

# United Ireland on the Horizon? Sinn Féin Takes Control for First Time

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Global Research, May 11, 2022

[Statista](#) 9 May 2022

Region: [Europe](#)

Theme: [History](#)

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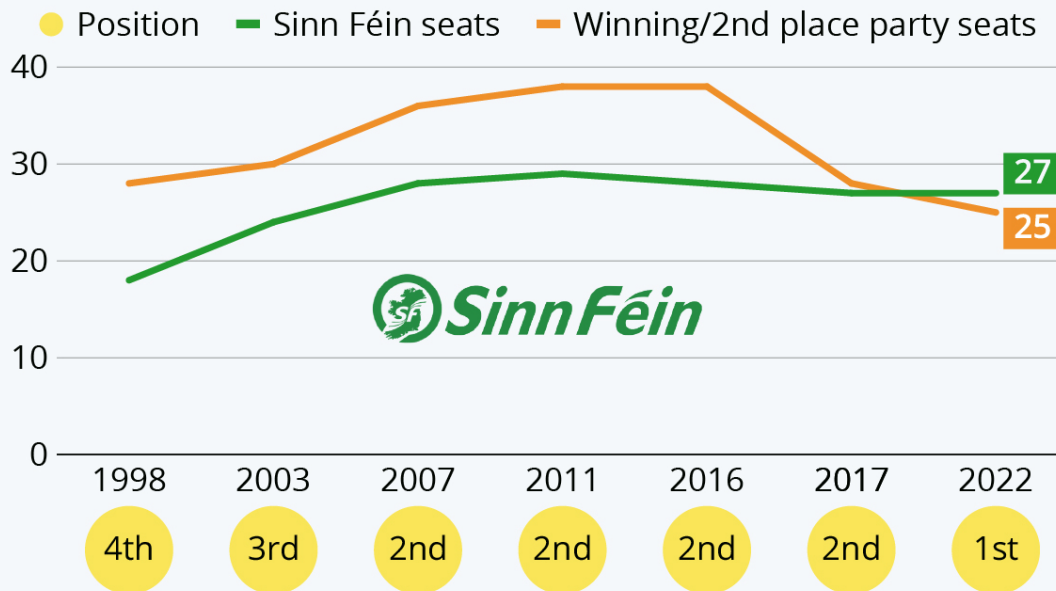
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*For the first time since the first election of the Northern Ireland Assembly in 1998, the Irish nationalist party Sinn Féin has won more seats than any other party after the vote held on May 5. Sinn Féin aims to reunify Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland and is now close to installing party vice-president **Michelle O’Neill** as first minister.*

As our infographic shows, Sinn Féin were just the fourth most-popular party in 1998, taking 18 seats compared to the winning Ulster Unionist Party’s 28. Having established itself as the second largest party in the years since, 2022 represents the first time it has gained control of the most seats, and the first time a nationalist party has won since Northern Ireland was founded in 1921.

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Seats won by Sinn Féin in Northern Ireland Assembly elections compared to the party with the most seats



Sources: Northern Ireland Assembly, Electoral Commission



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