

Ireland

	PO	FL	FR	EU	Best %	Last %	Government
SF	X			X	24.5 (2020)	24.5 (2020)	
SP / PBPS		X		X	4.0 (2016)	2.6 (2020)	
WP		X		X	5.0 (1989)	0.1 (2020)	

Parties represented in parliament:

Founded in 1905, **Sinn Féin (We Ourselves, SF)** has strived for a united, independent Irish state and was historically associated with the paramilitary Irish Republican Army (IRA). In modern times, the party is both active in the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom territory of Northern Ireland. It plays a different role across political institutions. In the UK House of Commons, it has historically refused to take up gained seats, while it has been part of the devolved consociationalist executive of Northern Ireland. In the Republic, Sinn Féin has remained in opposition, but it has witnessed a strong growth in the most recent parliamentary elections, winning a quarter of the vote in 2020. The Irish branch of the party can be defined as socio-economically left-wing and populist (though applying the 'far left' label would be controversial). Its discourse has been characterised by strong criticism of mainstream parties and a promise to represent ordinary Irish people in deprived rural and urban areas. Of the main Irish parties, it has also been the most Eurosceptic. SF's strong Irish nationalism has not coincided with nativism, as it has promoted an 'inclusive' vision of Irish identity which is not at odds with multiculturalism.

A minor far-left party is the **Socialist Party (SP)**, founded by former Labour Party members. The party has enjoyed parliamentary representation for most of the years since 1997, with between one and three representatives. In 2016 and 2020, these ran as candidates for the **Anti-Austerity Alliance or People Before Profit/Solidarity (PBPS)** platforms. Given its emphasis on class divisions, the party can better be seen as an exponent of traditional socialism rather than populism.

Parties not/no longer represented in parliament:

In 1970, Sinn Féin witnessed a significant split, leading to the creation of, as it is now called, the **Workers' Party (WP)**. The WP's agenda was less populist but more radical regarding both its economic policies, and its militancy in terms of Irish unification. For these reasons it was considered to be a far-left party. It was last represented in parliament in 1989. A more moderate (non-far left) split from WP was the Democratic Left (DL), which was founded in 1992 and dissolved in 1999.

Besides political parties, populism can be found among independent politicians in Ireland which constitute a significant presence in the parliament– yet these are beyond the scope of our database.