

Kerry good poll for Healy-Raes

■ Laura COLGAN

THE next generation of the Healy-Rae family continued the political dynasty as two siblings and their cousin have been elected to Kerry County Council.

Three members of the Healy-Rae family were elected on the first count in three areas.

Johnny Healy-Rae, the son of TD Danny-Healy Rae, topped the poll in Kenmare with 22.2 per cent of first-preference votes.

His sister Maura Healy-Rae was elected on the first count in Killarney with 24.5 per cent.

Their cousin Jackie Healy-Rae, the son of TD Michael Healy-Rae, was elected in Castleisland with 28.5 per cent.

Kerry has now elected six Healy-Raes to Kerry County Council since Jackie Senior was first elected in 1973.



WIN: Jackie Healy Rae Jr with his TD dad Michael

'No 1 vote' is taken literally

■ Conor DOYLE

GALWAY local election candidate Patrick Feeney has garnered just one vote in the local elections.

The former Aer Lingus worker and Independent candidate ran in both the Connemara South and Galway City Central constituencies.

Mr Feeney, who ran on a platform of improving local bus services and the development of a light rail system in Galway, got the paltry sum of 32 votes in Connemara South.

However he fared far worse in Galway city, where he gained just one solitary vote.

It is not the first time that Mr Feeney has suffered election humiliation, as he ran in the 2016 General Election as an Independent and picked up just 22 votes that time — the lowest total number of votes in the election.



DISAPPOINTED: Patrick Feeney

Bailey's dad secures seat

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THE father of embattled Fine Gael TD Maria Bailey retained his council seat despite the controversy surrounding her legal action against a Dublin hotel.

John Bailey, who has sat on Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council since 2004, received the third-highest number of first preference votes in Dun Laoghaire.

Action

The Fine Gael councillor took one of the seven seats in the constituency on the ninth count despite the controversy surrounding his daughter's now dropped personal injury action against The Dean Hotel in the city centre.



ELECTED: John Bailey won seat

COMPO CASE 'DAMAGING': PAGE 15

Leo hints at snap election

DECISION TO MAKE IF NUMBERS IN DAIL CHANGE

TAOISEACH Leo Varadkar said he is not ruling out calling a general election if the numbers are changed in the Dail.

He said a number of by-elections may need to be held if sitting TDs are elected to the European parliament.

The Taoiseach said beyond the "next few days and weeks", he could not rule out an election.

Given the risks of Brexit, October's Budget and the National Broadband Plan, he said there would need to be a decision.

"All of those things have to be taken into account. But I am also very aware that the ending of this Dail may not be my decision. Fianna Fail could pull the plug on this Government at any time if they chose to," the Taoiseach said.

And as the results rolled in, it became clear that a green wave was sweeping over the country — with the Green Party winning six times more first preference votes in the local elections than in previous votes.

The Green Party ran 82 candidates in the local elections — and has taken 37 seats so far. The party received 5.8 per cent of first preference votes in total, with voters seeking action on climate change, public transport, sustainable energy and housing.

Green Party candidate Hazel Chu was the first councillor elected on Saturday afternoon. She secured 33.2 per cent of first preference votes in Pembroke and will take a seat on Dublin City Council.

It's believed she secured the highest number of first-preference votes by a first-time

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candidate in the history of local elections in Ireland.

Her partner Patrick Costello was also elected to Dublin City Council soon afterwards and topped the poll in Kimmage-Rathmines with 20.4 per cent of first preference votes.

Party leader Eamon Ryan said he believes the "green wave of thinking" has now hit Ireland.

He said: "We knew there was going to be a Green vote and it's everywhere. It's rural Ireland, urban Ireland, younger Ireland, older Ireland."

"It's reflective of a green wave of thinking that's happening all over the world, all across Europe."

Rise

"We were waiting for it to rise here and it has risen today."

Fine Gael won 24.7 per cent of first preference votes and had taken 207 council seats as of last night.

However, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said that he doesn't believe the support for the Green Party is a protest vote.

But he said that a carbon tax "has to be part of the calculation for the Budget" and that he has heard the message from the public that they want the Government to act quickly on climate action.

Meanwhile, Fianna Fail received 26.9 per cent of first preference votes and had taken 236 seats as of last night.

Party leader Micheal Martin said he doesn't believe a snap general election should be called on the back of the local elections — but congratulated the Green

Party for its surprise success.

He said: "You never use local elections as a barometer for a general election."

"I'm around long enough and I'm an experienced politician."

"Locals are different. People vote differently at locals."

"We are not only still standing, we are making gains."

"We are still bringing people in but it is a challenging environment electorally."

"We are positive about the future. It is a very fragmented situation right now."

He added: "I want to pay tribute to the Green Party. They did well."

"Eamon Ryan and myself, we came in after the 2011 General Election and we have ploughed a lonely furrow at times."

"He is having his day today and I pay tribute to him for his leadership in that regard."

Sinn Fein was the biggest loser in the local elections — and the party received 5.9 percentage points less in votes than in the 2014 local elections.

The party won 9.6 per cent of first preference votes and took 66 seats as of last night.

Sinn Fein president Mary Lou McDonald said she doesn't believe the losses are down to her leadership.

She said: "That's the nature of local elections. I am not exactly sure where we are going to land."

Labour received about six per cent of first preference votes and took 49 seats, while the Social Democrats took 2.3 per cent of first preference votes and 13 seats and Solidarity/People Before Profit won two per cent of first preference votes and 11 seats.

Independents and other parties took 22.2 per cent of first preference votes and won 169 council seats as of last night.

The turnout was 49.3 per cent.



WARNING: Leo Varadkar

LOCAL ELECTIONS FIRST PREFERENCE % (as of last night)

FF 26.9%

FG 24.9%

I/O 22.3%

SF 9.6%

LAB 5.9%

GP 5.8%

SPBP 1.9%

'Hooligan' wins seat



FIGHTER: Holohan

FORMER MMA star Paddy 'The Hooligan' Holohan came out fighting and won a seat in South Dublin County Council.

The first-time Sinn Fein candidate received the highest amount of first preference votes in the Tallaght South constituency — but the 872 votes fell short of the 973 quota.

He was elected to South Dublin County Council on the sixth

■ Laura COLGAN

count.

The 31-year-old was one of the few successes for Sinn Fein in the local elections as the party received about six per cent fewer votes than in the 2014 local elections.

Holohan, who was trained by Conor McGregor's coach John

Kavanagh, was forced to retire from professional mixed martial arts in 2016 due to a rare blood disorder.

He fought in five UFC bouts — but retired on medical advice.

Holohan was born with Factor XIII deficiency, which is an extremely rare inherited blood disorder characterised by abnormal blood clotting which results in abnormal bleeding.