



**PADDYPOWER.**

# General Election Opinion Poll

29<sup>th</sup> July 2016



**REDC**

# Methodology and Weighting

- RED C interviewed a random sample of 1,000 adults aged 18+ by telephone between the 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
- A random digit dial (RDD) method is used to ensure a random selection process of households to be included – this also ensures that ex-directory households are covered.
- Half of the sample are interviewed using an RDD landline sample, with the other half conducted using an RDD mobile phone sample, this ensures 98% coverage of the population reaching landline only households, mobile only households and those with both a landline and a mobile.
- Interviews were conducted across the country and the results weighted to the profile of all adults. A further past vote weighting is included that takes the recall for how people voted at the last election and weights this to the exact result at the last election.
- Vote intention results are based on those who will actually go and vote, using a 10 point scale, where 1 is not at all likely and 10 is very likely, those rating 4 to 10 are included as being those who will actually go and vote.
- In all respects the poll was completed to the opinion polling guidelines set out by both ESOMAR and AIMRO.

# Key Findings - I

## Vote Behaviour

- Little change evident this poll versus the last one conducted by RED C in early July with a consistent story remaining. Fianna Fáil (28%) have made significant ground since the election held earlier this year, and with a jump ahead of Fine Gael (27%) are the most popular party in the country at the moment.
- While the margin is very tight the consistency across numerous polls recently is clear. Fianna Fáil have managed to regain trust among the voter and are very much shaking the negative attribution received throughout recession period.
- Following a period of trending declines for Independent candidates, they have recovered slightly into double digits (10%), however remain some way off support received earlier this year. Independent Alliance (5%) have made no growth.
- Labour show the most negative story with first preference share of almost half that received at the election, now standing at 4% (-2%) – however with the party under new leadership, but a quiet summer, this may change once the Dáil returns after its lengthy 3 month break.
- Sinn Féin (15%) have also made a slight recovery from early July, however remain relatively in line with election results. Smaller parties have made little gains and all in line with election results.

## Figurehead Satisfaction

- This surge for Fianna Fáil is further evident as satisfaction with Micheal Martin jumps significantly from May this year (55%, +13%). Enda Kenny also sees an increase in satisfaction but not to the same degree (42%, +7%).
- Gerry Adams (28%, +4%) sees a slight increase, but significantly behind Martin and Adams. With little time to prove himself, satisfaction with Brendan Howling as Labour leader is relatively low at 1 in 4 (24%), however already rivals that of Gerry Adams. However Labour voters need a lot of convincing as satisfaction among his party is very low (37%).

# Key Findings - II

## Confidence in Government to Last

- Confidence in the current government has shown clear growth compared to the last poll in May 2016 suggesting the government are making progress in winning the trust of the Irish population. Proportion claiming they are 'confident' in the current government to run the country has increased by 8% to 56% since May this year. Growth is primarily driven by those giving a 'top box' seal of approval; 'a lot' of confidence in current government (+5%).
- Those still needing convincing are aged 25-34 and 45-54 year olds, those residing in Dublin and also non Government supporters, particularly Sinn Féin supporters.
- When asked the expected length the government will last, this also show increased faith in current government as almost 2 in 3 (63%) believe the government will last longer than a year (an increase of 9% since May '16).
- Those believing the government won't last beyond a year are also those who showed less confidence in them to run the economy, namely 25-34 year olds, 45-54 year olds and Sinn Féin supporters.
- This growth in confidence and belief that the government will last appears to be what is driving the overall support for Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael. With all eyes on the upcoming budget it is a time for both parties to either keep the momentum going, or a time that could provide opportunities for other parties to make up ground.

## Fine Gael Leadership

- Enda Kenny can rest a little easier as the proportion who believe he should 'go now' (38%) has decreased by 10%. While still a significant portion, it does show some increased trust in his abilities. Those who want him to leave are the same cohort as seen earlier to be less confident in current government, and particularly Sinn Féin supporters.
- Leo Varadkar is making strong gains as the preferred replacement for Kenny (37%, +5% since May '16), particularly strong among his own party supporters (45%). Coveney also proves a popular alternative (25%), however remains unchanged since May and is some way off the support for Varadkar. Work also to be done among his own party supporters at 30% proving Varadkar really is the more popular choice.
- If Varadkar was in fact to replace Kenny, 6 in 10 (58%) claim they would be more likely to support Fine Gael, and is particularly high among Labour supporters (71%). Coveney is a popular choice also, but again not to the same degree as 52% claim he would make them more likely to support Fine Gael.

# Key Findings - III

## Fine Gael Leadership

- Varadkar dominates all likely successors of Kenny in terms of personality traits and is particularly strong in 'capable of doing the job' with 58% agreeing (73% Fine Gael supporters agreeing) while 48% believe Coveney is capable (63% among FG voters).
- 'Showing strong leadership qualities' is also dominated by Varadkar at 56% (69% FG voters), while Coveney trails at 45% agreeing (rising only to 55% among FG voters).
- An area of focus for all potential successors is 'being in touch with ordinary people', while Varadkar again performs the best, at 45% there is clearly room for improvement.
- Fitzgerald and Donohue have much work to do to prove themselves across all attributes with association sometimes half that attributed to the more popular candidate Varadkar.

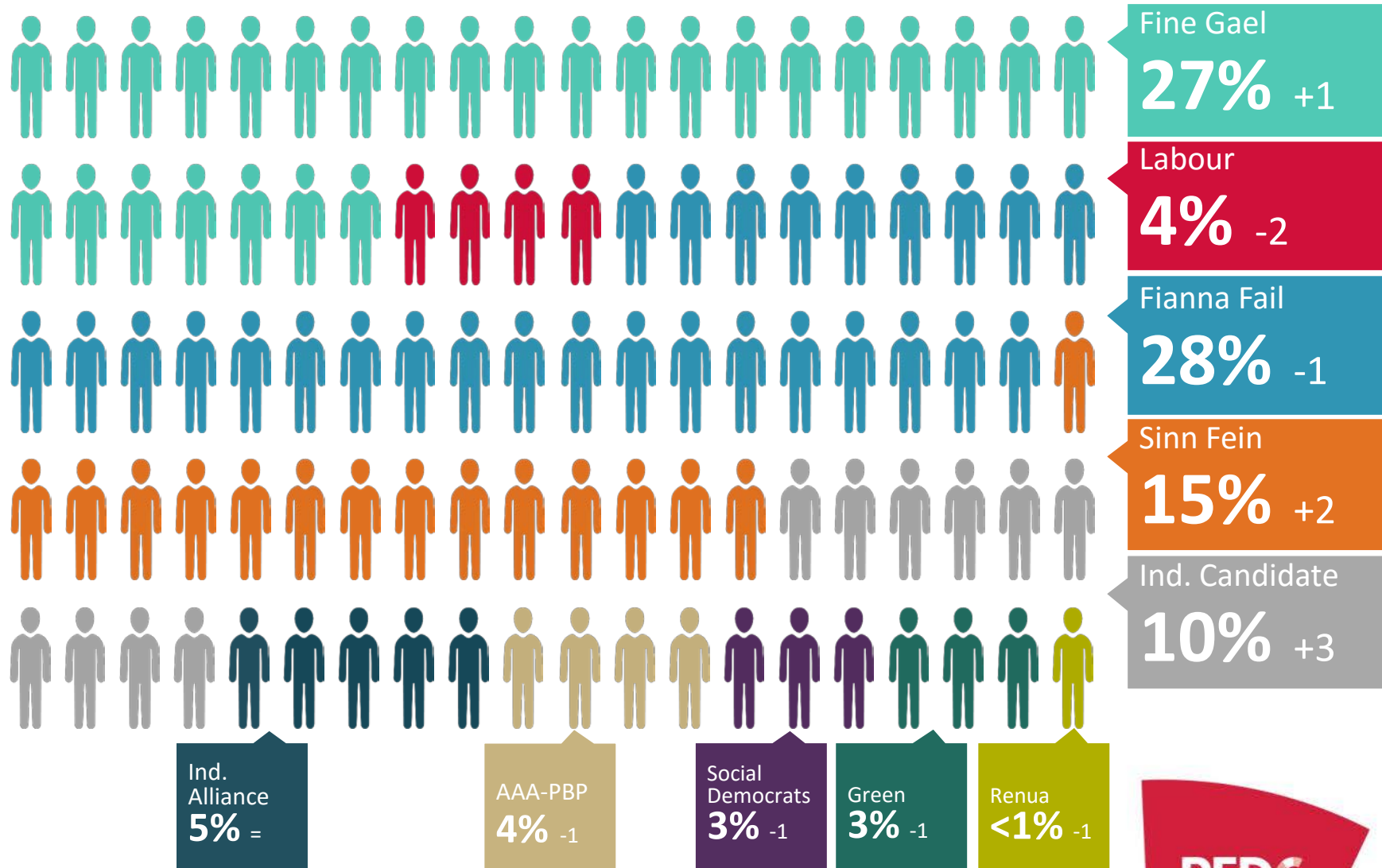
## United Ireland

- Interesting results show 2 in 3 (65%) would vote in favour of a united Ireland if a referendum were to be held tomorrow. A similar poll conducted by RED C in 2010 for the Sunday Times showed support at 57%, showing an increase of 8% support in 6 years.
- Support is lower in Dublin at 56%, however aside from this is high across most demographics. Particularly so amongst those aged 55-64 (70%), C2DE (69%), Fianna Fáil (71%) and Sinn Féin (79%). Perhaps a little surprising is that, although high, Sinn Féin has not returned an even higher level of support for a united Ireland.

# First Preference Vote Intention – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2016

If the general election was tomorrow which party or independent candidate do you think you would give your first preference vote to? (Past vote weighted)

(Base: All adults 18+ who will vote)



Fine Gael  
**27%** +1

Labour  
**4%** -2

Fianna Fail  
**28%** -1

Sinn Fein  
**15%** +2

Ind. Candidate  
**10%** +3

Ind. Alliance  
**5%** =

AAA-PBP  
**4%** -1

Social Democrats  
**3%** -1

Green  
**3%** -1

Renua  
**<1%** -1

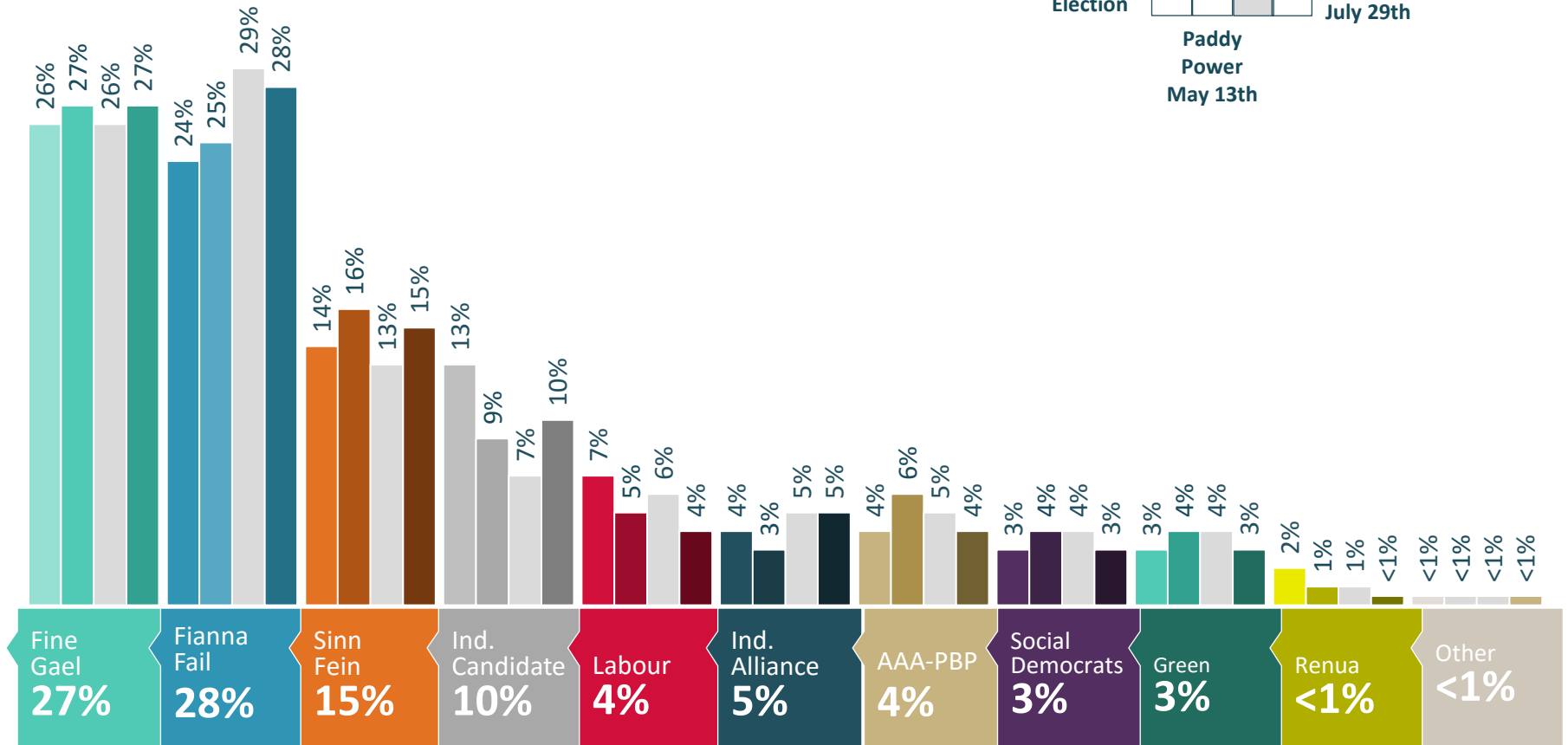
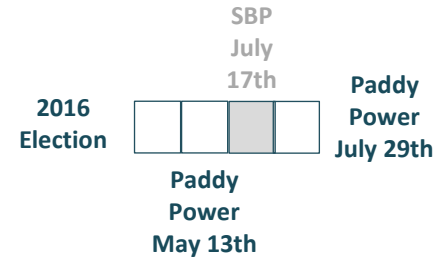


Undecided Voters **10%**

# First Preference Vote Intention – July '16

If the general election was tomorrow which party or independent candidate do you think you would give your first preference vote to? (Past vote weighted) + PROMPT If Independent Candidate for party.

(Base: All adults 18+ who will vote)



# Political Figureheads Performance

Irrespective of which party you support, how would you rate the performance of each of the following leaders on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 = Very poor and 10 = Excellent?

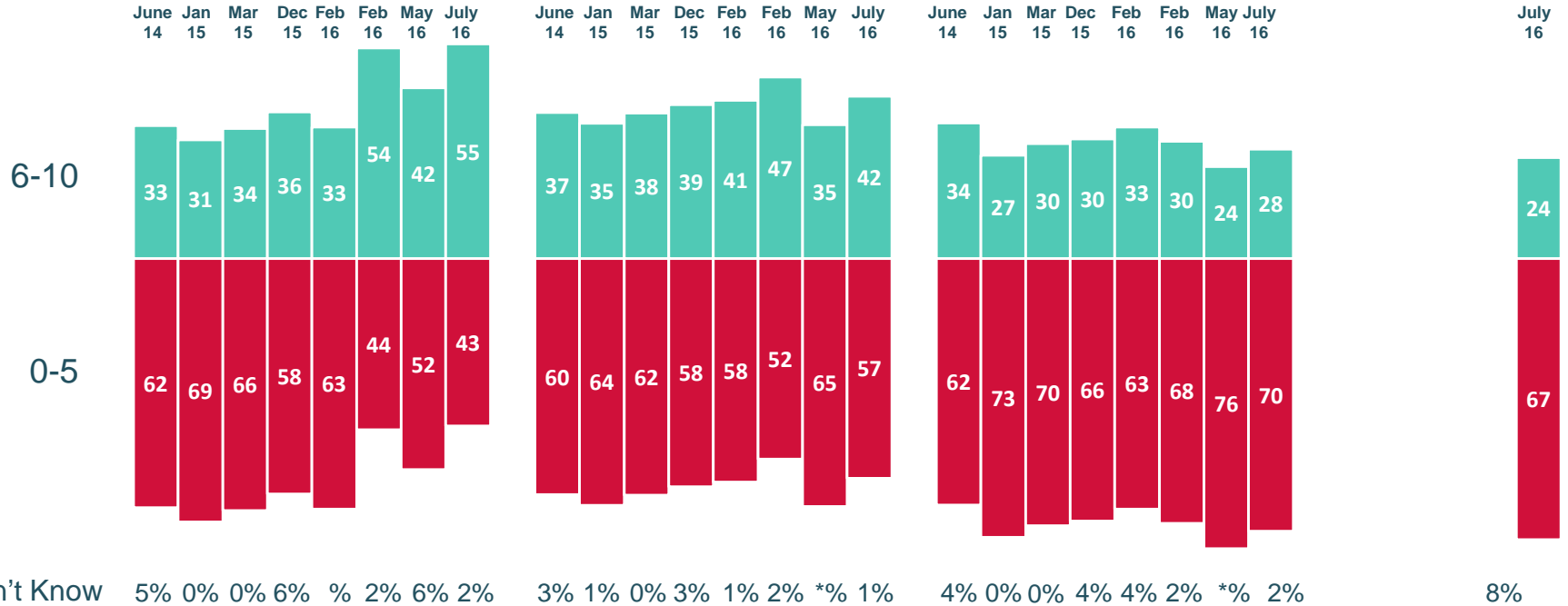
(Base: All adults 18+ - 1,002)

## Micheal Martin %

## Enda Kenny %

## Gerry Adams %

## Brendan Howlin %



	Micheal Martin (FF) N=242	Enda Kenny (FG) N=230	Gerry Adams (SF) N=147	Brendan Howlin (Lab) N=38* <i>small base</i>
% 6-10 among 'own party' Intenders	<b>80%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>37%</b>





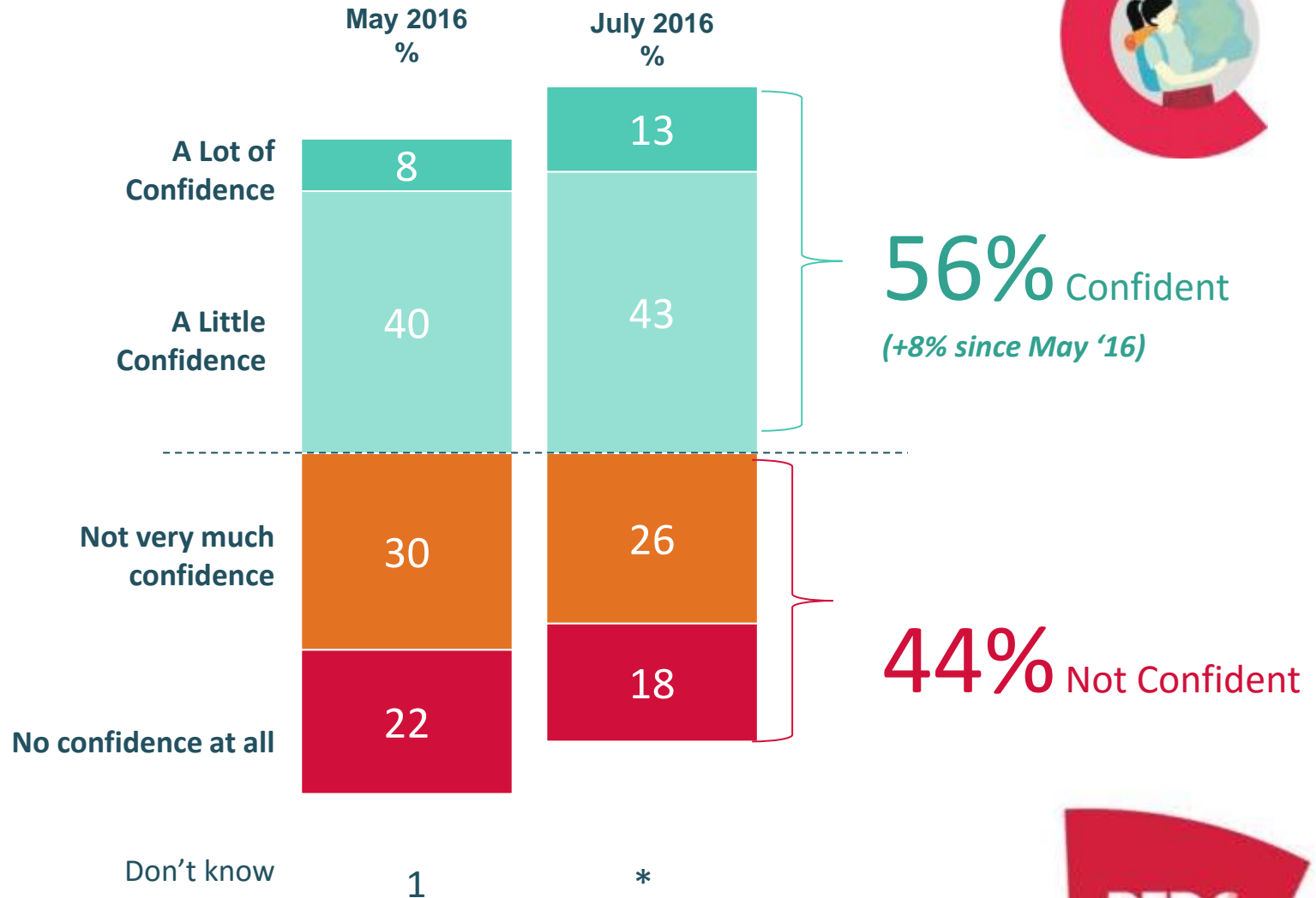


# Confidence in New Government

# Confidence in Government to Run the Country

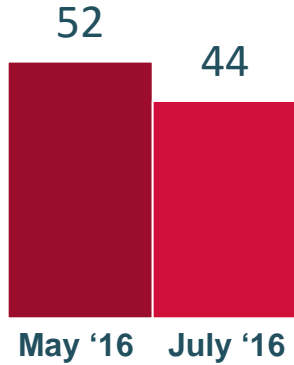
(Base: All adults 18+)

Q. To what extent, if at all, do you have confidence in this government to run the country?

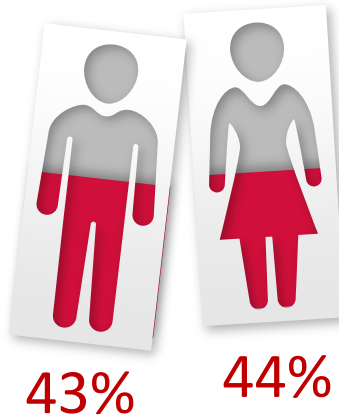


# Who has Little or No Confidence in this Government to Run the Country

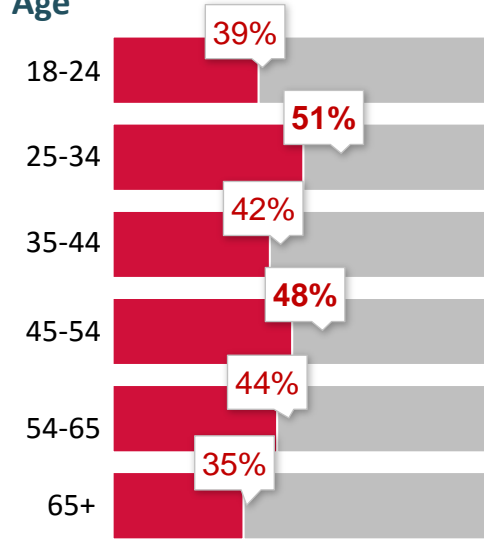
(Base: All Adults 18+)



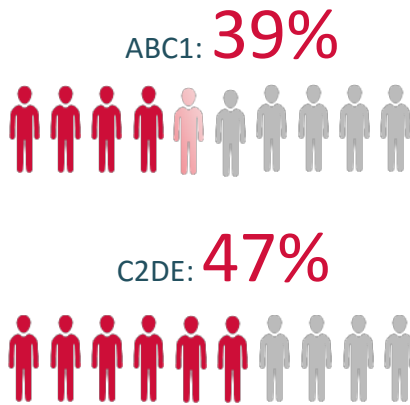
## Gender



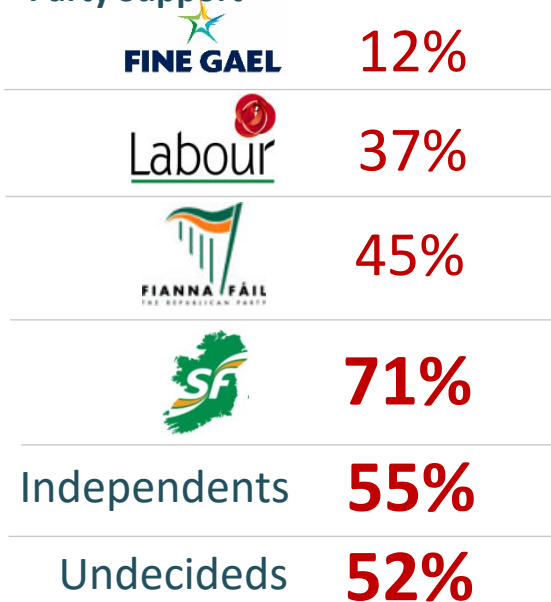
## Age



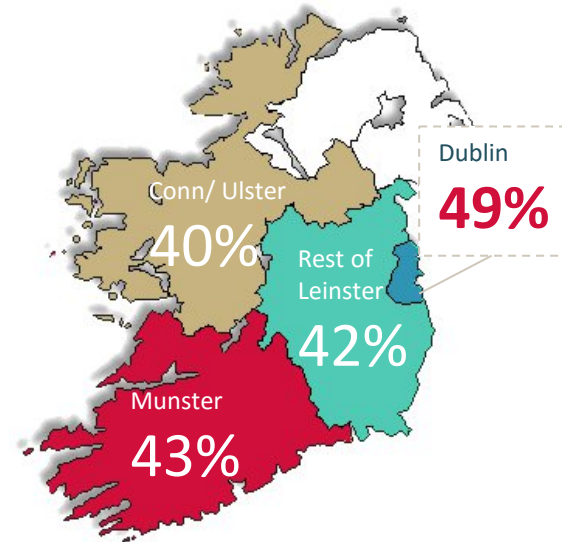
## Social Class



## Party Support



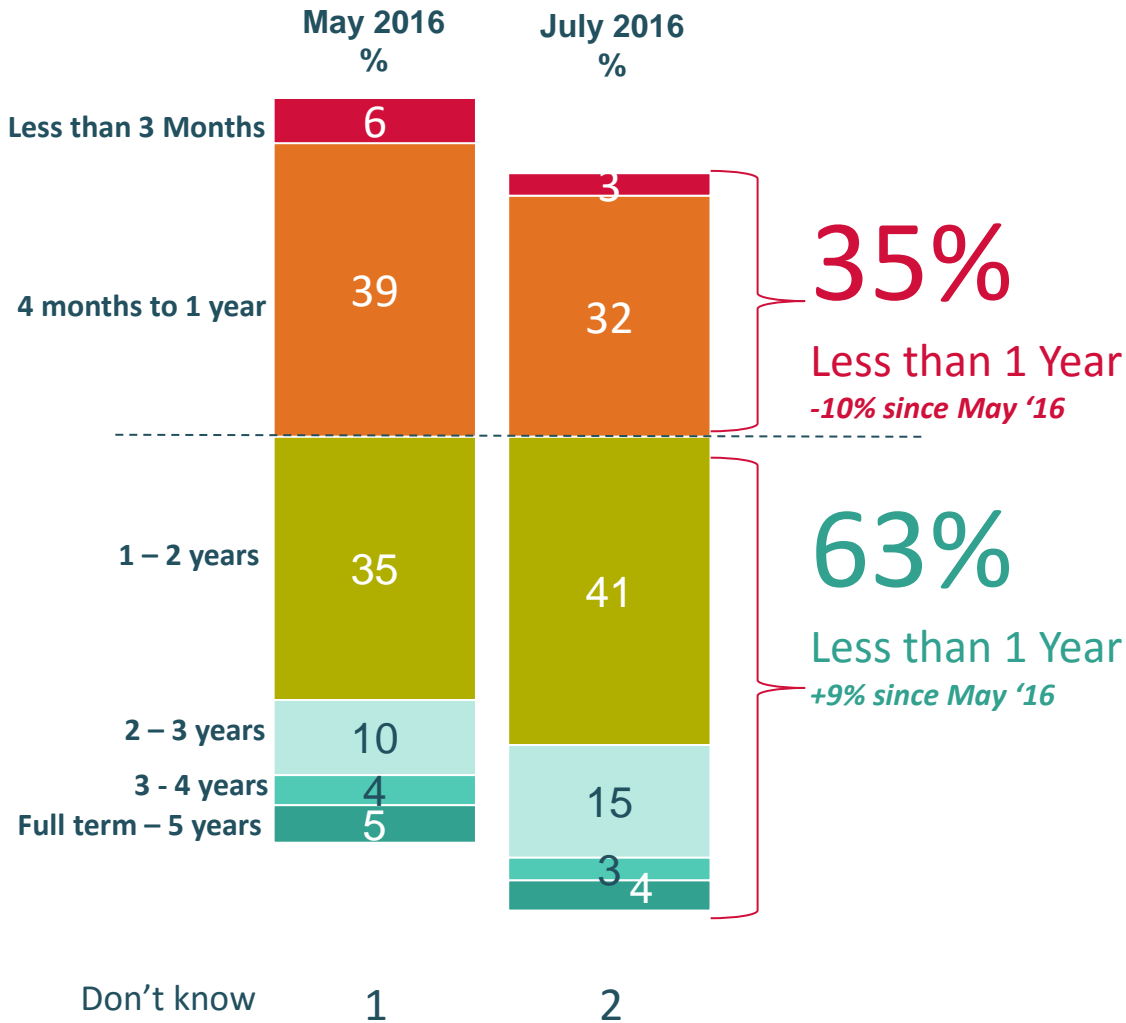
## Region



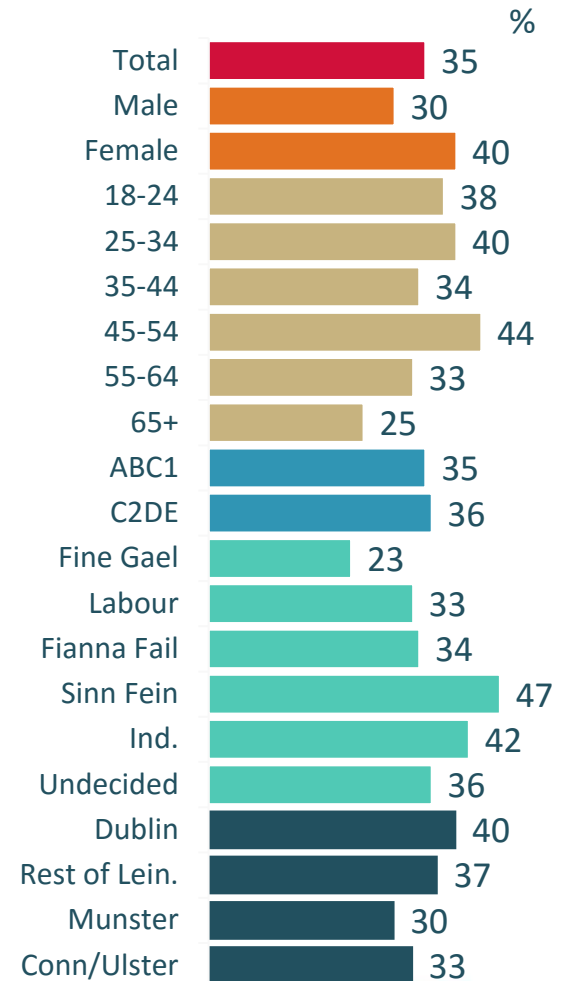
# Expected Length Current Government Will Last

(Base: All adults 18+)

Q. How long do think this new government coalition will last?



## Who thinks Gov. will last less than a year



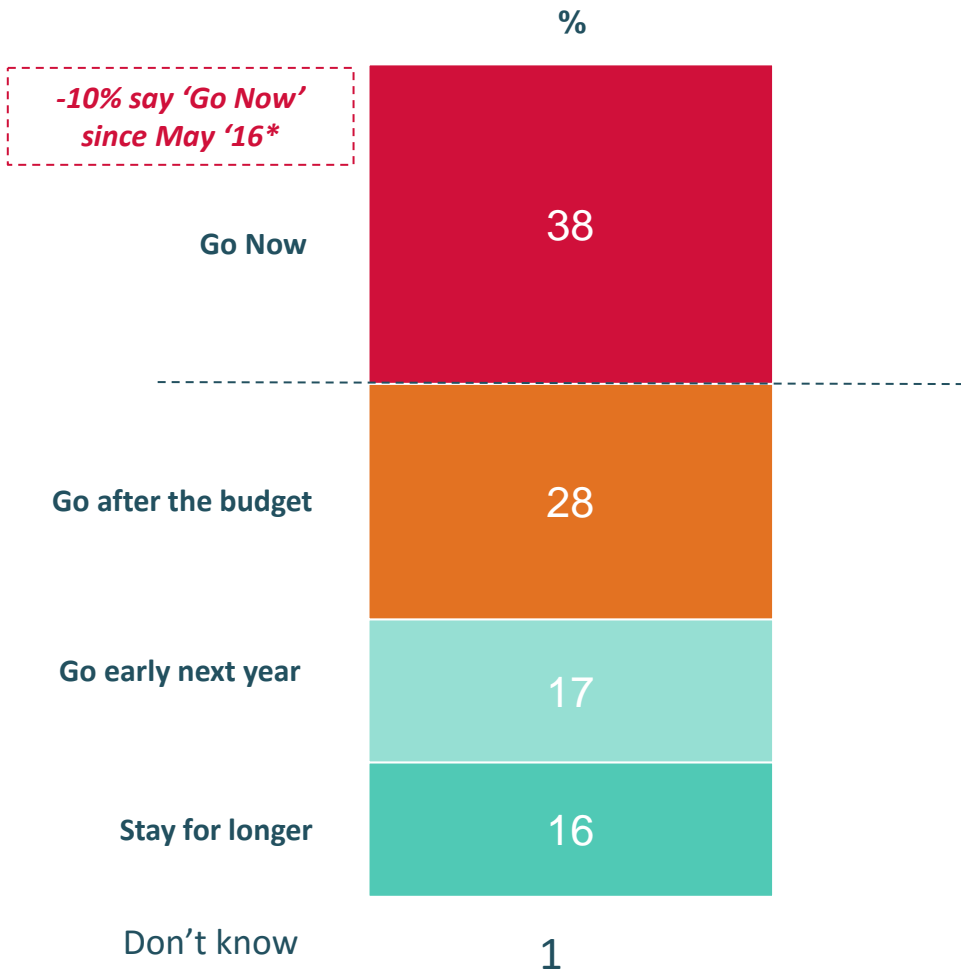


# Fine Gael Leadership

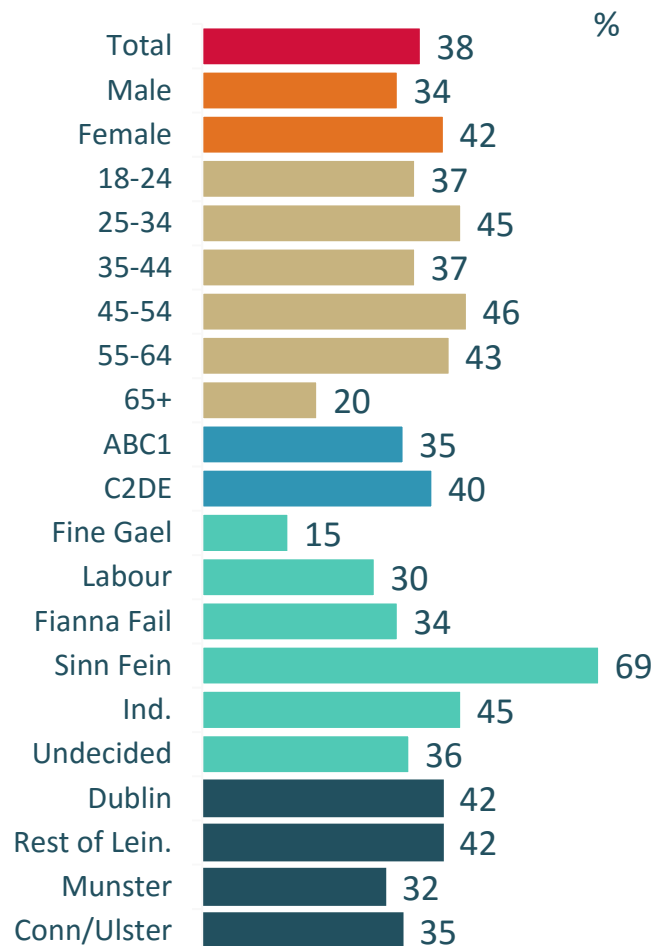
# How Soon Should Enda Kenny Retire from Taoiseach

(Base: All adults 18+)

Q. Enda Kenny has pledged he will not see out the next term as Taoiseach. Do you think he should...



## Who thinks Enda Kenny should go now?

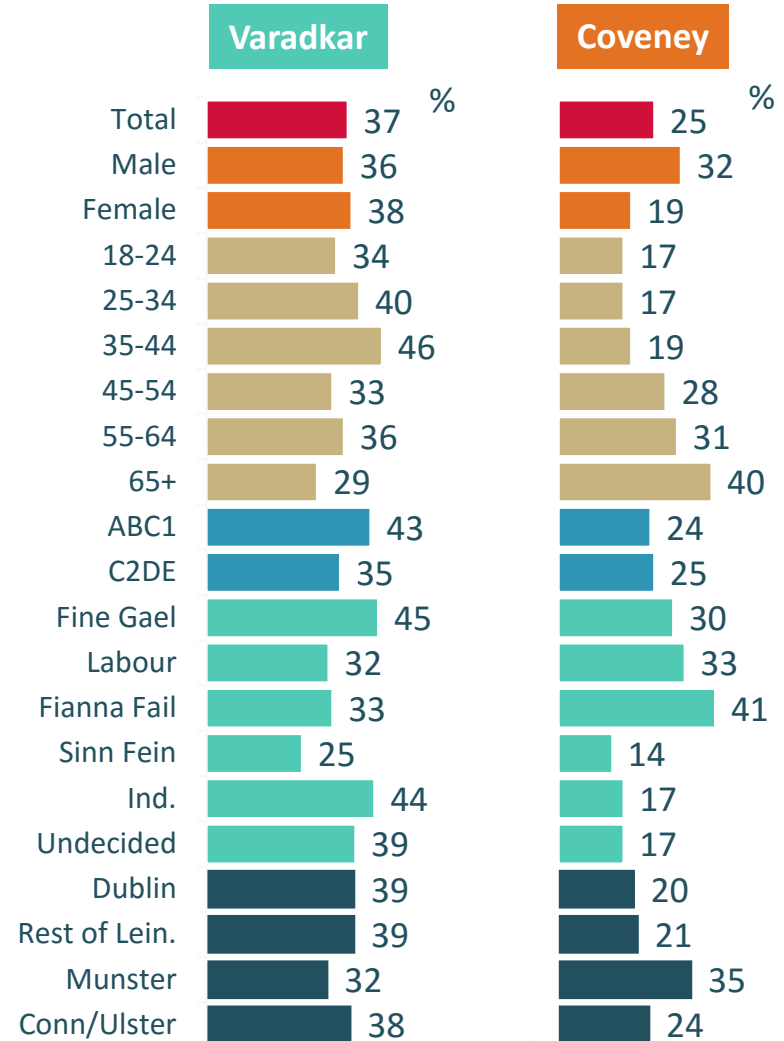
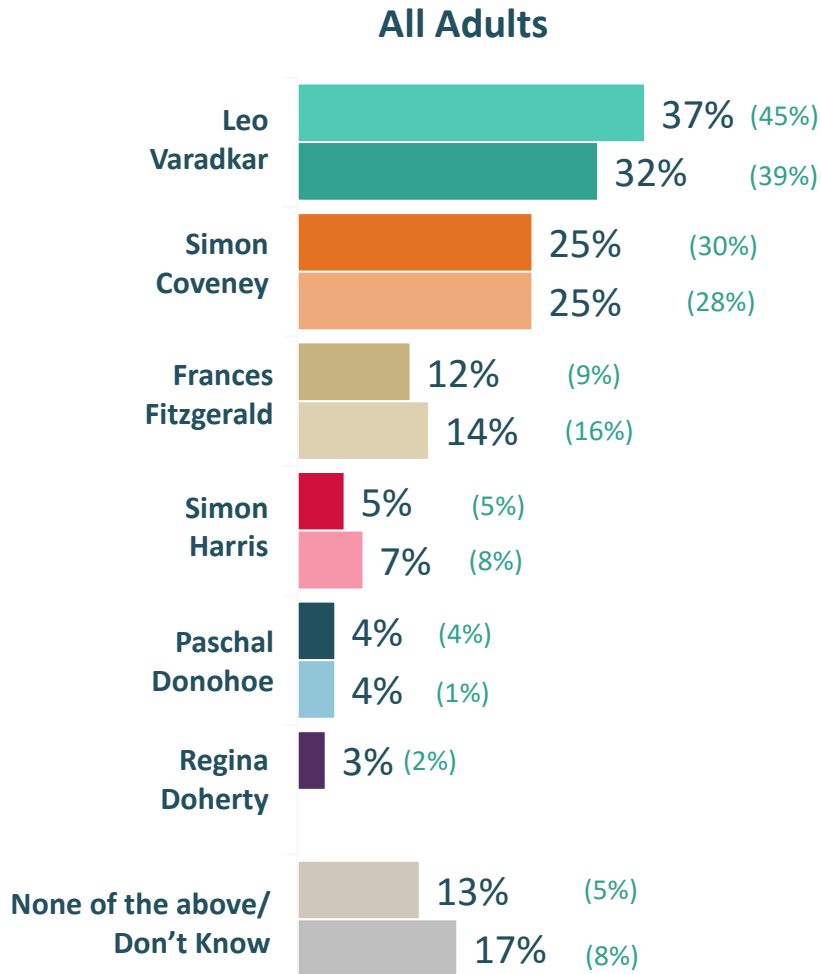


Questions text changed - Only comparable for 'Go Now'



# Who Should Replace Enda Kenny as the Next Taoiseach

(Base: All adults 18+)



() Fine Gael Voters

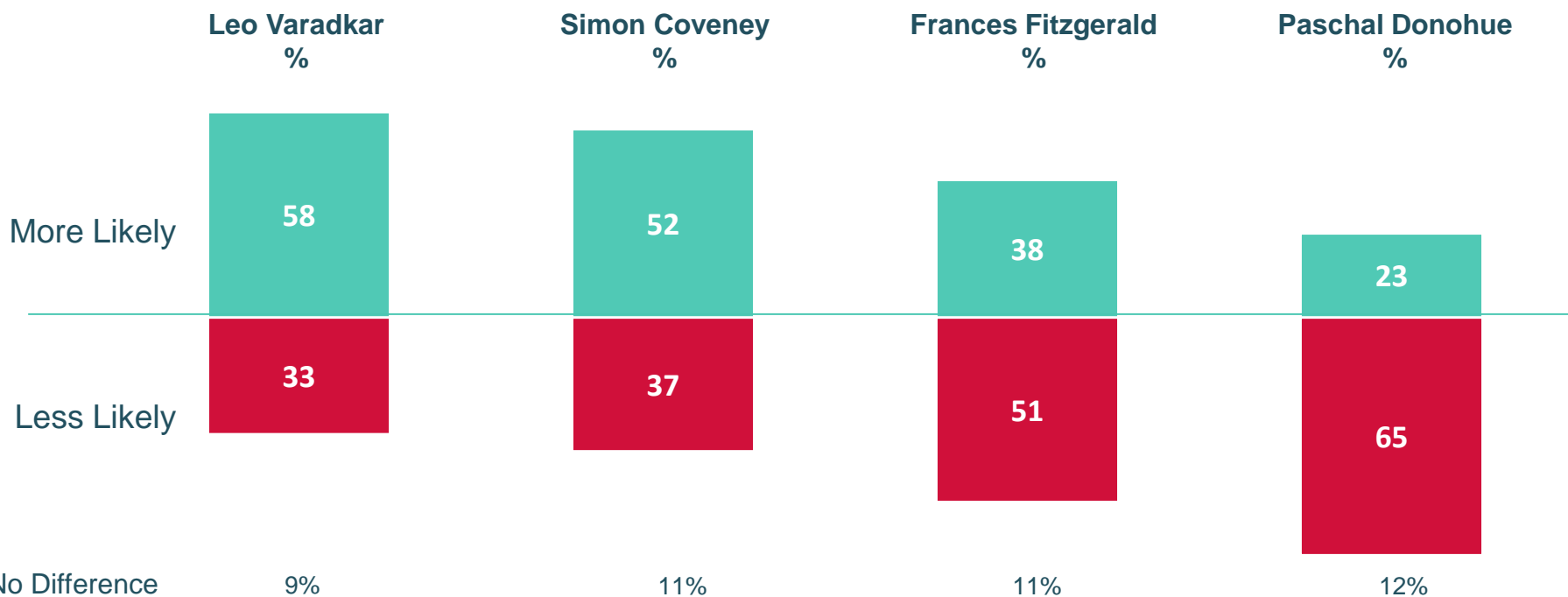
\*Regina Doherty added to questionnaire in July '16



# Likelihood to Vote for Fine Gael if Enda Kenny Was Replaced By...

(Base: All adults 18+)

Q. Irrespective of your first preference for Fine Gael leader; When Enda Kenny eventually steps down as Taoiseach, how much more or less likely would you be to vote for Fine Gael in the event, he was replaced by the following?

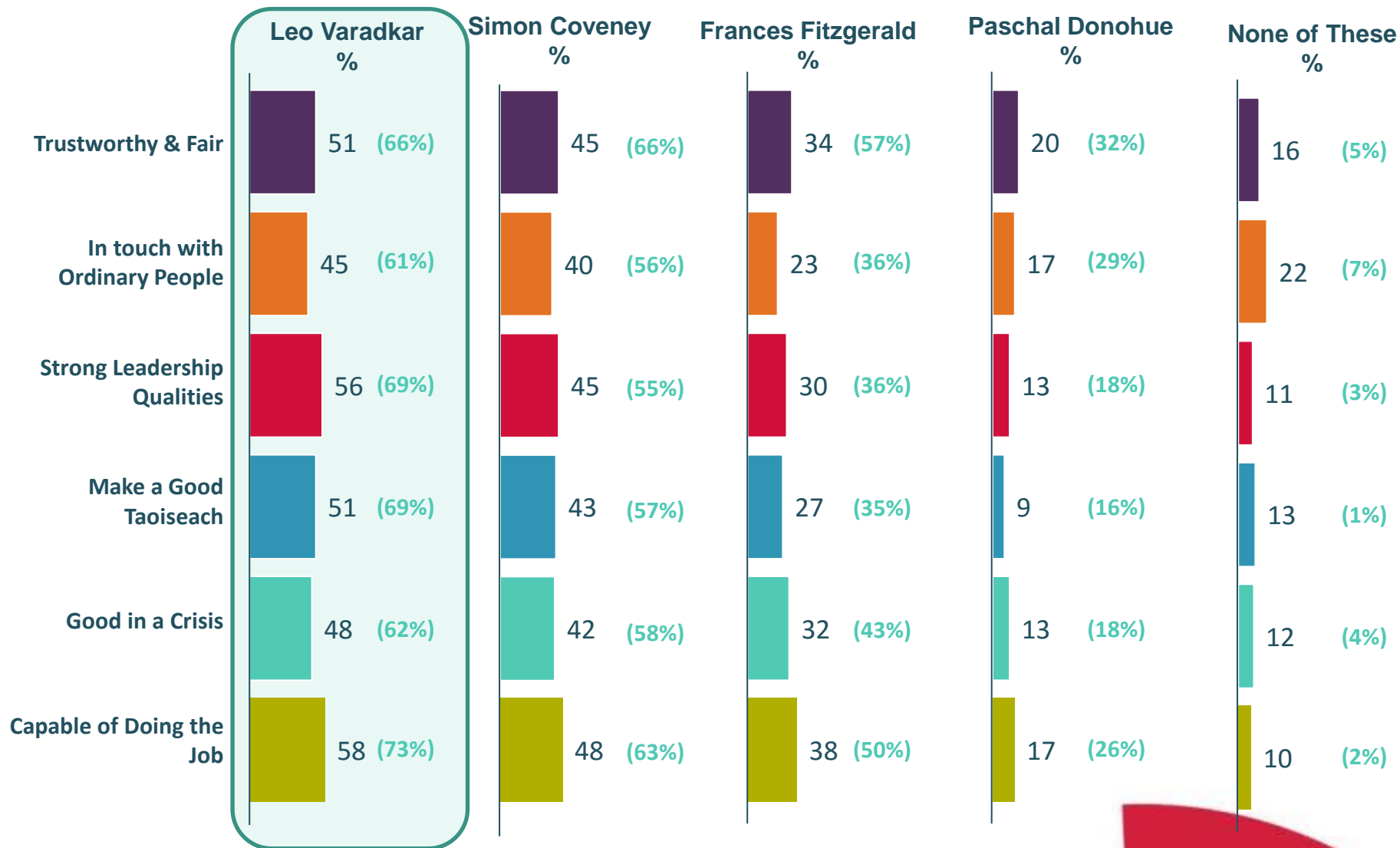


% More Likely Among Party Intenders	Leo Varadkar	Simon Coveney	Frances Fitzgerald	Paschal Donohue
Fianna Fail	48%	52%	34%	12%
Labour	71%	63%	42%	19%
Sinn Féin	33%	35%	28%	30%
Independent	57%	46%	35%	23%
Undecided	68%	47%	35%	29%



# Attributes of Fine Gael Politicians

(Base: All adults 18+)



( ) Fine Gael Voters



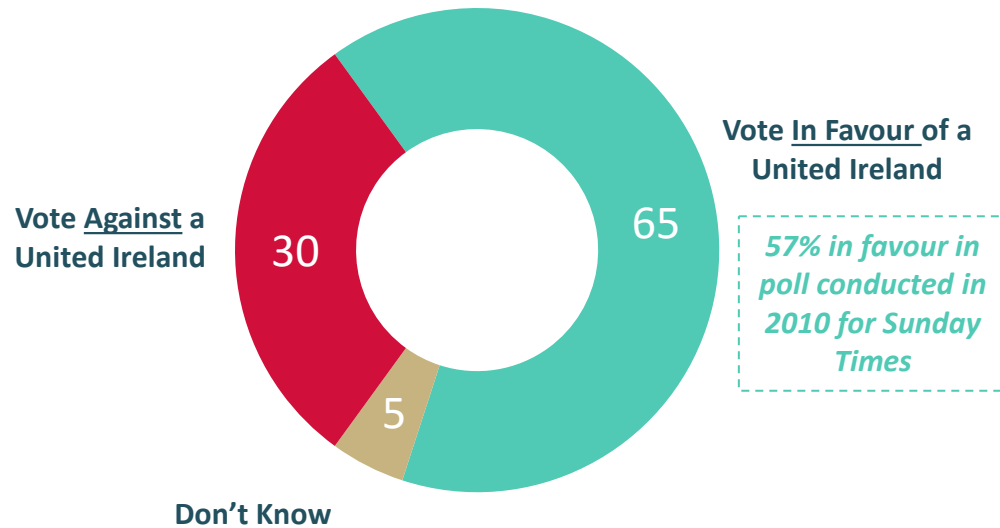


**United  
Ireland**

# Support for a United Ireland

(Base: All adults 18+)

Q. If a referendum on a United Ireland were to be held tomorrow, would you vote Yes in favour of a United Ireland, or vote No against a United Ireland?



## Who Would Vote in Favour of a United Ireland?

