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Chapter 1 : Political parties in the Republic of Ireland / Michael Gallagher | National Library of Australia

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Courts of the Republic of Ireland Ireland is a common law jurisdiction. The judiciary consists of the Supreme Court , the High Court and other lower courts established by law. Judges are appointed by the President after being nominated by the Government and can be removed from office only for misbehaviour or incapacity, and then only by resolution of both houses of the Oireachtas. The final court of appeal is the Supreme Court, which consists of the Chief Justice, seven ordinary judges and ex officio the President of the High Court. The Supreme Court rarely sits as a full bench and normally hears cases in chambers of three, five or seven judges. Both the Supreme Court and the High Court have the power of judicial review and may declare to be invalid both laws and acts of the state which are repugnant to the constitution. State-sponsored bodies of the Republic of Ireland The Government, through the civil and public services and state-sponsored bodies, is a significant employer in the state; these three sectors are often called the public sector. Management of these various bodies vary, for instance in the civil service there will be clearly defined routes and patterns whilst among public services a sponsoring minister or the Minister for Finance may appoint a board or commission. Commercial activities, where the state involves itself, are typically through the state-sponsored bodies which are usually organised in a similar fashion to private companies. A report on public sector employment, showed that in June the numbers employed in the public sector stood at ,; of these by sector they were 38, civil service , , public service and 57, state-sponsored. Whilst these two components are largely theoretical, they do have some fundamental operational differences. The civil service is expected to maintain the political impartiality in its work, and some sections of it are entirely independent of Government decision making. Public service of the Republic of Ireland The public service is a relatively broad term and is not clearly defined and sometimes is taken to include the civil service. The public service proper consists of Government agencies and bodies which provide services on behalf of the Government but are not the core civil service. Local government in the Republic of Ireland Article 28A of the constitution of Ireland provides a constitutional basis for local government. The Oireachtas is empowered to establish the number, size and powers of local authorities by law. Under Article 28A, members of local authorities must be directly elected by voters at least once every five years. The most significant of these is the Local Government Act , which established a two-tier structure of local government. The Local Government Reform Act abolished the bottom tier, the town councils, leaving 31 local authorities. For other political parties, see Political parties in the Republic of Ireland. An overview on elections and election results is included in Elections in the Republic of Ireland. The Irish electoral system has been characterised by the two and a half party system, with two large catch all parties dominating. The current largest party in the state is Fine Gael , which has its origins in the pro-treaty movement of Michael Collins in the Irish Civil War. Traditionally the party of law and order , it is associated with strong belief in pro-enterprise and reward. Despite expressions of Social Democracy by previous leader Garrett Fitzgerald, today, it remains a Christian democratic , economically liberal party along European lines, with a strongly pro-European outlook. In recent years it has generally been associated with a liberal outlook. It has formed government in the periods 1932 Cumann na nGaedheal , 1951, 1957, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1997, and to present. It first formed a government on the basis of a populist programme of land redistribution and national preference in trade and republican populism remains a key part of its appeal. It has formed government seven times since Ireland gained independence: It lost a huge amount of support in the general election but has since regained some support. The current-day party has been historically linked to the Provisional IRA. The party is a Republican party which takes a more left wing stance on economics and social policy than the Labour Party. The fourth largest party in the state is the centre-left Labour Party which was founded by James Connolly and

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Jim Larkin in Formed in , the group represents a left-wing, socialist viewpoint, with particular focus on the abolition of domestic water charges.

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Chapter 2 : List of political parties in the Republic of Ireland - Wikipedia

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European Union citizens may vote at European and local elections. All residents, regardless of citizenship, may vote at local elections. The electoral system is proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote PR-STV in multi-member constituencies. The system of voting used can be described as follows: The voter marks the ballot paper by placing the figure "1" opposite the name of the candidate of his or her first choice and, if the voter wishes, "2" is placed opposite the name of the second choice, and so on. The elector is, in effect, telling the returning officer "I wish to vote for A, but if that candidate does not need my vote or has no chance of being elected, transfer my vote to B; if B in turn does not need my vote, or in turn has no chance of election, transfer my vote to C". At the opening of the count, the ballot papers are mixed together and then sorted according to the first preferences recorded for the candidates. The total number of valid papers is counted, and the electoral quota is calculated. The quota is the smallest number of votes necessary to secure the election of a candidate. The quota is established according to the formula: If, on the first count, no candidate has reached the quota, the candidate who received the lowest number of votes is eliminated and his or her votes are transferred to the candidate for whom a second preference is recorded. If a candidate receives more than the quota required for election, his or her surplus votes are transferred to the remaining candidates in accordance with the subsequent preferences expressed by the electors. When the number of remaining candidates who have neither been elected nor eliminated corresponds to the number of vacancies to be filled, those candidates are declared elected. This applies even though the remaining candidates may not have reached the quota. The voting system used is proportional representation by secret postal ballot. The electorate for the forty-three members of the Seanad elected from panels of candidates, numbers just over 1, There is a separate election for each of the five panels. The electorate for the six members elected from the universities consists of every citizen who has received a degree other than an honorary one from those universities and who has attained the age of eighteen years and is registered as an elector. Its aims are to secure the unity and independence of Ireland as a republic, to restore the Irish language, to develop a distinctive national life in accordance with Irish traditions and ideals, and to make the resources and wealth of Ireland subservient to the needs and welfare of all the people of Ireland. Its policy also includes the provision of employment for the maximum number of people. Its achievements have included the consolidation of Irish independence, promulgation of the Constitution in , maintenance of Irish neutrality in the Second World War, construction of a domestic industrial base, redistribution of agricultural land, the introduction and extension of housing and social assistance programmes, the opening up of Ireland to trade and investment, negotiating entry into the EEC and participation in the EU, including a massive increase in EU funding and the attraction of high technology industry and financial services to Ireland. Fine Gael was founded in by the coming together of a number of parties. The predominant party in this amalgamation was Cumann na nGaedheal. Cumann na nGaedheal had been founded in to sustain the Government of the infant Free State in its efforts to build and develop the new nation on the basis of the treaty negotiated a few months earlier. The Cumann na nGaedheal party governed from the foundation of the State until Fine Gael has committed itself to an ideal which was shared by Cumann na nGaedheal of developing a wider, pluralistic sense of Irish nationalism. Fine Gael policy is based on the principles of the encouragement of enterprise combined with social justice and with decision-making devolved to the appropriate level, as well as on the ideal of reconciliation with the people of Northern Ireland. Fine Gael favours a planned approach to encourage expansion to counteract the effect of world recession. This is to be done by a mixture of State encouragement for private enterprise and effort and direct State involvement. It has as its immediate objectives improved access for young people and women to decision-making, greater tax equity, fairer opportunities in education and the maintenance or improvement of

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social welfare provisions. Fine Gael is also committed to the development and unification of the European Union. It is the oldest political party in Ireland and through its affiliation to the Socialist International is a sister party of the Social Democratic and Labour Party in Northern Ireland. The Labour Party seeks to build a society free from deprivation and based on the principles of democracy, equality, participation and co-operation. Since its foundation, the Labour Party has taken part in seven coalition Governments, the present one of which dates from late 1974. At the General Election of 1977 the Party won 26.5% of the vote, enabling it to enter Government early in 1977. In 1977 the Progressive Democrats were established with the aim of providing Ireland with a modern, forward looking liberal party in the European mould. The party favours positive Government action to create an enterprise society and a review of the role of the State in the economic and social life of the country. The party supports the movement towards greater political and economic integration amongst the Member States of the European Union. Its headquarters are at 25 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2. Democratic Left Democratic Left was founded in 1976. The party is organised in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and is represented on a total of 19 local authorities. Democratic Left entered government as part of the coalition formed in December 1977. Among the principal objectives of Democratic Left are: Party policy is decided at the Annual Delegate Conference which also elects the party leader and a National Executive Committee of 20 members. Democratic Left is particularly committed to the achievement of gender equality in society and in its own internal structures. Democratic Left believes that neither traditional unionism nor traditional nationalism can provide a solution to the problems in Northern Ireland. The party belongs to a "third strand" of political opinion which emphasises equal recognition of and respect for the opposing national allegiances which have been at the heart of the conflict in Northern Ireland, and supports the concept of weighted-majority decision making at central and local level. The party is committed to the development of the European Union along democratic lines but is opposed to the emergence of an EU military super-power. This was followed by further electoral successes in local government elections, with another major breakthrough coming in the European elections when the electorate sent two Green MEPs to Brussels. The motto of the Green Party is, Think Globally, Act Locally, and it puts this into practice by its activities on a number of social and environmental issues in Ireland. It is linked with the European-wide Green movement, and with them is working for a sustainable, just and ecological world. The Party has no leaders, with all positions within it rotating after one year. Experience has shown that an open, non-hierarchical party works the best.

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Chapter 3 : The Irish State - Political Parties and Elections

It was the only political party to have seats in the parliaments of both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland until the Green Party organised on an island-wide basis. Since supporting the Peace Process Sinn Féin has seen a dramatic increase in support in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland.

Below is a list of the prime ministers Taoisigh: August 1922 - March 1923 Eamon de Valera: March 1923 - February 1924 John A. February 1924 - June 1924 Eamon de Valera: June 1924 - June 1925 John A. June 1925 - March 1926 Eamon de Valera: June 1926 - November 1927 Jack Lynch: November 1927 - March 1928 Liam Cosgrave: March 1928 - June 1929 Jack Lynch: July 1929 - December 1930 Charles J. December 1930 - June 1931 Garret FitzGerald: June 1931 - January 1932 Charles J. March 1932 - December 1933 Garret FitzGerald: December 1933 - March 1934 Charles J. March 1934 - February 1935 Albert Reynolds: February 1935 - December 1936 John Bruton: December 1936 - June 1937 Bertie Ahern: June 1937 - May 1938 Brian Cowen: May 1938 - March 1939 Enda Kenny: March 1939 - June 1940 Leo Varadkar: June - present Follow this link to find out about the various government departments: [Back to Top](#) Local Government Along with the central institutions of the Oireachtas, the political system in Ireland also extends to local level government of the local authorities. A list of local authorities can be found here: At these elections, members of the local community elect Councillors to represent the community in local authorities. The elected council is the policy-making arm of the local authority. The day-to-day management of the local authority is coordinated by the county or city manager. What services do Local Authorities provide? Local Authorities are involved in the provision of a wide variety of services such as: Can I be involved in local elections? You are eligible to be elected to a local authority if you are ordinarily resident in Ireland and you are at least 18 years old. You do not have to be an Irish citizen. All residents of Ireland, regardless of nationality, can vote in local elections see below. Ireland is a member of the European Union. Member states participate in common institutions so that decisions on specific matters of joint interest can be made at European level. For more information about the EU see: The European Parliament is elected every five years by the people of Europe to represent their interests. Details of Irish MEPs can be found at [www](#). If you are at least 21 years of age and you are an Irish citizen or a resident EU citizen you can run for election to the European Parliament. Voting Am I entitled to vote in Ireland? This depends on your citizenship. You must also ensure that you are included on the Electoral Register. The right to vote in Ireland is as follows:

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Chapter 4 : Fianna Fáil | political party, Ireland | www.nxgvision.com

*Electoral Support for Irish Political Parties, (Sage professional papers in contemporary political sociology ; ser. no.) [Michael Gallagher] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

It was founded in by a merger of the Cumann na nGaedheal , which had supported the Treaty and formed the government between and , the National Guard popularly called the Blueshirts and the small National Centre Party. It has been in government in the periods 1932, 1951, 1957, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1997, and to date. On each occasion, it was the leading party of a coalition with the Labour Party, and in three of those cases also with other smaller parties. At the general election, Fine Gael become the largest party in the Oireachtas with Historically Fine Gael has been characterised as a centre-right party, supported by large farmers and businessmen, though this has not applied uniformly; for a period from the s, for example, with the publication of the Just Society document, Fine Gael espoused some values of social democracy. During the s, Fine Gael leader Garret FitzGerald advocated a liberal agenda in many areas of social reform. A government of Fine Gael and the Labour Party proposed a successful referendum in support of marriage equality in It generally has the most favourable stance of Irish parties towards the European Union and other international organisation. It has been in government more than any other party: On all occasions up to , it was in a single-party government; on all occasions since then it was the leading party in a coalition government. It was first elected to power in on a constitutional republican platform, promising to destroy constitutional links with Britain and reduce poverty by creating employment. It oversaw much of the industrial development of the Republic and has consequently drawn support from all social classes, making it a classic populist party. Their classic populist stance was highlighted during the years of Catholic dominance in Ireland before the mids and during the Celtic Tiger years when engaged in the high levels of public spending while deregulating and cutting taxes. Bertie Ahern was the Taoiseach from to and negotiated numerous social partnership contracts, the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland, and an agreement among EU heads of government on the European Constitution. He was succeeded by Brian Cowen in May , after resigning due to evidence from the Mahon Tribunal into payments and planning matters. It was closely linked to the Provisional Irish Republican Army. It is led by Mary Lou McDonald. It was the only political party to have seats in the parliaments of both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland until the Green Party organised on an island-wide basis. Their political ideology mainly revolves around democratic socialism , Irish Republicanism , and civic nationalism.

Labour Party[edit] The Labour Party is a social democratic party, founded in as part of the trade union movement, with which it maintains organisational links. For most of the history of the state, it was the third largest party, though it is currently in fourth position in parliamentary strength. It has been in government in the periods 1951, 1957, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1994, 1997, and 2007 The Labour Party merged with the smaller Democratic Left party in In October , they formed a new alliance for electoral purposes as the Anti-Austerity AlliancePeople Before Profit, but continue to organise separately. Both parties have shared platforms on abolishing water charges and the property tax along with tackling homelessness and the housing crisis. The founding TDs have stated their aim to build a mass party of the left and ultimately help form a left-wing government.

Independents 4 Change[edit] Independents 4 Change has been registered as a political party since The other deputies are Clare Daly and Joan Collins. Tommy Broughan was a member until July They have 3 TDs and 1 councillor. The party advocates ecological and socially liberal policies. The Green Party of Northern Ireland voted in to become a region of the Irish Green Party making it the second party to be organised on an all-Ireland basis. The Social Democrats describe themselves as being centre-left and in favour of Scandinavian style public services along with promoting indigenous small and medium-sized enterprise. The Social Democrats have 2 TDs and 7 councillors. He regained the seat at the general election. It has one senator. Parties represented only on local authorities[edit] Renua[edit] Renua was founded in March with Lucinda Creighton as its founding leader. It broadly advocates conservative and social conservative policies,

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including a flat tax and a three-strikes law at the general election. The founding parliamentary party deputies all left Fine Gael over their opposition to the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Act. Subsequently Renua identifies itself as an anti-abortion party. Renua has 2 councillors. It retained links with the Official IRA. It is organised in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. During the s it was a significant party on the political scene with 7 TDs elected in and 1 MEP. A special Ard Fheis conference in designed to re-constitute the party and remove links with the OIRA resulted in a formal split with the bulk of the parliamentary party and councillors leaving to form Democratic Left. Democratic Left voted to merge with the Labour Party in . As they are not a registered party, he is officially an independent councillor. While a registered political party, it rarely stands candidates in elections, and remains quite small. It was historically quite influential in the trade union movement. It was renamed the Socialist Party in . Joe Higgins was its first member elected at national level. Its councillors contested the local elections as part of the Anti-Austerity Alliance. The party was set up by supporters of the International Socialists of Britain living in Ireland. Other registered parties[edit].

Chapter 5 : Democratic Left | political party, Northern Ireland and Ireland | www.nxgvision.com

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Chapter 6 : Politics of the Republic of Ireland - Wikipedia

Democratic Left (DL), short-lived socialist party, organized in both Northern Ireland and the Irish republic, that broke away from the Workers' Party in and went on to serve in the government of the Irish republic between and

Chapter 7 : Living in Ireland | The Political System & Voting

The Irish electoral system has been characterised by the two and a half party system, with two large catch all parties dominating. This changed after the Irish General Election, following the large drop in support for Fianna Fáil and the rise in support for other parties.

Chapter 8 : Ulster Democratic Party - Wikipedia

The Irish State - Political Parties and Elections. may vote at local www.nxgvision.com electoral system is proportional representation by means of a single.

Chapter 9 : Michael Gallagher | Open Library

The two main Irish political parties, Fianna Fail (FF) and Fine Gael (FG), can trace their genealogies to the Irish civil war that followed the peace settlement with Britain.