**Catchall Party**

**Appendix**

1. **Notes on Irish parliamentary survey**
   1. *Survey sample:*

In all three surveys, we sent a personalized letter to all 166 TDs inviting participation in the face-to-face survey. We followed up the letter with at least five phone calls to parliamentary assistants to arrange for a time to conduct the interview. The sample in all surveys reflects those who were willing to meet in person to complete the survey.

The survey sample was representative of key social and political demographics, such as age, gender, religious denomination, education levels, party, type of geographic constituency, previous experience in office, etc.There were a few exceptions to this overall representativeness: we interviewed three-quarters of all female TDs in both surveys, all TDs over the age of 60 in the 2007 survey, and 88 percent of urban TDs in 2007. Broader social changes were also reflected within the sample as the numbers of TDs with advanced university degrees and professional qualifications increased and the percentage of Catholic TDs declined from 83 percent to 76 percent in the two surveys. The median age of the sample TDs declined from 57 in 2007 to 51 in 2011. In addition to interviewing TDs from all parties as well as independents, the sample reflected longer-term political trends with nearly 80 percent of surveyed TDs having previously served as local councilors and almost 20 percent reporting having a family member precede them in public office.

**Representativeness of demographics in 2007, 2011 and 2016 Irish Parliament**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Gender** | | **Age** | **Constituencies** | | |
|  | **Female** | **Male** | **Avg. Age** | **Urban** | **Rural** | **Commuter** |
| 2007 Survey | 16% | 84% | 55.4 | 50% | 28% | 22% |
| 2007 Actual | 13% | 87% | 50.4 | 42% | 38% | 20% |
| 2011 Survey | 17% | 83% | 49.2 | 36% | 42% | 23% |
| 2011 Actual | 15% | 85% | 48.5 | 42% | 38% | 20% |
| 2016 Survey | 24% | 76% | 49.0 | 44% | 33% | 23% |
| 2016 Actual | 22% | 78% | 52.2 | 38% | 41% | 21% |

* 1. *Question wording:*

The Ideology Section of the Irish Parliamentary Survey asked TDs to consider their positions on major policy issues in Irish politics. For each policy issue, there is a 10 point scale where they were asked to locate themselves and their party’s position on each policy scale. The precise wording of the policy questions were:

**Left/Right:** In politics people often talk of left and right. Consider a scale from 0 to 10 where ‘0’ means left and ‘10’ means right.

**United Ireland:** Some people think we should insist on a United Ireland now while other people think we should abandon this aim altogether. Others have positions that fall somewhere in between. If insistence on a United Ireland were a ‘0’ and abandoning this position was a ‘10’.

**Fiscal Policy:** Some parties emphasize the importance of fiscal restraint even at the expense of health and social services spending, while others do the opposite. Assigning a 0 to be an extreme position of fiscal constraint, and a 10 to an extreme position of favoring social spending.

**European Union:** Some people think that Ireland’s membership in the EU is a ‘bad thing’ and others believe it is a ‘good thing’. Assigning a 0 to extreme positions of EU membership as bad, and a 10 to extreme positions of EU membership as good.

**Environment/Economic Growth:** Consider the environment and economic growth. Suppose that those that believe we should protect the environment even if it damages economic growth are assigned a ‘0’, and those who believe we should encourage economic growth even if this damages the environment are assigned a ‘10’.

**Abortion:** Regarding abortion, suppose totally allowing abortion were a ‘0’, and totally banning abortion in Ireland were a ‘10’.