



DUBLIN NORTH WEST (3 seats)

Electorate.....**51,951** Spoiled**423**
 Total Poll.....**31,387** Total Valid Poll.....**30,964**
 Turnout.....**60.42%** Quota**7,742**

Elected



NOEL AHERN: A TD for the past 15 years, Noel Ahern is Minister of State for the Environment with special responsibility for housing and urban renewal. The 62-year-old is also attached to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and is in charge of the National Drugs Strategy. He is also a member of the Cabinet sub-committee on social inclusion. A

brother of Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, he also lives in Drumcondra and has a strong voting base in Glasnevin. This has contributed to him topping the poll in the last two elections. He is a former CIÉ official. He was a member of Dublin City Council for 17 years until his appointment as a junior minister in 2002. He is a former national executive member of the Transport Salaried Staffs Association.



PAT CAREY: Although his political obituary had been written by some commentators, Pat Carey survived in this hard-fought constituency. Fianna Fail did well to take two of the three seats, and Carey now has a strong claim for ministerial promotion in a Fianna Fail-led new government. A hardworking constituency representative, and an impressive Dáil performer, the Kerry-born former

schoolteacher began his political career in Dublin City Council. In the last Dail, he was co-chairman of the British-Irish inter-parliamentary body at a critical phase in the Northern peace process.



RÓISÍN SHORTALL: Labour's transport spokeswoman Róisín Shortall was first elected to the Dáil in 1992 when the party won an unprecedented 33 seats. She was one of the few TDs elected for the first time that year to survive the next general election. Recently turned 53, she is a former primary school teacher who taught at St Joseph's school for deaf children. Her

first political office was as a Dublin City councillor, a role she held for 13 years until 2004 when legislation prohibited Oireachtas members from holding a dual mandate on a local authority. She was critical of her own former party leader Ruairi Quinn and refused to take a frontbench portfolio after the 2002 election. Originally perceived as strident, she has developed as a sharp, analytical spokeswoman, with a thorough knowledge of her brief.

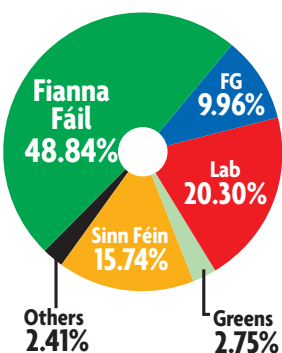
Count

COUNT	1	2	3
Ahern, Noel* (FF)	7,913		
Carey, Pat* (FF)	7,211	(+228) 7,439	(+411) 7,850
Shortall, Roisin* (Lab)	6,286	(+678) 6,964	(+2,291) 9,255
Ellis, Dessie (SF)	4,873	(+378) 5,251	(+406) 5,657
Tormey, Dr Bill (FG)	3,083	(+208) 3,291	
Fitzgerald, Declan (GP)	853		
O'Neill, John (Ind)	505		
Martin, Owen (WP)	240		
Non-transferable		106	183
ELECTED:	Ahern		Carey, Shortall
ELIMINATED:	Fitzgerald, Martin, O'Neill	Tormey	

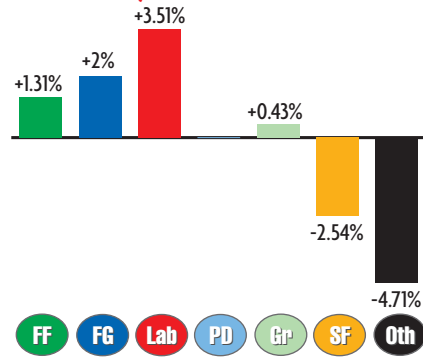


Fianna Fáil TD Pat Carey, who retained his seat in Dublin North West, at the RDS in Dublin as the count began on Friday. Photograph: Julien Behal/PA

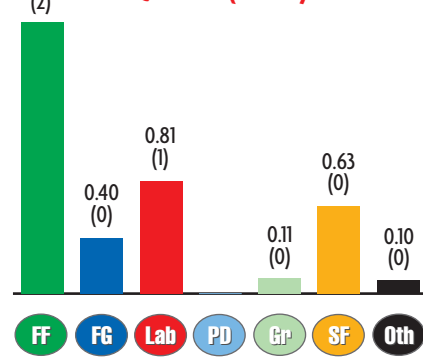
Share of the vote



Gains / losses since 2002



Quotas (seats)



Story of the count

Minister of State for Housing Noel Ahern, who holds the safest seat in the constituency having topped the poll on the last two occasions, was again elected on the first count with 7,913 seats, just clear of the 7,742 quota.

While the Taoiseach's brother headed the poll, the preferences of Dublin North West constituents for all three seats were clear on the first round.

Ahern's running mate and outgoing TD Pat Carey, whose seat was believed to be under threat from Sinn Féin's Dessie Ellis, did exceptionally well on first preferences, with 7,211 votes.

Labour's Róisín Shortall also put in an

impressive first-count showing, with 6,286 first-preference votes, giving her a firm basis from which to take a seat.

Both Carey and Shortall were elected on the third count following the elimination of Fine Gael's Dr Bill Tormey, whose transfers pushed Shortall's total to an impressive 9,255 votes.

Her success briefly inspired hope that an alternative to a Fianna Fáil-led government could still be achievable.

"I hope it is still possible to put together an alternative government; we fought this election on the basis of the need for change... I'm keeping my fingers crossed," she said.

Shortall said she did not want to see her party go into government with Fianna Fáil. "I'm not really interested in that. We fought the election on the basis of wanting to change the government, to get Fianna Fáil out of government."

Ellis, a Dublin city councillor, had been strongly tipped to take a seat, having received 18 per cent of the first preferences in the 2002 election, ahead of Shortall. But Dublin North West was not going to buck the trend of the mediocre showing nationally for Sinn Féin. This time Ellis fell a good deal short of the quota, with 4,873 first-preference votes.

— Olivia Kelly

Overall change: no change

Outgoing TDs

Noel AhernFF
 Pat CareyFF
 Róisín ShortallLab