

The 34th Dáil, the lower house of Ireland's bicameral legislature, is composed of 174 seats. Its representatives, known as Teachta Dála, i.e., Dáil Deputy, are commonly referred to as TDs. The number of TDs equates to between 20,000 to 30,000 of the population. In the last election, they were elected in 39 constituencies, each having between three to five TDs. Proportional representation is achieved by means of single transferable votes, which we would call ranked-choice balloting. Votes are transferred according to alternative preferences as the voter's preferred candidate is eliminated or elected with surplus votes. For example, during the 2024 election the Cavan-Monaghan constituency, which has five seats, was contested by 20 candidates. It took until the 10th count, that is redistribution of votes, before the first candidate had enough votes to be elected, and the 4th and 5th seats were elected on the 14th count. Two of these TDs belong to Fianna Fáil, the Soldiers of Destiny; two belong to Sinn Féin, [We] Ourselves; and one Fine Gael, the Family of the Irish.

John Costello