

The Results Analysed: The Aftershocks Continue

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The 2011 election could reasonably be termed Ireland's 'earthquake election' because of the profound upheaval it delivered to the party system. The 2016 election in some ways marked a move back towards pre-2011 normality with the two traditional main parties reclaiming their places at the head of the pack, but in other ways it represented a further shift towards something different. If not exactly another earthquake, then the 2016 election was certainly a case of the aftershocks continuing. In this chapter, we analyse vote shifts and seat gains and losses, assess the performances of the parties, draw inferences from the pattern of vote transfers and assess the utility of the betting market as a results predictor. Finally, we analyse the composition of the new Dáil.

VOTES, SEATS AND CANDIDATES

A move back towards familiar ground was represented by the significant growth in support for Fianna Fáil, which was not far away from reclaiming its traditional pole position, and the drop in support for Fine Gael, whose 2016 level of support was much closer to its post-1982 norm than

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