

AmCham's General Election Update



Current State-of-Play following General Election 2025

Following the General Election on Friday, 162 of the 174 members of the next Dáil have been elected. Counts are ongoing in the constituencies of Cavan-Monaghan, Kildare North, Louth, and Tipperary North (where a full recount has been called). A recheck of votes will take place in Cork North Central where the potential exists for a recount to be called..

Fianna Fáil are on track to be the largest political party in the next Dáil, with 43 TDs currently elected, and prospects of gaining 5 of the 12 seats yet to be declared. They are followed by Sinn Féin which currently has 36 TDs elected and look to gain a further 3 seats as counting continues. Fine Gael also have 36 seats, and are likely to elect a further 2 TDs out of the 12 seats remaining. The further 2 outstanding seats appear likely to be won by the Labour Party.

With 12 seats remaining to be filled, the below outlines the state of the parties thus far:



With the final declarations expected later today, the full shape of the next Dáil should be known in the coming hours. Following this, each party will meet to agree their negotiating position before potentially entering government formation talks with other parties. As such, it is expected that this process may be ongoing for a number of weeks. However, the most likely outcome is that Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael re-enter government together, with both parties having expressed that this would be their preferred option. This will likely require the inclusion of a third, smaller party, or a number of independents.



Under Article 18.8 of the Constitution a general election for the Seanad must take place not later than 90 days after a dissolution of the Dáil.

What Next?

Until such time as a new government is formed, the outgoing government will remain in office, and outgoing Ministers will continue to run and manage their Departments. The main political parties will also appoint negotiating teams to engage with other parties with a view to forming a government and developing a programme for government.

As outlined, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael are viewed as most likely to form the next government, alongside a third, smaller party, or independents. The other potential option to meet the number of 88 seats to form a majority in parliament would be for Fianna Fáil and Sinn Féin to enter government, again with a third party or independents, however, throughout the campaign, Fianna Fáil ruled out any possibility of forming a coalition with Sinn Féin.

While the incoming Dáil is scheduled to meet for the first time on December 18th, it is unlikely that TDs will be in a position to elect a new government at this point. AmCham will continue to monitor the progress of government formation talks over the coming weeks.



Leinster House - the seat of the Irish parliament

Key points:

- Ireland's civil service does not change with the election of a new government, meaning only a small number of individuals in any given Department change following an election. This allows for greater stability and certainty for business during, and following, a transitional period.
- Successive Irish administrations have implemented enterprise-friendly policies.
- The impact and importance of FDI was recognised throughout the election campaign.
- At least one of the outgoing government parties will be required to re-enter government in order for an incoming administration to form a majority in parliament.



Exit polls following Friday's General Election indicated that the preferred option for the next government amongst voters was a return of a coalition of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael.