

By John Costello

Following her election last November, Catherine Connelly, became the 10th President of Ireland -- the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Irish Defense Forces. The term is 7 years and the incumbent can run for re-election once.

Legislative elections for the 34th Dáil the lower house of Ireland's bicameral legislature with 174 seats, were held in November 2024. Results:

- **Fianna Fáil, the Soldiers of Destiny - 48 seats**
- **Sinn Féin, [We] Ourselves - 39 seats**
- **Fine Gael, the Family of the Irish - 38 seats**
- **Social Democrats - 11 seats**
- **Labor - 11 seats**

The remaining 27 seats were split among 5 other parties and more than a dozen independents.

A coalition government was established consisting of Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, and 4 independents. Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin serves as Taoiseach (read: Prime Minister), and Fine Gael leader Simon Harris serves as Tánaiste (read: Deputy Prime Minister). It is planned that this arrangement will hold until November 2027 when their roles will switch. There is a 5-year limit between general elections. Thus, unless called sooner, the next elections are expected in early 2030.