie charts on Pages 19 – 27.

⁷ **PIE CHARTS:**Please note that the People Before Profit Alliance (PBPA) were included in the 'Other' Category in the 2017 pie charts, but are shown separately in the 2022 charts.

Maps 8.1 and 8.2: Party with highest share of first preference votes by Constituency, 2017 and 2022



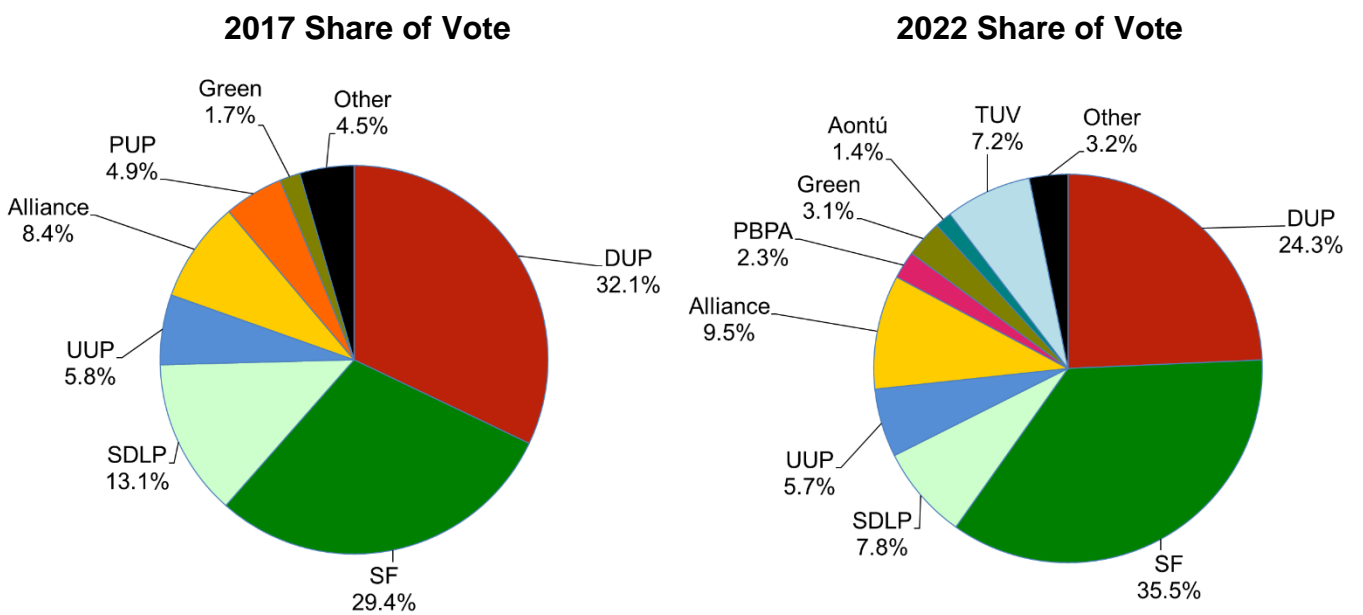
Belfast East



2022 Result

Seats Won: Alliance 2, DUP 2, UUP 1

Belfast North

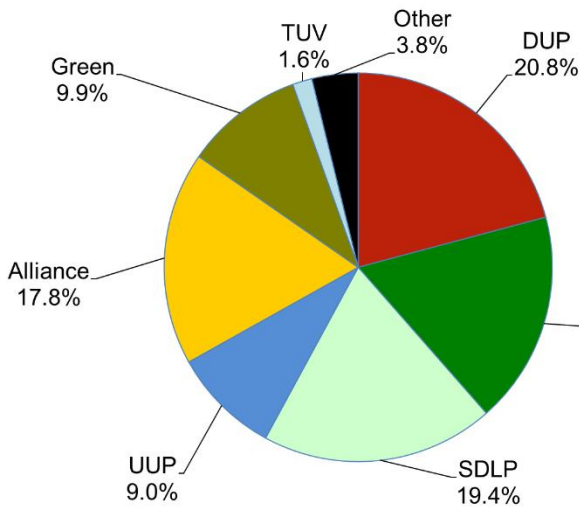


2022 Result

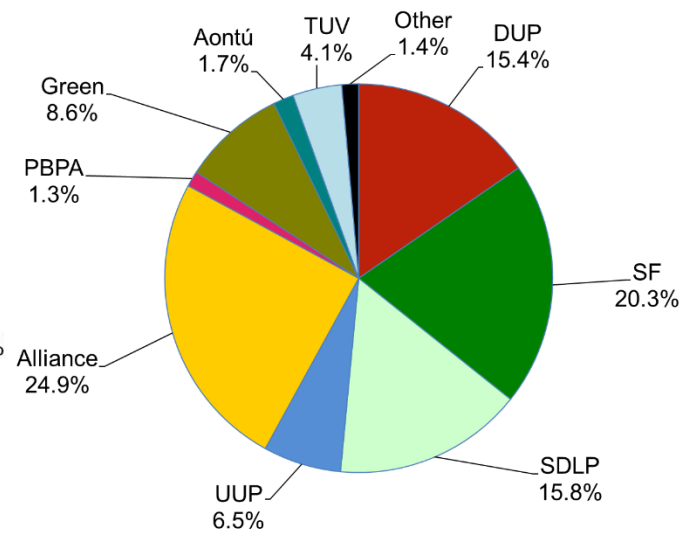
Seats Won: DUP 2, Sinn Féin 2, Alliance 1

Belfast South

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote

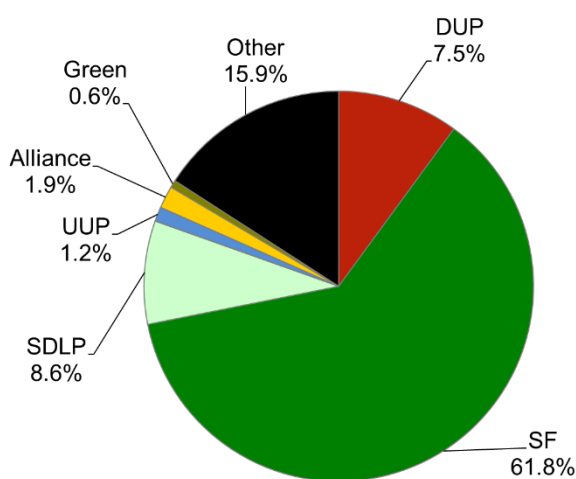


2022 Result

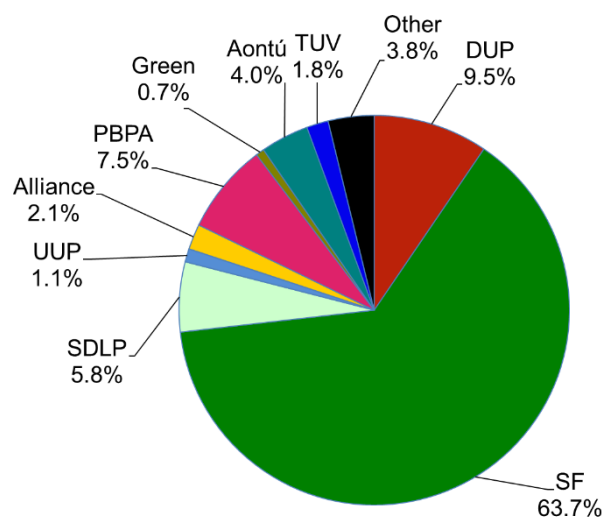
Seats Won: Alliance 2, DUP 1, Sinn Féin 1, SDLP 1

Belfast West

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote

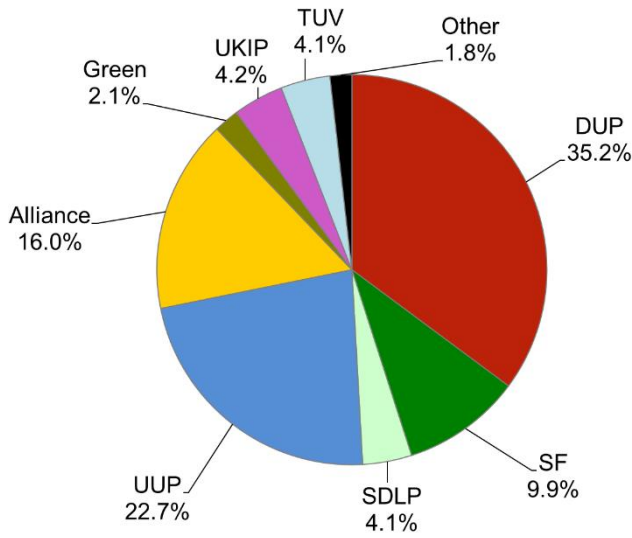


2022 Result

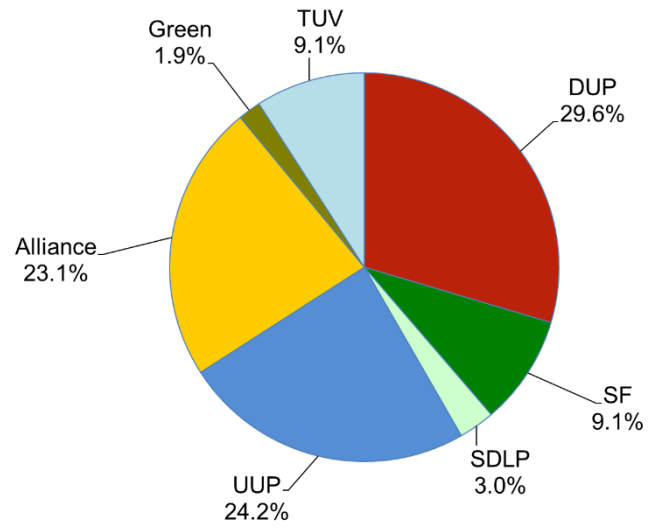
Seats Won: Sinn Féin 4, PBPA 1

East Antrim

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote

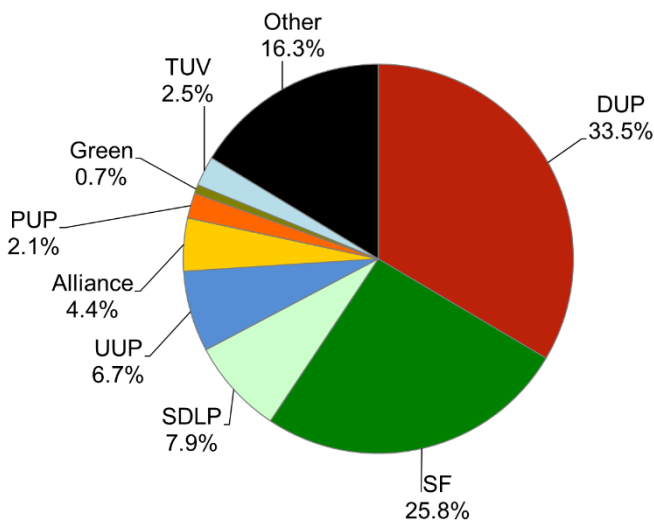


2022 Result

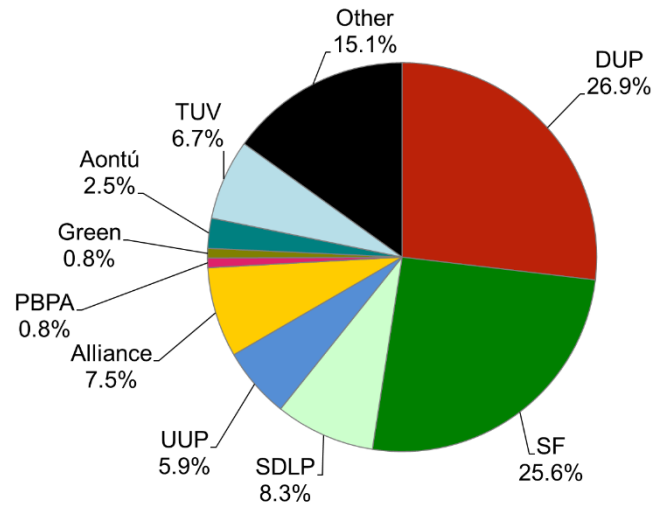
Seats Won: DUP 2, UUP 1, Alliance 2

East Londonderry

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote

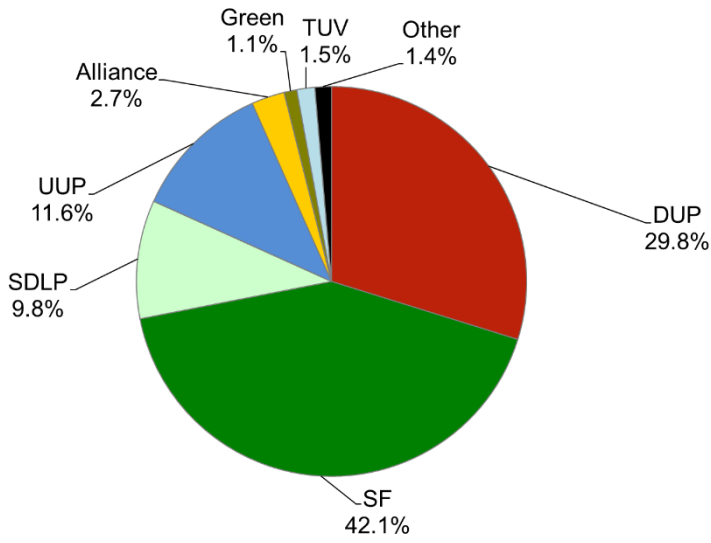


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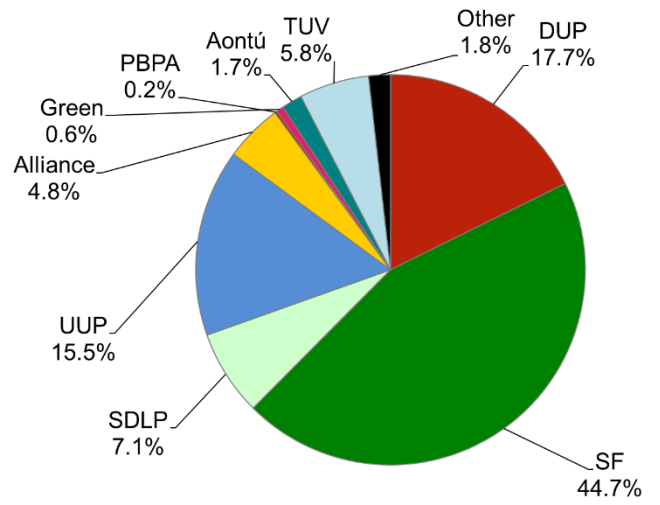
Seats Won: DUP 2, Sinn Féin 1, SDLP 1, Independent 1

Fermanagh & South Tyrone

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote

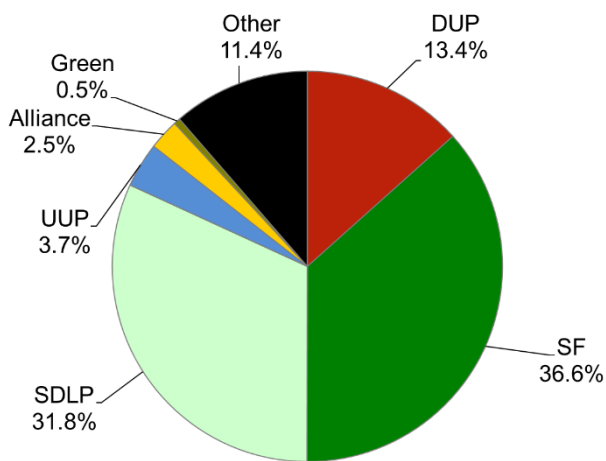


2022 Result

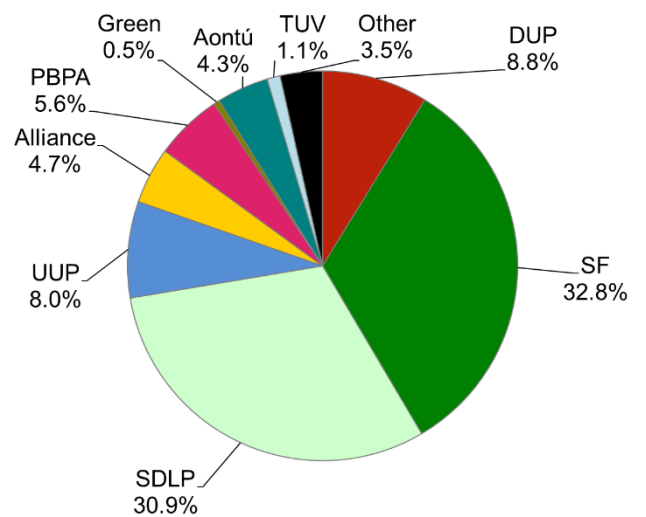
Seats Won: Sinn Féin 3, DUP 1, UUP 1,

Foyle

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote

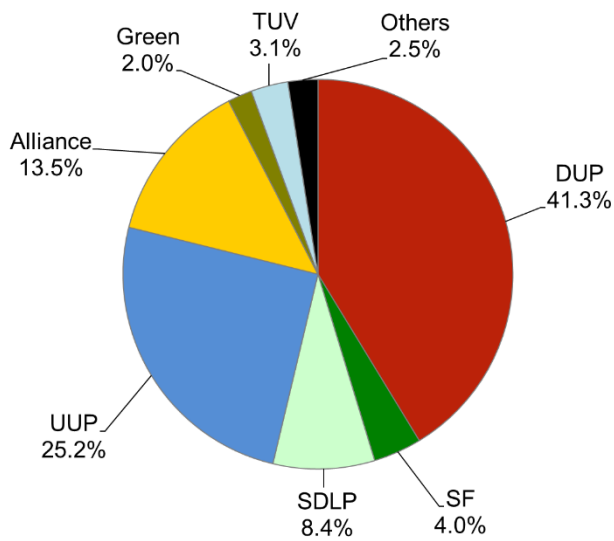


2022 Result

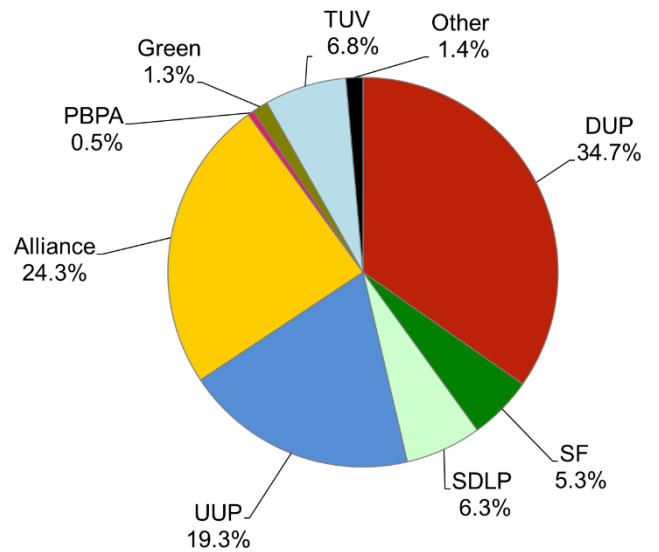
Seats Won: Sinn Féin 2, SDLP 2, DUP 1,

Lagan Valley

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote

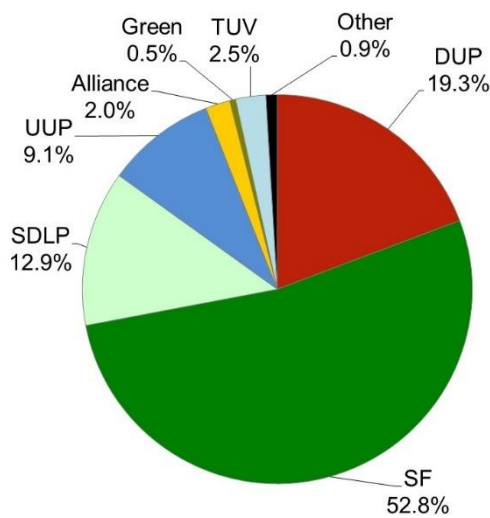


2022 Result

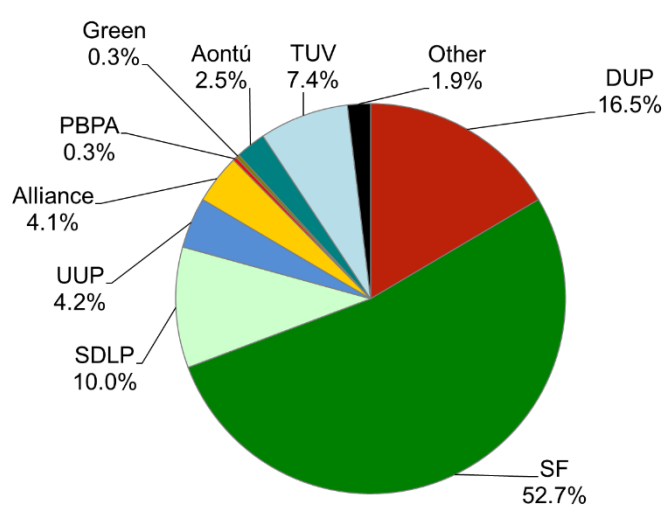
Seats Won: Alliance 2, DUP 2, UUP 1

Mid-Ulster

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote

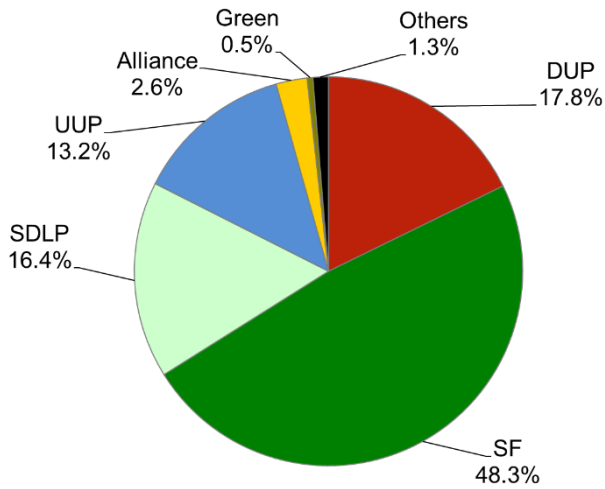


2022 Result

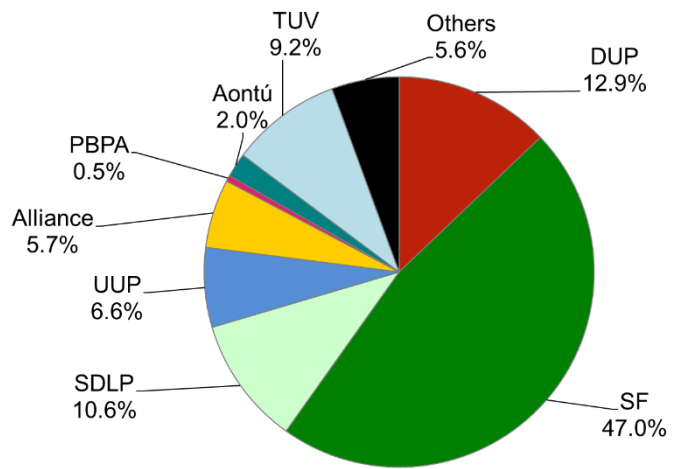
Seats Won: Sinn Féin 3, SDLP 1, DUP 1,

Newry & Armagh

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote

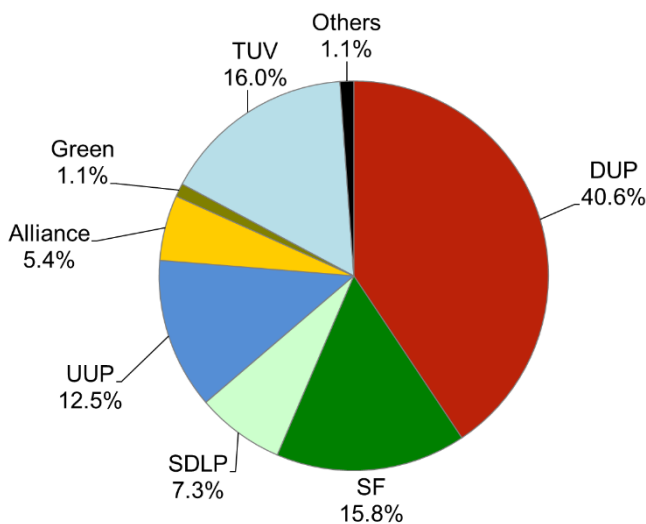


2022 Result

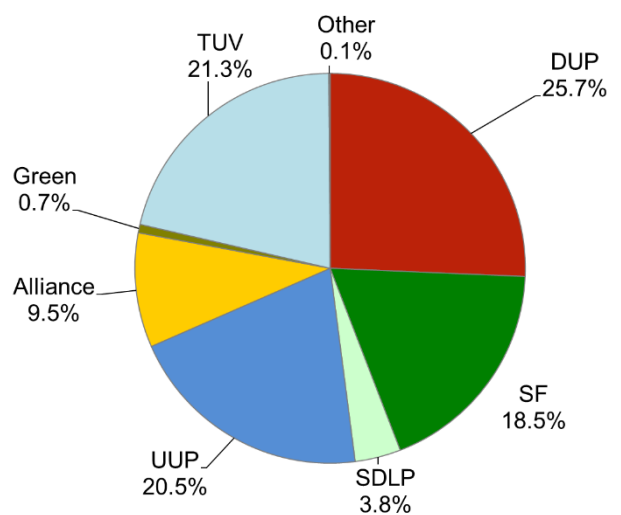
Seats Won: Sinn Féin 3, SDLP 1, DUP 1,

North Antrim

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote

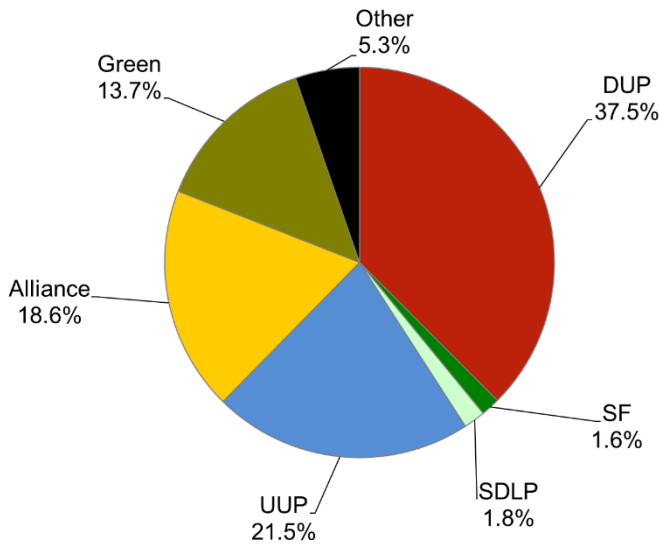


2022 Result

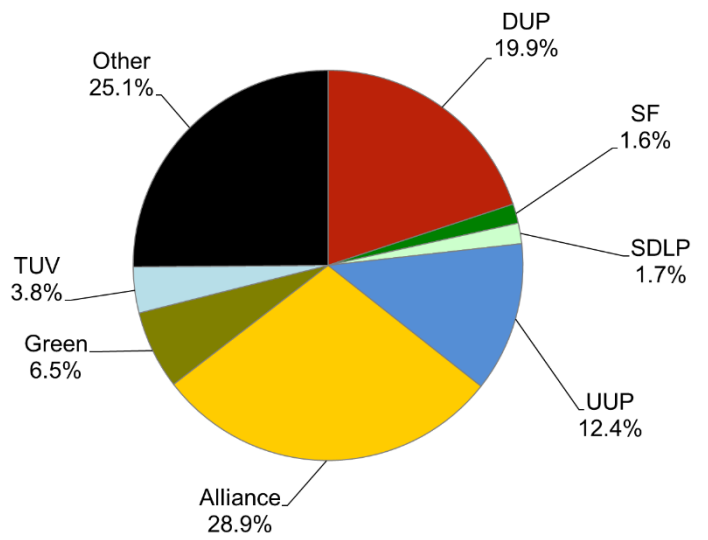
Seats Won: DUP 1, UUP 1, TUV 1, Sinn Féin 1, Alliance 1

North Down

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote

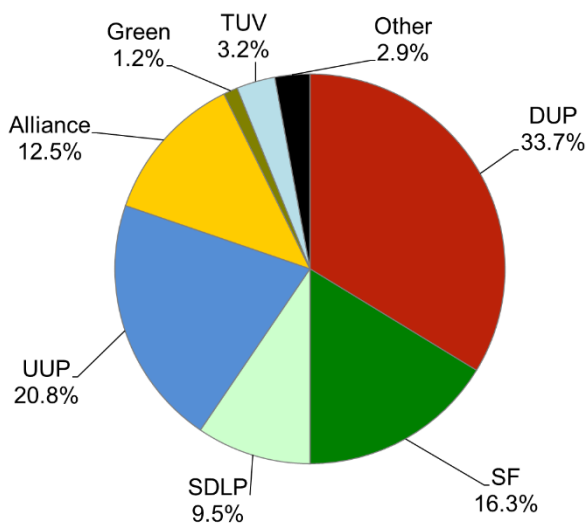


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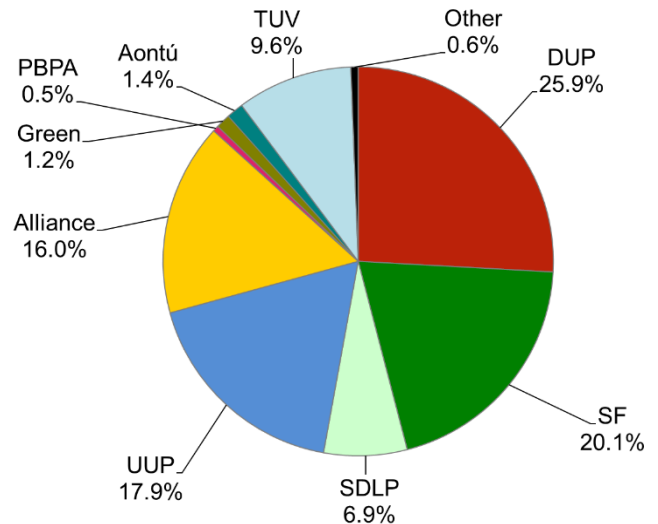
Seats Won: Alliance 2, DUP 1, UUP 1, Independent 1

South Antrim

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote

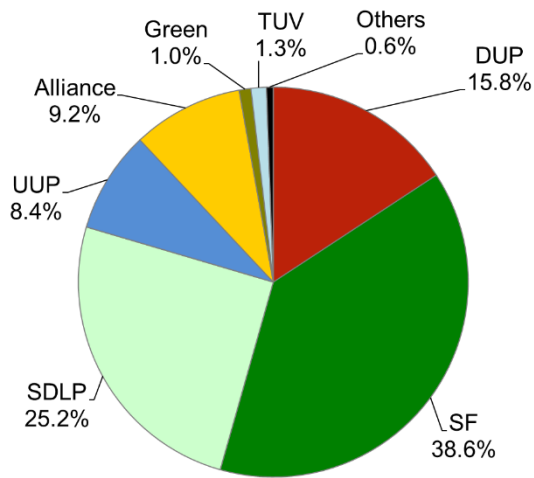


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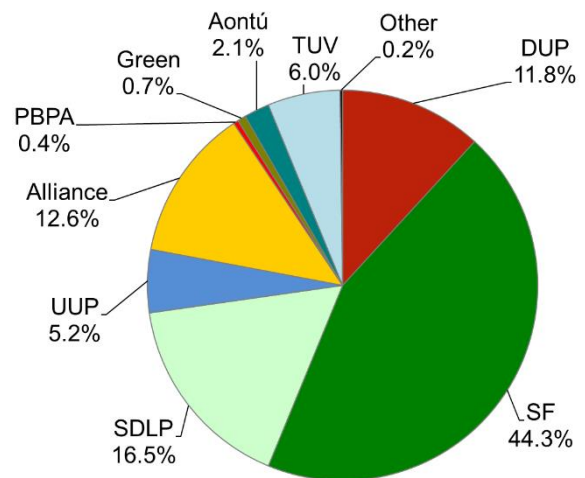
Seats Won: DUP 2, UUP 1, Sinn Féin 1, Alliance 1

South Down

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote

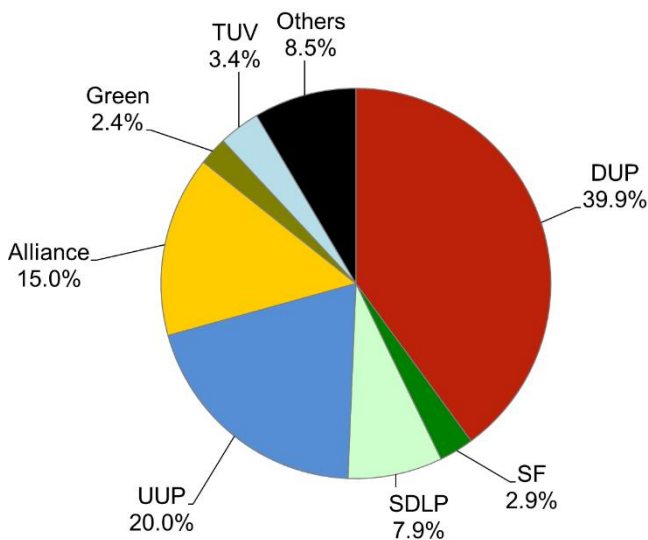


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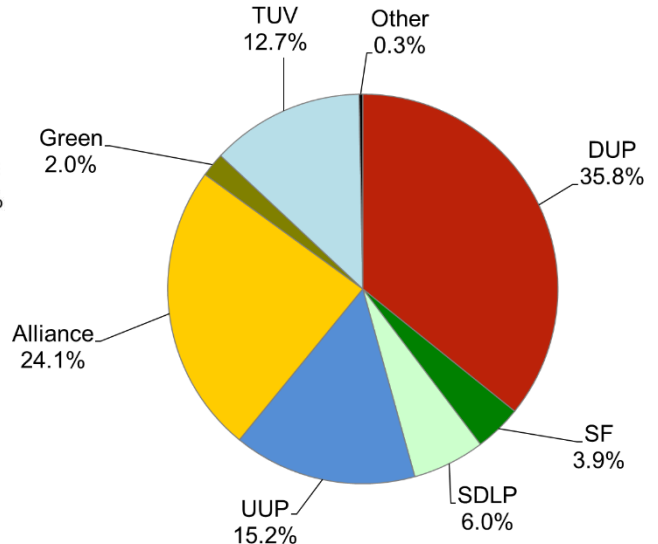
Seats Won: Sinn Féin 2, SDLP 1, Alliance 1, DUP 1

Strangford

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote

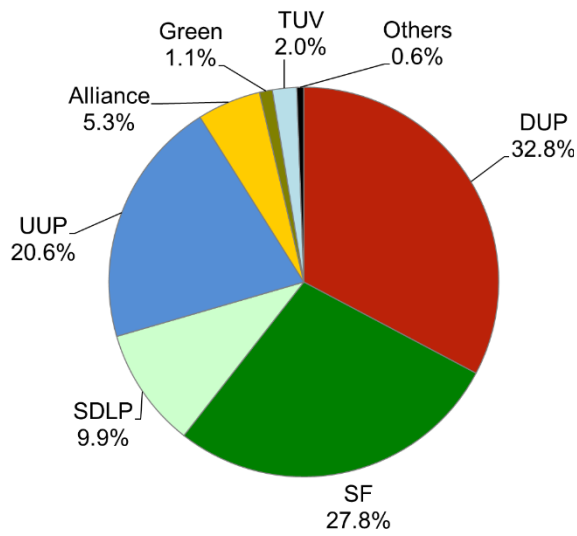


2022 Result

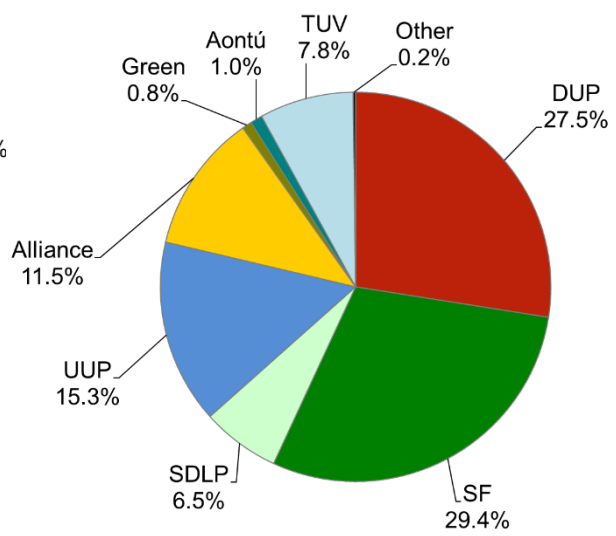
Seats Won: Alliance 2, DUP 2, UUP 1

Upper Bann

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote

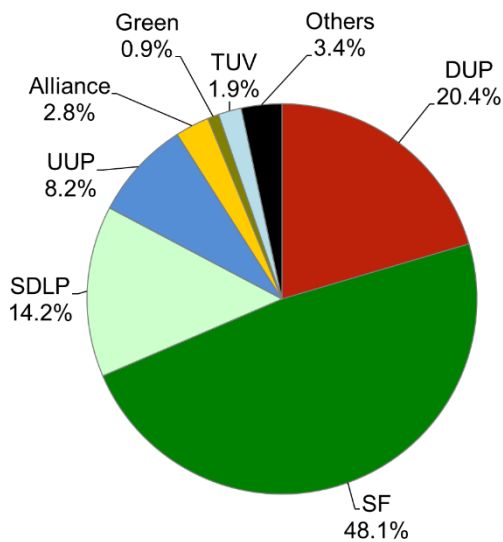


2022 Result

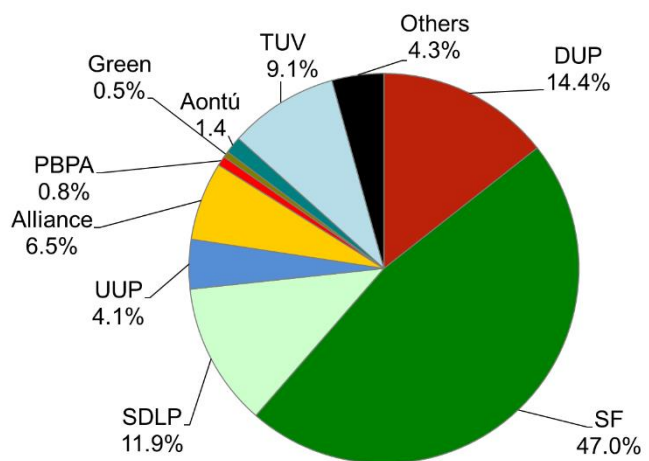
Seats Won: DUP 2, UUP 1, Sinn Féin 1, Alliance 1

West Tyrone

2017 Share of Vote



2022 Share of Vote



2022 Result

Seats Won: Sinn Féin 3, SDLP 1, DUP 1

9 Summary

A number of significant changes to the Northern Ireland political landscape arose from the election on 5 May 2022. These included the emergence of Sinn Féin as the largest party in the Assembly, and the arrival of Alliance as a significant political force.

For parties with a Unionist designation (DUP, UUP, TUV and PUP), it was more a case of their vote being fragmented than lost. The decline in votes cast for the DUP (- 41,400), UUP (- 7,000) and PUP (- 2,900) was almost cancelled out by the increase in support for the TUV (45,000). Further, if the 13,500 votes for the two Independent Members, who designate as Unionist, are added to the tally, then the combined unionist vote was similar to 2017. Overall, the unionist parties lost four seats.

Parties with a Nationalist designation (Sinn Féin and the SDLP) experienced mixed fortunes in the election. While Sinn Féin retained all their seats from 2017, increasing their vote by 26,000, and winning 29 per cent of first preference votes – the party's best ever performance in an Assembly election - the SDLP suffered a 19 per cent drop in first preferences, and the loss of four seats (one-third of their representation in the Assembly).

The biggest increase in support in the May 2022 election was for Alliance, which more than doubled its tally of seats on the back of a 60 per cent increase in first preference votes. The party now has Members in eleven of the 18 constituencies. The Green Party had a difficult election: a relatively small drop in support (2,000 votes) saw them lose both of their seats in Belfast South and North Down. The People Before Profit Alliance (PBPA) retained their single seat in Belfast West, as did the Independent Members for East Londonderry and North Down.

While turnout was slightly down on 2017, the eligible electorate had grown by almost 120,000 in the intervening five years. Consequently, an additional 61,000 votes were cast in May 2022, compared with the previous election.

Annex A. First Preference Votes by Party and Constituency

	Sinn Féin	DUP	Alliance	UUP	SDLP	TUV	Green	PBPA	Aontú	Others	Totals
Belfast East	1,369	13,886	14,015	6,563	484	3,087	2,302	500		1,042	43,248
Belfast North	16,327	11,173	4,381	2,643	3,604	3,335	1,446	1,059	640	1,419	46,027
Belfast South	9,511	7,211	11,704	3,061	7,424	1,935	4,058	629	806	599	46,938
Belfast West	27,805	4,166	907	474	2,528	802	307	3,279	1,753	1,643	43,664
East Antrim	3,675	11,918	9,283	9,744	1,200	3,661	754				40,235
East Londonderry	11,368	11,937	3,338	2,625	3,664	2,959	347	347	1,095	6,680	44,360
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	24,008	9,527	2,583	8,354	3,836	3,091	335	103	927	979	53,743
Foyle	15,384	4,101	2,220	3,744	14,460	499	215	2,621	2,000	1,620	46,864
Lagan Valley	2,725	17,688	12,394	9,849	3,235	3,488	648	271		735	51,033
Mid Ulster	27,259	8,521	2,138	2,191	5,144	3,818	137	179	1,305	997	51,689
Newry & Armagh	27,654	7,577	3,345	3,864	6,217	5,407	314		1,189	3,317	58,884
North Antrim	9,348	12,989	4,810	10,386	1,919	10,763	343			66	50,624
North Down	687	8,294	12,062	5,167	727	1,574	2,734			10,498	41,743
South Antrim	9,185	11,842	7,315	8,175	3,139	4,371	539	251	657	262	45,736
South Down	24,344	6,497	6,942	2,880	9,088	3,273	412	205	1,177	134	54,952
Strangford	1,607	14,618	9,837	6,228	2,440	5,186	831			118	40,865
Upper Bann	16,502	15,417	6,440	8,566	3,645	4,373	459		571	128	56,101
West Tyrone	21,627	6,640	2,967	1,876	5,483	4,166	252	354	657	1,972	45,994
Northern Ireland	250,385	184,002	116,681	96,390	78,237	65,788	16,433	9,798	12,777	32,209	862,700

Annex B. Share of First Preference Vote (%) by Party and Constituency

	Sinn Féin	DUP	Alliance	UUP	SDLP	TUV	Green	PBPA	Aontú	Others
Belfast East	3.2	32.1	32.4	15.2	1.1	7.1	5.3	1.2		2.4
Belfast North	35.5	24.3	9.5	5.7	7.8	7.2	3.1	2.3	1.4	3.2
Belfast South	20.3	15.4	24.9	6.5	15.8	4.1	8.6	1.3	1.7	1.4
Belfast West	63.7	9.5	2.1	1.1	5.8	1.8	0.7	7.5	4.0	3.8
East Antrim	9.1	29.6	23.1	24.2	3.0	9.1	1.9			
East Londonderry	25.6	26.9	7.5	5.9	8.3	6.7	0.8	0.8	2.5	15.1
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	44.7	17.7	4.8	15.5	7.1	5.8	0.6	0.2	1.7	1.8
Foyle	32.8	8.8	4.7	8.0	30.9	1.1	0.5	5.6	4.3	3.5
Lagan Valley	5.3	34.7	24.3	19.3	6.3	6.8	1.3	0.5		1.4
Mid Ulster	52.7	16.5	4.1	4.2	10.0	7.4	0.3	0.3	2.5	1.9
Newry & Armagh	47.0	12.9	5.7	6.6	10.6	9.2		0.5	2.0	5.6
North Antrim	18.5	25.7	9.5	20.5	3.8	21.3	0.7			0.1
North Down	1.6	19.9	28.9	12.4	1.7	3.8	6.5			25.1
South Antrim	20.1	25.9	16.0	17.9	6.9	9.6	1.2	0.5	1.4	0.6
South Down	44.3	11.8	12.6	5.2	16.5	6.0	0.7	0.4	2.1	0.2
Strangford	3.9	35.8	24.1	15.2	6.0	12.7	2.0			0.3
Upper Bann	29.4	27.5	11.5	15.3	6.5	7.8	0.8		1.0	0.2
West Tyrone	47.0	14.4	6.5	4.1	11.9	9.1	0.5	0.8	1.4	4.3
Northern Ireland	29.0	21.3	13.5	11.2	9.1	7.6	1.9	1.1	1.5	3.7

Annex C: List of Parties and Abbreviations

APNI	Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
Aontú	Aontú for Life, Unity and Economic Justice
CCLA	Cross-Community Labour Alliance
CON	Conservative Party
DUP	Democratic Unionist Party
GP	Green Party
IND	Independents
NILRC	Northern Ireland Labour Representation Committee
NIWC	Northern Ireland Women's Coalition (1998 and 2003)
PBPA	People Before Profit Alliance
PUP	Progressive Unionist Party
SDLP	Social Democratic and Labour party
SF	Sinn Féin
TUV	Traditional Unionist Voice
UKIP	United Kingdom Independence Party
UKUP	United Kingdom Unionist Party (1998 - 2011)
UUP	Ulster Unionist Party
WP	The Workers' Party