HOW IRELAND VOTED 2007:
the full story of Ireland’s general election

Edited by
Michael Gallagher
Michael Marsh

(Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, November 2007)
Contents

List of illustrations
List of tables
List of figures
Notes on contributors
Preface
Glossary and abbreviations
Chronology of election 2007
Illustrations

1 The background to the election – Gary Murphy
2 The fulfilment of election pledges – Rory Costello and Robert Thomson
3 Campaign strategies and political marketing – Neil Collins and Patrick Butler
4 Candidate selection: democratic centralism or managed democracy? – Liam Weeks
5 The view from the campaign trail – Niall Collins, Terence Flanagan, Kathleen O’Meara, Niall Ó Brolcháin
6 The earthquake that never happened: analysis of the results – Michael Gallagher
7 Explanations for party choice – Michael Marsh
8 The polls: a clear improvement – Gail McElroy and Michael Marsh
9 The election as horse race: betting and the election – Michael Gallagher
10 The media and the campaign – Heinz Brandenburg and Zbyszek Zalinski
11 The Seanad election – Theresa Reidy
12 Government formation in 2007 – Eoin O’Malley
13 Fianna Fáil and Irish party competition – R. Kenneth Carty

Appendices – Liam Weeks
   Appendix 1 – Results of the 2007 general election
   Appendix 2 – Members of the 30th Dáil
   Appendix 3 – The government and ministers of state
   Appendix 4 – The Irish electoral system
   Appendix 5 – Regulation of campaign spending

Index
## List of tables

2.1  Election pledges on socio-economic issues from the 2002 manifestos
2.2  The fulfilment of socio-economic election pledges in the 2002–07 government period

4.1  Occupational backgrounds of candidates, 2007
4.2  Political experience of candidates, 2007
4.3  Gender and family links of candidates, 2007

6.1  Fate of candidates at 2007 election
6.2  Result of 2007 election, with changes since 2002
6.3  Fianna Fáil performance under six leaders 1927–2007
6.4  Party gains and losses 2007
6.5  Transfer patterns at 2007 election (%)
6.6  Constituencies where transfers affected the outcome

7.1  Preference for government 2002 and 2007
7.2  Issues mentioned as influencing vote 2002 and 2007
7.3  Party preferences of various social groups
7.4  Fine Gael and Labour voters in different social classes 1997–2007
7.5  Closeness to a party and party choice.
7.6  Relationship between party choice and issue salience.
7.7  The TV debates 1997–2007
7.8  Party preferences by preference for government
7.9  A multivariate model of party choice
7.10 Impact of perceived leader competence on choice of government

8.1  Accuracy of campaign polls in predicting final outcome
8.2  Expectations from a poll of polls
8.3  Results of constituency polls
8.4  Raw and adjusted vote shares in final IMS and RED C polls
8.5  Raw and adjusted figures for final TNS mrbi poll
8.6  Differences between vote intention and reported vote in final RED C poll

9.1  Expected composition of next government, election day
9.2  Shortest and longest odds about government options, 1 January – 24 May 2007
9.3  Betting on winners in Dublin North constituency
9.4  Overrounds in election betting markets
9.5  Predictions of spread betting markets, election day

10.1 Readership of Irish national newspapers 2006
10.2 Prominence of campaign coverage in the Irish press
Cover: the Irish electorate can on occasion be a ferocious creature capable of meting out savage treatment to those by whom it is dissatisfied. Yet, in 2007, one man seemed to have it eating out of his hand, while it showed relatively little interest in the blue alternative.