



## IRISH ELECTION SURVEY, SUMMER 2007

Interviewer's Number

Constituency  Cluster Code  Respondent Code

Date of Interview: Day  Month

### Self-Completion Questionnaire

Thank you for having completed the Irish Election Survey, 2007. We would now ask you to please complete this final section of the questionnaire.

Most questions will require you to put a tick (✓) in a single box or series of boxes. For example:

Very Satisfied <sub>1</sub>      Fairly Satisfied....<sub>2</sub>      Not very Satisfied...<sub>3</sub>      Not at all Satisfied.....<sub>4</sub>

Please complete using a blue or black pen and mark your answers as clearly as possible. Only you should fill in the questionnaire, and not anyone else at your address. ALL ANSWERS WILL BE TREATED AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

**EVERYONE WHO COMPLETES AND RETURNS THIS FINAL SECTION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE WILL BE ENTERED INTO A LOTTERY, WITH A FIRST PRIZE OF €1,000; A SECOND PRIZE OF €500 AND THREE €100 PRIZES. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!**

**Q1. What has been the issue most important to you personally in this election?**

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**Q2. What has been the issue second most important to you personally in this election?**

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**Q3. What do you think is the most important political problems facing Ireland today?**

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**Q4. What do you think is the second most important political problems facing Ireland today?**

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**Q5. Thinking of the most important political problem facing Ireland which party do you think is best in dealing with it?**

Fianna Fail....<sub>1</sub> Fine Gael ....<sub>2</sub> Labour....<sub>3</sub> Greens....<sub>4</sub> PDs....<sub>5</sub> Sinn Fein....<sub>6</sub>

**Q6. And the second most important political problem facing Ireland which party do you think is best in dealing with it?**

Fianna Fail....<sub>1</sub> Fine Gael ....<sub>2</sub> Labour....<sub>3</sub> Greens....<sub>4</sub> PDs....<sub>5</sub> Sinn Fein....<sub>6</sub>

**Q7. During the election campaign in May did a candidate or anyone from a political party contact you to persuade you to vote for them?**

Yes.....<sub>1</sub> No.....<sub>2</sub>

**Q8. Did you discuss the election with family, friends or acquaintances?**

Yes .....<sub>1</sub> No.....<sub>2</sub> Don't Know.....<sub>3</sub>

**Q9. Did you see information about political parties and candidates on the Internet?**

Yes .....<sub>1</sub> No.....<sub>2</sub> Don't Know.....<sub>3</sub>

**Q10. On the whole are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in Ireland?**

Very Satisfied ... <sub>1</sub> Fairly Satisfied.....<sub>2</sub> Not very Satisfied.....<sub>3</sub> Not at all Satisfied.....<sub>4</sub>

**Q11. Some people say that no matter who people vote for it won't make any difference to what happens. Others say that who people vote for can make a big difference to what happens. Using the scale below – where ONE means that voting can make a big difference and FIVE means that voting won't make any difference to what happens, where would you place yourself? Put a tick (✓) in one box**

Who people vote for CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE  → who people vote for WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE *don't know*

1	2	3	4	5	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">11</span>

**Q12. How good or bad a job do you think the Fianna Fail/Progressive Democrat government did over the past five years in terms of \_\_\_\_\_ [the Main issue mentioned at Q3 above]. Did they do a:**

Very Good Job ... <sub>1</sub>    Good Job .... <sub>2</sub>    Bad Job.. <sub>3</sub>    Very Bad Job..... <sub>4</sub>    Don't know .. <sub>5</sub>

**Q13. Would you say that any of the parties in Ireland represents your views reasonably well?**

Yes... <sub>1</sub>    No..... <sub>2</sub> →go to Q15    don't know <sub>3</sub> →go to Q15

**Q14. Which party represents your views best?**

Fianna Fail ..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	Green Party..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	Progressive Democrats ..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
Fine Gael ..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	Labour..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	Sinn Fein..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>
Other (specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>		

**Q15. Regardless of how you feel about the parties, would you say that any of the individual party leaders at the election in May of this year represents your views reasonably well?**

Yes... <sub>1</sub>    No..... <sub>2</sub> →go to Q17    don't know <sub>3</sub> →go to Q17

**Q16. Which leader?**

Bertie Ahern ..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	Trevor Sargent..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	Michael McDowell... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
Enda Kenny ..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	Pat Rabbitte ..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	Gerry Adams..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>
Other (specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>		

**Q17. In politics people sometimes talk of left and right. Where would you place each of the following parties on a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means the left and 10 means the right? Please tick (✓) one box.**

	LEFT <span style="display: inline-block; border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 150px; margin: 0 10px;"></span> → RIGHT		<i>Don't know</i>
FIANNA FAIL	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
FINE GAEL	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
GREEN PARTY	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
LABOUR PARTY	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
SINN FEIN	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		

**Q18. And Where would you place yourself on a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means the left and 10 means the right? Please tick (✓) one box**

	LEFT	→										RIGHT	
SELF	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		

don't know

11
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**Q19. How HONEST do you think each of the following politicians are, using the 0-10 scale below where 0 means you think that politician IS NOT VERY HONEST and 10 means you think that politician IS VERY HONEST? Put a tick (✓) in one box on each line**

	Not very honest	→										Is very honest	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		DK
1. Bertie Ahern													
2. Enda Kenny													

**Q20. To what extent do you think the following politicians are IN TOUCH WITH ORDINARY PEOPLE? Please rate each politician on a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means you think that politician is NOT IN TOUCH with ordinary people and 10 means you think that politician IS IN TOUCH with ordinary people. Put a tick (✓) in one box on each line**

	Not in touch	→										In touch	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		DK
1. Bertie Ahern													
2. Enda Kenny													

**Q21. How good do you think each of these politicians would be at RUNNING THE COUNTRY if they were in government. Please rate each politician on a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means you think that the politician WOULD NOT BE VERY GOOD at running the country and 10 means that you think the politician WOULD BE VERY GOOD at running the country. Put a tick (✓) in one box on each line.**

	Not very good	→										Very good	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		DK
1. Bertie Ahern													
2. Enda Kenny													

**Q22. Thinking back to how you cast your ballot and who you gave your first preference to in May did you consider giving your first preference to any other party?**

Yes.....  <sub>1</sub>      No.....  <sub>2</sub>

**Q22a. Which one? Please tick (✓) one box**

Fianna Fail..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	Labour Party..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
Fianna Gael..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	Progressive Democrats..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
Green Party..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	Sein Fein..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>

**Q23. And were there any parties that you would never vote for?**

Yes.....  <sub>1</sub>      No.....  <sub>2</sub>

**Q23a. Which one? Please tick (✓) all that apply**

Fianna Fail..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	Labour Party..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
Fianna Gael..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	Progressive Democrats..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
Green Party..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	Sein Fein..... <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>

**Q24. During the election campaign, would you say there were major differences between the parties, minor differences or no differences at all?**

Major Differences.....<sub>1</sub>      Minor Differences.....<sub>2</sub>      No difference at all.....<sub>3</sub>

**Q25. There are different opinions about which people a TD should primarily represent. What is your opinion? Please rank all of the options below in importance. Mark the most important as 1, the next most important as 2 and so on.**

	Rank
All those in the constituency who voted for the TD	
All those in the constituency who voted for the TDs party	
All voters in the constituency	
All those in the country who voted for the TDs party	
Members of a particular social group	
All voters in the country	

**Q26. People hold different views on political issues. Please tell me to what extent you Disagree or Agree with each statement**

Strongly Disagree      Disagree      Neither Agree nor Disagree      Agree      Strongly Agree

1. Immigrants should be required to adapt to the customs of Ireland..... <sub>1</sub>.....<sub>2</sub>.....<sub>3</sub>.....<sub>4</sub>.....<sub>5</sub>.
2. Politicians should not intervene in the economy..... <sub>1</sub>.....<sub>2</sub>.....<sub>3</sub>.....<sub>4</sub>.....<sub>5</sub>
3. Stronger measures should be taken to protect the environment..... <sub>1</sub>.....<sub>2</sub>.....<sub>3</sub>.....<sub>4</sub>.....<sub>5</sub>
4. Same-sex marriages should be prohibited by law..... <sub>1</sub>.....<sub>2</sub>.....<sub>3</sub>.....<sub>4</sub>.....<sub>5</sub>
5. People who break the law should be given stiffer sentences..... <sub>1</sub>.....<sub>2</sub>.....<sub>3</sub>.....<sub>4</sub>.....<sub>5</sub>
6. income and wealth should be redistributed towards ordinary people..... <sub>1</sub>.....<sub>2</sub>.....<sub>3</sub>.....<sub>4</sub>.....<sub>5</sub>
7. What young people need most of all is strict discipline by their parents. <sub>1</sub>.....<sub>2</sub>.....<sub>3</sub>.....<sub>4</sub>.....<sub>5</sub>

**Q27. Here are a few more things that people say about politics. Please tell me to what extent you Disagree or Agree with each statement**

Strongly Disagree      Disagree      Neither Agree nor Disagree      Agree      Strongly Agree

- 1. Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me cannot really understand what is going on..... 1..... 2..... 3..... 4..... 5
- 2. The ordinary person has no influence on politics..... 1..... 2..... 3..... 4..... 5
- 3. I think I am better informed about politics and government than most people..... 1..... 2..... 3..... 4..... 5
- 4. In today's world, an Irish government can't really influence what happens in this country ... 1..... 2..... 3..... 4..... 5
- 5. It doesn't really matter which political party is in power, in the end things go on much the same..... 1..... 2..... 3..... 4..... 5

**Q28. Before the 2002 General Election, the following promises were made by one or both of the parties who afterwards formed the government. For each of these, do you think the promise was fully met, partially met, or not met at all?**

- 1. A promise to increase the numbers of Gardai by 2,000      Fully met 1      Partially met 2      Not Met at all 3      Don't know 4
- 2. A promise to take those on the minimum wage out of the income tax net      Fully met 1      Partially met 2      Not Met at all 3      Don't know 4
- 3. A promise to end waiting lists in our hospitals      Fully met 1      Partially met 2      Not Met at all 3      Don't know 4
- 4. A promise to ensure that the average size of classes for children under 9 is less than 20      Fully met 1      Partially met 2      Not Met at all 3      Don't know 4

**Q29. Do you think that house prices in Ireland will go up, stay the same or fall in the next year?**

Will go up 1      Stay the same 2      Will fall 3      Don't know 4

**Q30. Please record your date of birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_ year

**Q31. Please tick to indicate male or female:** Male ..... 1      Female..... 2

**THANK-YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY**