

Research Paper 03/072  
May 2003

# 2003 Assembly Election Results



Members' Research Service  
Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau

## **2003 Assembly Election Results**

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# Members' Research Service: Research Paper

## Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau: Papur Ymchwil

### THE 2003 ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS

This statistical note draws together information on the results of the election to the National Assembly for Wales on 1 May 2003 and provides some comparisons with results from the previous Assembly election in 1999 and with recent General Election results. The figures have been taken from a number of sources.

#### 1 SUMMARY

The overall picture of seats won by each party in May 2003 is given in Table 1.

**Table 1: Summary results, 1 May 2003 – number of seats, by party and change from 1999**

Party	Constituency	Region	All seats	Change from 1999			<i>Number</i>
				Constituency	Region	All seats	
Labour	30	0	30	3	-1	2	
Plaid Cymru	5	7	12	-4	-1	-5	
Conservative	1	10	11	0	2	2	
Liberal Democrat	3	3	6	0	0	0	
Independent	1	0	1	1	0	1	
All parties	40	20	60	0	0	0	

Labour won exactly half of the seats in the Assembly, two more than in 1999. Plaid Cymru won 5 fewer seats than in 1999 – losing 4 constituency seats and 1 regional. The Conservatives won 2 more seats than in 1999 both from the regional vote. This leaves the Conservatives, with 11 seats in 2003, within 1 seat of Plaid Cymru. The Liberal Democrats kept the same number of seats and, for the first time, an independent gained a constituency seat in an Assembly election.

#### 2 SHARE OF VOTE

The share of the vote in the regional ballots was slightly different from that in the constituencies with a higher proportion, just under 12 per cent, voting for parties other than the four main parties (Table 2). In the constituency ballot Labour took 40 per cent of the vote while Plaid Cymru and the Conservatives took 21 and 20 percent respectively. Whilst Labour increased their share of the constituency vote from the previous Assembly election by over 2 percentage points and the Conservatives by 4 percentage points, the Plaid Cymru share fell by 7 percentage points. The Liberal Democrats saw a small increase in their share of the vote compared to the 1999 election.

Plaid Cymru also saw their share of the vote fall in the regional ballot from 30 to just under 20 per cent. The Conservatives and parties other than the four main parties made the most gains in the regional ballot.

The Assembly elections show a different pattern of voting from the 2001 General Election when Labour took nearly 50 per cent of the vote and Plaid Cymru took 14 per cent.

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**Table 2: Percentage share of the vote, by party**

Party	2003 Assembly election			1999 Assembly election			Percentage
	Constituency	Region	All seats	Constituency	Region	All seats	2001 General Election (Wales)
Labour	40.0	36.6	38.3	37.6	35.4	36.5	48.6
Plaid Cymru	21.2	19.7	20.5	28.4	30.5	29.5	14.3
Conservative	19.9	19.2	19.5	15.8	16.5	16.2	21.0
Liberal Democrat	14.1	12.7	13.4	13.5	12.5	13.0	13.8
Others	4.7	11.8	8.3	4.7	5.1	4.9	2.3
All parties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

### 3 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

The full list of Assembly Members elected at May 2003 is given in Tables 3 (by constituency) and 4 (by region). A list of preferred names and Members' details is being drawn up and will shortly be available on the Intranet. Maps in Annex 1 show who gained seats across Wales.

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**Table 3: Elected members and parties, by constituency, May 2003**

Constituency	Party	Elected member
Aberavon	Lab	Dr Brian Gibbons
Alyn & Deeside	Lab	Carl Sargeant
Blaenau Gwent	Lab	Peter Law
Brecon & Radnorshire	Lib Dem	Kirsty Williams
Bridgend	Lab	Carwyn Jones
Caernarfon	PC	Alun Jones
Caerphilly	Lab	Jeffrey Cuthbert
Cardiff Central	Lib Dem	Jenny Randerson
Cardiff North	Lab	Sue Essex
Cardiff South & Penarth	Lab	Lorraine Barrett
Cardiff West	Lab	Rhodri Morgan
Carmarthen East & Dinefwr	PC	Rhodri Glyn Thomas
Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire	Lab	Christine Gwyther
Ceredigion	PC	Elin Jones
Clwyd South	Lab	Karen Sinclair
Clwyd West	Lab	Alun Pugh
Conwy	Lab	Denise Idris-Jones
Cynon Valley	Lab	Christine Chapman
Delyn	Lab	Sandie Mewies
Gower	Lab	Edwina Hart
Islwyn	Lab	Irene James
Llanelli	Lab	Catherine Thomas
Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	PC	Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas
Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney	Lab	Huw Lewis
Monmouth	Con	David Davies
Montgomeryshire	Lib Dem	Mick Bates
Neath	Lab	Gwenda Thomas
Newport East	Lab	John Griffiths
Newport West	Lab	Rosemary Butler
Ogmore	Lab	Janice Gregory
Pontypridd	Lab	Jane Davidson
Preseli Pembrokeshire	Lab	Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey
Rhondda	Lab	Leighton Andrews
Swansea East	Lab	Val Lloyd
Swansea West	Lab	Andrew Davies
Torfaen	Lab	Lynne Neagle
Vale of Clwyd	Lab	Ann Jones
Vale of Glamorgan	Lab	Jane Hutt
Wrexham	Ind	Dr John Marek
Ynys-Mon	PC	Ieuan Wyn Jones

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**Table 4: Elected Members and parties, by region, May 2003**

Region	Party	Elected member
Mid and West Wales	Con	Professor Nicholas Bourne
	Con	Glyn Davies
	Con	Lisa Francis
	PC	Helen Mary Jones
North Wales	Con	Brynle Williams
	Con	Mark Isherwood
	Lib Dem	Eleanor Burnham
	PC	Janet Ryder
South Wales Central	Con	Jonathan Morgan
	Con	David Melding
	PC	Leanne Wood
	PC	Owen John Thomas
South Wales East	Con	Laura Anne Jones
	Con	William Graham
	Lib Dem	Michael German
	PC	Jocelyn Davies
South Wales West	PC	Janet Davies
	PC	Dr Dai Lloyd
	Con	Alun Cairns
	Lib Dem	Peter Black

There are 46 Members returning to the Assembly, although Helen Mary Jones returns as a Regional Member having lost her constituency seat, and 14 new Members. Of the new Members, 9 are constituency Members and 5 represent regional seats.

#### **4 RESULTS BY REGION**

Breakdowns of the results by party and region are given in Tables 5, 6 and 7. Liberal Democrat seats are spread fairly evenly across the regions. Labour picked up fewer seats in Mid and West Wales than elsewhere while Plaid Cymru were most successful in Mid and West Wales and North Wales. The Conservatives fared best in South Wales East and Mid and West Wales.

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**Table 5: Constituency seats, by party and region**

*Number*

Party	Mid and West Wales	North Wales	South Wales Central	South Wales East	South Wales West	All regions
Labour	3	6	7	7	7	30
Plaid Cymru	3	2	-	-	-	5
Conservative	-	-	-	1	-	1
Liberal Democrat	2	-	1	-	-	3
Independent	-	1	-	-	-	1
All parties	8	9	8	8	7	40

**Table 6: Regional seats, by party and region**

*Number*

Party	Mid and West Wales	North Wales	South Wales Central	South Wales East	South Wales West	All regions
Labour	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plaid Cymru	1	1	2	1	2	7
Conservative	3	2	2	2	1	10
Liberal Democrat	-	1	-	1	1	3
Independent	-	-	-	-	-	1
All parties	4	4	4	4	4	20

**Table 7: All seats, by party and region**

*Number*

Party	Mid and West Wales	North Wales	South Wales Central	South Wales East	South Wales West	All regions
Labour	3	6	7	7	7	30
Plaid Cymru	4	3	2	1	2	12
Conservative	3	2	2	3	1	11
Liberal Democrat	2	1	1	1	1	6
Independent	-	1	-	-	-	1
All parties	12	13	12	12	11	60

## 5 VOTES CAST

A full breakdown of the votes cast, together with turnout and majority figures, is given in Tables 8 and 9.

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### 6 TURNOUT

The average turnout (constituency and regions) was 38.2 per cent, down 8 per cent from the 1999 Assembly election and 23 percentage points lower than in the 2001 general election. Turnout in 2003 ranged from 24.9 per cent in Alyn and Deeside to 50.4 per cent in Ynys Mon. The turnout was generally higher in Mid and West Wales, where it topped 40 per cent in all constituencies, than in other areas. Constituencies in North Wales showed the greatest variation in turnout – those in the North West were over 40 per cent whilst those in the North East were generally below the average. Annex 2 contains a map showing turnout across Wales.

### 7 MAJORITIES

The largest majority, 11,736 was recorded in the constituency of Blaenau Gwent. The smallest majorities were just 21 votes in Llanelli and 72 in Conwy. Three other constituency Members were returned with majorities of under 1,000.

### 8 WOMEN MEMBERS

The number of women Members rose to 30 in 2003 with women taking exactly half of the seats in the Assembly. This compares with 18 per cent in the House of Commons and 33 per cent in the Scottish Parliament. The majority of women Members in the Assembly belong to the Labour group and account for 63 per cent of their representatives. Half of the Liberal Democrat group and of Plaid Cymru Members are women (Table 10).

**Table 10: Women Members**

	Constituency (number)	Region (number)	All seats (number)	Women as a % of total
Labour	19	-	19	63
Plaid Cymru	1	5	6	50
Conservative	-	2	2	18
Liberal Democrat	2	1	3	50
All parties	22	8	30	50

Further information on the Assembly election results is available from the Library. Information on the 1999 Assembly Election results is available in a separate Research Paper (CBB01/054) at:

<http://assembly/presidingoffic/mrs/briefings/2001/cbb01054.doc> - Paper

<http://assembly/presidingoffic/mrs/briefings/2001/CBB01054S.xls> - Annexes

Information on the 2001 general election results in Wales is also available in a Research Paper (CBB 01/020) *The 2001 General Election Results In Wales* at:

<http://assembly/presidingoffic/mrs/briefings/2002/cbb02005.doc> – Paper

<http://assembly/presidingoffic/mrs/briefings/2002/cbb02005S.xls> - Annexes

2001 general election results for the whole of the UK are summarised in the House of Commons Research Paper (01/54) *General Election Results, 7 June 2001* at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2001/rp01-054.pdf>

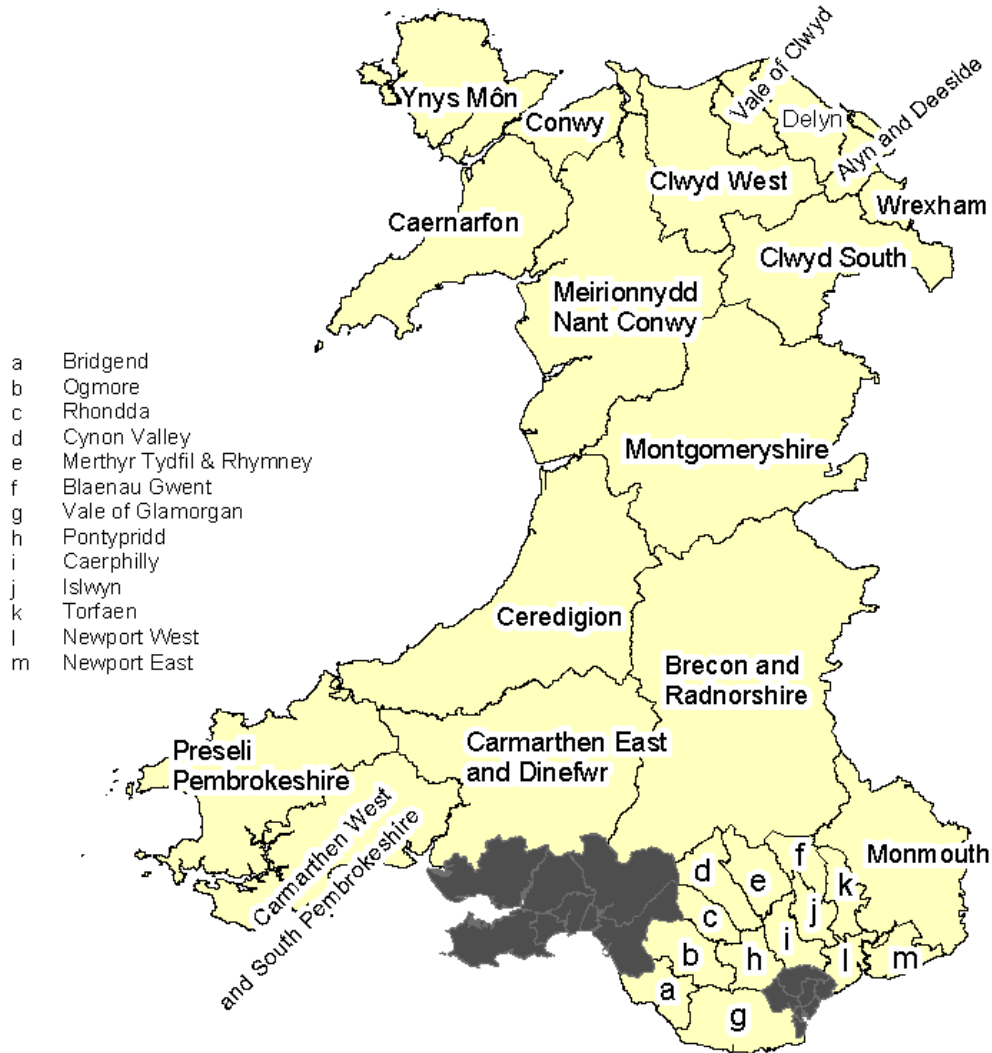


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**SOURCES**

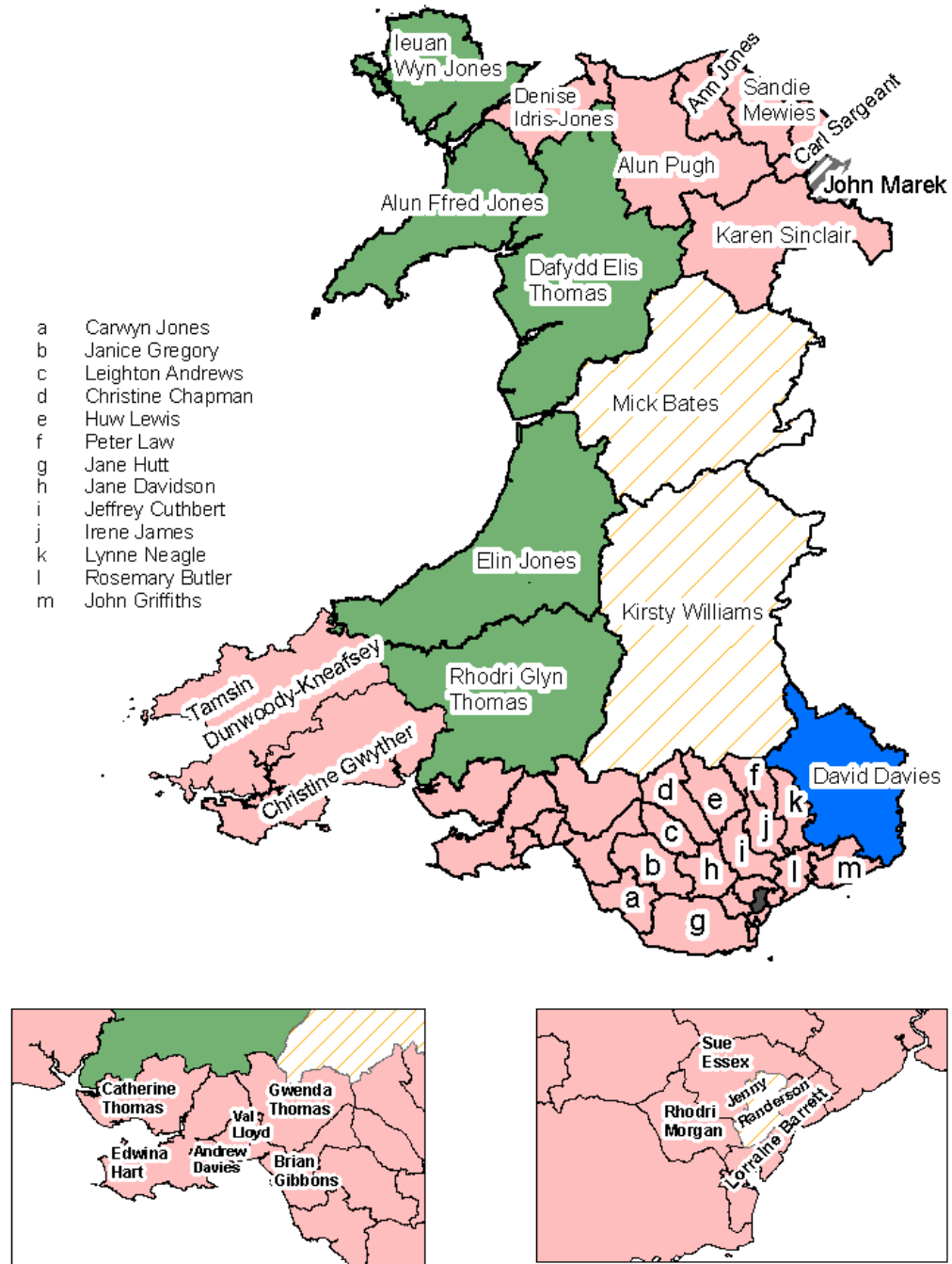
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HTWales website  
ICWales website  
The Western Mail  
The Guardian  
The Times  
Returning Officers  
Parliament web-site

National Assembly for Wales Constituencies



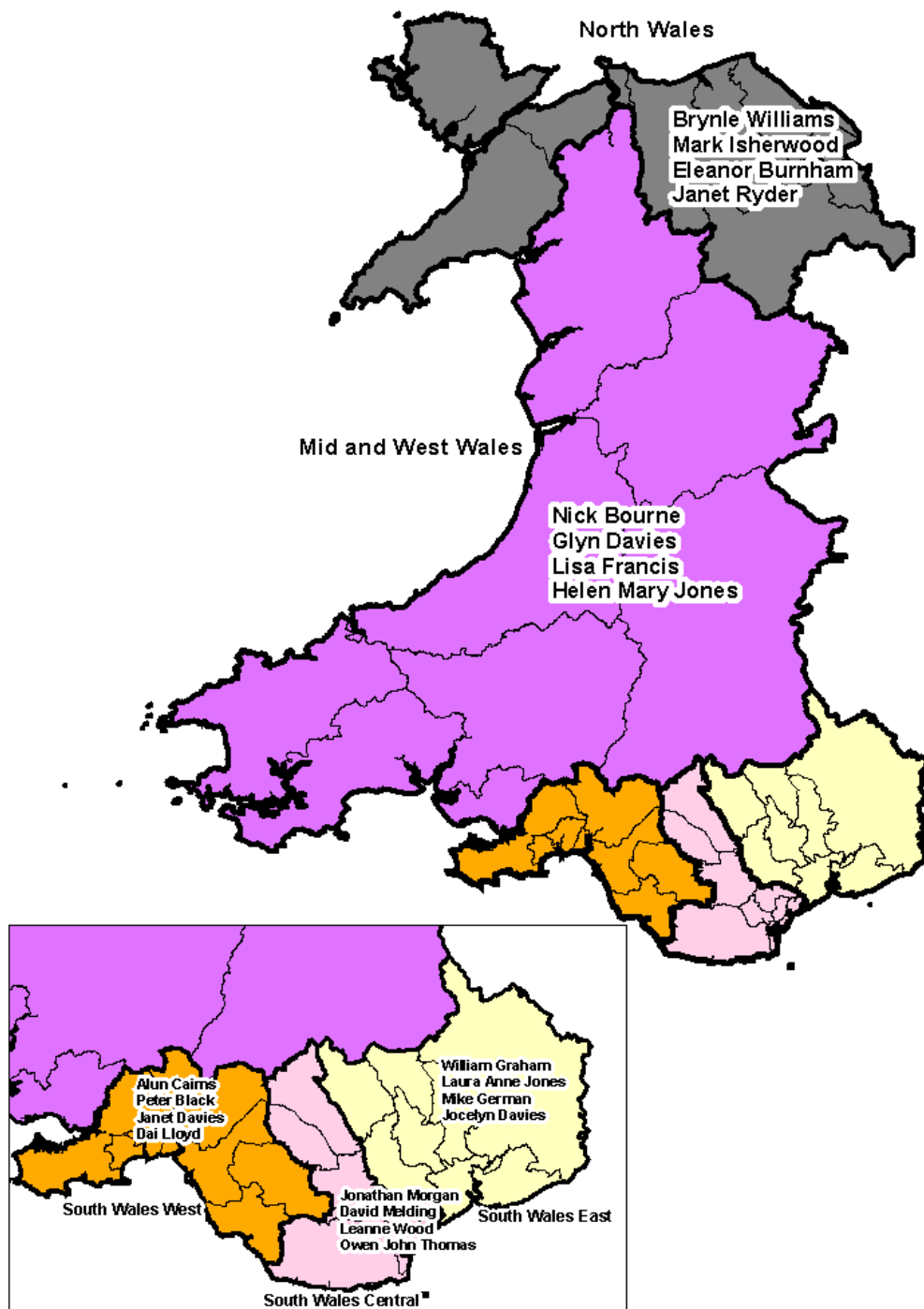
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## National Assembly for Wales Constituencies and Assembly Members: May 2003

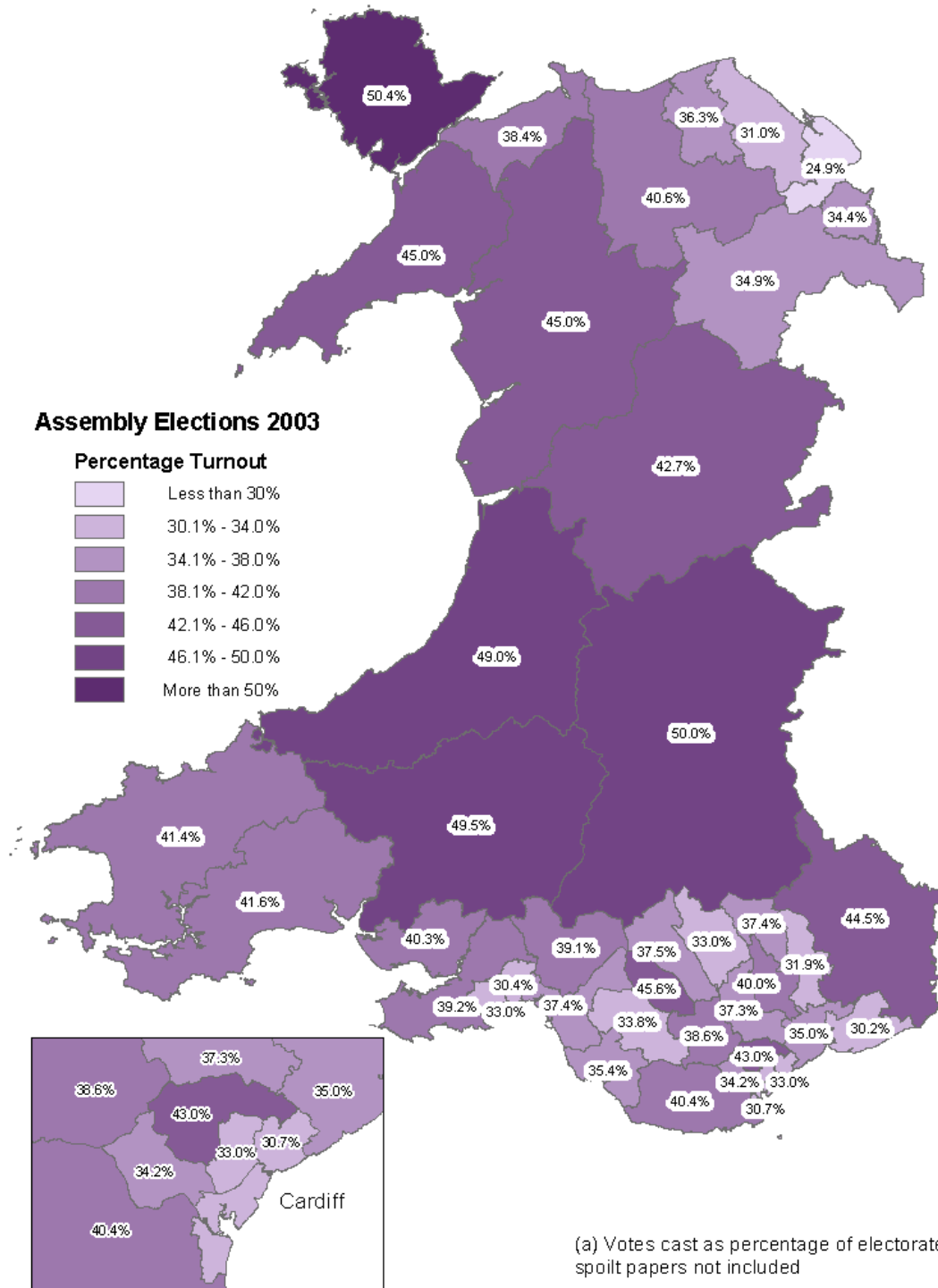


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National Assembly for Electoral Regions  
and Assembly Regional Members: May 2003



2003 Election results by Assembly Constituency  
 Percentage of the electorate who voted (a)



(a) Votes cast as percentage of electorate, spoil papers not included