Politics in the Republic of Ireland

While Ireland was once perceived as being characterised by conservatism, Catholicism and cultural isolation, by the first decades of the twenty-first century it had become a country of cultural vitality, economic dynamism, and rapid social change. Its politics reflected this new air of liveliness. New patterns of government formation, challenges to the established political parties, ever-deepening if sometimes ambivalent involvement in the process of European integration, and sustained discussion of gender issues were among these developments – along with evidence, revealed by several tribunals of inquiry, that Irish politics was not so free of corruption as many had assumed.

The Celtic Tiger phenomenon in the first years of the new century suggested that Ireland had found a miraculous recipe for rapid and unending economic growth, but the illusory nature of much of that supposed economic expansion was exposed by the crash that occurred in 2008 and the subsequent recession. This prompted a certain amount of questioning of the architecture of the political system: the phrase ‘political reform’ was widely employed in political debate, and even the recovery in the economy from 2014 onwards did not quell the discussion.

The fully revised sixth edition of Politics in the Republic of Ireland examines and explores all aspects of Irish politics in these interesting times. It builds on the reputation that the book has established following the publication of the first edition in 1992: since then it has become the standard textbook used for the teaching of Irish politics in universities in Ireland and further afield.

Politics in the Republic of Ireland combines real substance with a highly readable style. It is aimed particularly at undergraduates studying Irish politics, but will meet the needs of all those who are interested in knowing how politics and government operate in Ireland.

John Coakley is a Professor of Politics at Queen’s University Belfast and Fellow of the Geary Institute for Public Policy at University College Dublin.

Michael Gallagher is Head of the Department of Political Science at Trinity College, University of Dublin.
‘Quite simply this is the best introduction to modern Irish politics that has ever been produced. The editors have assembled an impressive cast of the relevant experts on all the expected themes. Now in its sixth edition this book just keeps getting better and better.’

Paul Mitchell, London School of Economics, UK

‘Politics in the Republic of Ireland is the place to start for an understanding of Irish politics. This lively new up-to-date sixth edition confirms the book’s place at the top of any reading list.’

R. Kenneth Carty, University of British Columbia, Canada

‘This is the most comprehensive, authoritative and insightful guide to the Irish political system and the forces which shape it. There is, quite simply, no better textbook on Irish politics. No student or scholar of contemporary Ireland should be without a copy.’

Mary C. Murphy, University College Cork, Ireland
Politics in the Republic of Ireland
Sixth Edition

Edited by John Coakley and Michael Gallagher
Contents

List of figures ix
List of tables x
List of boxes xi
Notes on contributors xii
Preface xv
Glossary xvii
Acronyms xix

PART 1
The context of Irish politics 1

1 The foundations of statehood 3
JOHN COAKLEY

The legacy of British rule 3
The transition to independence 11
The consolidation of statehood 15
Conclusion 25

2 Society and political culture 30
JOHN COAKLEY

Political culture and its importance 30
Stability and change in Irish society 32
Ireland's changing political culture 39
A divided political culture? 50
Conclusion 51

3 Politics, the constitution and the judiciary 57
MICHAEL GALLAGHER

The background: the Irish Free State constitution 58
The main features of the constitution 60
Amendment of the constitution 62
vi Contents

Judicial development of the constitution 66
The debate on constitutional change 75
Conclusion 80

PART II
Representative democracy at work 87

4 The electoral system 89
DAVID M. FARRELL AND RICHARD SINNOTT

Proportional representation in Ireland 89
How PR-STV works 92
The political consequences of PR-STV 100
Conclusion 107

5 Parties and the party system 111
LIAM WEEKS

Parties and party systems 111
The parties 113
Classification and evolution of the party system 120
The changing party system? 122
Party organisation 123
Party finance 129
Conclusion 132

6 Voting behaviour 137
KEVIN CUNNINGHAM AND MICHAEL MARSH

Analysing voting behaviour 137
Explanations of voting choice 139
Leaders and candidates 150
Other aspects of voting 155
Conclusion 158

7 The Oireachtas: president and parliament 164
MICHAEL GALLACHER

The president 164
The role of parliament: theory and practice 166
Appointment and dismissal of governments 170
Making policy 172
Scrutinising the behaviour of government 178
Seanad Éireann 183
A weak parliament? 185
Conclusion 187
8 The constituency role of Dáil deputies
MICHAEL GALLAGHER AND LEE KOMITO
The nature of constituency work 191
Causes of constituency work 201
Consequences of TDs’ constituency work 208
Conclusion 211

9 Women in politics
YVONNE GALLIGAN AND FIONA BUCKLEY
Women in society 217
Women in political institutions 220
Causes of the under-representation of women 228
Consequences of the under-representation of women 230
Conclusion 234

PART III
Policy and administration

10 The government and the Taoiseach
EOIN O’MALLEY AND SHANE MARTIN
Government formation 244
Taoiseach and cabinet 249
Ministers and departments 257
Monitoring Irish government 262
Conclusion 265

11 The policy-making process
GARY MURPHY
Public policy and bureaucracy 270
Public policy and interest groups 273
Sectional groups 277
Cause centred groups 282
Lobbying and the democratic process 286
Conclusion 291

12 The media and politics
KEVIN RAFTER
Media and democracy 296
The Irish media sector 297
Media, parliament and government 303
Media and elections 307
The media in a changing world 313
Conclusion 315
Contents

PART IV

Ireland in a wider world

13 Northern Ireland and the British dimension

JOHN COAKLEY

Northern Ireland and the South 324
The Irish–British relationship 328
The Good Friday Agreement 331
Towards a stable political system? 338
Conclusion 343

14 Europe and the international dimension

BRIGID LAFFAN AND BEN TONRA

The external environment 350
European Union institutions 353
Public opinion and attitudes towards Europe 358
Public policy and European governance 361
Emerging challenges 365
Conclusion 367

APPENDICES

JOHN COAKLEY

1 Demographic data 372
2 Electoral data 374
3 Political office holders 383
4 Government departments, 1924–2017 388
5 Biographical notes on major political figures 391
6 Chronology of main political events 400

Index 403
# Figures

1.1 Electorate as percentage of population, 1828–1973
2.1 Urban population, non-agrarian population, literacy and language, 1841–2016
2.2 Weekly church attendance, Ireland, 1973–2014
2.3 Place of birth of Irish population, census years, 1981–2016
4.1 Sample PR-STV ballot paper, 2016
5.1 Electoral support for Irish parties, 1922–2016
5.2 Effective numbers of parties in Ireland, 1922–2016
6.1 Social basis of party support, 1969–2016
6.2 Distributions of respondents’ interpretations of each party’s left–right position and their own left–right position, 2016
13.1 Northern Ireland Assembly election results, 1998–2017
14.1 Images of the EU in Ireland, 2000–17
# Tables

1.1 Irish parliamentary representation, 1801–1918
2.1 Trust in selected institutions, Ireland and EU, 2016
4.1 Quota by district magnitude in PR-STV
4.2 The Irish presidential election, 1990
4.3 Counting and transfer of votes in Limerick City, 2016 general election
5.1 Party membership in Ireland, 1985–2014
5.2 Income of political parties in Ireland, 2015
6.1 Stability of the vote, 2011–16 and 2007–16
6.2 Party identification, 2016
6.3 Vote by normal party preference of respondent’s father, 2007
6.4 Vote choice by church practice, 2016
6.5 Issues mentioned as influencing vote, 1997–2016
6.6 Relative importance of candidate and party in voters’ choice, 2016
7.1 Number and duration of governments in Ireland, 1923–2016
7.2 Origins of governments, 1948–2016
8.1 Extent of contact between citizens and TDs, 2002–16
9.1 Women in the judiciary, 2009–17
9.2 Civil service grades by biological sex, 2013–17
9.4 Women’s representation in lower houses of parliament in EU28, 2017
9.5 Ministerial office-holding by gender, 1977–2017
9.6 Women councillors elected at local elections, 1974–2014
12.1 Select newspaper circulation, 1990–2016
12.2 Newspapers regularly used for political information, 2011
12.3 Television audience, share of total viewers, 2005–15
12.4 Radio listenership, share of adults, 2010–16
12.5 Irish leaders’ debates, 1982–2016
13.1 North–South implementation bodies, 2016
13.2 Distribution of seats in the Northern Ireland Assembly, 1998–2017
14.1 Irish party membership of European Parliament groups, 2017
### Boxes

1.1 Extension of voting rights, 1793–1973
1.2 Civil service continuity, 1914–24
3.1 Major changes made to the Irish constitution since it was adopted in 1937
3.2 The ‘X’ case of 1992
3.3 Major judicial decisions with political ramifications made by Supreme Court
3.4 Possible changes to the Irish constitution
3.5 Should the constitution explicitly protect socio-economic rights?
4.1 The constitution and the electoral system
5.1 The role of independents
6.1 Role of social background, party and issues in different explanations of vote choice
7.1 The nomination of presidential candidates
7.2 The stages of a bill initiated in Dáil Éireann
7.3 The composition of Seanad Éireann
8.1 Irish politicians and the perceived delivery of largesse
9.1 Firsts for women in politics
9.2 Leading women politicians
10.1 The cabinet procedure
10.2 Public sector reform
11.1 Social partnership and pay agreements in Ireland since 1987
11.2 Tribunals of inquiry
13.1 The Good Friday Agreement, 1998
14.1 EU treaties
14.2 Ireland’s EU commissioners, 1973–2017
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