

Post Local & European Elections Study - Data Report 2024



#### **Project Objectives**



The objective of An Coimisiún was to develop an ambitious National Election and Democracy Study (NEDS) for Ireland, with high quality polling to inform across other research strands, but also to provide the academic community, stakeholders, the public, the media and the political system with high quality information.

To begin this process, An Coimisiún conducted **pilot research surveys** in the runup to the two referendums on family and care in March 2024.

An Coimisiún subsequently conducted this post June 2024 local and European elections study as part of this ongoing process.

The requirement was for RED C to conduct a comprehensive nationally representative survey following the local and European elections in June 2024

- 1. The survey was designed to be **representative of all adults** in Ireland who are eligible to vote.
- 2. The survey was conducted in the week following the elections on 7<sup>th</sup> June
- 3. An Coimisiún also requested a breakdown of the questions regarding experience and satisfaction specifically for respondents with disabilities in line with its post electoral event review function under Section 68 of the Electoral Reform Act 2022

The survey covered a range of topics as shown below:

- 1. Voter behaviour in both the local and European elections
- 2. Experience of voting on the day and using the polling station
- 3. Views on political parties in Ireland
- 4. Satisfaction with and perceptions of Ireland's democracy and political system;
- 5. Attitudes, beliefs and knowledge on a range of issues drawing on best practice in election studies to facilitate comparative research

### Methodology

- Research was conducted online using RED C's bespoke online platform RED C Live
- Through an online panel of over 45,000 members, RED C Live allows us to reach a representative sample of the adult population 18+ across Ireland in a cost effective and timely manner.
- Quota controls were used to ensure a nationally representative sample of ROI adults aged 18+, with interlocking quotas to provide extra confidence in sample profile.
- Data was weighted across gender, age, region and social class so as to ensure a nationally representative sample based on latest CSO projections.
- A past vote party weight based on the last general election was also included
- Additional weights on the June local and European elections were also used.
- 3,045 respondents took part with fieldwork taking place from the  $8^{th}$   $15^{th}$  June 2024
- Note in some cases total scores and NETs may sum to 99%/101% due to rounding.



# Contents

Voter Turnout

Voter Experience

Voter Interest and Knowledge

Voter information

Election Studies



01

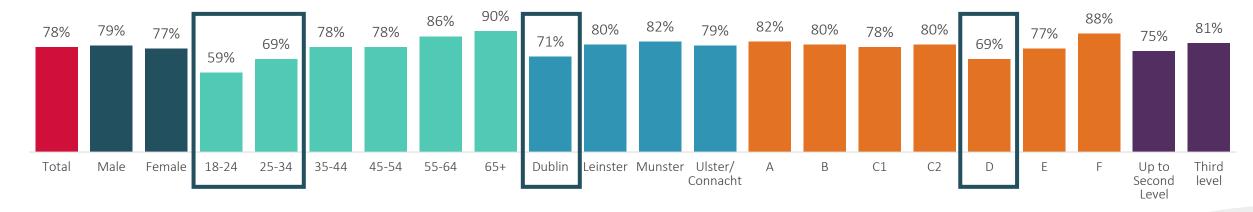
**Voter Turnout** 



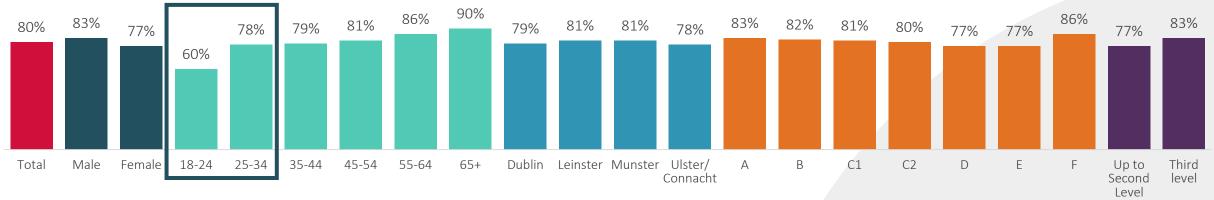
#### Claim on having voted x Demographics (achieved sample)



#### **Local Elections**



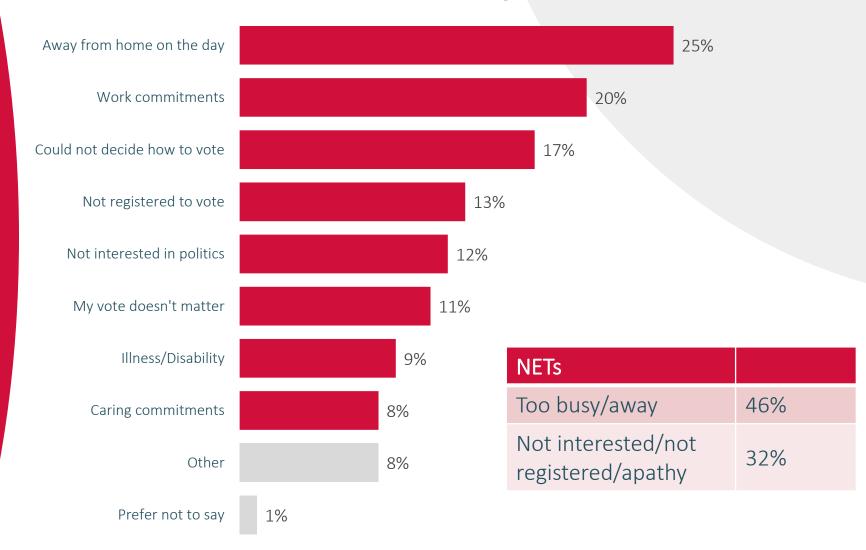
#### **European Elections**



# Reasons for not voting (Local)



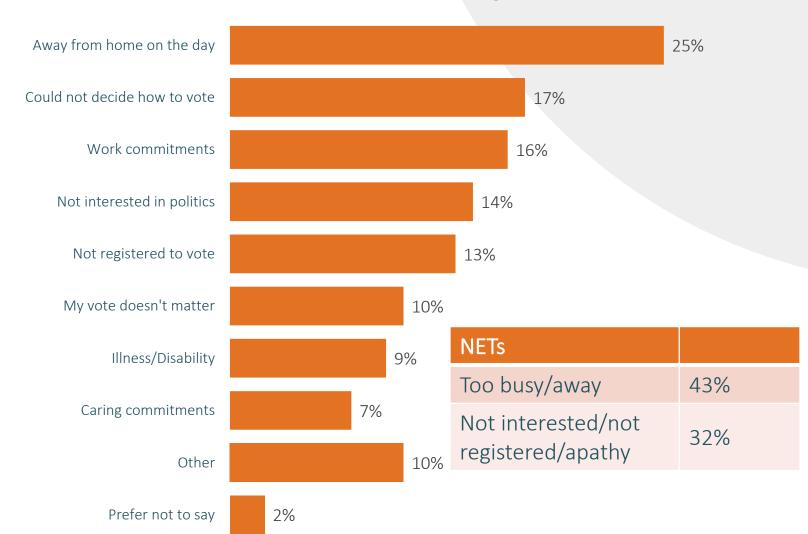
#### Reasons for not voting



# Reasons for not voting (European)

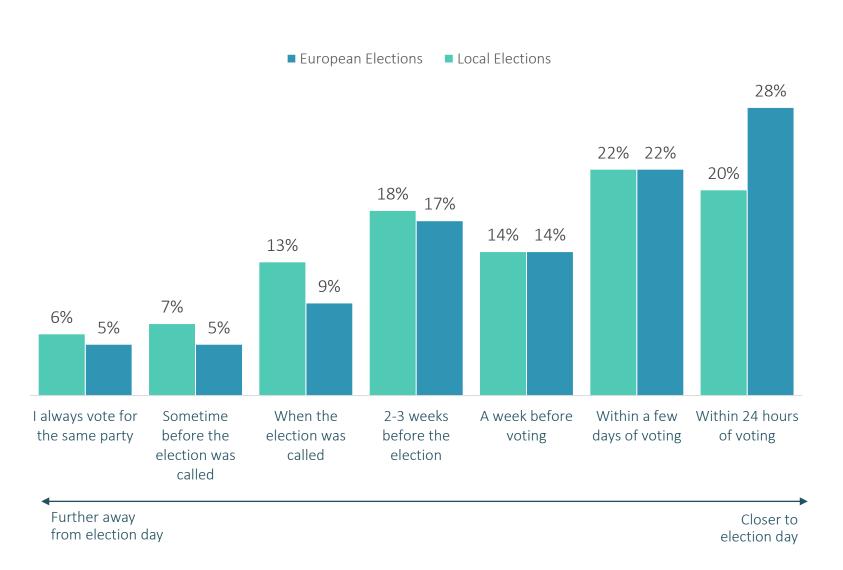


#### Reasons for not voting

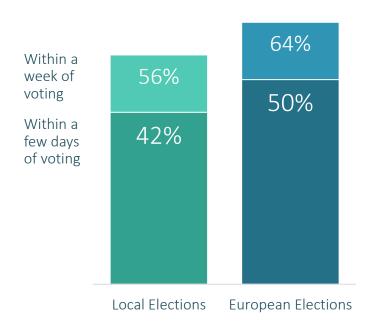


#### When did people make up their mind how to cast their vote?





Close to half of all voters only made up their mind how to vote in the last week before the election



## When made up mind on how to vote x demographics







Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

Local elections		Ger	nder		Age		Social	l Class		Reg	gion	
	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	ABC1	C2DEF	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster
Base; n=	(n=2441)	(n=1142)	(n=1291)	(n=493)	(n=1056)	(n=892)	(n=1318)	(n=1123)	(n=645)	(n=689)	(n=669)	(n=438)
Within 24 hours of voting	20%	20%	21%	26%	19%	19%	20%	20%	23%	19%	19%	20%
Within a few days of voting	22%	20%	23%	23%	23%	20%	25%	19%	23%	22%	22%	17%
A week before voting	14%	15%	14%	14%	16%	14%	16%	13%	14%	14%	13%	17%
2-3 weeks before the election	18%	19%	17%	15%	18%	19%	17%	18%	18%	18%	15%	22%
When the election was called	13%	13%	13%	6%	13%	17%	10%	15%	10%	13%	15%	13%
Sometime before the election was called	7%	8%	6%	8%	7%	6%	5%	8%	6%	6%	9%	7%
I always vote for the same party	6%	7%	6%	7%	5%	7%	6%	6%	6%	8%	6%	5%
NET within a week of the election	56%	55%	58%	63%	58%	53%	61%	52%	60%	55%	54%	54%

## When made up mind on how to vote x demographics







Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

European elections		Ger	ıder		Age		Social	Class		Region					
	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	ABC1	C2DEF	Dublin	MNW	South				
Base; n=	(n=2385)	(n=1133)	(n=1245)	(n=485)	(n=1030)	(n=870)	(n=1294)	(n=1091)	(n=648)	(n=830)	(n=907)				
Within 24 hours of voting	28%	25%	31%	33%	28%	24%	26%	30%	27%	26%	30%				
Within a few days of voting	22%	21%	24%	23%	24%	21%	25%	20%	21%	23%	23%				
A week before voting	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	13%	15%	13%	15%	13%	13%				
2-3 weeks before the election	17%	18%	15%	14%	17%	19%	16%	17%	15%	20%	15%				
When the election was called	9%	11%	8%	4%	9%	13%	8%	11%	12%	7%	10%				
Sometime before the election was called	5%	6%	4%	7%	4%	5%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%				
I always vote for the same party	5%	5%	4%	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%	4%	6%	4%				
NET within a week of the election	64%	60%	69%	70%	66%	58%	66%	63%	63%	62%	66%				

## Reasons for not voting (local elections) x demographics



Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

		Gei	nder		Age		Social	Class		Reg	gion	
	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	ABC1	C2DEF	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster
Base; n=	(n=604)	(n=242)	(n=361)	(n=213)	(n=264)	(n=127)	(n=293)	(n=311)	(n=180)	(n=167)	(n=144)	(n=113)
Away from home on the day	25%	24%	26%	29%	20%	27%	32%	20%	25%	23%	24%	31%
Work commitments	20%	28%	13%	24%	22%	5%	23%	18%	28%	15%	15%	14%
Could not decide how to vote	17%	17%	18%	21%	13%	17%	19%	16%	18%	16%	20%	16%
Not registered to vote	13%	14%	12%	18%	10%	5%	12%	13%	12%	13%	17%	10%
Not interested in politics	12%	10%	14%	10%	14%	13%	6%	17%	8%	13%	16%	16%
My vote doesn't matter	11%	14%	8%	14%	10%	5%	11%	10%	13%	7%	9%	15%
Illness/Disability	9%	5%	13%	4%	9%	20%	6%	11%	9%	11%	7%	10%
Caring commitments	8%	9%	7%	10%	7%	4%	7%	8%	9%	7%	9%	5%
NET Too busy/away	46%	51%	42%	52%	46%	34%	54%	40%	52%	40%	42%	47%
NET Not interested/not registered	32%	35%	30%	36%	32%	23%	29%	35%	30%	31%	37%	33%

(L1 (Past vote weighted)

(Base: All adults 18+ who didn't vote in local elections)

### Reasons for not voting (European elections) x demographics





Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

		Ger	nder		Age		Socia	Class		Region	
	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	ABC1	C2DEF	Dublin	MNW	South
Base; n=	(n=660)	(n=251)	(n=407)	(n=221)	(n=290)	(n=149)	(n=317)	(n=343)	(n=177)	(n=248)	(n=235)
Away from home on the day	25%	25%	25%	28%	20%	28%	33%	19%	26%	25%	24%
Could not decide how to vote	17%	16%	19%	19%	15%	18%	16%	18%	15%	16%	21%
Work commitments	16%	22%	12%	20%	17%	5%	23%	11%	21%	15%	13%
Not interested in politics	14%	14%	14%	15%	15%	11%	10%	17%	11%	15%	16%
Not registered to vote	13%	14%	12%	18%	11%	7%	12%	14%	13%	12%	13%
My vote doesn't matter	10%	12%	8%	13%	10%	4%	8%	11%	10%	13%	7%
Illness/Disability	9%	4%	13%	6%	7%	18%	8%	10%	11%	8%	8%
Caring commitments	7%	6%	7%	7%	7%	4%	6%	7%	5%	6%	8%
NET Too busy/away	43%	47%	40%	48%	42%	35%	54%	34%	46%	42%	41%
NET Not interested/not registered	32%	36%	30%	38%	32%	21%	27%	36%	31%	35%	32%

(E1 (Past vote weighted)

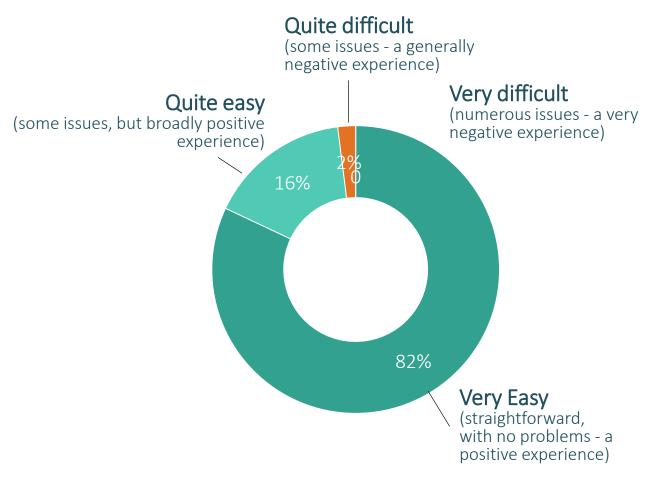
(Base: All adults 18+ who didn't vote in European elections)

02

Voter Experience



# Voter Experience of ease or difficulty in voting on the day





A11. How was your experience with voting?

Base: All respondents who definitely voted; 2475

#### **Confidence in Elections**

94%

86%

I was confident that I understood the ballot papers and how to cast my vote

I am confident my ballot papers are secret once I have put them in the ballot box

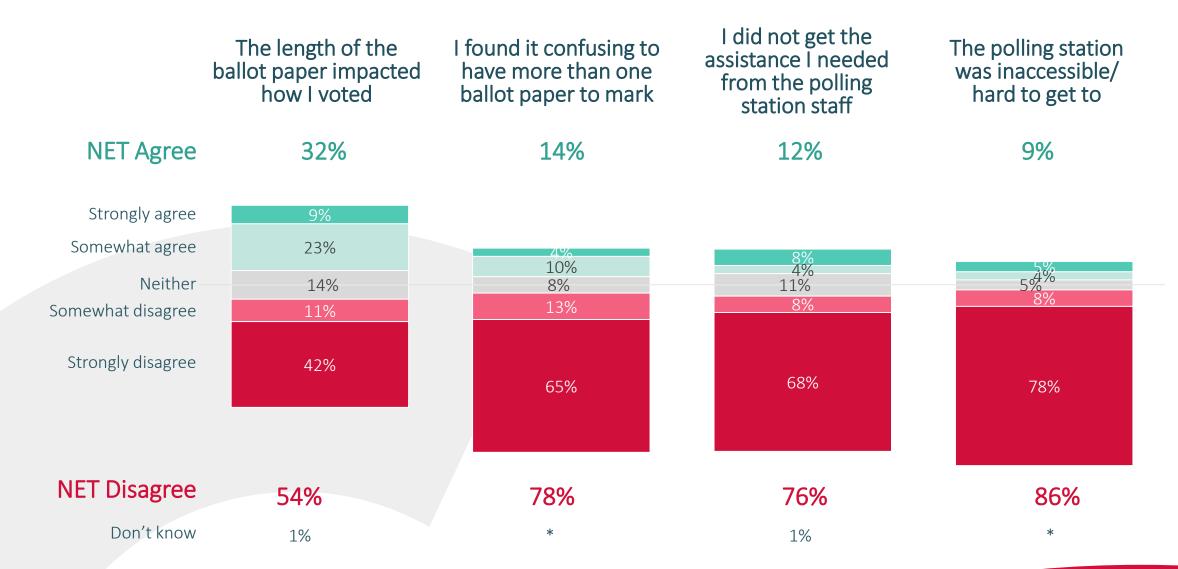


V1. How much you agree or disagree with the following statements based on your recent voter experience?

Base: All respondents who definitely voted; n=2475

#### **Voter Experience – Attitudinal Statements**





V1. How much you agree or disagree with the following statements based on your recent voter experience?

Base: All respondents who definitely voted; n=2475

## **Voter Experience X demographics (NET Agree)**







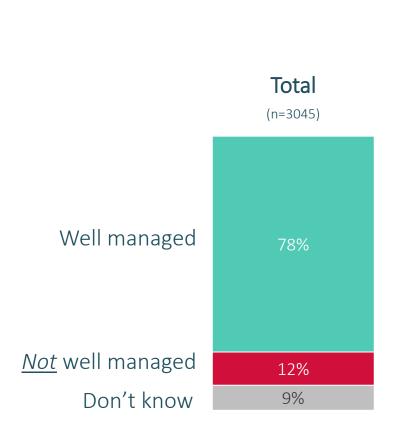
Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

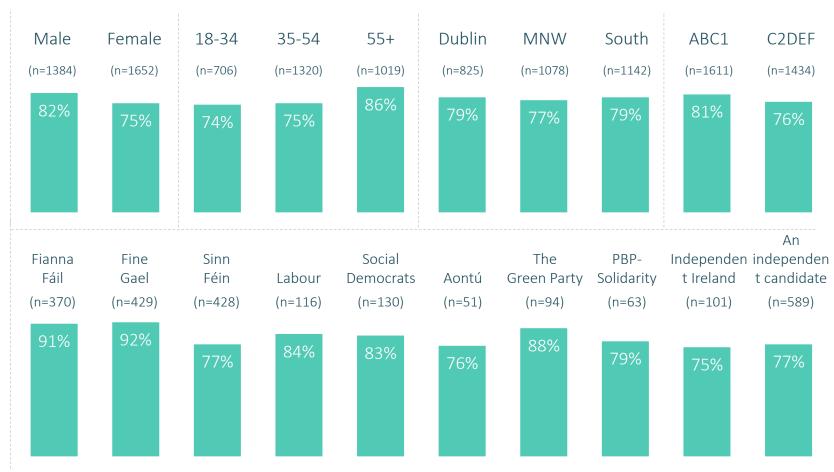
		Ger	nder		Age		Socia	Class	- 	Region			
Base; n=	<b>Total</b> (n=2475)	Male (n=1167)	Female (n=1300)	<b>18-34</b> (n=511)	<b>35-54</b> (n=1070)	<b>55+</b> (n=894)	ABC1 (n=1337)	C2DEF (n=1138)	<b>Dublin</b> (n=665)	MNW (n=866)	<b>South</b> (n=944)		
I was confident that I understood the ballot papers and how to cast my vote	94%	94%	94%	94%	94%	95%	96%	93%	95%	93%	95%		
I am confident my ballot papers are secret once I have put them in the ballot box	86%	86%	86%	87%	85%	88%	90%	83%	87%	85%	87%		
The length of the ballot paper impacted how I voted	32%	29%	34%	37%	31%	29%	35%	28%	35%	31%	30%		
I found it confusing to have more than one ballot paper to mark	14%	14%	14%	24%	12%	9%	11%	16%	17%	14%	11%		
I did not get the assistance I needed from the polling station staff	12%	14%	10%	21%	11%	7%	10%	13%	15%	11%	10%		
The polling station was inaccessible/hard to get to	9%	11%	7%	18%	8%	5%	9%	10%	14%	10%	6%		

#### How well are elections are managed in Ireland?



#### % saying well managed



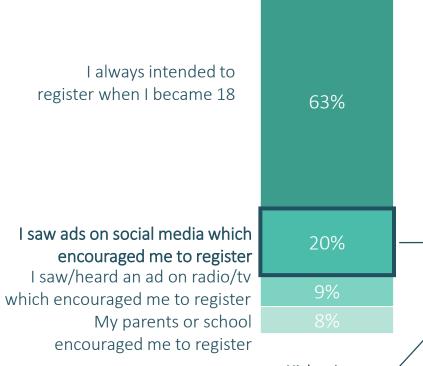


### **New Voter Registrations**

7%
Of voters
voted for the
first time in
the past year

New Voters									
18-34	71%								
35-54	28%								
55+	2%								

Influences on Decision to Register



Higher Among:

Women: 27% 35-54: 27% C2DE: 27%

V4. Did you register to vote for the first time in the past year?

V5a. Please pick the statement which most applies to you with regard to your decision to register to vote in the past year?

Base: All who definitely voted; n=2475

Base: All who registered to vote for first time in last year; n=149



# Path to Registration and Perceived Difficulty

How registered to Vote

83%

checktheregister.ie

12%

Sent registration form to my Local Authority

5% other/don't know

#### Experience of registration

NET Easy	98%
<b>Very Easy</b> (straightforward, with no problems - a positive experience)	73%
Quite easy (some issues, but broadly positive experience)	25%
Quite difficult (some issues - a generally negative experience) Very difficult (numerous issues - a very negative experience)	<del>2</del> % -
NET Difficult	2%

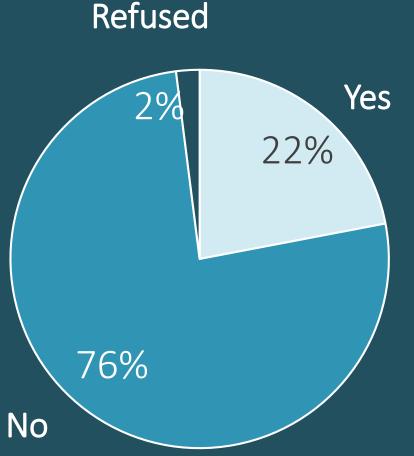
2.2

Voter Experience of those living with disability

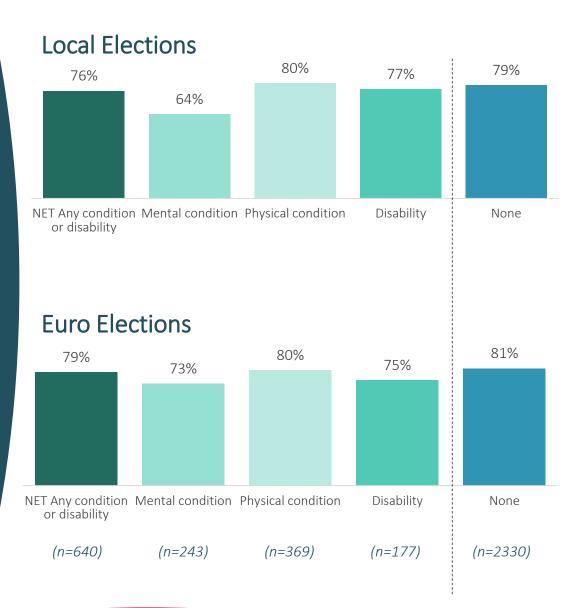
#### Living with a condition or disability in Ireland

#### Claim on having voted x disability status 🌈





Type of condition/disability										
Physical Condition	12%									
Mental Condition	9%									
Disability	6%									



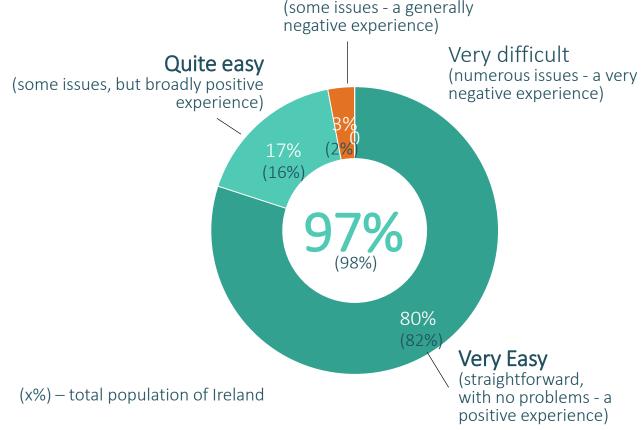
Base: All Adults 18+, n=3045 See previous note on reported turn-out versus actual in section 1.

## Voter experience with ease or difficulty in voting on the day

Amongst those living with a condition or disability

#### Quite difficult

(some issues - a generally



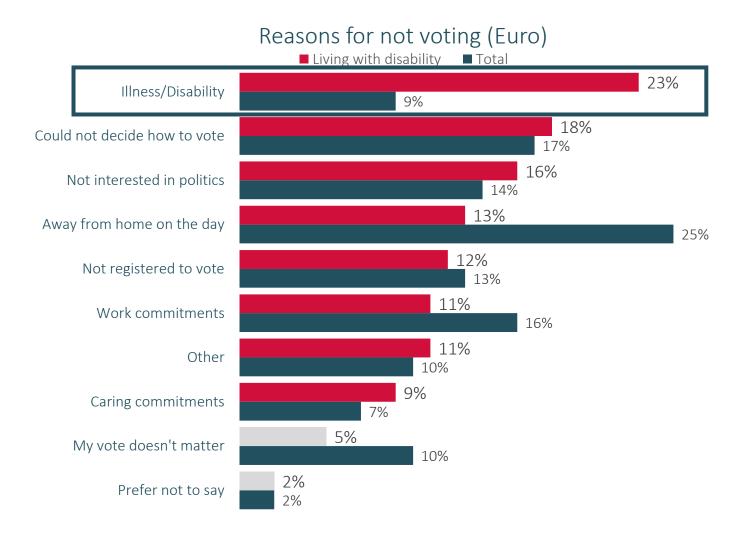


A11. How was your experience with voting?

Base: All respondents living with a condition or disability who definitely voted; 519

## Reasons for not voting (European Elections)

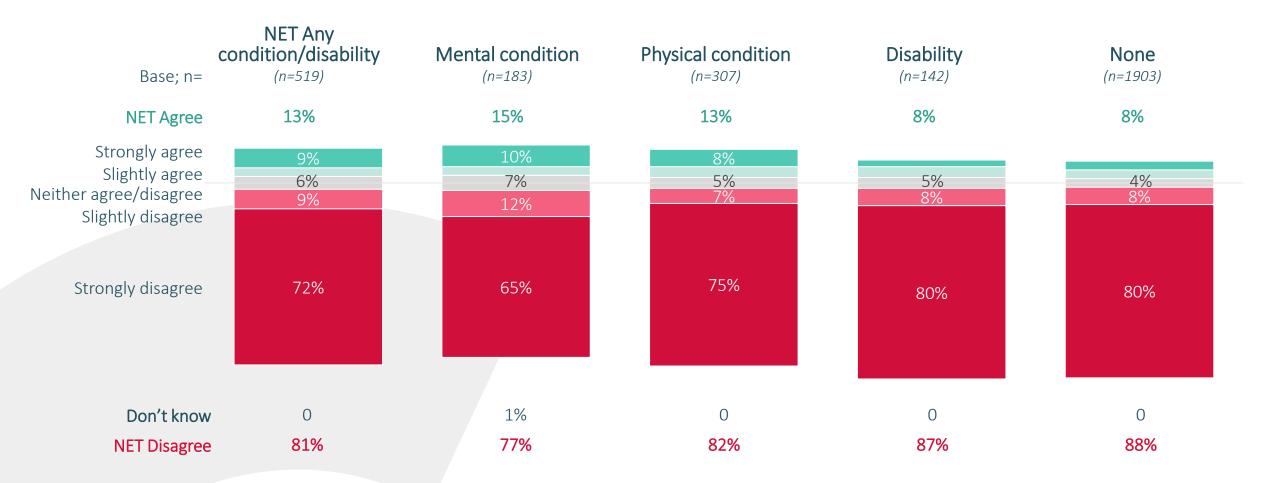




NETs	Total	Disability
Too busy/away	43%	27%
Not interested/not registered/apathy	32%	30%

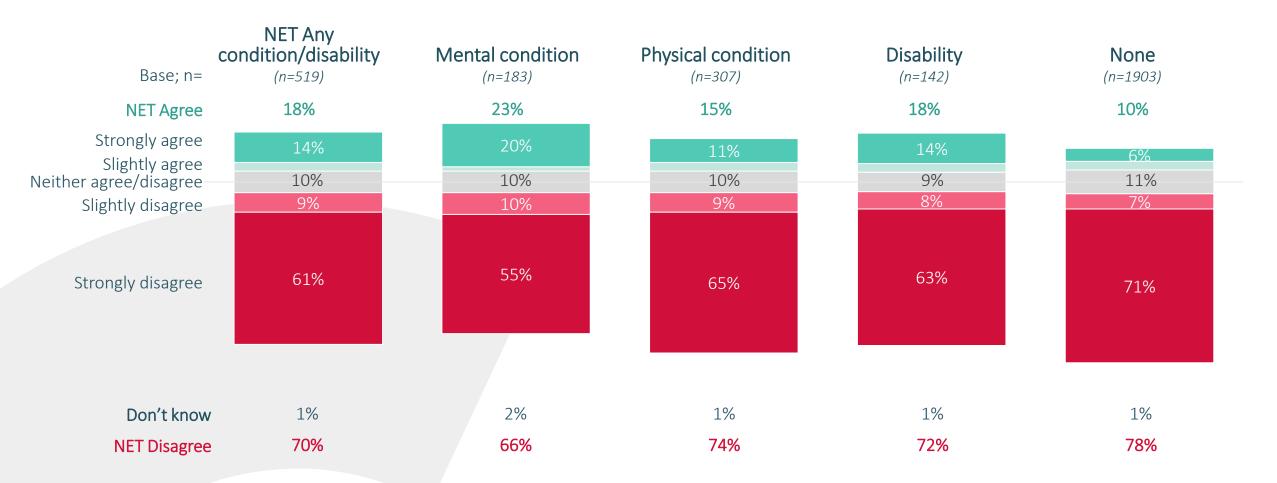
### The polling station was inaccessible/hard to get to





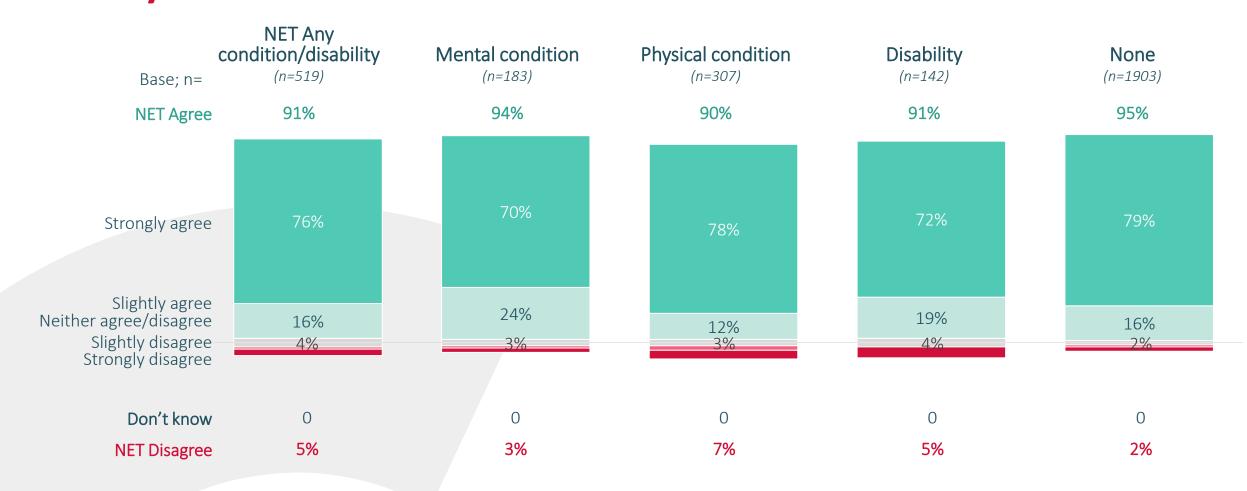
### I did not get the assistance I needed from the polling station staff





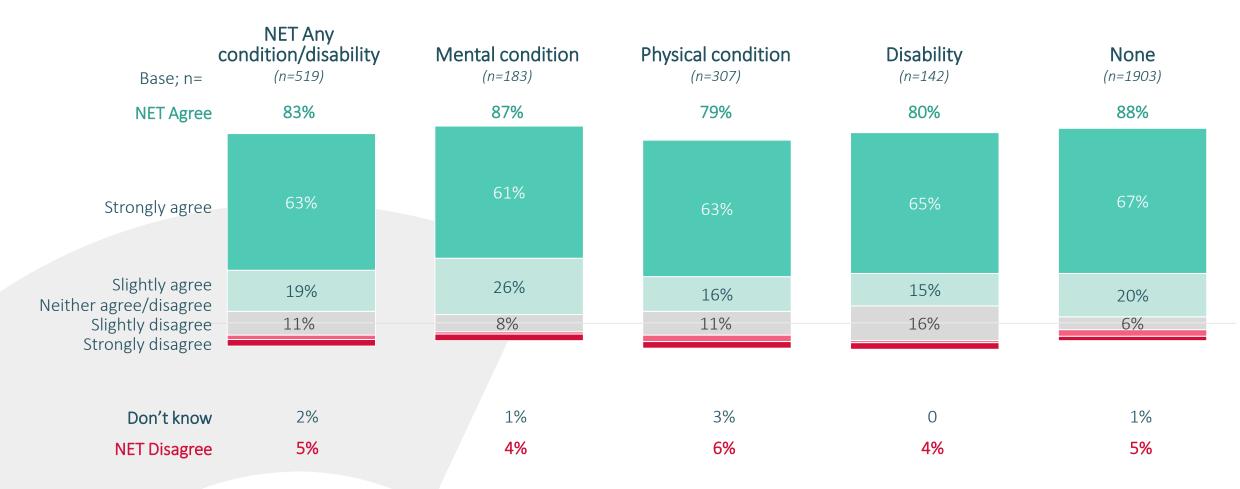
# I was confident that I understood the ballot papers and how to cast my vote





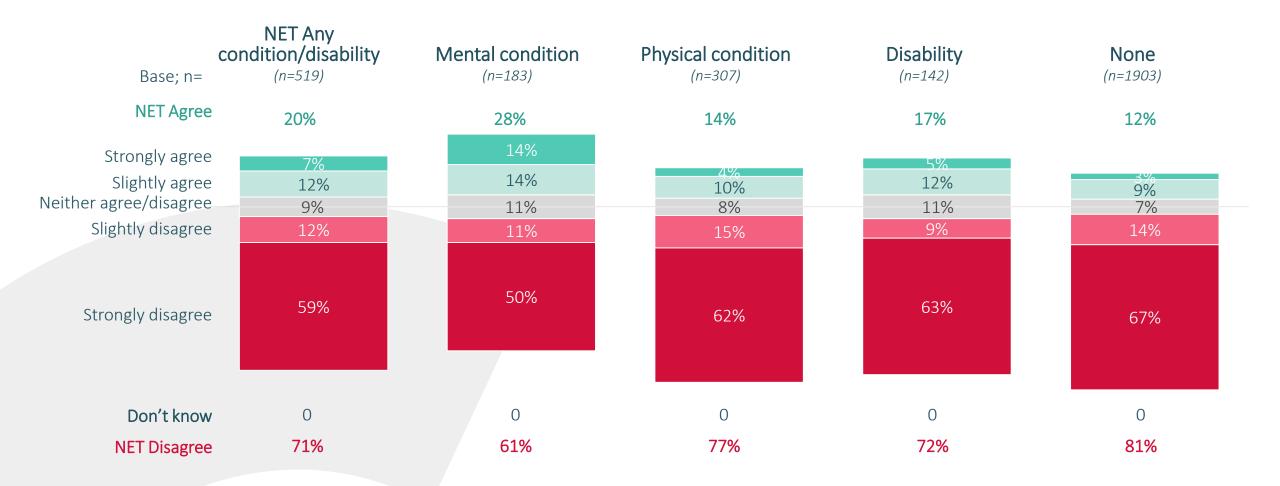
# I am confident my ballot papers are secret once I have put them in the ballot box





### I found it confusing to have more than one ballot paper to mark





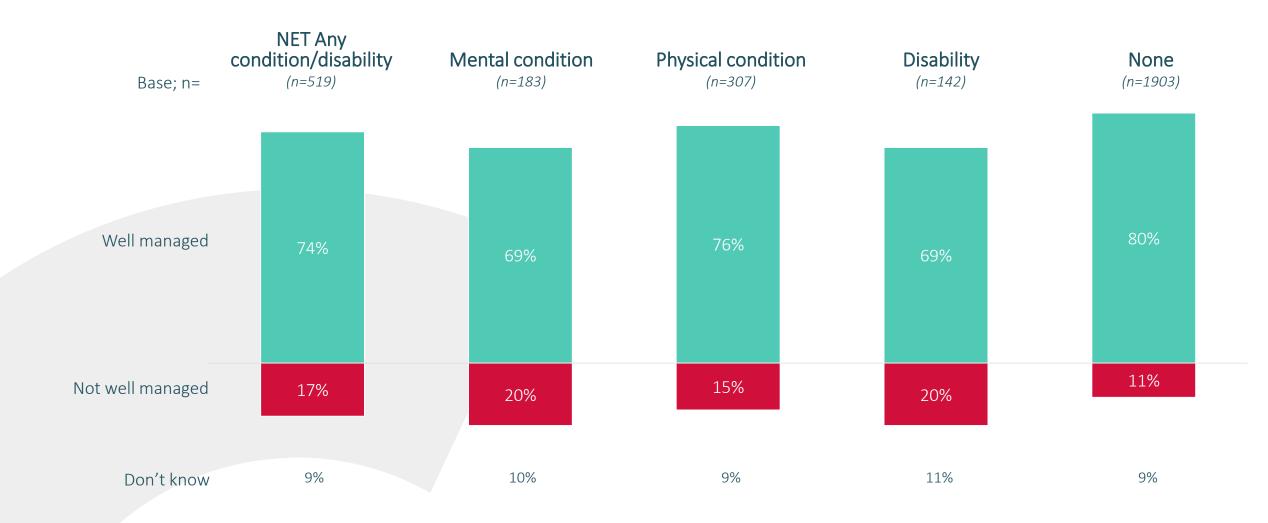
## The length of the ballot paper impacted how I voted



Base; n=	NET Any condition/disability (n=519)	Mental condition (n=183)	Physical condition (n=307)	Disability (n=142)	<b>None</b> (n=1903)
NET Agree	33%	40%	28%	38%	31%
Strongly agree	11%	14%	10%	13%	8%
Slightly agree	22%	26%	18%	25%	22%
Neither agree/disagree	14%	13%	14%	17%	14%
Slightly disagree	10%	10%	12%	6%	12%
Strongly disagree	42%	38%	46%	38%	43%
Don't know	0	0	0	0	1%
NET Disagree	52%	47%	57%	45%	55%

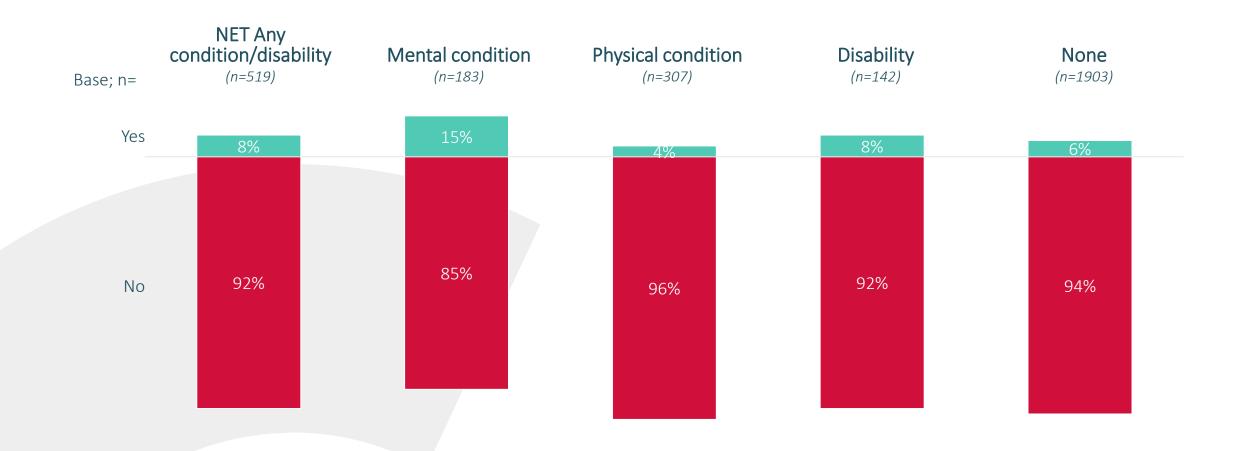
### Are elections in Ireland well managed?





### Whether registered to vote for first time in the past year





03

Voter Interest and Knowledge

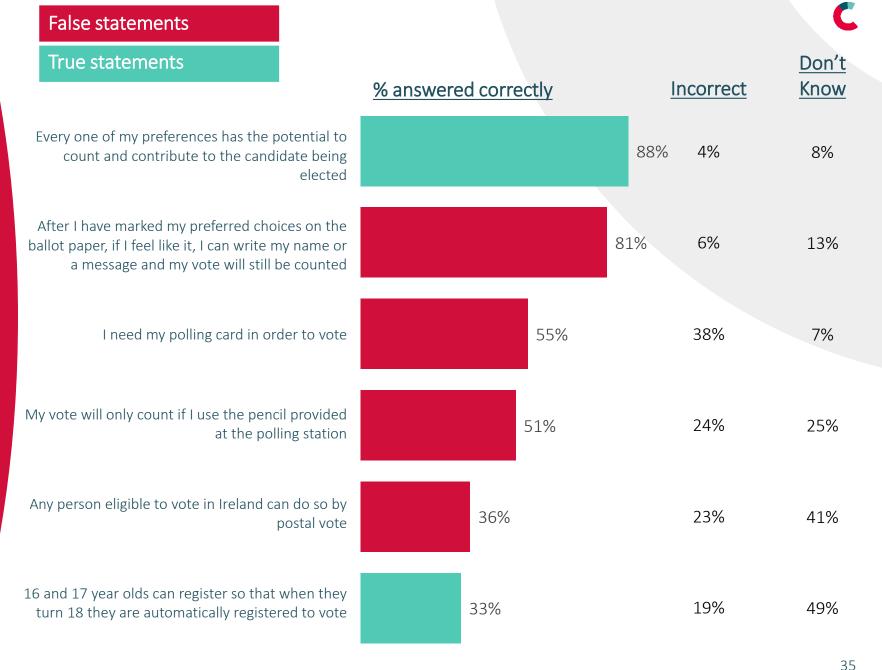


# Profile Knowledge of voters

Respondents were shown six statements pertaining to the voting process in Ireland and asked if they believed each one was true or false.

We measured how many statements each respondent correctly answered.

For instance, the first statement is true, and 88% correctly answered that it is true.



S5. Please select whether you think each of the following statements are true or false.

Base: All Adults 18+, n=3,045

## **Voter Process knowledge X demographics**





		Ger	nder	Age			Social	Class	Region		
	<b>Total</b> (n=3045)	Male (n=1384)	Female	<b>18-34</b> (n=706)	<b>35-54</b> (n=1320)	<b>55+</b> (n=1019)	ABC1	<b>C2DE</b> (n=1434)	<b>Dublin</b> (n=825)	<b>MNW</b> (n=1078)	<b>South</b> (n=1142)
NET 0-2 correct	23%	20%	(n=1652) <b>26%</b>	23%	26%	21%	(n=1611) 20%	25%	25%	23%	23%
NET 4-6 correct	43%	46%	39%	42%	42%	42%	44%	41%	43%	44%	41%

Base: All Adults 18+, n=3,045

04

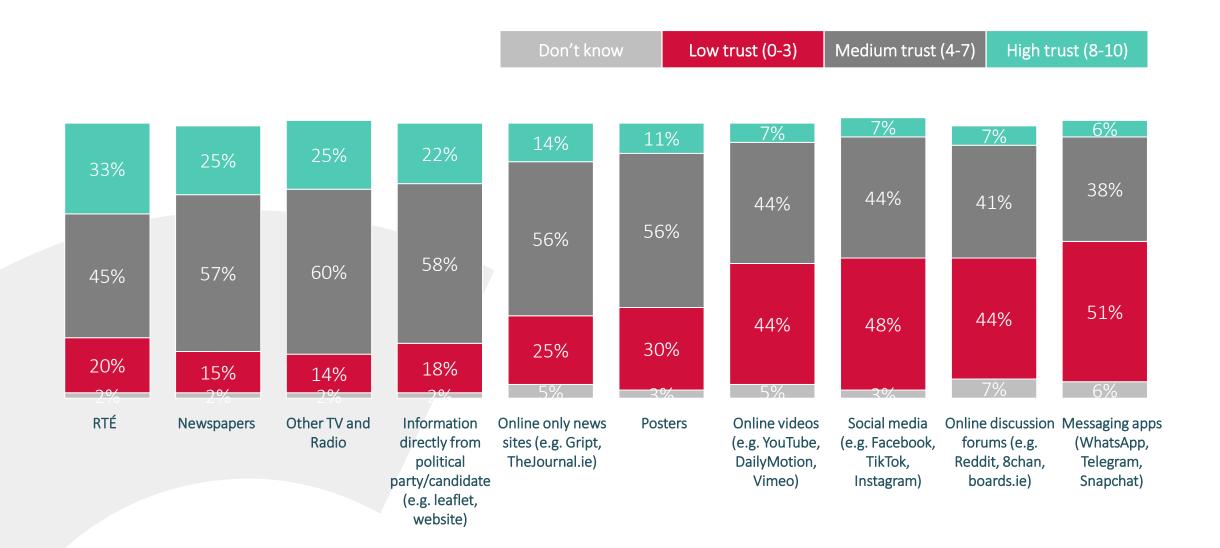
## Voter information

- Trust and use of information sources
- Perceived sources of misinformation in Ireland



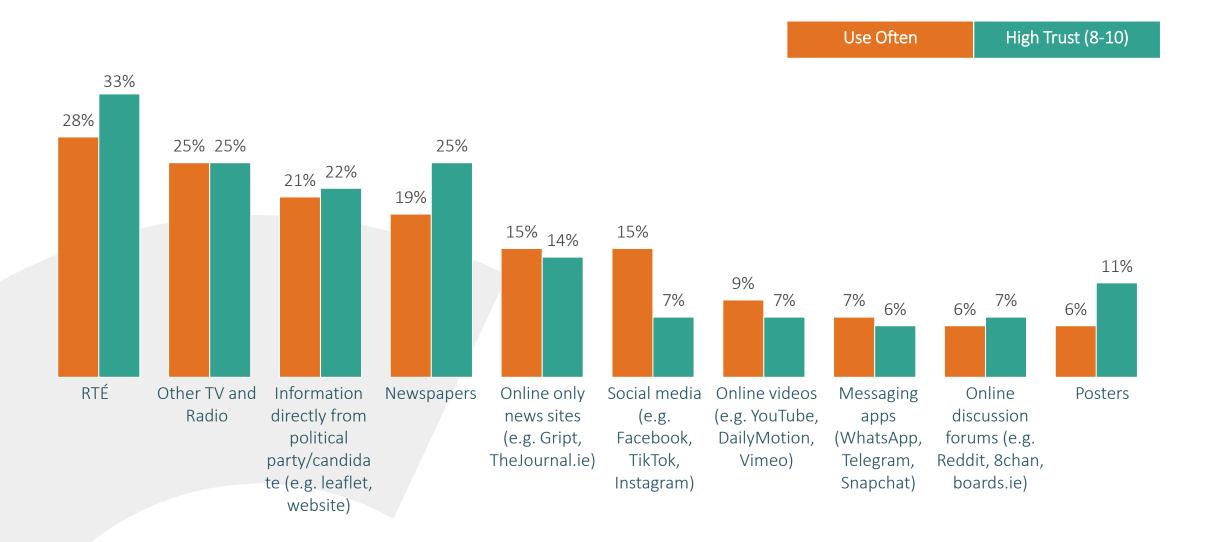
#### **Trust in information sources**





#### Use of and trust in information sources



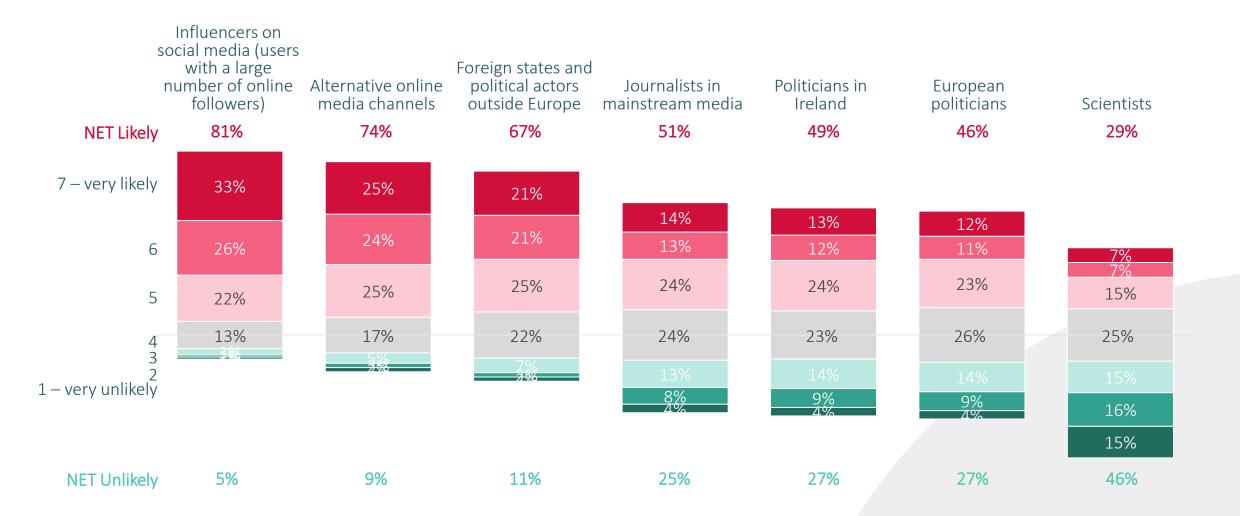


S3. How often, if at all, do you use the following sources of information to form an opinion before voting? – Summary

S4. To what extent, if at all, do you trust the following sources of information to form an opinion before voting? - Summary Base: All Adults 18+; n=3,045

## Voter belief with regard to sources of misinformation





## 05

## **Election Studies**

- Right/Left Leaning
- Attitudes Towards Politics/Politicians
- Voter issues Local & European Elections
- Political Attitudes in Ireland
- Election questions x party preference
- Likability of Government/ Political parties
- Emotional Position of Voters



Note: The following section comprises questions about various topics and issues which are of interest/relevance in the context of international National Election Studies.

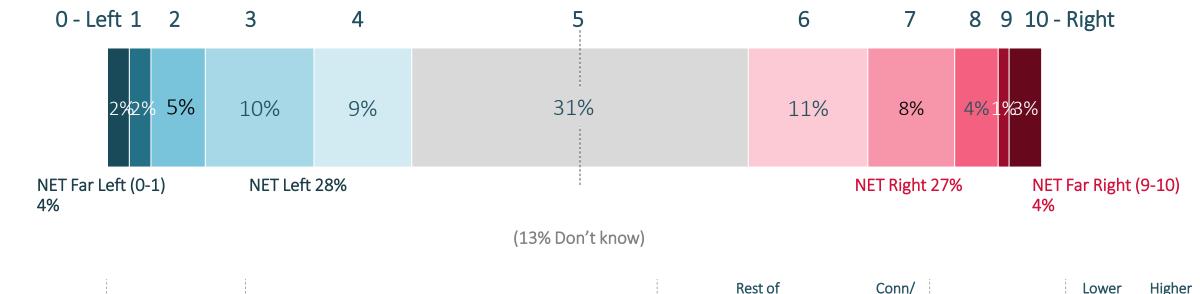
The purpose of this section is to establish a base of data of the Irish electorate that can be built upon and studied over time as well as allow Ireland participate in comparative academic research studies. The questions asked are drawn from or adapted from existing academic research studies and political science and were selected by the academic members of the NEDS Management Board

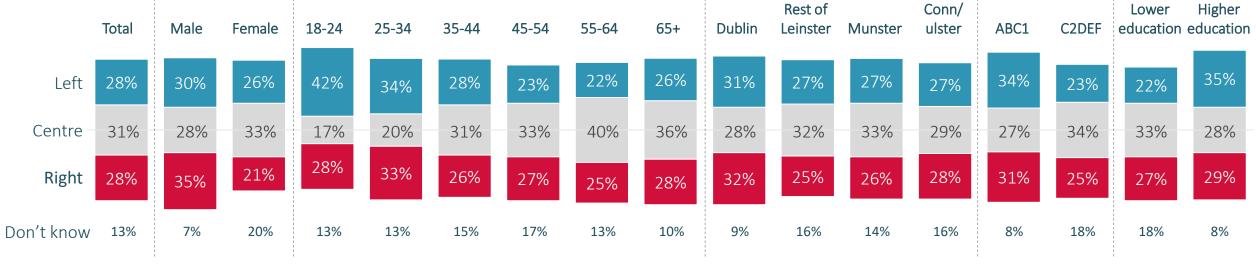
5.1

Right/Left Leanings

## **Political leanings in Ireland**

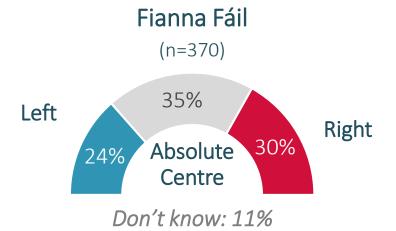


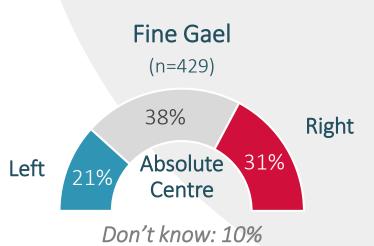


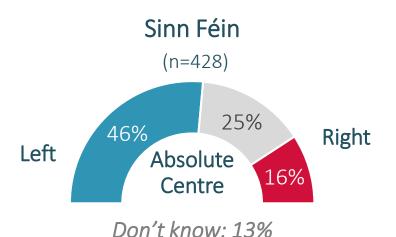


## Profile of voters x by political leaning

#### Profile of voters x by political leaning







#### An independent candidate (n=589)30% Right Left (32%) Absolute

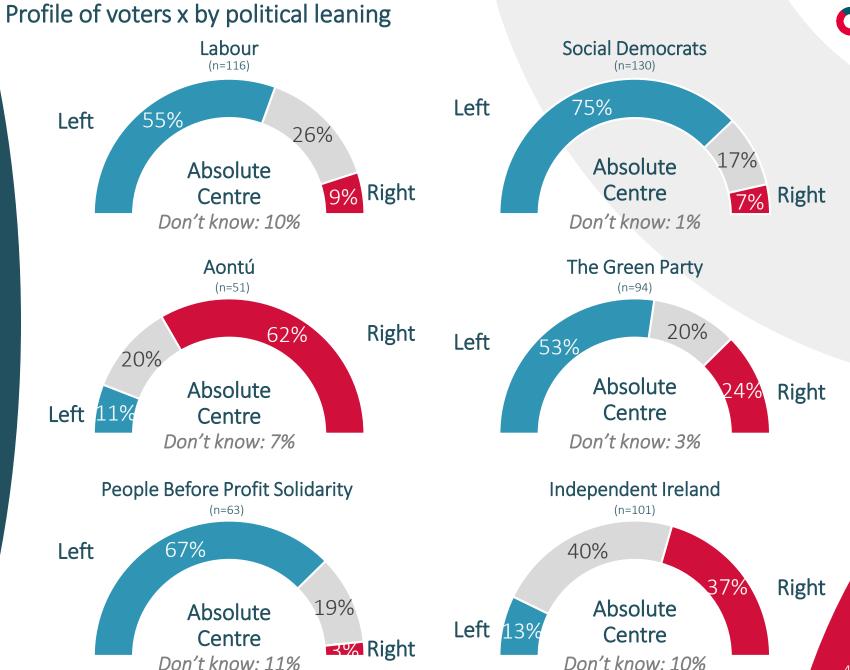
Don't know: 12%

Centre

Base: All respondents; n=3045

S8. In politics, people sometimes talk about the 'left' and the 'right'. Where would you place your own views using a 0 to 10 scale where 0 means the furthest left, and 10 means the furthest right?

## Profile of voters x by political leaning



S8. In politics, people sometimes talk about the 'left' and the 'right'. Where would you place your own views using a 0 to 10 scale where 0 means the furthest left, and 10 means the furthest right?

Base: All respondents; n=3045

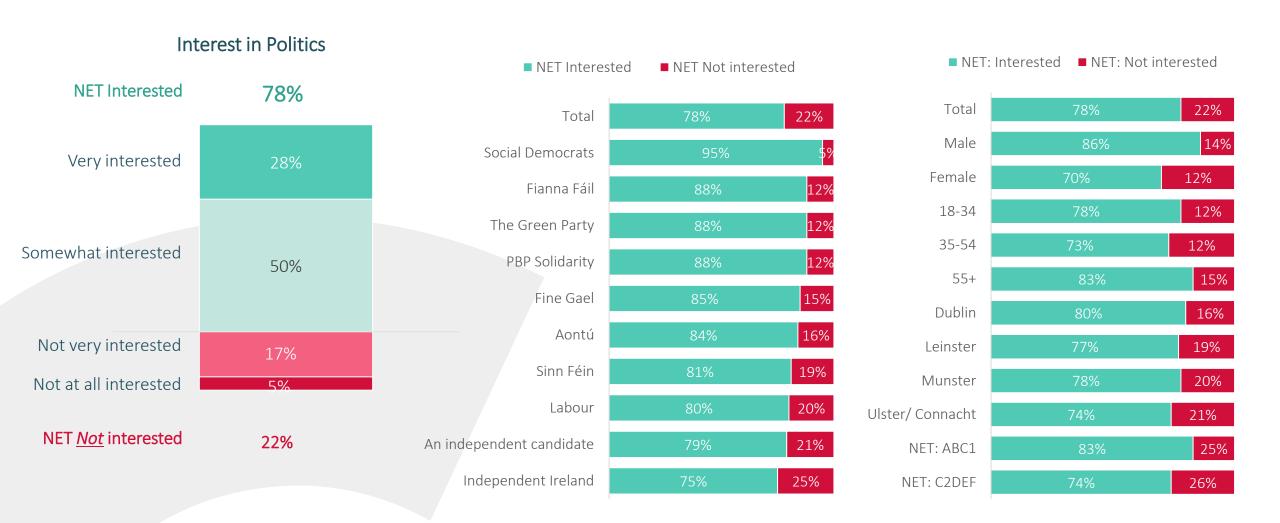
Showing Local Election Party Preference

5.2

Attitudes Towards Politics/Politicians

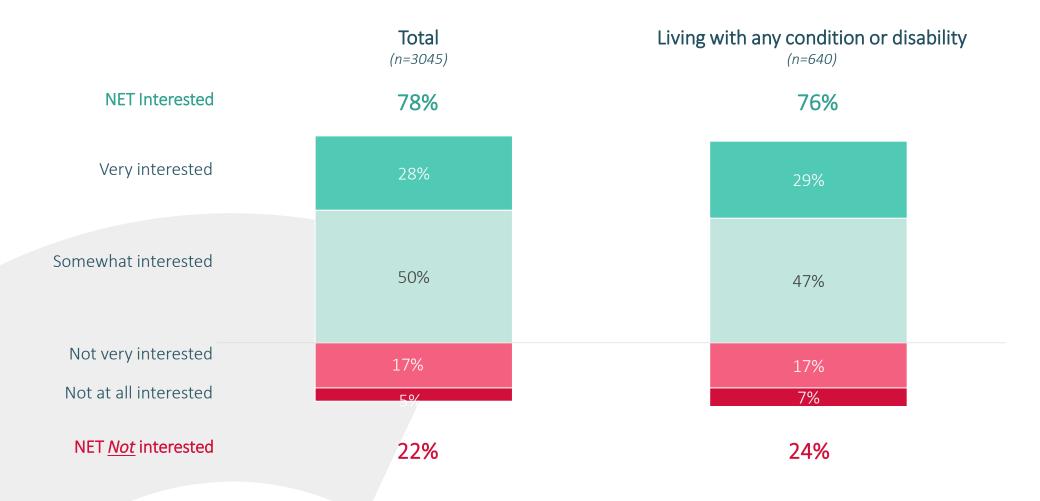
## Interest in politics x local election vote and demographic cohort





## **Level of interest in politics**





### Voter attitudes towards politicians



#### Attitudes toward politicians

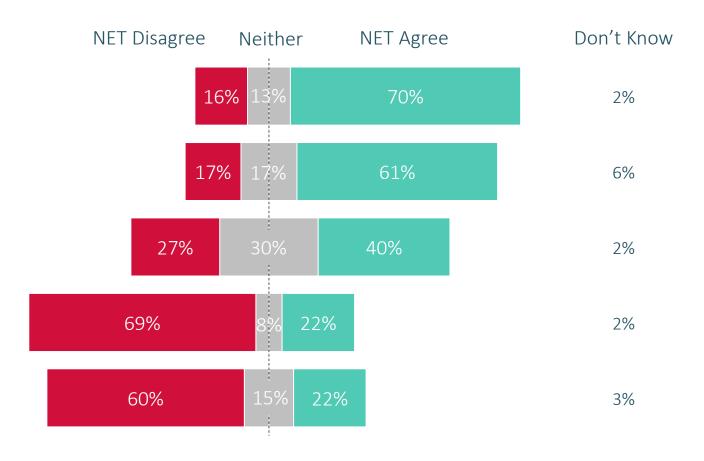
The level of aggression towards politicians is unacceptable in these times

The councillors in my area are generally competent & hard working

I find the things that happen directly in my local area more interesting than news about national and international developments

Protesting outside of politicians' houses is sometimes acceptable

Following politicians and recording videos of them to post on social media is acceptable



## Voter attitudes towards politicians by demographics



% agree with each statement

Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

								218	iligilei/io	wer at 33.	70 COMMUNICI
		Ger	nder		Age		Socia	l Class		Region	
	Total	Male	Female		35-54	55+	ABC1	C2DEF	l	MNW	South
The level of aggression towards politicians is unacceptable in these times	70%	(n=1384) 71%	(n=1652) 69%	(n=706) 64%	(n=1320) 66%	(n=1019) 78%	(n=1611) 72%	(n=1434) 68%	(n=825) 70%	(n=1078) 67%	(n=1142) 72%
The councillors in my area are generally competent & hard working	61%	59%	63%	55%	61%	66%	60%	62%	59%	58%	65%
I find the things that happen directly in my local area more interesting than news about national and international developments	40%	38%	42%	41%	44%	35%	36%	43%	35%	42%	42%
Protesting outside of politicians' houses is sometimes acceptable	22%	25%	19%	34%	20%	15%	22%	22%	28%	22%	17%
Following politicians and recording videos of them to post on social media is acceptable	22%	25%	20%	30%	25%	14%	22%	23%	28%	22%	19%

## Voter attitudes towards politicians by local election party support



% agree with each statement





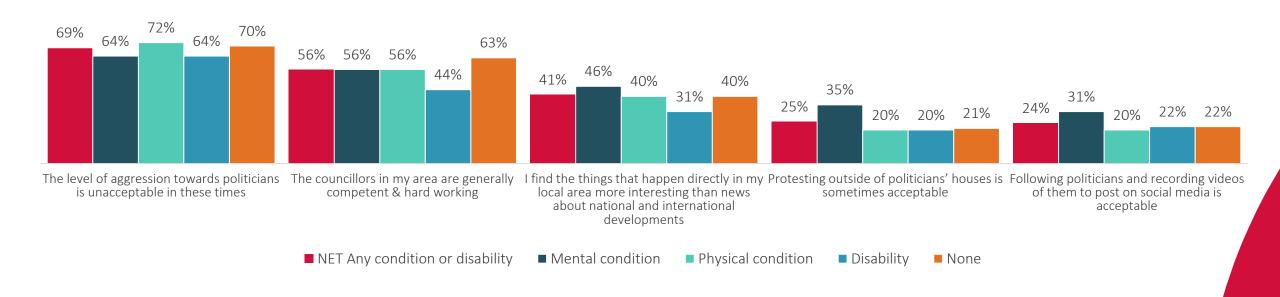
Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

	Total	Fianna Fáil	Fine Gael	Sinn Féin	Labour	Social Democrats	Aontú	The Green Party	PBP- Solidarity		An independen t candidate
Base; n=	(n=3045)	(n=370)	(n=429)	(n=428)	(n=116)	(n=130)	(n=51)	(n=94)	(n=63)	(n=101)	(n=589)
The level of aggression towards politicians is unacceptable in these times	70%	81%	83%	66%	79%	87%	60%	82%	64%	55%	63%
The councillors in my area are generally competent & hard working	61%	77%	77%	55%	65%	56%	63%	64%	40%	42%	60%
I find the things that happen directly in my local area more interesting than news about national and international developments	40%	47%	38%	37%	34%	27%	36%	26%	45%	51%	45%
Protesting outside of politicians' houses is sometimes acceptable	22%	13%	12%	21%	13%	13%	19%	23%	20%	23%	26%
Following politicians and recording videos of them to post on social media is acceptable	22%	16%	14%	26%	20%	24%	15%	19%	20%	28%	27%

## Voter attitudes towards politicians - % Agree



#### Attitudes toward politicians



53

# Profile Knowledge of voters

Respondents were shown eight statements pertaining to Irish politics and asked if they believed each one was true or false.

We measured how many statements each respondent correctly answered.

For instance, the first statement is true, and 69% correctly answered that it is true.

#### False statements

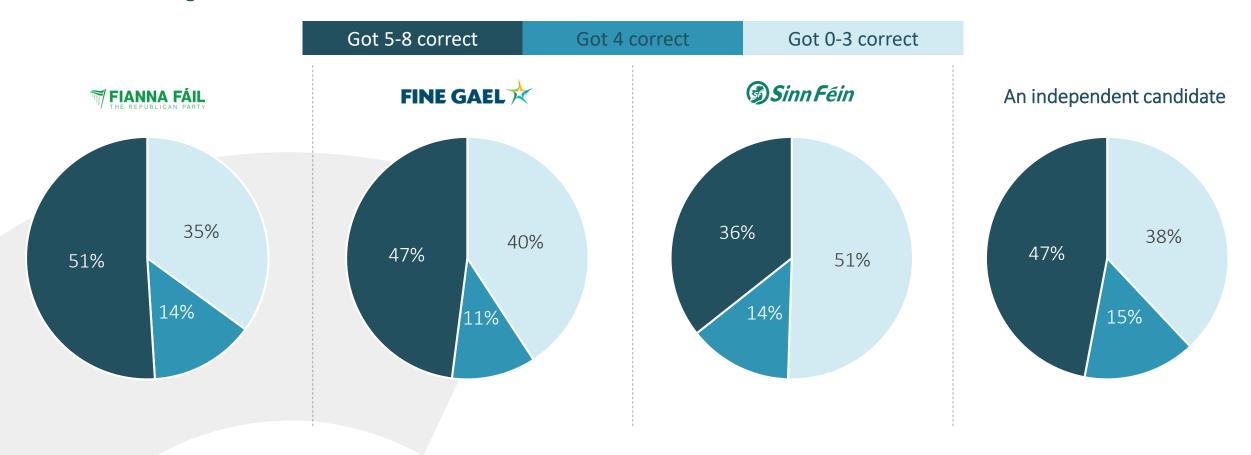
True statements	% answered correctly		Incorrect	Don't Know
Limerick will become the first local authority with a directly elected mayor in 2024		69%	4%	27%
Ukraine is a member state of the European Union		66%	20%	14%
The European Commission president is elected by the people of Europe	48%		23%	29%
You have to be an Irish citizen to vote in the local elections	46%		41%	12%
It is possible to serve as a TD and a local councillor at the same time	46%		19%	36%
The Presidential Election is held every five years	45%		40%	16%
Constitutional amendments can be made by a majority vote of the Dáil	44%		28%	27%
Local councillors have the power to veto planning permission applications	27%		33%	39%

S5. Please select whether you think each of the following statements are true or false.

## Political knowledge - % correct x local election vote



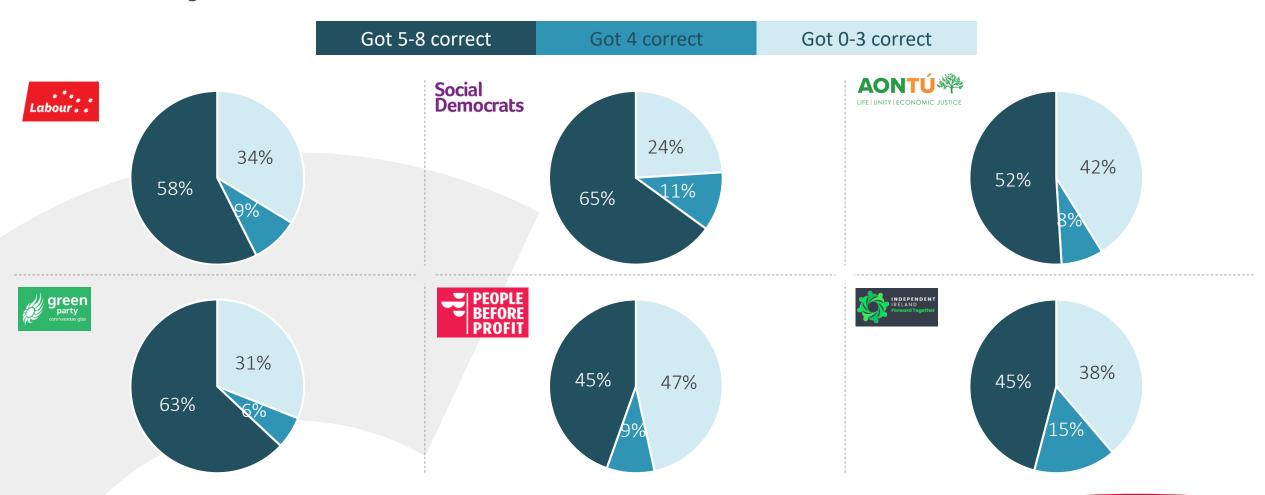
Political knowledge - % correct X local election vote



## Political knowledge - % correct x local election vote



Political knowledge - % correct X local election vote

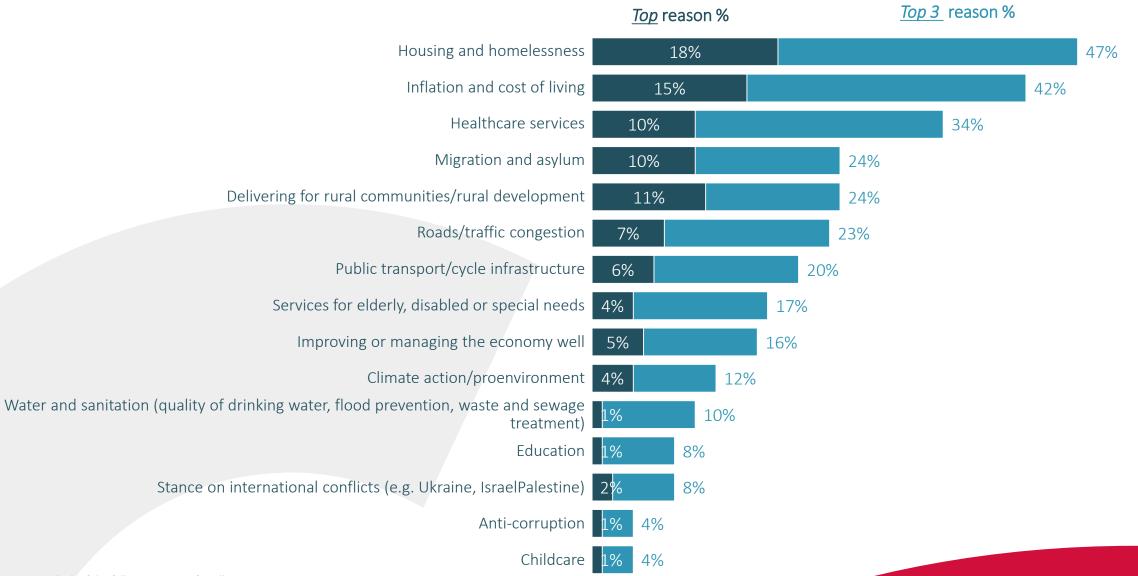


## 5.3

Voter issues – Local & European Elections

### Importance of Voter Issues in Local Elections





## Importance of Voter Issues in Local Elections (Top 3) x Demos REDC





Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

		Ger	nder		Age		 	Re	egion		Socia	Class	Ar	ea
Base; n=	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	Female   (n=654)	<b>18-34</b> (n=260)	<b>35-54</b> (n=539)	<b>55+</b> (n=438)	   <b>Dublin</b>   (n=348)	Leinster (n=338)	Munster (n=329)	Ulster/ Connacht	<b>ABC1</b> (n=684)	<b>C2DEF</b> (n=553)	Urban (n=885)	<b>Rural</b> (n=352)
Housing and homelessness	47%	51%	43%	51%	43%	50%	54%	41%	52%	38%	47%	47%	50%	40%
Inflation and cost of living	42%	40%	44%	50%	42%	37%	l 43%	43%	41%	40%	40%	44%	l 45%	36%
Healthcare services	34%	30%	39%	24%	37%	38%	31%	33%	38%	37%	30%	38%	34%	35%
Migration and asylum	24%	25%	22%	16%	26%	26%	28%	23%	21%	22%	23%	24%	26%	18%
Delivering for rural communities/rural development	24%	22%	26%	24%	26%	21%	3%	26%	32%	41%	20%	28%	11%	52%
Roads/traffic congestion	23%	26%	21%	20%	27%	21%	26%	21%	17%	32%	27%	20%	24%	21%
Public transport/cycle infrastructure	20%	25%	15%	26%	19%	18%	25%	21%	17%	16%	26%	16%	22%	18%
Services for elderly, disabled or special needs	17%	13%	21%	10%	18%	20%	12%	17%	22%	14%	13%	20%	14%	23%
Improving or managing the economy well	16%	18%	14%	18%	15%	15%	12%	19%	17%	14%	17%	15%	18%	12%
Climate action/pro-environment	12%	12%	13%	19%	7%	14%	22%	11%	6%	8%	16%	9%	14%	10%
Water and sanitation (quality of drinking water, flood prevention, waste and sewage treatment)	10%	8%	11%	5%	9%	13%	7%	11%	11%	10%	9%	10%	9%	11%
Education	8%	8%	8%	13%	10%	2%	6%	10%	10%	4%	9%	7%	8%	7%
Stance on international conflicts (e.g. Ukraine, Israel Palestine)	8%	9%	8%	8%	7%	10%	10%	9%	6%	9%	9%	8%	9%	7%
Anti-corruption	4%	5%	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	3%	3%	4%	5%	5%	3%
Childcare	4%	3%	6%	8%	5%	1%	5%	5%	3%	4%	5%	4%	5%	4%
Other	6%	6%	6%	4%	6%	8%	9%	6%	3%	7%	6%	6%	7%	4%

## Importance of Voter Issues in Local Elections (Top 3) x Party REDC



An Independent Candidate	Housing and homelessness	53%
(n=286)	Inflation and cost of living	42%
	Migration and asylum	36%

FINE GAE	Housing and homelessness	44%
(n=201)	Inflation and cost of living	37%
	Healthcare services	34%

FIANNA FÁIL THE REPUBLICAN PARTY	Inflation and cost of living	45%
(n=190)	Delivering for rural communities/rural development	37%
	Healthcare services	37%

<b>Sinn F</b> éi	<b>n</b> Housing and homelessness	60%
(n=235)	Inflation and cost of living	52%
	Healthcare services	45%

INDEPENDENT IRELAND Forward Together	Housing and homelessness	50%
(n=52)	Migration and asylum	41%
	Inflation and cost of living	41%

green party comnacntas glas	Climate action/ proenvironment	65%
(n=52)	Housing and homelessness	43%
	Public transport/cycle infrastructure	34%

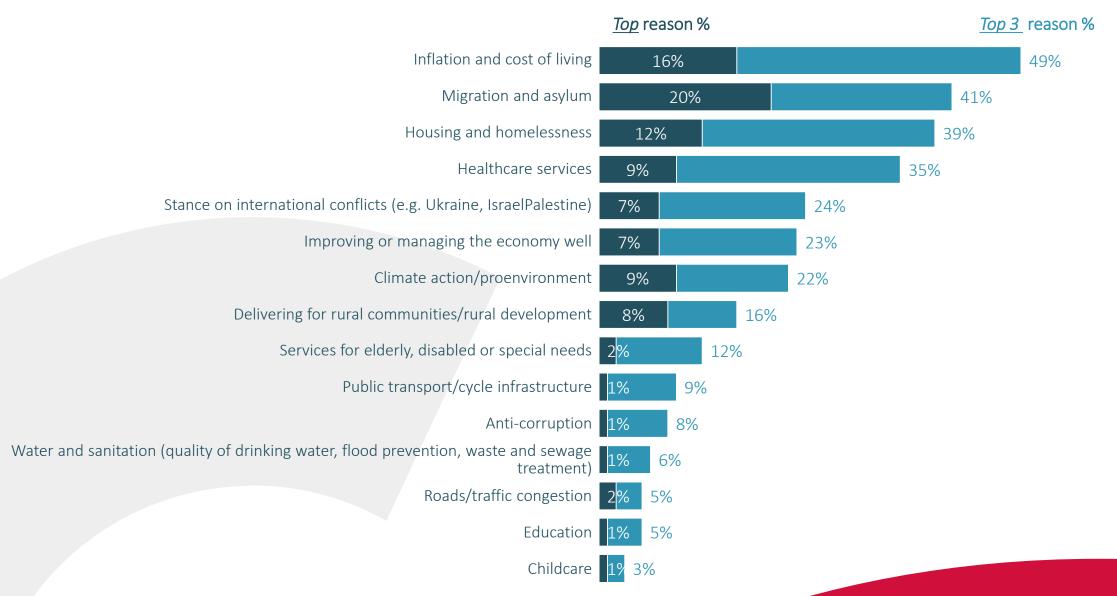
Social Democrats	Housing and homelessness	65%
(n=58)	Healthcare services	33%
	Climate action/ pro-environment	33%

Labour	Housing and homelessness	45%
(n=65)	Roads/traffic congestion	34%
	Healthcare services	33%

**Note**: Only showing parties with base of at least n=50

### Importance of Voter Issues in European Elections





## **Importance of Voter Issues in European Elections x Demos**







Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

<u>Top 3</u>		Gender		Age		Region			Social Class		Area		
Base; n=	Total	<b>Male</b> (n=590)	Female (n=646)		<b>35-54</b> (n=531)	<b>55+</b> (n=456)	Dublin (n=317)	<b>MNW</b> (n=421)	South (n=500)	ABC1   (n=653)	<b>C2DEF</b> (n=585)	<b>Urban</b>   (n=870)	Rural (n=368)
Inflation and cost of living	49%	48%	51%	52%	56%	40%	45%	45%	56%	47%	51%	47%	54%
Migration and asylum	41%	43%	39%	32%	47%	40%	51%	38%	37%	43%	40%	44%	34%
Housing and homelessness	39%	31%	48%	40%	38%	40%	39%	44%	36%	37%	42%	42%	35%
Healthcare services	35%	29%	41%	22%	35%	43%	32%	39%	34%	29%	40%	33%	40%
Stance on international conflicts	24%	26%	21%	27%	19%	27%	28%	21%	22%	29%	19%	26%	19%
Improving or managing the economy well	23%	29%	16%	26%	22%	21%	26%	20%	22%	28%	18%	25%	17%
Climate action/proenvironment	22%	23%	20%	26%	17%	24%	22%	19%	23%	28%	16%	23%	19%
Delivering for rural communities/rural development	16%	16%	16%	15%	15%	18%	6%	21%	20%	15%	17%	9%	33%
Services for elderly, disabled or special needs	12%	9%	14%	8%	11%	15%	10%	9%	15%	8%	15%	11%	13%
Public transport/cycle infrastructure	9%	11%	6%	9%	11%	6%	13%	8%	7%	9% 1	9%	10%	5%
Anti-corruption	8%	8%	7%	8%	9%	6%	6%	10%	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%
Water and sanitation	6%	7%	5%	10%	4%	7%	7%	5%	6%	! 6%	6%	6%	6%
Roads/traffic congestion	5%	5%	5%	9%	3%	5%	6%	6%	4%	4%	6%	5%	6%
Education	5%	5%	5%	6%	7%	2%	3%	6%	6%	4%	6%	5%	5%
Childcare	3%	2%	3%	5%	3%	0	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%

## **Top 3 Voter Issues in European Elections x Party**



An Independent Candidate (n=281)	Migration and asylum	53%
	Inflation and cost of living	52%
	Housing and homelessness	42%

FINE GAEL	Inflation and cost of living	51%
(n=245)	Housing and	37%
	homelessness  Migration and asylum	37/0
	& Improving/managing economy well	35%

	Inflation and cost of living	52%
	Migration and asylum	35%
ı	Healthcare services	34%

Sinn Féin	Inflation and cost of living	62%
(n=211)	Housing and homelessness	49%
	Healthcare services	37%

INDEPENDENT IRELAND Forward Together	Migration and asylum	59%
(n=61)		
	Housing and homelessness	44%
	Healthcare services	42%

green party commacatas glas (n=57)	Climate action/ Pro-environment	84%
	Stance on international conflicts	43%
	Migration and asylum	37%

Social Democrats	Inflation and cost of	
(n=59)	living	57%
	Housing and homelessness	44%
	Improving or managing the economy well	32%

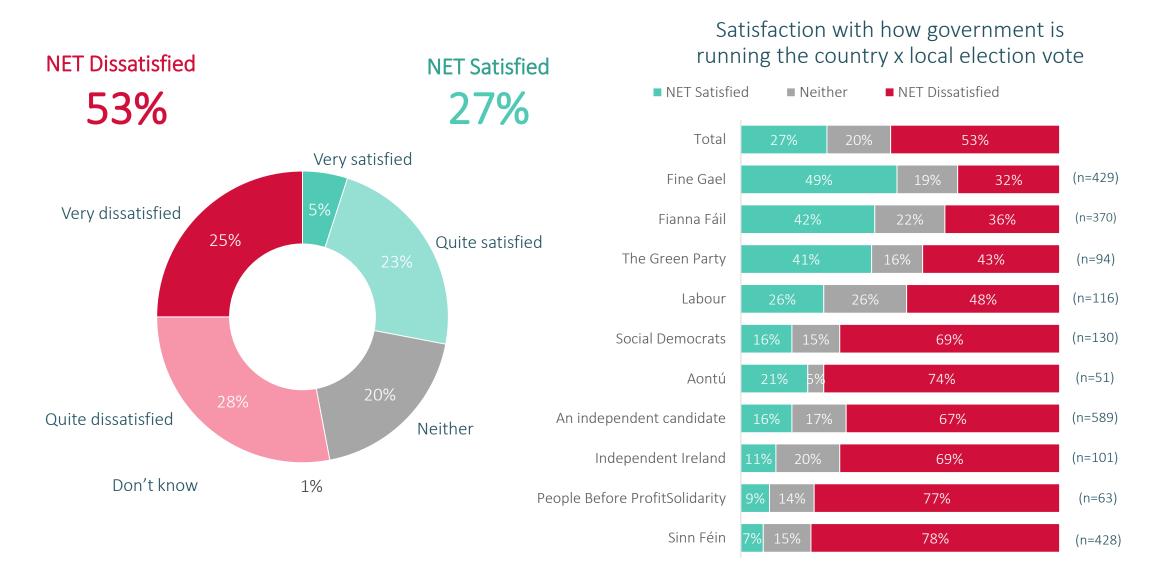
**Note**: Only showing parties with base of at least n=50

5.4

Political Attitudes in Ireland

## Satisfaction with how the government is running the country

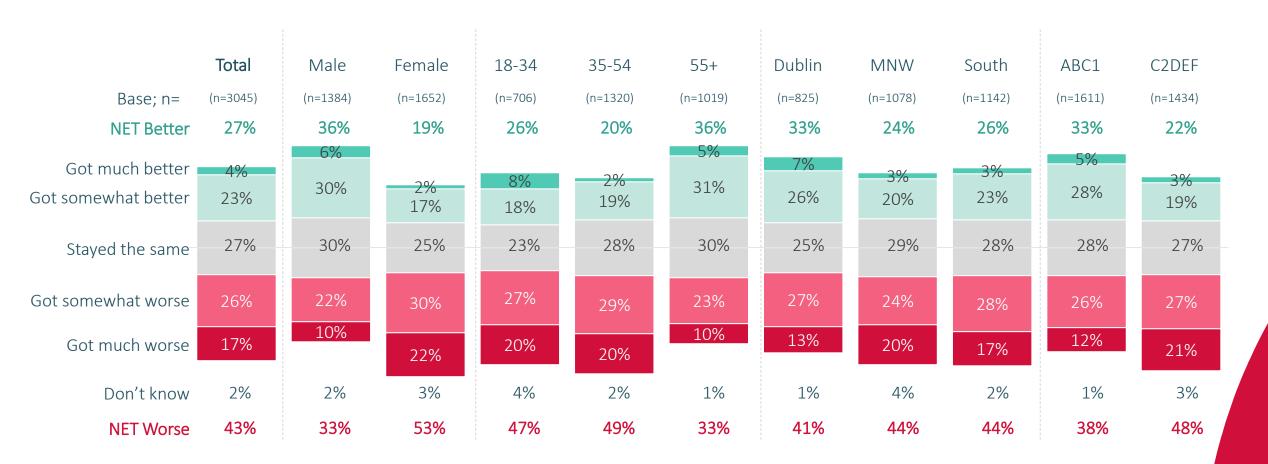




## Voter attitudes toward the economy – by demographics



Has the economy in Ireland got better or worse in past 12 months



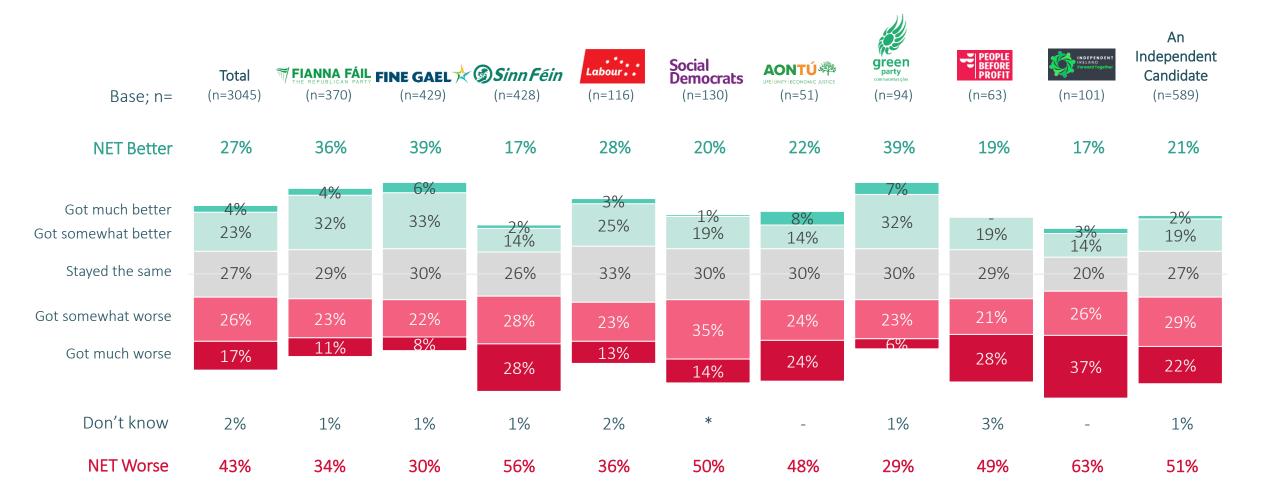
S16. Would you say that over the past twelve months, the state of the economy in Ireland has got much better, got somewhat better, stayed about the same, got somewhat worse, or got much worse?

Base: All Adults 18+, n=3,045

## Voter attitudes toward the economy – by party support



Has the economy in Ireland got better or worse in past 12 months



S16. Would you say that over the past twelve months, the state of the economy in Ireland has got much better, got somewhat better, stayed about the same, got somewhat worse, or got much worse?

Base: All Adults 18+, n=3,045

## Attitudes towards various political topics – I



There should be very strict limits on the number of immigrants coming to live in Ireland

Ethnic minorities should adapt to Ireland's way of life

Most people who run for office are generally interested in their own importance, power and the perks of office

The people, and not the politicians, should make our most important policy decisions

Most politicians only care about the interests of the rich and powerful

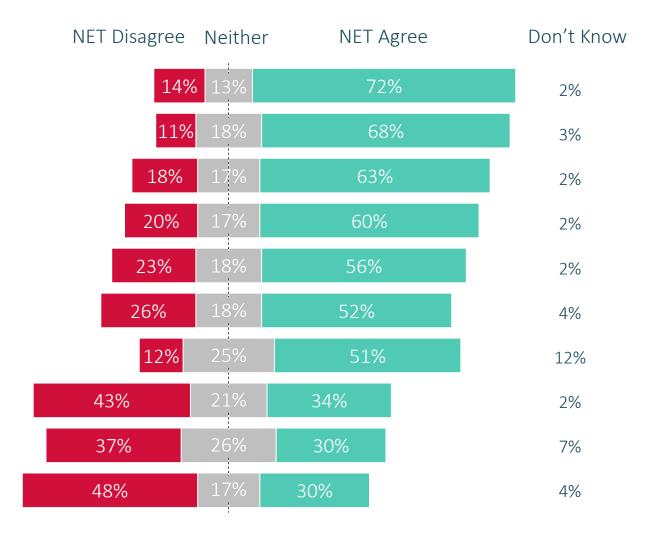
Immigrants are good for Ireland's economy

Special interests/ lobbyists/NGOs have too much influence on legislation

Most politicians are trustworthy

I would welcome a traveller as a member of the family

Asylum seekers should have the same rights to social services as Irish people



## Attitudes towards various political topics – I - X Demographics

C	

									Sig highe	er/lower a	t 95% conf
<u>NET Agree</u>		Ger	nder		Age		Socia	Class	 	Region	
Base; n=	<b>Total</b> (n=3045)	Male (n=1384)	Female (n=1652)	<b>18-34</b> (n=706)	<b>35-54</b> (n=1320)	<b>55+</b> (n=1019)	<b>ABC1</b> (n=1611)	<b>C2DEF</b> (n=1434)	<b>Dublin</b> (n=825)	MNW (n=1078)	<b>South</b> (n=1142)
There should be very strict limits on the number of immigrants coming to live in Ireland	72%	69%	74%	63%	76%	73%	66%	77%	68%	75%	71%
Ethnic minorities should adapt to Ireland's way of life	68%	72%	64%	59%	70%	74%	67%	69%	: : 69%	68%	68%
Most people who run for office are generally interested in their own importance, power and the perks of office	63%	63%	64%	66%	67%	57%	62%	65%	63%	66%	61%
The people, and not the politicians, should make our most important policy decisions	60%	60%	61%	65%	62%	55%	57%	63%	61%	60%	61%
Nost politicians only care about the interests of the rich and powerful	56%	54%	58%	62%	63%	44%	52%	60%	57%	58%	54%
Immigrants are good for Ireland's economy	52%	59%	46%	57%	43%	58%	61%	44%	58%	47%	52%
Special interests/ lobbyists/NGOs have too much influence on legislation	51%	62%	41%	49%	51%	52%	54%	48%	56%	49%	50%
Most politicians are trustworthy	34%	37%	30%	26%	27%	48%	36%	32%	36%	30%	36%
I would welcome a traveller as a member of the family	30%	29%	31%	40%	29%	22%	30%	30%	36%	27%	27%
Asylum seekers should have the same rights to social services as Irish people	30%	34%	27%	41%	24%	30%	35%	27%	34%	28%	30%

## Attitudes towards various political topics – I - X Party Support





Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

<u>NET Agree</u>	Total	Fianna Fáil	Fine Gael	Sinn Féin	Labour	Social Democrats	Aontú	The Green Party	PBP- Solidarity	Independent Ireland	An independent candidate
Base; n	<b>=</b> (n=3045)	(n=370)	(n=429)	(n=428)	(n=116)	(n=130)	(n=51)	(n=94)	(n=63)	(n=101)	(n=589)
There should be very strict limits on the number of immigrants coming to live in Ireland	72%	74%	71%	73%	55%	41%	89%	46%	49%	88%	78%
Ethnic minorities should adapt to Ireland's way of life	68%	71%	68%	68%	55%	46%	93%	53%	50%	80%	72%
Most people who run for office are generally interested in their own importance, power and the perks of office	63%	51%	51%	75%	53%	55%	73%	51%	76%	81%	71%
The people, and not the politicians, should make our most important policy decisions	60%	51%	51%	68%	51%	53%	70%	49%	57%	77%	69%
Most politicians only care about the interests of the rich and powerful	56%	40%	38%	74%	48%	57%	71%	51%	84%	78%	60%
Immigrants are good for Ireland's economy	52%	57%	54%	44%	71%	82%	37%	74%	68%	27%	46%
Special interests/ lobbyists/NGOs have too much influence on legislation	51%	48%	42%	55%	52%	48%	67%	52%	47%	66%	61%
Most politicians are trustworthy	34%	54%	50%	17%	35%	32%	20%	45%	8%	26%	25%
I would welcome a traveller as a member of the family	30%	22%	22%	40%	36%	48%	31%	48%	55%	27%	29%
Asylum seekers should have the same rights to social services as Irish people	30%	27%	25%	35%	40%	55%	19%	60%	52%	17%	25%

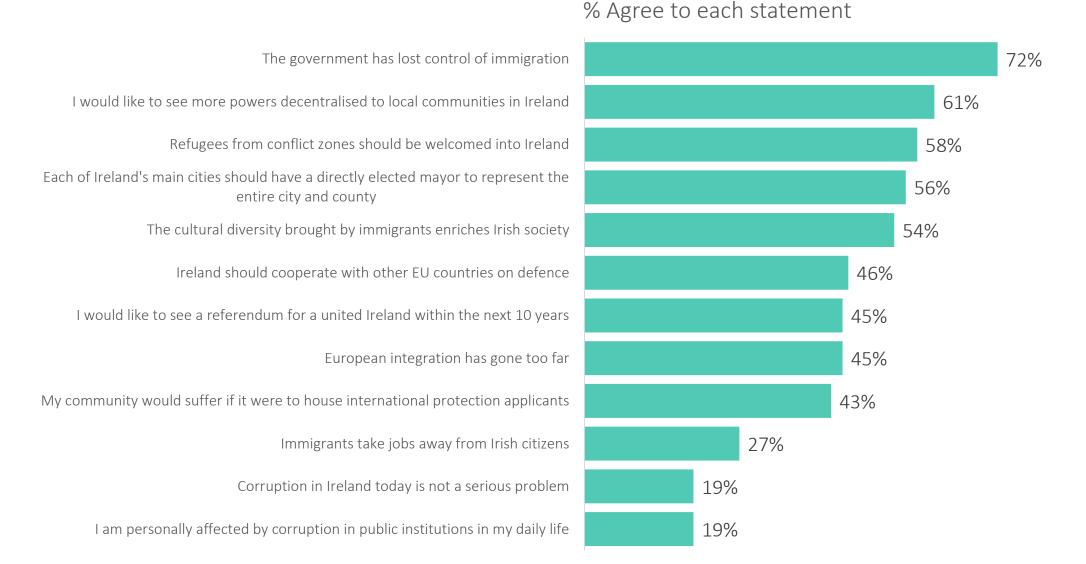
S11. To which extent you agree or disagree with each? – Summary

Base: All Adults 18+, n=3,045

Not showing parties with base size <n-50

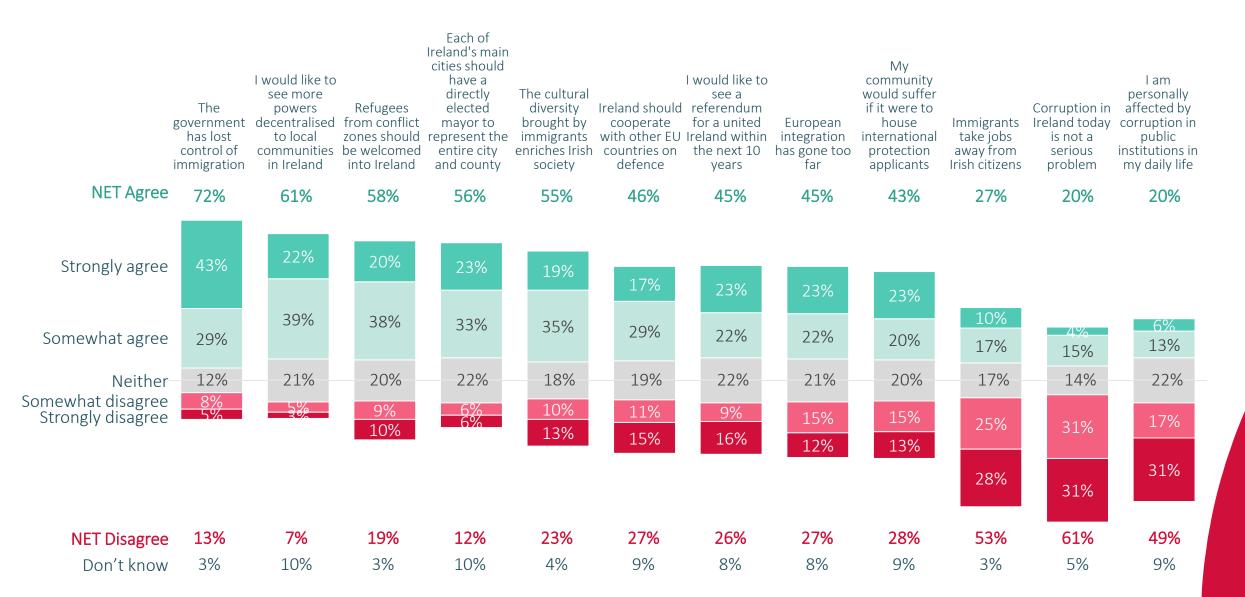
## Attitudes towards various political topics - II





## Attitudes towards various political topics - II





# Attitudes towards various political topics - II X Demographics



% agree with each statement

Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

		Ger	nder	Age			Social	Class			
Base; n=	<b>Total</b> (n=3045)	Male (n=1384)	Female (n=1652)	18-34 (n=706)	<b>35-54</b> (n=1320)	<b>55+</b> (n=1019)	ABC1 (n=1611)	<b>C2DEF</b> (n=1434)	<b>Dublin</b> (n=825)	MNW (n=1078)	<b>South</b> (n=1142)
The government has lost control of immigration	72%	69%	75%	67%	77%	70%	66%	77%	71%	74%	72%
I would like to see more powers decentralised to local communities in Ireland	61%	66%	56%	57%	60%	65%	61%	61%	56%	61%	66%
Refugees from conflict zones should be welcomed into Ireland	58%	61%	55%	60%	50%	65%	64%	52%	60%	53%	60%
Each of Ireland's main cities should have a directly elected mayor to represent the entire city and county	56%	57%	54%	60%	57%	50%	56%	55%	59%	52%	56%
The cultural diversity brought by immigrants enriches Irish society	55%	57%	52%	60%	49%	56%	63%	47%	58%	49%	56%
Ireland should cooperate with other EU countries on defence	46%	56%	36%	45%	42%	52%	51%	42%	50%	42%	47%
I would like to see a referendum for a united Ireland within the next 10 years	45%	48%	42%	54%	45%	38%	45%	45%	46%	44%	45%
European integration has gone too far	45%	45%	44%	39%	50%	43%	38%	50%	47%	44%	44%
My community would suffer if it were to house international protection applicants	43%	42%	44%	45%	51%	33%	38%	47%	44%	46%	40%
Immigrants take jobs away from Irish citizens	27%	27%	27%	30%	27%	25%	21%	33%	28%	29%	25%
Corruption in Ireland today is not a serious problem	20%	24%	15%	25%	16%	19%	22%	18%	21%	17%	21%
I am personally affected by corruption in public institutions in my daily life	20%	23%	16%	30%	22%	10%	19%	21%	24%	20%	17%

#### Attitudes towards various political topics II x party support



% agree with each statement



S

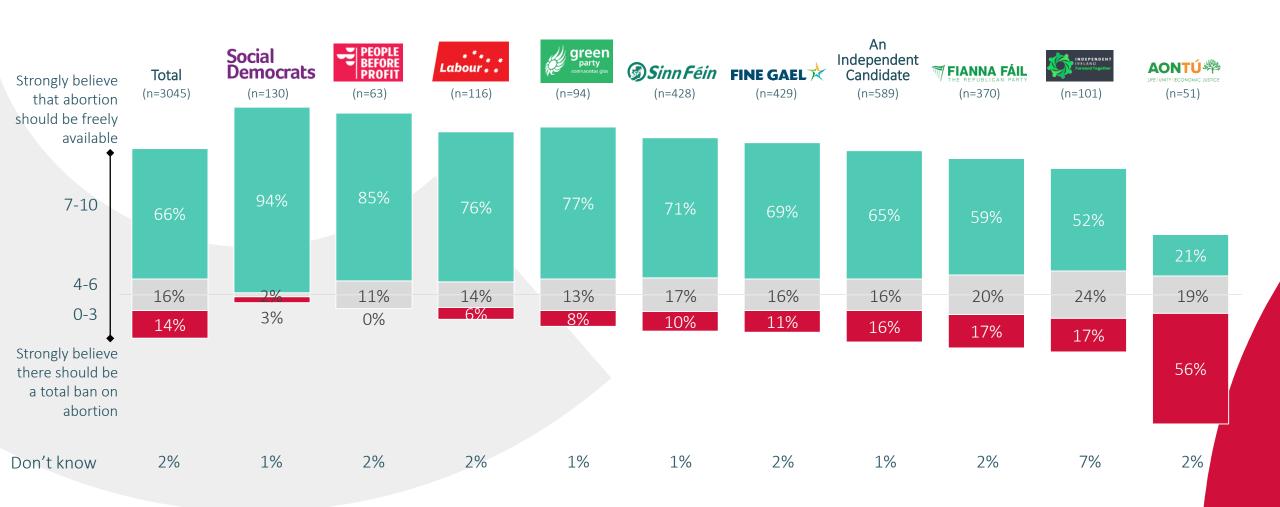
Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

	Total	Fianna Fáil	Fine Gael	Sinn Féin	Labour	Social Democrats	Aontú	The Green Party	PBP- Solidarity	Independent Ireland	An independent candidate
Base; n=	(n=3045)	(n=370)	(n=429)	(n=428)	(n=116)	(n=130)	(n=51)	(n=94)	(n=63)	(n=101)	(n=589)
The government has lost control of immigration	72%	68%	66%	79%	64%	56%	82%	47%	71%	86%	83%
I would like to see more powers decentralised to local communities in Ireland	61%	66%	60%	67%	65%	59%	65%	66%	63%	59%	66%
Refugees from conflict zones should be welcomed into Ireland	58%	64%	59%	56%	79%	88%	50%	75%	67%	26%	54%
Each of Ireland's main cities should have a directly elected mayor to represent the entire city and county	56%	59%	55%	62%	54%	61%	39%	60%	63%	54%	57%
The cultural diversity brought by immigrants enriches Irish society	55%	59%	57%	52%	80%	87%	34%	83%	73%	33%	44%
Ireland should cooperate with other EU countries on defence	46%	55%	55%	39%	54%	47%	32%	48%	29%	27%	39%
I would like to see a referendum for a united Ireland within the next 10 years	45%	43%	40%	67%	50%	48%	43%	47%	64%	39%	40%
European integration has gone too far	45%	41%	39%	48%	29%	16%	66%	27%	24%	71%	55%
My community would suffer if it were to house international protection applicants	43%	41%	38%	45%	28%	24%	61%	24%	26%	74%	50%
Immigrants take jobs away from Irish citizens	27%	26%	19%	31%	11%	3%	39%	14%	13%	51%	28%
Corruption in Ireland today is not a serious problem	20%	26%	25%	13%	19%	29%	18%	30%	10%	23%	13%
I am personally affected by corruption in public institutions in my daily life	20%	9%	14%	27%	9%	29%	20%	19%	22%	28%	20%

Not showing parties with base size <n-50

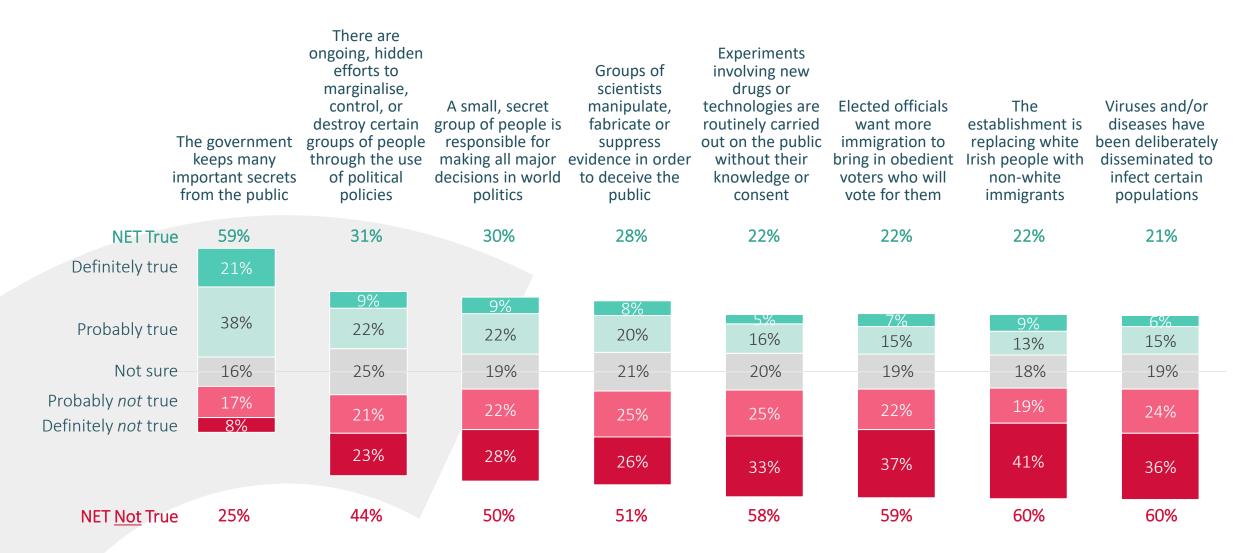
#### **Attitudes towards Abortion by local election party support**





#### **Conspiracy Theory Battery - Summary**





S10. Please indicate the degree to which you believe each statement is likely to be true using the following scale.

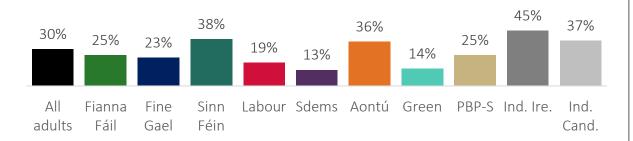
Base: All Adults 18+, n=3,045

#### **Conspiracy Theory Battery x local election party support**

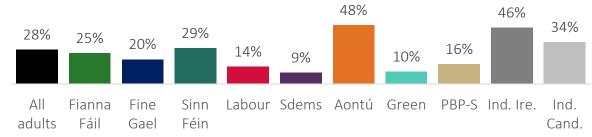


% agree to each statement

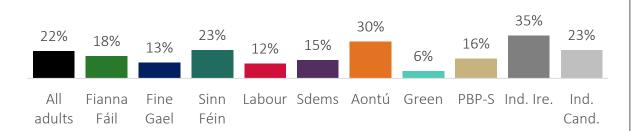
A small, secret group of people is responsible for making all major decisions in world politics



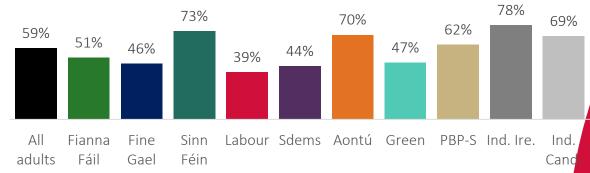
Groups of scientists manipulate, fabricate or suppress evidence in order to deceive the public



Experiments involving new drugs or technologies are routinely carried out on the public without their knowledge or consent



The government keeps many important secrets from the public



S10. Please indicate the degree to which you believe each statement is likely to be true using the following scale.

Base: All Adults 18+, n=3,045

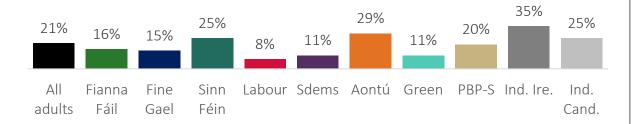
Not showing parties where base n=<50

#### **Conspiracy Theory Battery x local election party support**

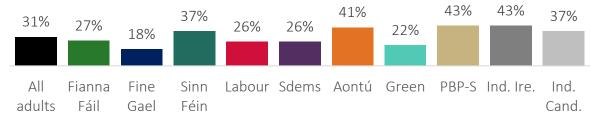


% agree to each statement

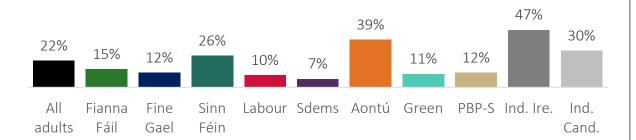
Viruses and/or diseases have been deliberately disseminated to infect certain populations



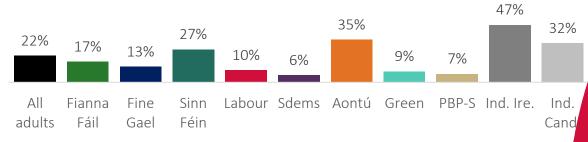
There are ongoing, hidden efforts to marginalise, control, or destroy certain groups of people through the use of political policies



Elected officials want more immigration to bring in obedient voters who will vote for them



The establishment is replacing white Irish people with nonwhite immigrants



S10. Please indicate the degree to which you believe each statement is likely to be true using the following scale.

Base: All Adults 18+, n=3,045

Not showing parties where base n=<50

# **Voter Experience X Party Support (NET Agree)**







Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

	Total	Fianna Fáil	Fine Gael	Sinn Féin	Labour	Social Democrats	Aontú	The Green Party	PBP- Solidarity	Ireland	candidate
Base; n=	(n=24/5)	(n=370)	(n=429)	(n=428)	(n=116)	(n=130)	(n=51)	(n=94)	(n=63)	(n=101)	(n=589)
I was confident that I understood the ballot papers and how to cast my vote	94%	94%	95%	92%	92%	96%	100%	95%	98%	96%	95%
I am confident my ballot papers are secret once I have put them in the ballot box	86%	92%	90%	80%	89%	97%	79%	90%	83%	83%	81%
The length of the ballot paper impacted how I voted	32%	31%	29%	28%	30%	36%	19%	43%	27%	20%	32%
I found it confusing to have more than one ballot paper to mark	14%	13%	9%	16%	11%	7%	10%	18%	14%	12%	10%
I did not get the assistance I needed from the polling station staff	12%	13%	8%	13%	5%	8%	9%	15%	11%	10%	9%
The polling station was inaccessible/hard to get to	9%	7%	7%	10%	10%	8%	4%	9%	7%	10%	6%

5.5

Election questions x party preference

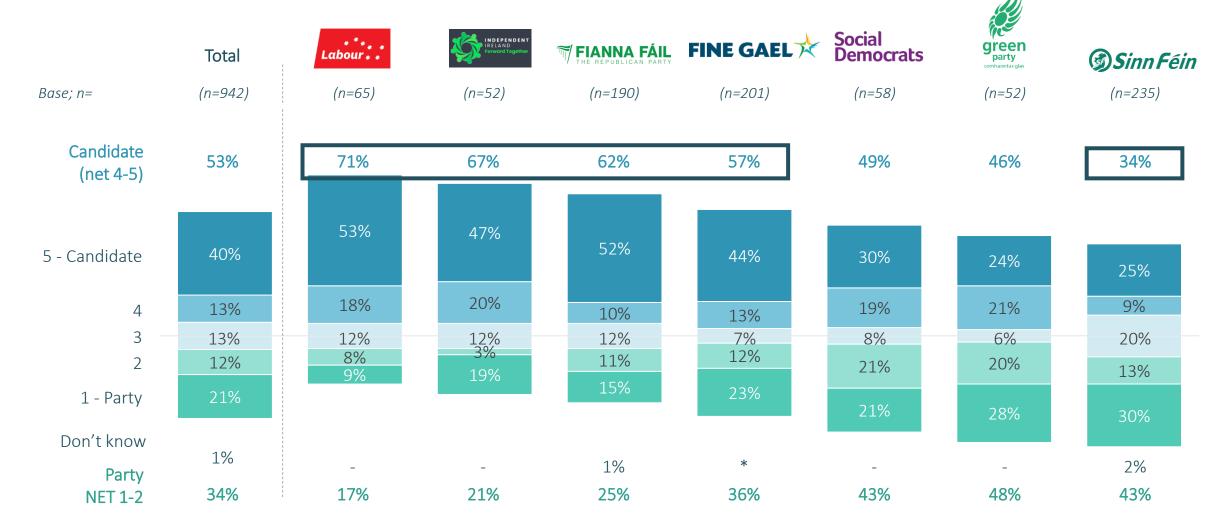
# When made up mind on how to vote x local election party support C

Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

Local elections	Total	Fianna Fáil	Fine Gael	Sinn Féin	Labour	Social Democrats	Aontú	The Green Party	PBP-S	Independent Ireland	An independent candidate
Base; n=	(n=2441)	(n=370)	(n=429)	(n=428)	(n=116)	(n=130)	(n=51)	(n=94)	(n=63)	(n=101)	(n=589)
Within 24 hours of voting	20%	20%	16%	19%	23%	22%	20%	23%	20%	28%	23%
Within a few days of voting	22%	19%	19%	20%	23%	33%	32%	29%	29%	14%	21%
A week before voting	14%	13%	18%	17%	14%	13%	7%	9%	11%	16%	15%
2-3 weeks before the election	18%	15%	18%	16%	22%	18%	22%	21%	17%	18%	20%
When the election was called	13%	16%	15%	10%	7%	8%	14%	10%	13%	16%	13%
Sometime before the election was called	7%	8%	6%	9%	6%	2%	4%	5%	7%	6%	7%
I always vote for the same party	6%	9%	9%	11%	6%	4%	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%
NET within a week of the election	56%	52%	53%	56%	60%	68%	59%	61%	60%	58%	59%

# **Preference for Party or Candidate in Local Elections**





**Note**: Only showing parties with base of at least n=50

#### **Preference for Party or Candidate in Locals x Demographics**

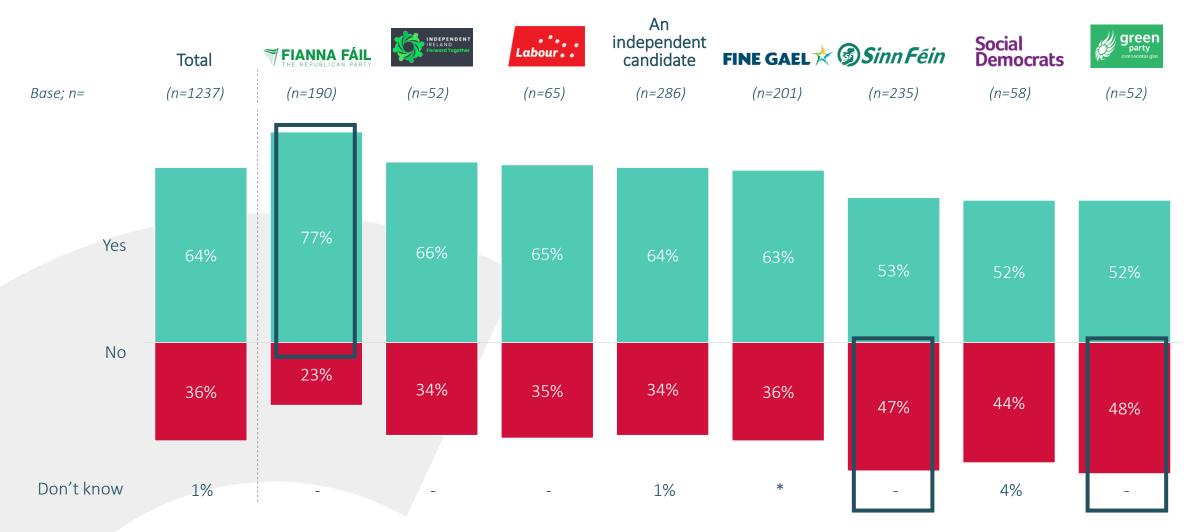


										Ulster/		
	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Connacht	Urban	Rural
Base; n=	(n=3045)	(n=1384)	(n=1652)	(n=706)	(n=1320)	(n=1019)	(n=2171)	(n=874)	(n=825)	(n=856)	(n=813)	(n=551)
NET 4-5	53%	52%	54%	50%	58%	50%	40%	54%	59%	63%	49%	62%
5 - Candidate	40%	36%	45%	30%	46%	42%	25%	42%	48%	49%	36%	50%
4	13%	16%	9%	21%	13%	8%	15%	12%	11%	13%	13%	12%
3	13%	11%	14%	11%	12%	14%	15%	11%	11%	13%	14%	10%
2	12%	14%	11%	22%	9%	9%	18%	11%	9%	11%	13%	11%
1 - Party	21%	23%	20%	15%	19%	27%	26%	23%	20%	13%	23%	16%
Don't know <b>NET 1-2</b>	1% <b>34%</b>	1% <b>37%</b>	1% <b>31%</b>	2% <b>37%</b>	1% <b>29%</b>	* 36%	1% 44%	1% <b>34%</b>	1% <b>29%</b>	1% <b>24%</b>	1% <b>37%</b>	* 27%

L2. Which would you say was more important in deciding how you cast your first preference vote in the local election - the party or the candidate him/herself?

# Exposure to Candidates/Canvassers during campaign (Locals) REDC





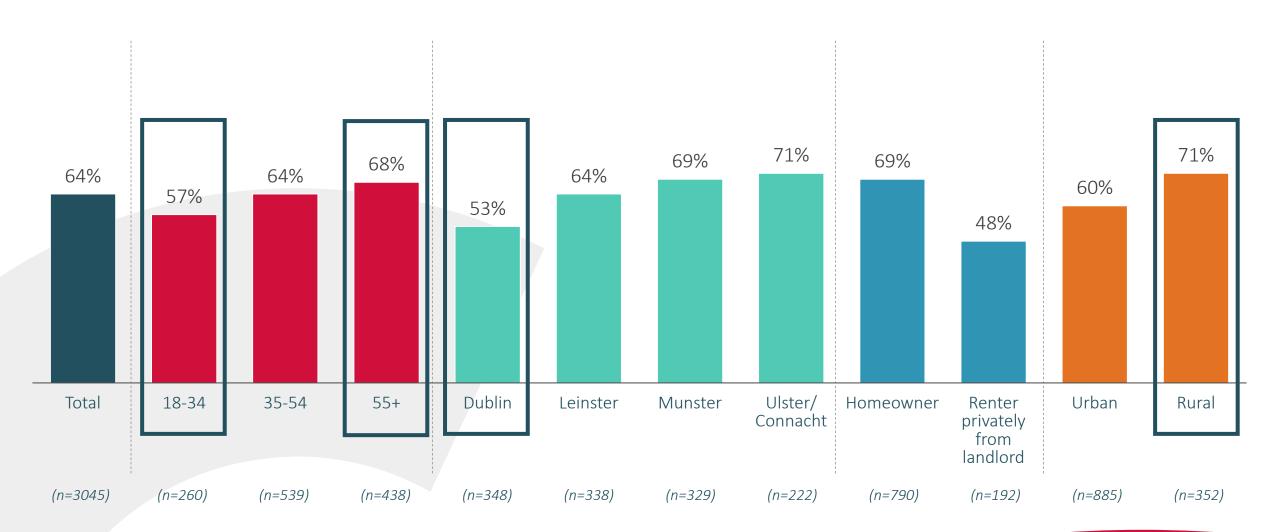
**Note**: Only showing parties with base of at least n=50

L5. Did you meet any of the candidates or their canvassers during the campaign? Note: Showing visits by candidate of any party/independent as opposed to party voted for

# **Exposure to Candidates/Canvassers in Local Elections**



% - YES



# When made up mind on how to vote x EU election party support

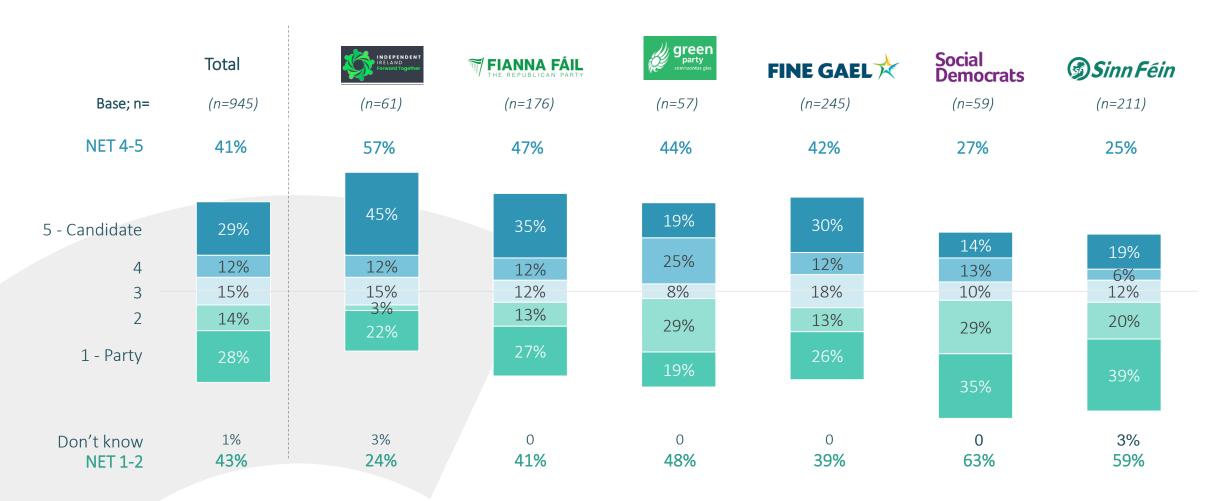


Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

									,		
European elections	Total	Fianna Fáil	Fine Gael	Sinn Féin	Labour	Social Democrats	Aontú	The Green Party	PBP-S	Independent Ireland	An tindependent candidate
Base; n=	(n=2385)	(n=365)	(n=420)	(n=401)	(n=112)	(n=127)	(n=49)	(n=88)	(n=63)	(n=96)	(n=565)
Within 24 hours of voting	28%	30%	26%	22%	35%	24%	20%	29%	21%	34%	29%
Within a few days of voting	22%	21%	22%	20%	20%	32%	25%	26%	31%	17%	25%
A week before voting	14%	11%	15%	17%	12%	13%	11%	8%	12%	6%	14%
2-3 weeks before the election	17%	16%	17%	14%	16%	13%	31%	16%	14%	20%	19%
When the election was called	9%	8%	10%	9%	8%	11%	7%	11%	13%	13%	8%
Sometime before the election was called	5%	5%	4%	9%	7%	3%	6%	10%	7%	7%	4%
I always vote for the same party	5%	8%	6%	10%	3%	4%	0	1%	3%	2%	1%
NET within a week of the election	64%	62%	63%	59%	67%	69%	56%	63%	64%	57%	68%

#### **Preference for Party or Candidate in European Elections**



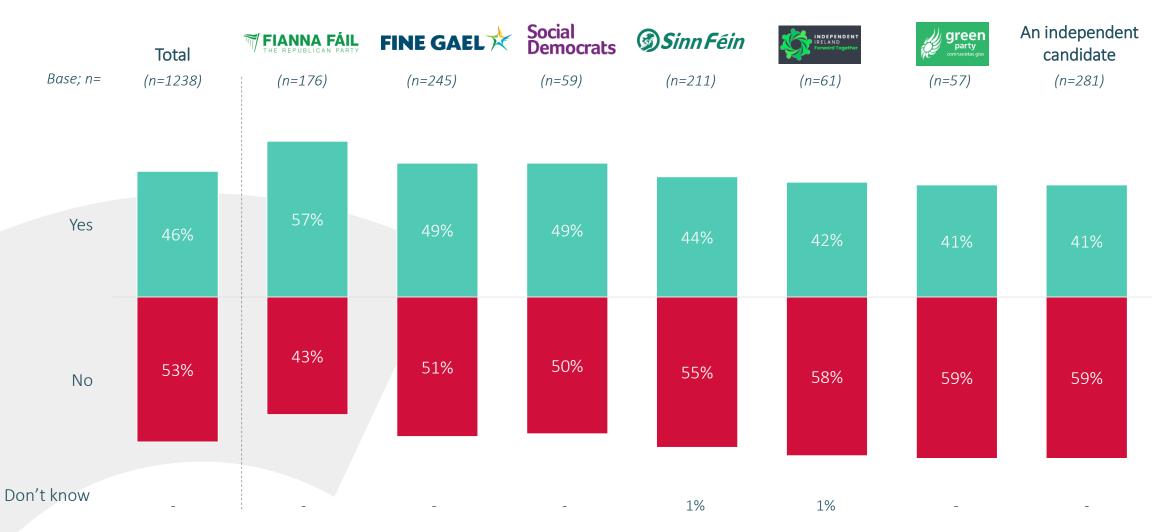


**Note**: Only showing parties with base of at least n=50

E2. Which would you say was more important in deciding how you cast your first preference vote in the European election - the party or the candidate him/herself?

# Exposure to Candidates/Canvassers during the EU campaign



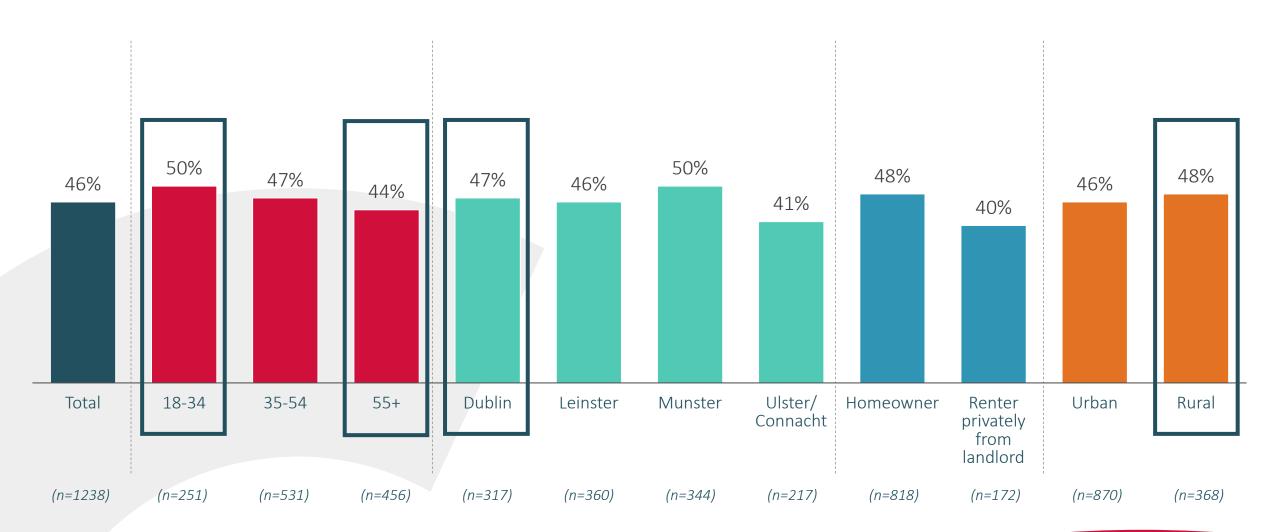


**Note**: Only showing parties with base of at least n=50

# **Exposure to Candidates/Canvassers during campaign (Europeans)**



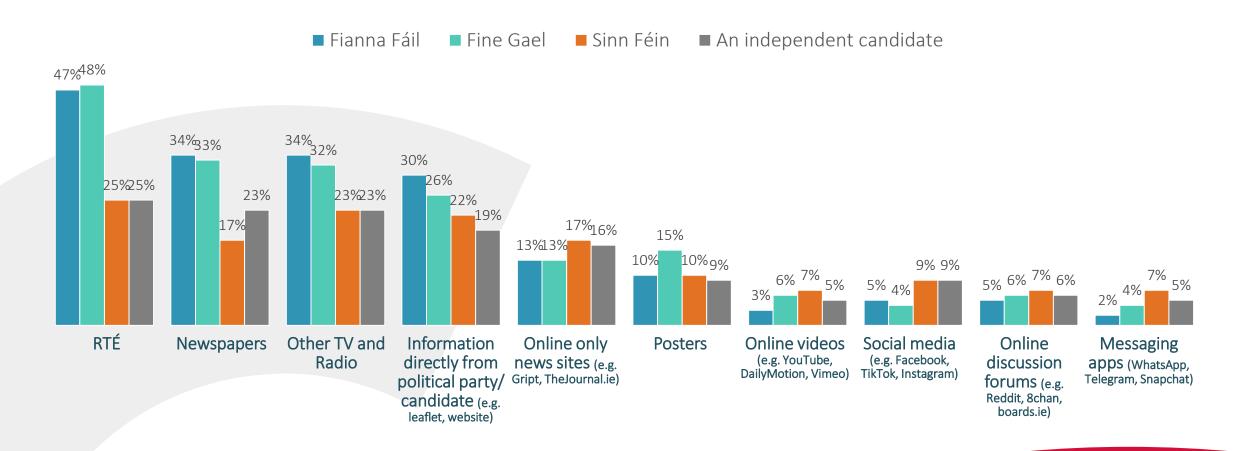
% - YES



#### Trust in information sources by local election party support



Trust in information sources (High trust 8-10) X local election party support



#### Trust in information sources by local election party support



Trust in information sources (High trust 8-10) X local election party Support

Sig higher/lower at 95% confidence

	Total	Fianna Fáil	Fine Gael	Sinn Féin	Labour	Social Democrats	Aontú	The Green Party	PBP-Solidarity	•	An independent candidate
Base; n=	(n=3045)	(n=370)	(n=429)	(n=428)	(n=116)	(n=130)	(n=51)	(n=94)	(n=63)	(n=101)	(n=589)
RTÉ	33%	47%	48%	25%	40%	38%	13%	46%	24%	16%	25%
Newspapers	25%	34%	33%	17%	36%	32%	13%	40%	25%	11%	23%
Other TV and Radio	25%	34%	32%	23%	24%	29%	14%	31%	21%	14%	23%
Information directly from political party/ candidate (e.g. leaflet, website)	22%	30%	26%	22%	16%	27%	22%	20%	16%	14%	19%
Online only news sites (e.g. Gript, TheJournal.ie)	14%	13%	13%	17%	12%	17%	18%	25%	19%	19%	16%
Posters	11%	10%	15%	10%	11%	11%	15%	8%	4%	9%	9%
Online videos (e.g. YouTube, DailyMotion, Vimeo)	7%	3%	6%	7%	5%	10%	7%	10%	3%	7%	5%
Social media (e.g. Facebook, TikTok, Instagram)	7%	5%	4%	9%	3%	7%	8%	14%	4%	15%	9%
Online discussion forums (e.g. Reddit, 8chan, boards.ie)	7%	5%	6%	7%	4%	12%	3%	7%	14%	6%	6%
Messaging apps (WhatsApp, Telegram, Snapchat)	6%	2%	4%	7%	2%	7%	4%	6%	3%	11%	5%

S4. To what extent, if at all, do you trust the following sources of information to form an opinion before voting? – Summary

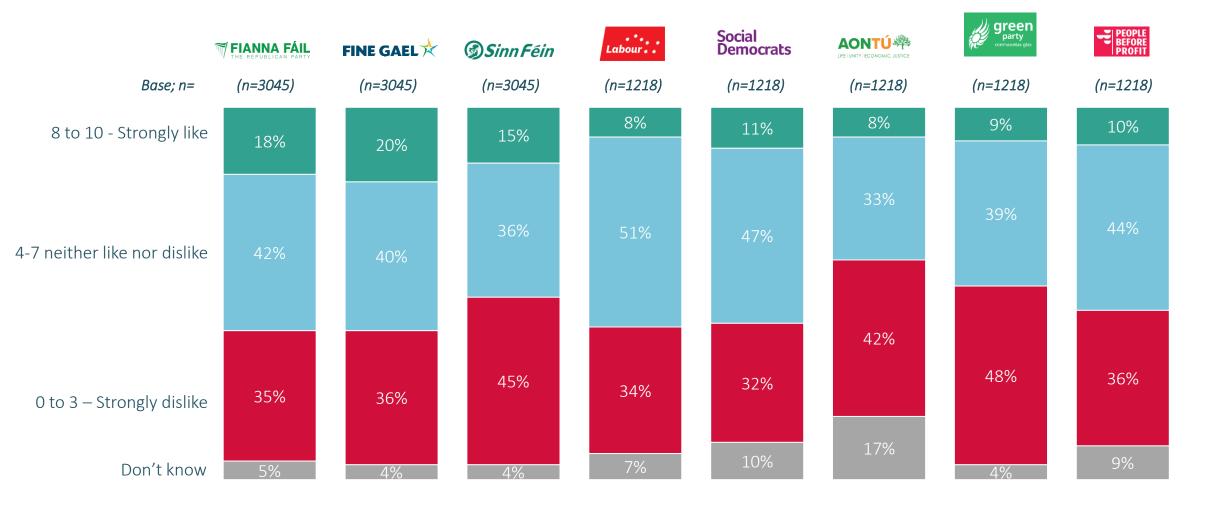
Base: All Adults 18+, n=3,045

5.6

Likability of Government/Political parties

#### Likeability of political parties in Ireland





**Note**: Only showing parties with base of at least n=50

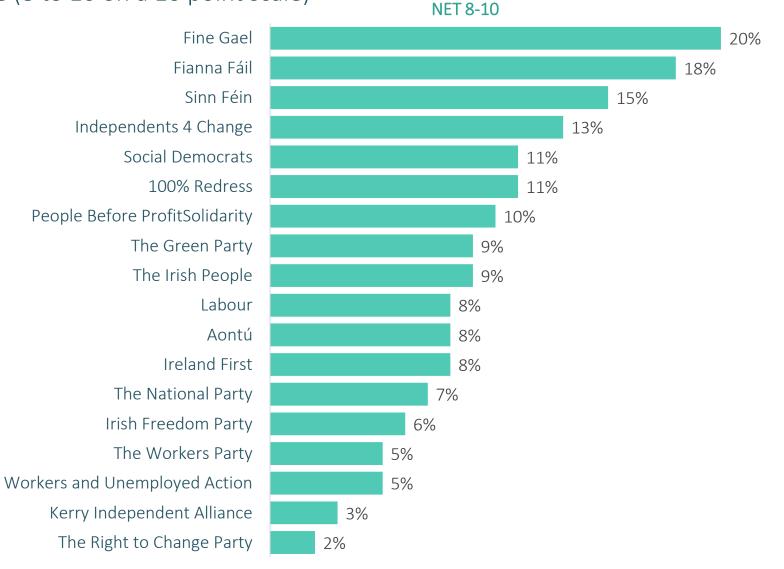
S17 We would like to know what you think about some of our political parties. For each, please rate it on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means you strongly dislike that party and 10 means that you strongly like that party.

Base: All Adults 18+, n=3,045 (All respondents asked about Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, Sinn Féin. Split sample in effect for other parties)

#### Likeability of political parties in Ireland

C

% saying they like (8 to 10 on a 10 point scale)



S17 We would like to know what you think about some of our political parties. For each, please rate it on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means you strongly dislike that party and 10 means that you strongly like that party.

Base: All Adults 18+, n=3,045

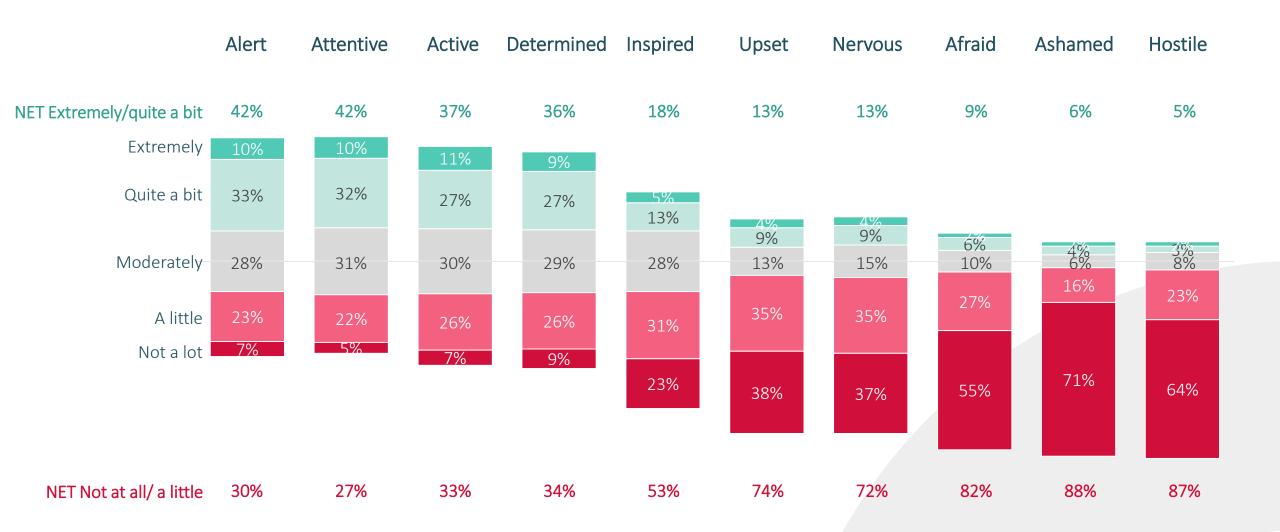
5.7

Emotional Position of Voters

#### **Emotional position of voters**



To what extent have voters felt this way in the past week?



# RESEARCH EVALUATION DIRECTION CLARITY

See More, Clearly



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