

# MAYO COUNT

ELECTORATE 98,696  
 VOTES CAST 72,086  
 INVALID PAPERS 700

VALID POLL 71,386  
 TURNOUT 73.03%  
 QUOTA 11,898

# No surprises as count confirms accuracy of tally

## COUNT ANALYSIS

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FOR a count that spanned fully 18-and-a-half hours, there were strangely few surprises throughout the eight counts at the TF Royal Theatre on Friday.

Once tallies become widely available around 12 noon, it revealed that five candidates in particular were in a strong position to be elected, and at 3.30am those candidates were the ones being held shoulder high.

Once again, the tallymen proved remarkably accurate and succeeded in bursting many bubbles very early in the day. The final tally count, which was revealed at 2pm, certified Cooke, Enright and

Barrett as the also-rans and revealed that Frank Chambers and Gerry Murray were not going to be involved at the business end of things, despite polling respectably.

The early morning rumour mill regarding the capitulation of Dr Jerry Cowley's vote also was there to be seen in black in white. He managed to shed over 5,000 first preference votes. His departure from the Mayo political scene was even more emphatic than his arrival.

A misplacement of some votes meant we had to wait a full four-and-a-half hours before the tally figures became a reality but Enda Kenny and his band of supporters had arrived right on cue to greet his superb vote of 14,717 with tumultuous applause.

It was a superb performance and the totals of his three running mates, Ring (11,412), O'Mahony (6,869) and Mulherin (5,428) confirmed this was indeed

to be an historic day for Fine Gael.

Callery on a very respectable 7,225 and Flynn on 6,779 looked best placed to join three Fine Gael deputies in Dáil Éireann, while John Carty on 5,889 knew early on that it would take huge transfers from neighbour Gerry Murray and running mate Frank Chambers to save his political bacon.

Count 2, the distribution of Kenny's surplus, revealed that not only had Fine Gael managed a phenomenal first preference - they had also mastered the art of the transfer. An amazing 76 per cent went to the other three candidates on Count 2 while just a paltry 12 per cent went to Kenny's Castlebar neighbour Beverley Flynn, giving a glimmer of hope to Carty that all was not lost.

Count 3, the distribution of Michael Ring's 543 surplus, reinforced the Fine Gael transfer pact but it must not be forgotten that these were votes which emanated from Enda Kenny's number ones and

not Michael Ring number ones. Again, Fine Gael took 65 per cent of these votes.

The transfer of the votes of Barrett, Cooke and Enright saw Mulherin benefit most (400) but it also kickstarted a remarkable resurgence in the fortunes of Jerry Cowley, who picked up 381 votes, enabling him to leapfrog Gerry Murray and thus delay his elimination.

Cowley then was the main beneficiary of Murray's votes, garnering 22 per cent. Some expected, because of Murray's Fianna Fáil background, that Carty would benefit hugely here but he only managed 13 per cent, with Beverley Flynn getting 17 per cent and O'Mahony continuing to gather momentum by taking another 714 votes (18 per cent).

Count 6 saw Frank Chambers eliminated and, once again, the anticipated large transfer to John Carty failed to materialise and ended all hope of him retaining his seat.

## 1 FIRST COUNT

* KENNY, ENDA FG *	14,717
RING, MICHAEL FG *	11,412
CALLEARY, DARA FF	7,225
O'MAHONY, JOHN FG	6,869
FLYNN, BEVERLEY IND *	6,779
CARTY, JOHN FF *	5,889
MULHERIN, MICHELLE FG	5,428
CHAMBERS, FRANK FF	4,345
MURRAY, GERRY SF	3,608
COWLEY, JERRY IND *	3,407
BARRETT, HARRY LAB	831
ENRIGHT, PETER GP	580
COOKE, TOMMY PD	296

**Kenny exceeds the quota.**  
 \* Denotes outgoing TD.

QUOTA



▲ MAINTAINING FOCUS  
 Counters at the marathon count in the TF Royal Theatre had plenty to do for 18 hours on Friday last.

## 2 SECOND COUNT

Distribution of Kenny's surplus, 2,819  
 Non transferable: 0

* KENNY	-	-
* RING	+1029	12,441
CALLEARY	+23	7,248
O'MAHONY	+675	7,544
FLYNN	+352	7,131
CARTY	+37	5,926
MULHERIN	+449	5,877
CHAMBERS	+41	4,386
MURRAY	+52	3,660
COWLEY	+80	3,487
BARRETT	+65	896
ENRIGHT	+14	594
COOKE	+2	298

**Ring exceeds the quota.**

## 3 THIRD COUNT

Distribution of Ring's surplus, 543  
 Non transferable: 0

* KENNY	-	-
* RING	-	-
CALLEARY	+3	7,251
O'MAHONY	+215	7,759
FLYNN	+81	7,212
CARTY	+11	5,937
MULHERIN	+139	6,016
CHAMBERS	+20	4,406
MURRAY	+8	3,668
COWLEY	+42	3,529
BARRETT	+21	917
ENRIGHT	+3	597
COOKE	+0	298

Cooke, Enright and Barrett eliminated.

## 4 FOURTH COUNT

Distribution of Cooke, Enright and Barrett's vote: 1,812  
 Non transferable: 0

* KENNY	-	-
* RING	-	-
CALLEARY	+187	7,438
O'MAHONY	+244	8,003
FLYNN	+175	7,387
CARTY	+54	5,991
MULHERIN	+400	6,416
CHAMBERS	+93	4,499
MURRAY	+177	3,845
COWLEY	+381	3,910
BARRETT	-	-
ENRIGHT	-	-
COOKE	-	-

Murray eliminated.



## 5 FIFTH COUNT

Distribution of Murray's vote: 3,845  
 Non transferable: 341

* KENNY	-	-
* RING	-	-
CALLEARY	+261	7,699
O'MAHONY	+656	8,043
FLYNN	+1,279	9,322
CARTY	+528	6,519
MULHERIN	+265	6,681
CHAMBERS	+206	4,705
MURRAY	-	-
COWLEY	+874	4,784
BARRETT	-	-
ENRIGHT	-	-
COOKE	-	-

Chambers eliminated.

## 6 SIXTH COUNT

Distribution of Chambers' vote: 4,705  
 Non transferable: 341

* KENNY	-	-
* RING	-	-
CALLEARY	+1,104	8,803
O'MAHONY	+138	8,855
FLYNN	+1,279	9,322
CARTY	+1,306	7,825
MULHERIN	+82	6,763
CHAMBERS	-	-
MURRAY	-	-
COWLEY	+558	5,342
BARRETT	-	-
ENRIGHT	-	-
COOKE	-	-

Cowley eliminated.

## 7 SEVENTH COUNT

Distribution of Cowley's vote: 5,342  
 Non transferable: 1,436

* KENNY	-	-
* RING	-	-
CALLEARY	+542	9,345
O'MAHONY	+732	9,587
FLYNN	+1,375	10,684
CARTY	+389	8,214
MULHERIN	+881	7,644
CHAMBERS	-	-
MURRAY	-	-
COWLEY	-	-
BARRETT	-	-
ENRIGHT	-	-
COOKE	-	-

Mulherin eliminated.

## 8 EIGHTH COUNT

Distribution of Mulherin's vote: 7,644  
 Non transferable: 916

* KENNY	-	-
* RING	-	-
CALLEARY	+1,924	11,269
O'MAHONY	+4,149	13,736
FLYNN	+566	11,250
CARTY	+89	8,303
MULHERIN	-	-
CHAMBERS	-	-
MURRAY	-	-
COWLEY	-	-
BARRETT	-	-
ENRIGHT	-	-
COOKE	-	-

**O'Mahony exceeds the quota. Callery and Flynn deemed elected.** Carty eliminated.



▲ SCRUTINISING Court Clerk Alo Filan takes a closer look at one of the votes at Friday's count.

## SHARE OF FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES

### FIANNA FÁIL

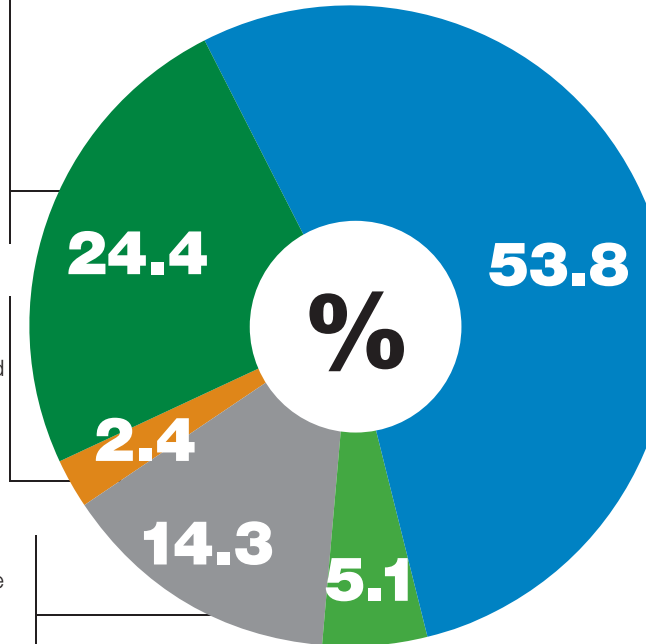
YET another disaster for FF in Mayo. On a day when party strategists were hailed for masterminding a huge election success nationwide, Mayo's loyal FF followers only satisfaction was to see a Dara Callery elected for the first time.

### OTHERS

Harry Barrett and Tommy Cooke have to be disappointed with their return but Peter Enright managed to get 600 votes despite a low profile campaign.

### INDEPENDENTS

Beverley Flynn once again stole the limelight but Jerry Cowley's knew his seat was gone less than an hour after the boxes were opened.



**CHANGE SINCE 2002**

FG +16.2  
 SF +1.8  
 IND -2.3  
 FF -15.6

### FINE GAEL

The failure to get to Government should not take any gloss from what was a sensational performance. Kenny's massive first preference was never anticipated and not many felt O'Mahony would be in fourth place after count one. Mulherin also performed admirably and Ring again defied expectation. Overall it was an A1 campaign.

### SINN FÉIN

It's back to the drawing boards for the Sinn Féin strategists after a disappointing performance overall. Gerry Murray was expected to get at least 1,000 more first preferences and as a result he never got into the race.



He was the largest beneficiary with 1,306 votes coming his way but that was only 27 votes more than went to Beverley Flynn. The 27 per cent which went the way of Flynn confirmed she was still a Fianna Fáil candidate in the eyes of a lot of the public. Dara Callery received 1,104 votes and a seat for Ballina looked almost secure.

Jerry Cowley's late surge, which surely was akin to rubbing salt into the wounds, saw him end up on 5,342, and unsurprisingly Flynn benefited most, getting 25 per cent of his transfers. The 881 which Michelle Mulherin received was not enough to close the gap on John Carty and she was next eliminated. The Ballina solicitor's final total of 7,644 exceeded most expectations.

Everyone expected that the distribution of Mulherin's votes would see Callery, O'Mahony and Flynn elected in that order and leave John Carty as the last man standing. But in end, it revealed

the single most unexpected transfer of the whole count - and showed that even Ballina people got caught up in the Mayo Taoiseach factor ahead of the TD for Ballina campaign.

A truly remarkable 4,149 votes went the way of John O'Mahony (54 per cent), pushing him well over the quota and completing an unprecedented Fine Gael hat-trick. Only 1,924 (25 per cent) went the way of Callery, but he wasn't in the least bit bothered, as the normally refined and calm 33-year-old finally let himself go and punched the air in delight as he was carried shoulder high on taking the fourth seat.

Beverley Flynn finished on 11,250, a full 2,947 ahead of John Carty. Her ability to garner votes outside of Castlebar was crucial to her election as she was outpolled three to one by Enda Kenny in her hometown.

# Ballina makes sure this time

## NORTH MAYO EXPECTS

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IN a way the rest of the county must be as pleased as Ballina. Since the shock loss of Tom Moffatt's seat in 2002, almost everything that went wrong in the town was blamed on the lack of a resident TD in the north Mayo capital. After Dara Callery's victory, at least that mantra can now be consigned to history.

The victory of Callery will be greeted with a sigh of relief in Ballina, but can now also be greeted with huge optimism, as the result of election nationwide means the 33-year-old will be a TD in the next Government. He is, at present, the only one of the five TDs in Mayo who can deliver on his promises within the next five years.

The election of a Ballina TD always looked likely once the final tally figures were revealed in the TF Royal Theatre. Callery looked the most likely, but the great first preference performance of Michelle Mulherin meant she could not be fully ruled out until very late in the day.

The Ballina County Councillor polled over 3,100 more votes than Ernie Caffrey did in 2002, while Callery himself managed to increase Tom Moffatt's substantial vote by 689. In total, the Ballina candidates polled 18 per cent of the total valid poll in comparison to 15 per cent in 2002.

That, in vote terms, is 3,188 more (a total of 12,949) voters choosing to vote for a Ballina-based candidate. However, Tommy Cooke failed miserably to match the 919 votes garnered by Billy Heffron in 2002 and was eliminated on just 298 votes.

After the first count in 2002, no one could have predicted that Moffatt would lose his seat so it was natural that even the staunchest of Callery supporters were not proclaiming victory once the first count totals were revealed. It was always likely that Mulherin's votes would be needed to push Callery over the line but a possibility did exist that if John O'Mahony were eliminated before Mulherin, he could propel her ahead of Callery in the race for the those final seats.

However, the transfer of the surpluses of Enda Kenny and Michael Ring benefited O'Mahony by 302 votes more than Mulherin and there seemed no possible way that Mulherin would narrow the 1,743 gap between herself and O'Mahony in later counts.

Callery only picked up a total of 484 votes from counts 2 to 5 but the substantial 1,104 votes which he picked up from running mate Frank Chambers on Count 6 meant that Ballina could now breathe easy. Many had anticipated that both Carty and Flynn would benefit more than Callery from Chambers but that 23 per cent from Chambers made Callery safe. Callery most certainly will have a firm handshake for the Newport man when he meets him again.

The result means a huge challenge now lies ahead for Dara Callery but it is the challenge he has been waiting for. He is a close friend of Bertie Ahern, a point emphasised by the Taoiseach's visit to Ballina just two days before polling, and after ten years on the National Executive, he is a familiar face to all the important ministers. He is now a Ballina TD and after five years in the wilderness, Ballina expects.