

Overall change: Labour loss, Green gain

Outgoing TDs

Liam Aylward	FF
John McGuinness	FF
MJ Nolan	FF
Phil Hogan	FG
Seamus Pattison	Lab



CARLOW-KILKENNY (5 seats)

Electorate	102,686	Spoiled	705
Total Poll	68,359	Total Valid Poll	67,654
Turnout	66.57%	Quota	11,276

Elected



BOBBY AYLWARD: A member of Kilkenny County Council since 1992 Bobby Aylward carries on the "heirloom" seat vacated by his brother Liam, who stepped aside following his election as an MEP in 2004 in the East/Leinster constituency. The new TD runs the family farm in Mullinavat in rural south Kilkenny and is deeply involved in the GAA through his association with the Ballyhale-Shamrocks hurling club. He was chairman of Kilkenny County Council from 2003/04 and as a long-standing councillor, chaired a number of organisations. He is currently a member of the Southern Regional Fisheries Board, having joined it in 2000. In the county council he represents the Piltown local electoral area, where he topped the poll in the 2004 local elections. His brother had previously held the same council seat.



JOHN MCGUINNESS: A Kilkenny city-based politician, McGuinness was first elected to the Dáil on his first try in 1997. A prominent businessman in the city, he was the third generation of his family to serve as mayor of the borough of Kilkenny from 1996-7. The 52-year-old was a member of Kilkenny County Council from 1991 until 2004, and a member of Kilkenny Corporation from 1979 until 2004. He is vice-chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. A party maverick, he has been an outspoken backbencher on a number of issues during the Government's term. Most recently he expressed concern at the Government plan for co-location of private hospitals on public hospital grounds and called on the Minister for Health to clarify it would not affect delivery in the public system.



PHIL HOGAN: The Kilkenny city-based TD has been returned to the Dáil in every election since 1989 and is Fine Gael's enterprise, trade and employment spokesman. Hogan (47) is the party's national director of organisation and is a key strategist. Originally an auctioneer, his career in politics started when he was elected to Kilkenny county council in 1982. He served as a senator from 1987 until his election to the Dáil in 1989. In February 1995 he resigned after just two months as Minister of State for Finance in a row over the release to the media of budget provisions from his office, before they were announced in the Dáil. He served as chairman of the parliamentary party from 1995 to 2001. In 2002 he ran for the party's leadership in 2002 after Michael Noonan's resignation.



MJ NOLAN: Co Carlow-based TD MJ Nolan was first elected to the Dáil in November 1982 on his first attempt. He was re-elected in every subsequent election until he lost his seat in 1997, when he also failed to gain election to the Seanad. He regained his seat in 2002. The 56-year-old TD started in national politics when then taoiseach Charles Haughey nominated him to the Seanad in 1981, where he served until his election the following year, and again from 2001 to 2002. In 1991 he was one of the "gang of four" who challenged Mr Haughey's leadership. He is son of former Fianna Fáil minister Tom Nolan who was a TD for Carlow-Kilkenny from 1965 to 1982. His brother Enda is a member of Carlow County Council.

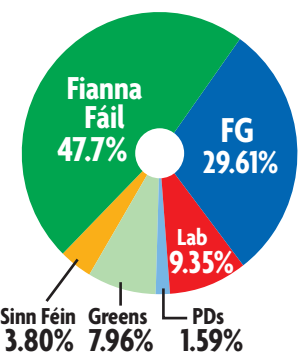


MARY WHITE: The Green Party's deputy leader has been talking about a "mood for change" since she stood in her first general election in 1997. Some 10 years later, for herself at least, the prediction has come true and she becomes the first woman to represent Carlow-Kilkenny in the Dáil. Based in Borris, the councillor was first elected to Carlow County Council in 1999. White stood for the party in the 2004 European elections in the East Leinster constituency, which helped raise her profile. She attracted support in both Carlow and Kilkenny and campaigned on issues such as water quality and the development of a biofuel industry. An environmental activist, organic grower and keen hillwalker, she has co-authored a walking guide to the Blackstairs mountains and an account of an anti-mining campaign.

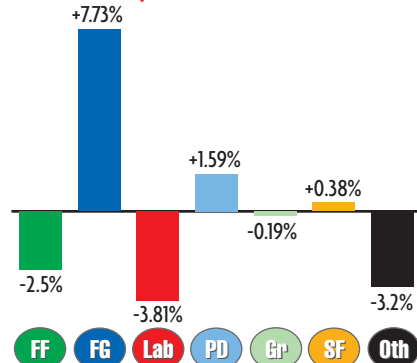
Count

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
McGuinness, John* (FF)	11,635									
Aylward, Bobby (FF)	11,600									
Nolan, M J* (FF)	9,037	(+444) 9,481	(+212) 9,693	(+208) 9,901	(+449) 10,350	(+107) 10,457	(+679) 11,136	(+1,457) 12,593		
Hogan, Phil* (FG)	8,589	(+84) 8,673	(+52) 8,725	(+26) 8,751	(+305) 9,056	(+487) 9,543	(+1,817) 11,360			
Phelan, John Paul (FG)	6,494	(+54) 6,548	(+20) 6,568	(+36) 6,604	(+237) 6,841	(+520) 7,361	(+809) 8,170	(+1,329) 9,499	(+316) 9,815	
White, Mary (GP)	5,386	(+147) 5,533	(+27) 5,560	(+13) 5,573	(+693) 6,266	(+429) 6,695	(+710) 7,405	(+2,478) 9,883	(+581) 10,464	
Browne, Fergal (FG)	4,948	(+136) 5,084	(+3) 5,087	(+5) 5,092	(+98) 5,190	(+36) 5,226				
Townsend, Jim (Lab)	3,401	(+128) 3,529	(+5) 3,534	(+2) 3,536	(+196) 3,732	(+1,553) 5,285	(+1,104) 6,389			
O'Brien, Michael (Lab)	2,923	(+16) 2,939	(+18) 2,957	(+15) 2,972	(+332) 3,304					
Function, Kathleen (SF)	2,568	(+29) 2,597	(+22) 2,619	(+19) 2,638						
Lacey, Walter (PD)	1,073									
Non-transferable		35	0	0	328	172	107	1125	420	
ELECTED:	Aylward, McGuinness				Function	O'Brien	Browne	Hogan	Nolan	White+
ELIMINATED:	Lacey									

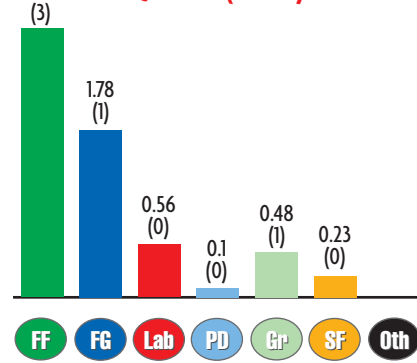
Share of the vote



Gains / losses since 2002



Quotas (seats)



Story of the count

Mary White, deputy leader of the Green Party, made electoral history by becoming the first woman elected to represent Carlow-Kilkenny and her party's first female TD. She attracted transfers from all parties and won the final seat on the ninth count, early on Saturday, without reaching the quota. The Carlow councillor described it as "a great day for the party".

Fianna Fáil scored a spectacular success by holding its three seats despite a decline in the party's overall share of the vote. Outgoing Kilkenny city-based TD John McGuinness and newcomer councillor Bobby Aylward from

south Kilkenny both exceeded the quota and were elected on the first count.

Later, there were jubilant scenes when MJ Nolan, the party's Carlow-based TD, was returned on the eighth count, defying media predictions that his seat was vulnerable.

The result was a disaster for Fine Gael which failed to capture a second seat despite a surge in its share of the vote to almost 30 per cent. Outgoing Kilkenny TD Phil Hogan, the party's national director of organisation, was re-elected on the seventh count.

There was bitter disappointment and anger

among party activists at the apparent collapse of Fine Gael's vote-management strategy. When Carlow candidate Senator Fergal Browne was eliminated, more of his transfers went to Labour than to his south Kilkenny running mate, Senator John Paul Phelan.

Labour's share of the vote was down almost four points and the party's supporters were despondent at the loss of a seat held for the last 46 years by Séamus Pattison, the former ceann comhairle and Europe's longest-serving parliamentarian, who is retiring from public life.

Michael Parsons