

# THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

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**STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01AM FRIDAY 30 APRIL 2010**

## ELECTORATE FIGURES RISE WHILE POSTAL VOTES REDUCE

Almost 1.17 million people will be able to vote at the general election the Electoral Office has announced.

Figures published today by the Office also show that the number of people applying for a postal or proxy vote has halved largely because of stringent measures put in place to detect fraudulent applications.

Commenting on the latest figures Douglas Bain Chief Electoral Office said:

**“There will be more people than ever before in Northern Ireland able to vote at this general election despite the reduction in postal or proxy applications.**

**“The figures reflect the determined efforts of the Office in increasing the numbers legitimately on the register while our warnings about the consequences of fraudulent postal and proxy vote applications and our robust counter-fraud measures are working.**

**“I am very pleased that our twin track approach has proved beneficial to the whole electoral process.**

The Electoral Office today published a range of statistics about the general election which can be viewed on [www.eoni.org.uk](http://www.eoni.org.uk).



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## Notes for Editors

1. The total number of people able to vote at the election is 1,169,184, an increase of 2.5% since the last general election.
2. 8,136 of these have been added to the electoral register since 1 April under the new late registration provisions being used at a general election for the first time.
3. There are 193 electors aged 100 or over. The oldest is 108. There are 56 electors who will become 18 on polling day.
4. 16,223 of those eligible to vote next Thursday were too young to vote at the elections last year.

## Postal and Proxy Voting

5. 18,071 electors have been granted a postal or proxy vote. That represents a decrease of more than 47% since the 2005 general election.
6. The largest percentage decrease is in Foyle (69%) and the smallest in Belfast East (2%). Other large decreases were in Newry and Armagh (61.5%), West Tyrone (57.6%) and North Antrim (53.6%).
7. More than 90 applications were rejected because the signatures on them were unacceptable. After the election it is likely that many of these cases will be referred to the police for investigation.

## Further Information

8. The full figures will be available on [www.eoni.org.uk](http://www.eoni.org.uk)

