



# Voting Intention Opinion Poll

May Final - 2009

Prepared for

**THE SUNDAY BUSINESS POST**  
IRELAND'S FINANCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC NEWSPAPER

RESEARCH EVALUATION DIRECTION **CLARITY**

## **Must be Included**

**RED C interviewed a random sample of 1000 adults aged 18+ by telephone between the 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009. Interviews were conducted across the country and the results weighted to the profile of all adults.**



## SUNDAY BUSINESS POST – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009 Opinion Poll

### Fianna Fail facing desperate election results.

Two weeks since the last Sunday Business Post / RED C poll only relatively small changes in support at a General Election level are seen, even though parties have been campaigning hard. The main winners and losers from today's poll are, Fianna Fail who lose 3% of the first preference vote in terms of a general election and Sinn Fein who gain 3% of the first preference vote. For Fianna Fail this means the party secures just 21% of the first preference vote, a low not seen since Jan 2007. Sinn Fein gains apparently at Fianna Fail's expense, with the party securing 10% of the first preference vote. This level of support is very dependent on the younger 18-24 year old male and female voters, and as such the party needs to get this demographic out to vote to see the impact of this in the upcoming elections.

The other main opposition parties retain the same support seen two weeks ago, with Fine Gael still the largest party securing 34%, while Labour retains 18% of the first preference vote. The Green Party will however be very concerned that their core support nationwide continues to fall. In today's poll the party secures just 4% of the first preference vote, down a further 1% since two weeks ago, and the decline over the past four weeks suggests that the focus of the upcoming Local & European elections has been damaging for the party, once seemingly immune from the backlash against the Government. On the other hand Independent and other parties continue to make gains, securing 13% of the first preference vote nationally. Since February these candidates have increased their share of the first preference vote by 5%, and the upward trend is very encouraging for prospective candidates at the local and European Elections.

When we look more closely at the results for the Local and European elections some interesting trends emerge. In terms of the Local elections support for Fianna Fail matches the national government in continual decline, down from 23% four weeks ago, to just 20% in today's poll. This is a full 12% less than the party secured at the last local elections and could potentially decimate their ground support of local councillors. Fine Gael support drops back slightly, with the party securing 32% in today's poll, down 2% since two weeks ago, but still leaving the party in line to make significant gains on even their good result at the last Local elections. Labour makes small gains to secure 17% of the first preference vote, slightly less support than seen for a General Election. Sinn Fein gains seen on a national level are replicated in the local results, with the party securing 10% of the first preference vote, up 2% since the last poll taken two weeks ago.

The Green party remains on 4% share, the same as seen two weeks ago, and Independent candidate's share of the first preference vote rises slightly to 17%, the same they achieved in the last Local elections.

In terms of the European Elections for today's poll we asked how the public would vote both on a party basis and also a candidate basis in each constituency. While the sample for each constituency remains relatively small in its own right this does mean we can compare the support given by party and also look at the impact that candidates have on that support. The results from the two methods are incredibly close. Support for Fianna Fail collapses, down 5% in just two weeks, with the party securing just 20% of the first preference vote. Within this support, Brian Crowley looks set to easily regain his seat, with indications suggesting Eoin Ryan may also keep his seat in Dublin. Surprisingly, with this low level of support it also looks like Pat "the Cope" Gallagher could potentially take a seat in the North West, while Liam Aylward is still in with a fighting chance for the third seat in the East constituency. It would however be a real achievement for the party to hold on to four seats with such a low level of support nationally, and may help them offset the damage of such a low share in the local elections.

Fine Gael increases its support by 2% to take 34% of the European Election first preference vote. Gay Mitchell tops the bill, securing the highest proportion of first preference votes of any candidate in any of the constituencies. Mairead McGuinness isn't far behind however, and looks like she will easily take a seat in the East constituency. The South constituency sees Sean Kelly likely to take a seat, while Colm Burke is also still in with a chance of a second seat. Finally, in the North West constituency Jim Higgins looks likely to secure a seat for the party, while again Joe O'Reilly is still in with a chance to secure a second seat for the party. The target for the party must be to really try and push to secure five seats if at all possible.

For Labour the picture is not so positive. Overall the party drop back to take 14% of the first preference vote, 2% down on that seen two weeks ago. The only seat that looks pretty much secured however is that of Proinsias De Rossa, while the other candidates are all in with a chance of winning seats but still have work to do, with probably Nessa Childers the next best bet if she can see off Liam Aylward in the East constituency.

Sinn Fein sees gains on the European vote in the same manner as in the Local and National election polls. The party takes 9% of the first preference vote, up 2% in the past two weeks. Perhaps surprisingly the most likely seat winner appears as if it could be Toireasa Ferris in

the South constituency, rather than Mary Lou McDonald who may struggle to take the seat in Dublin, though she is certainly still in the fight against Eoin Ryan.

The Green Party support falls back further for the European Elections, with the party securing just 4% of the first preference vote, within this Deidre de Burca is actually doing relatively well in Dublin, but Dan Boyle not faring as well in the South constituency.

Libertas support does appear to be on an upward trend, but they still only secure 4% of the first preference vote in nationally in today's poll of European voting intentions. Almost all of this support is for Declan Ganley, who based on the polls constituency figures could take a seat in the North West. This is a significant gain in two weeks and means he is a real threat for Pat the Cope Gallagher, Joe O'Reilly and Marian Harkin. Elsewhere the party has failed to make any traction that might threaten more established candidates.

Finally the Independent and other party candidates do make gains in the European polling, securing 15% of the first preference vote, up 3% in the past two weeks and 5% in the past four weeks. This share of the first preference vote is not far behind that they achieved at the last European elections. Joe Higgins of the Socialist Party does relatively well in the Dublin constituency, but it is Kathy Sinnott who is most likely to pose a threat for a seat in the South constituency. Marian Harkin does remain in the running for a seat in the North East constituency but could suffer at the hand of Declan Ganley's Libertas party.

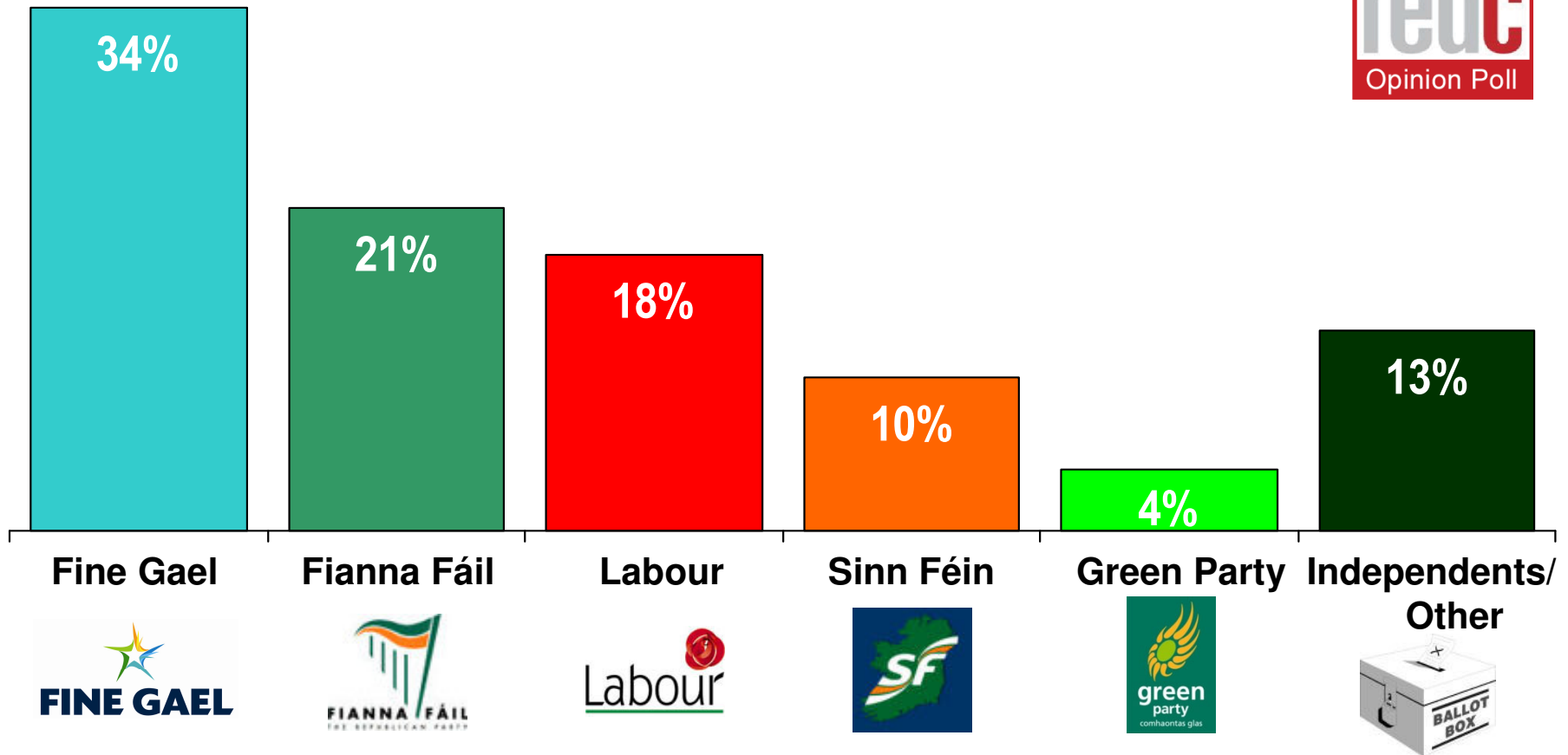
All in all then this poll represents even worse news for Fianna Fail, who may have hoped that once campaigning began they might secure some gains, but instead the party appears to be continue to suffer further. This may not have a huge impact at a European seat level, but will leave the party decimated at local councillor level. Fine Gael on the other hand is likely to do very well at both elections, securing record numbers of local councillors and potentially in the best case scenario, more than four European seats. The trends in the polls over the past four weeks suggest, if anything, they will hold steady while Fianna Fail may even fall further.



# If there were a *General Election* tomorrow which party or independent candidate do you think you would give your first preference vote?

(Base: All adults WHO WILL VOTE 18+)

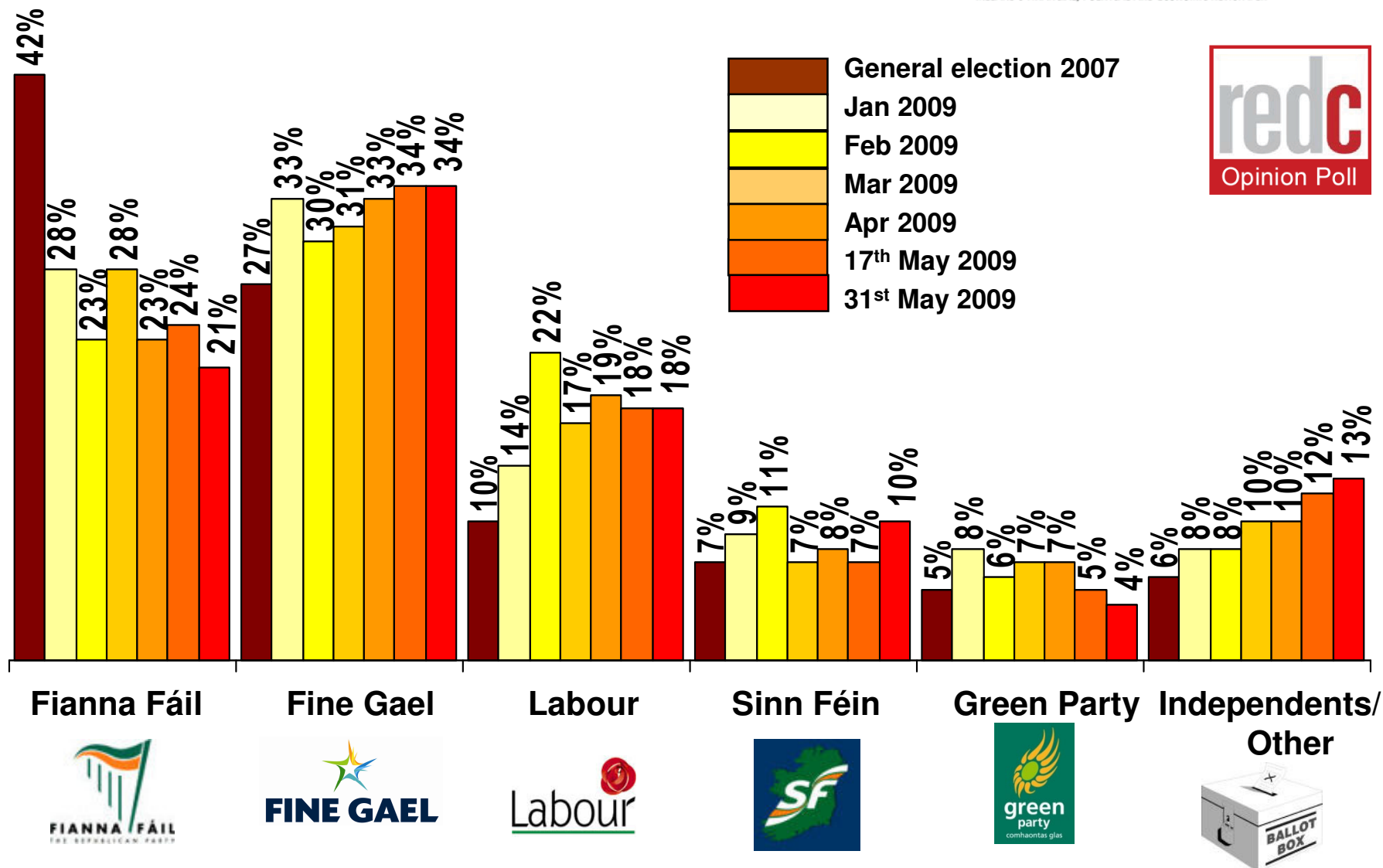
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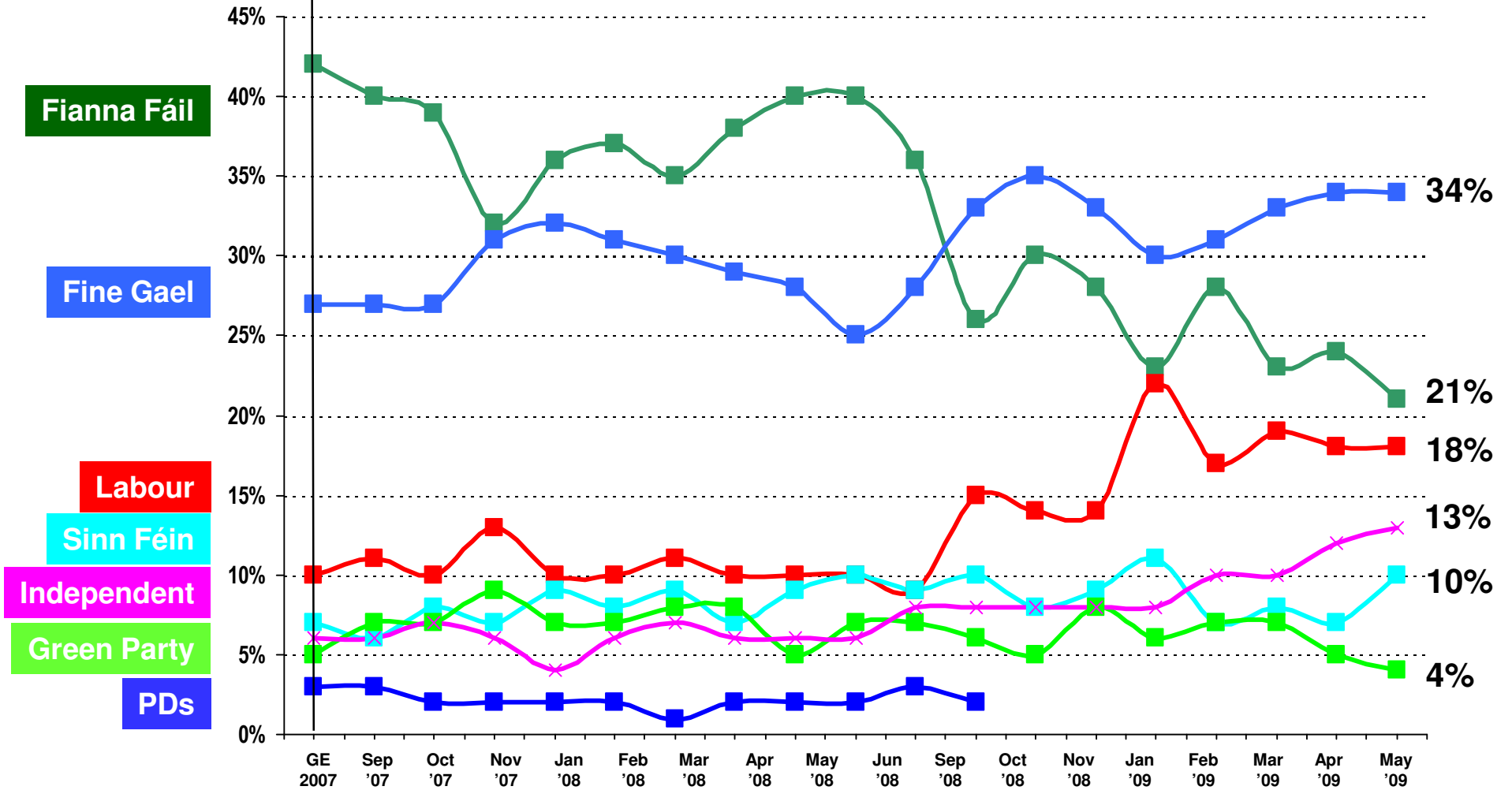


# If there were a *general election* tomorrow, to which party or independent candidate would give your first preference vote?

(Base: All adults 18+)



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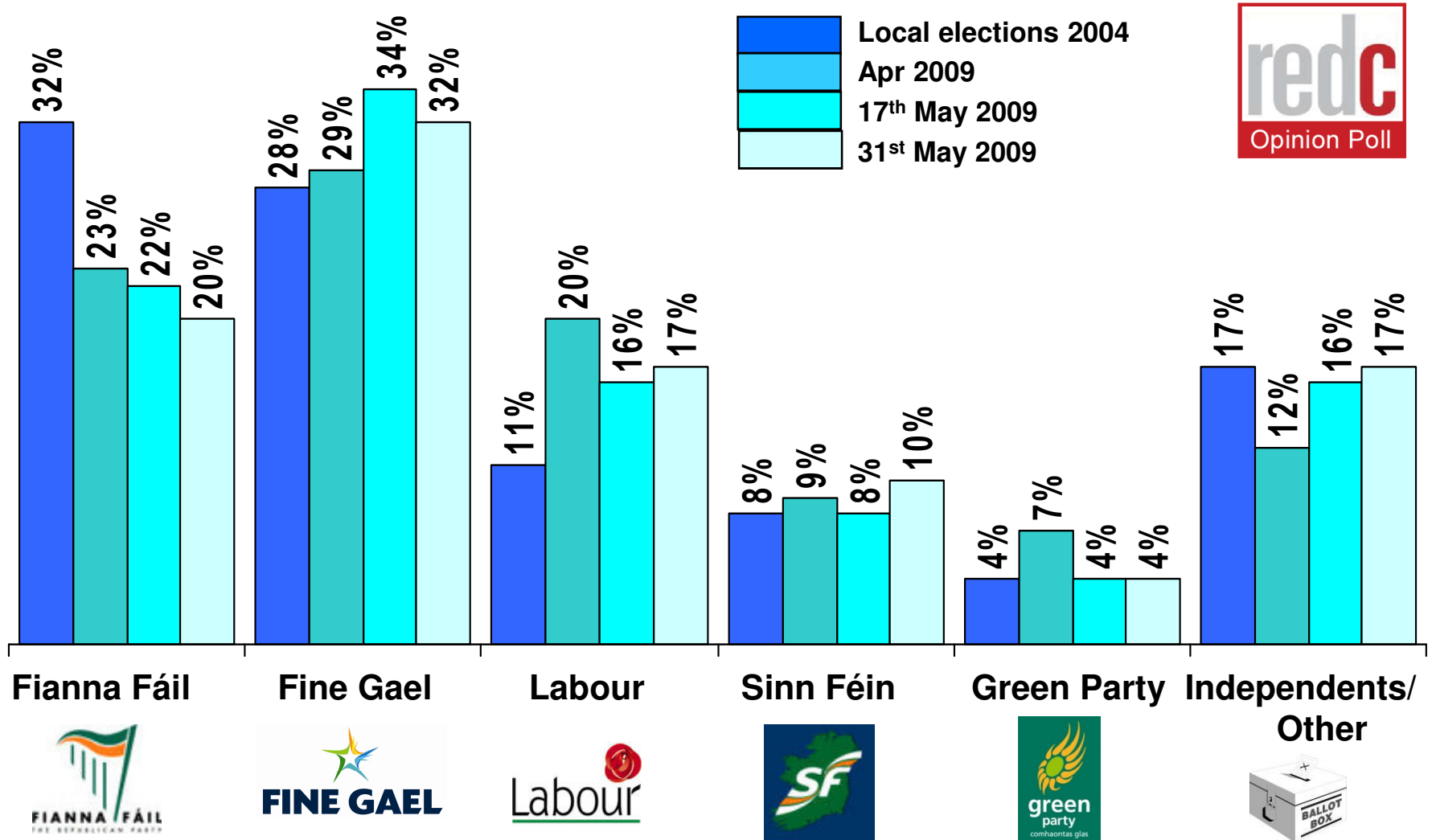


**CURRENT FIRST PREFERENCE SUPPORT**

	<b>Core figures May 09</b>	<b>Excluding undecided</b>	<b>2007 Election Results</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Fianna Fáil</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Fine Gael</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Labour</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sinn Féin</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Green Party</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Independents/Ot hers</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>15</b>		

# If there were a *Local Election* tomorrow which party or independent candidate do you think you would give your first preference vote?

(Base: All adults WHO WILL VOTE 18+)



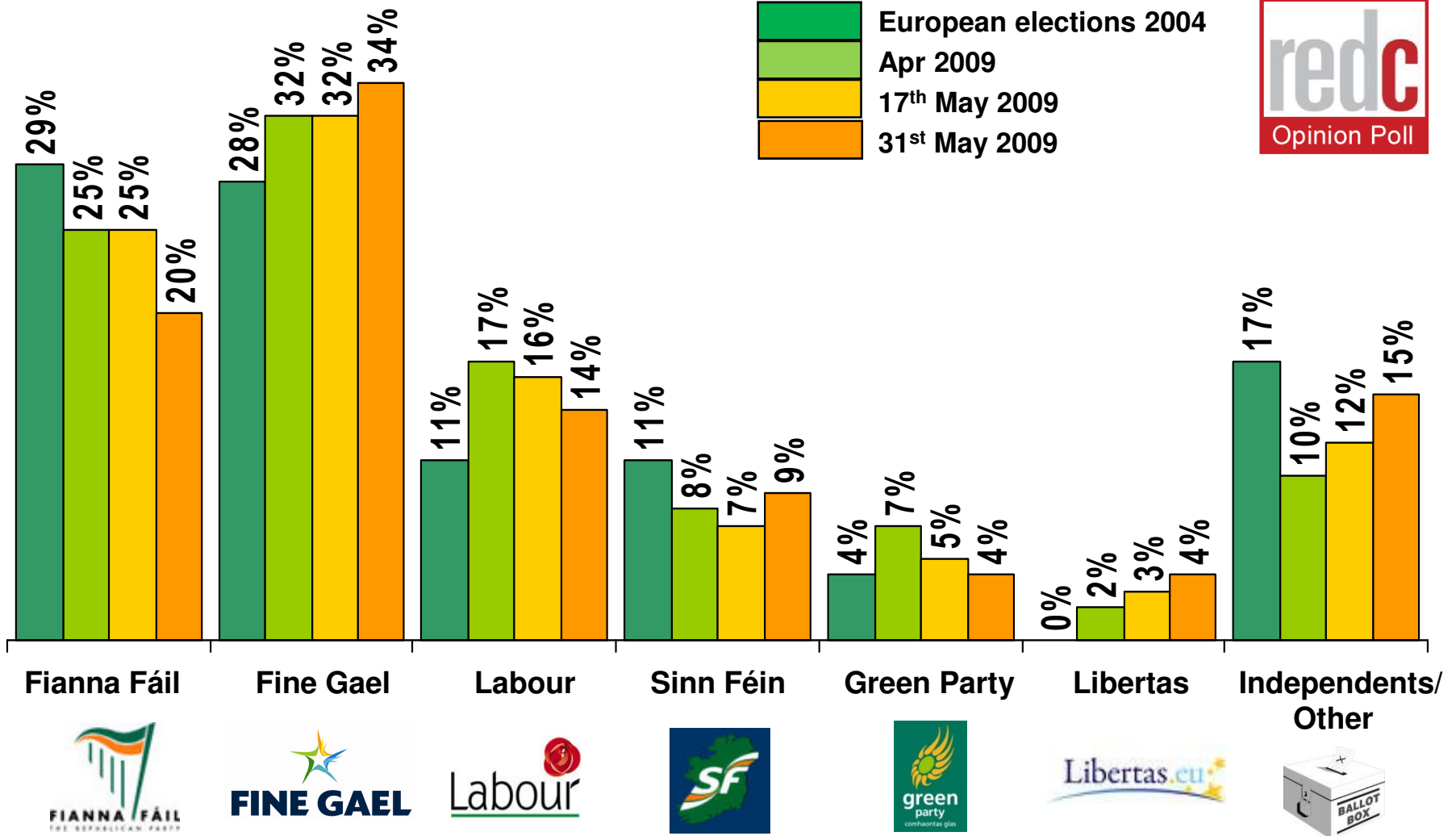
# If there were a *European Election* tomorrow which party or independent candidate do you think you would give your first preference vote?

(Base: All adults WHO WILL VOTE 18+)

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European elections 2004  
Apr 2009  
17th May 2009  
31st May 2009



# How you will vote in the Lisbon Treaty referendum to be held again this year?



(Base: All IRISH CITIZENS 18+ likely to vote)

