



WEXFORD (5 seats)

Electorate	103,562	Spoiled	827
Total Poll	69,443	Total Valid Poll	68,616
Turnout	67.05%	Quota	11,437

Overall change: **No change**

Outgoing TDs

John Browne	FF
Tony Dempsey	FF
Paul Kehoe	FG
Liam Twomey	FG
Brendan Howlin.....	Lab

Elected



JOHN BROWNE: There was no surprise when Browne headed the poll with 12,768 votes and was elected on the first count. Enniscorthy-based, he has been a strong performer since first elected to the Dáil in 1982. He is the outgoing Minister of State for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources with special responsibility for marine affairs. He was previously minister of state for agriculture. A strong supporter of Albert Reynolds in the 1990s, he was a minister of state in the former taoiseach's governments. Politically shrewd and competent, he is the proverbial "safe pair of hands" as a TD and minister of state.



SEÁN CONNICK: The retirement of Tony Dempsey made way for New Ross-based Seán Connick to take a seat. A wheelchair-user as a result of a road traffic accident in 1977, he has been a member of Wexford County Council since 2004. He topped the poll in the New Ross electoral area in the 2004 local elections with 1,914 first-preference votes. He has been a member of New Ross town council since 1999. A businessman who owns a storage and distribution centre, he is well-known for his community work, serving as chairman of the Wexford Network for the Status of People with Disabilities and as chairman of the New Ross Special Olympics Host Town.



BRENDAN HOWLIN: Brendan Howlin is known to still harbour ambitions to be Labour leader. Fianna Fáil has always regarded him as more amenable to a coalition deal than Pat Rabbitte and other party TDs. First elected to the Dáil in 1987, he began the last Dáil as finance spokesman and finished as justice spokesman where he excelled in shadowing Minister for Justice Michael McDowell. A former national teacher, he began his political career when he was elected to Wexford County Council in 1985. He was a close friend of former Labour leader, tánaiste and long serving Wexford TD, the late Brendan Corish.



PAUL KEHOE: Paul Kehoe is Fine Gael chief whip, a post he was given after he facilitated Dr Liam Twomey's move from the Independent benches to Fine Gael in the last Dáil. He was first elected in 2002 to the seat formerly held by Ivan Yates, who retired from politics and is best known now as a bookmaker and election pundit. Kehoe is from Coolteigue, Bree, Enniscorthy and was a farmer before his election to the Dáil. His first Dáil post within Fine Gael was deputy spokesman on communications, marine and natural resources. He joined Fine Gael 17 years ago and was the party's county youth officer.

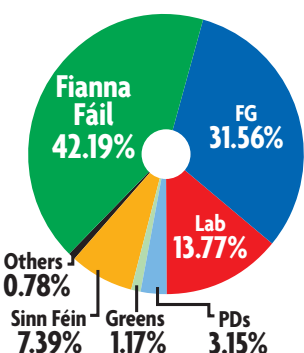


MICHAEL D'ARCY: He is a new TD who took the seat of fellow Fine Gael TD Dr Liam Twomey, who joined the party during the last Dáil after being elected as an Independent. Michael D'Arcy comes from a local political dynasty – his father, also Michael, represented Wexford in the Dáil from 1987 to 2002. He also served as a minister of state for agriculture and was a senator. The new TD began his Dáil journey when he was elected to Wexford County Council in 2004, topping the poll with 1,952 first preferences. D'Arcy was educated at Gorey CBS and the University of London, and was a farmer before concentrating on his bid for a Dáil seat.

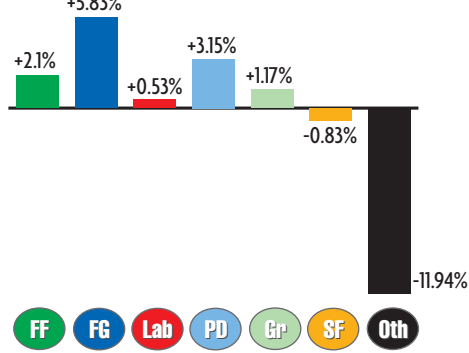
Count

COUNT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Browne, John* (FF)	12,768						
Connick, Sean (FF)	9,826	(+570) 10,396	(+80) 10,476	(+386) 10,862	(+988) 11,850		
Howlin, Brendan* (Lab)	9,445	(+95) 9,540	(+468) 10,008	(+405) 10,413	(+1,439) 11,852		
Kehoe, Paul* (FG)	8,459	(+169) 8,628	(+100) 8,728	(+203) 8,931	(+636) 9,567	(+3,312) 12,879	
D'Arcy, Michael W Jnr (FG)	7,692	(+64) 7,756	(+105) 7,861	(+413) 8,274	(+456) 8,730	(+1,643) 10,373	(+1,300) 11,673
McDonald, Lisa (FF)	6,355	(+314) 6,669	(+88) 6,757	(+432) 7,189	(+563) 7,752	(+678) 8,430	(+142) 8,572
Twomey, Liam* (FG)	5,507	(+24) 5,531	(+147) 5,678	(+249) 5,927	(+381) 6,308		
Dwyer, John (SF)	5,068	(+57) 5,125	(+177) 5,302	(+129) 5,431			
O'Gorman, Colm (PD)	2,162	(+26) 2,188	(+134) 2,322				
Harpur, Tom (GP)	802	(+5) 807					
McGuire, Alan (Ind)	532	(+7) 539					
Non-transferable			47	105	968	675	0
ELECTED:	Browne				Connick, Howlin	Kehoe	D'Arcy
ELIMINATED:		Harpur, McGuire	O'Gorman	Dwyer	Twomey		

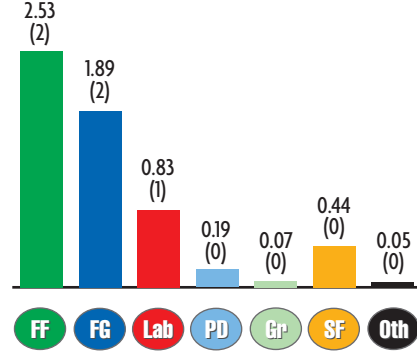
Share of the vote



Gains / losses since 2002



Quotas (seats)



Story of the count

Enniscorthy man John Browne, the outgoing Minister of State at the Department of Marine and Natural Resources, topped the poll and was elected on the first count. His Fianna Fáil colleague, Seán Connick of New Ross, a first-time candidate, was elected on the fifth count along with the Labour Party spokesman on justice Brendan Howlin. Connick (42) succeeds Fianna Fáil TD Tony Dempsey, who decided not to seek a second term. A wheelchair-user, Connick was paralysed after a road accident while cycling when he was aged 13.

Fianna Fáil failed to win the elusive third seat despite a strong showing by solicitor Lisa McDonald, who finished with 8,572 votes on the seventh and final count. A major casualty was Fine Gael's spokesman on health, Dr Liam Twomey, who lost the seat he won as an Independent in 2002. However, Fine Gael, which lost the seat to Twomey five years ago, retained its traditional two seats in the constituency following strong performances by outgoing TD Paul Kehoe and newcomer Michael D'Arcy jnr, both based in north Wexford.

D'Arcy (36) is a son of Michael D'Arcy snr who held a Fine Gael seat in Wexford for 25 years before losing out to Twomey in 2002. The prominent campaigner on clerical sex abuse, Colm O'Gorman, failed to win a Wexford seat for the Progressive Democrats and was eliminated on the third count. New Ross man John Dwyer of Sinn Féin, who transferred strongly to Howlin after his elimination on the fourth count, did not improve significantly on his first-preference performance of 2002.

Maria Pepper