



# **Election Review 2007, Northern Ireland, Scotland & Wales**

**Leader: Steve Taylor**

**Speakers: June Butler, Billy  
Pollock & Bob Screen**



# Northern Ireland Assembly Elections

7 March 2007

June Butler

Assistant Chief Electoral Officer

# SAME

- Representation of the People Acts  
(N. Ireland Assembly Elections Order 2001)
- Voting : 7am – 10 pm
- Candidates aged 18
- 18 Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies/6  
elected in each

# DIFFERENCES

- Electoral Administration Act – not enacted in NI
- Individual Registration (DOB, NINO and signature)
- No annual canvass – continuous registration
- 3 months residence in NI
- Register – 85 % comprehensive
- No absent voting on demand (rigorous application process)

- Returned Declarations of Identity checked for DOB and signature
- Photographic Identification at Polling Stations (4 types permitted)
- Voting by Proportional Representation
- List of Substitutes for each Candidate

	Assembly 2003	Combined 2005	Assembly 2007
Turnout	702,249.63 63.98%	717,913 62.83%	696,538 62.87%
Invalid vote	10,221 1.46%	14,758 2.05%	6215 0.89%
Absent Voters	24,253	27,875	24,666
Rejected AV applications	3482	2486	1867
Postal votes validated	16,437	19,478	16,016
ID rejected at poll	3493	3818	4161

# BAD?

- Time taken for manual counts

Shortest : Newry & Armagh - 13 hours

Longest : East Antrim - 21 hours 50 mins

- Number of Candidates : 256

Highest - 18 : Belfast South

Lowest - 12 : Mid Ulster

West Tyrone

Newry & Armagh

# GOOD

- 9 Area Offices, each 2 Constituencies, discrete boundaries, single election
- Count began next day
- Plasma screen displays showing count progress – details of STV
- Positive media coverage
- Much lower invalid vote
- Accuracy of counts
- No election petitions!

## STV process – FIRST PREFERENCES reflect make-up of Assembly

	% First Preference Vote	% of Assembly Members	Number of Assembly Members
DUP	30.1	33.3	36
SF	26.2	25.9	28
UUP	15.0	16.7	18
SDLP	15.2	14.8	16
Alliance	5.2	6.5	7
Other	8.3	2.8	3

# Best of All



This time the 108 MLAs managed to take their seats and form an Executive!