

National Assembly for Wales

Results of the National Assembly for Wales Referendum 2011

March 2011

This paper provides the results of the National Assembly for Wales Referendum 2011. Including comparisons with results from the 1997 Referendum

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Enquiry no: 11/0288

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March 2011

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Paper number: 11/017

The information in this publication is sourced from
information provided by the Electoral Commission.



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Results of the March 2011 Referendum

Introduction

This paper gives a summary of the results, votes, shares and turnout at the referendum in Wales on the Assembly's law-making powers on 3 March 2011.

The vote was on the following question:

Do you want the Assembly now to be able to make laws on **all** matters in the 20 subject areas it has powers for? Yes / No

Results for the referendum were collated and released at local government level. Therefore, results in this paper are broken down to the 22 local authority areas. The paper is intended to be read as a colour document, and many of the charts, tables and maps may not be fully understood in black and white format.

Overall Result

The official result of the 2011 referendum on Assembly law-making powers was 63.5 per cent voted 'yes' and 36.5 per cent voted 'no'. The turnout for the referendum was 35.6 per cent.

Of the 22 local authorities, over 50 per cent of voters voted 'yes' in 21 local authorities compared to 1 where the majority voted 'no'. The highest proportion of 'yes' votes were in Gwynedd 76.0 per cent and the highest proportion of 'no' votes in Monmouthshire, 50.6 per cent.

The average turnout for the referendum was 35.6 per cent. Turnout ranged from 27.0 in Wrexham to 44.4 per cent in Carmarthenshire.

Commencement provisions

Under Clause 105 of the Government of Wales Act 2006¹, following a majority vote "Yes" in the referendum, the Welsh Ministers are then required to make provisions for Part 4 of the 2006 Act to come into force by order. Such an order would have to be laid before the National Assembly by Welsh Ministers and would require the approval of a majority of Assembly Members in Plenary before coming into effect.

For more details see the Members' Research Service publication, [The National Assembly for Wales Referendum 2011](#).

¹ [Government of Wales Act 2006 \(c.32\)](#)

Results by local authority

The table below shows the number and proportion of people voting in the 2011 referendum by local authority area.

Table 1 Referendum 2011 results by local authority

	Turnout %	Yes votes (a)		No votes (b)	
		%	Number	%	Number
Isle of Anglesey	43.8	64.8	14,011	35.2	7,620
Gwynedd	43.4	76.0	28,200	24.0	8,891
Conwy	33.8	59.7	18,368	40.3	12,390
Denbighshire	34.5	61.8	15,793	38.2	9,742
Flintshire	29.4	62.1	21,119	37.9	12,913
Wrexham	27.0	64.1	17,606	35.9	9,863
Powys	39.7	51.6	21,072	48.4	19,730
Ceredigion	44.1	66.2	16,505	33.8	8,412
Pembrokeshire	38.7	55.0	19,600	45.0	16,050
Carmarthenshire	44.4	70.8	42,979	29.2	17,712
Swansea	32.9	63.2	38,496	36.8	22,409
Neath Port Talbot	38.0	73.0	29,957	27.0	11,079
Bridgend	35.6	68.1	25,063	31.9	11,736
The Vale of Glamorgan	40.1	52.5	19,430	47.5	17,551
Cardiff	35.2	61.4	53,427	38.6	33,606
Rhondda Cynon Taf	34.6	70.7	43,051	29.3	17,834
Merthyr Tydfil	30.1	68.9	9,136	31.1	4,132
Caerphilly	34.6	64.3	28,431	35.7	15,751
Blaenau Gwent	32.4	68.9	11,869	31.1	5,366
Torfaen	33.8	62.8	14,655	37.2	8,688
Monmouthshire	35.8	49.4	12,381	50.6	12,701
Newport	27.9	54.8	15,983	45.2	13,204
Wales	35.6	63.5	517,132	36.5	297,380

Source: The Electoral Commission

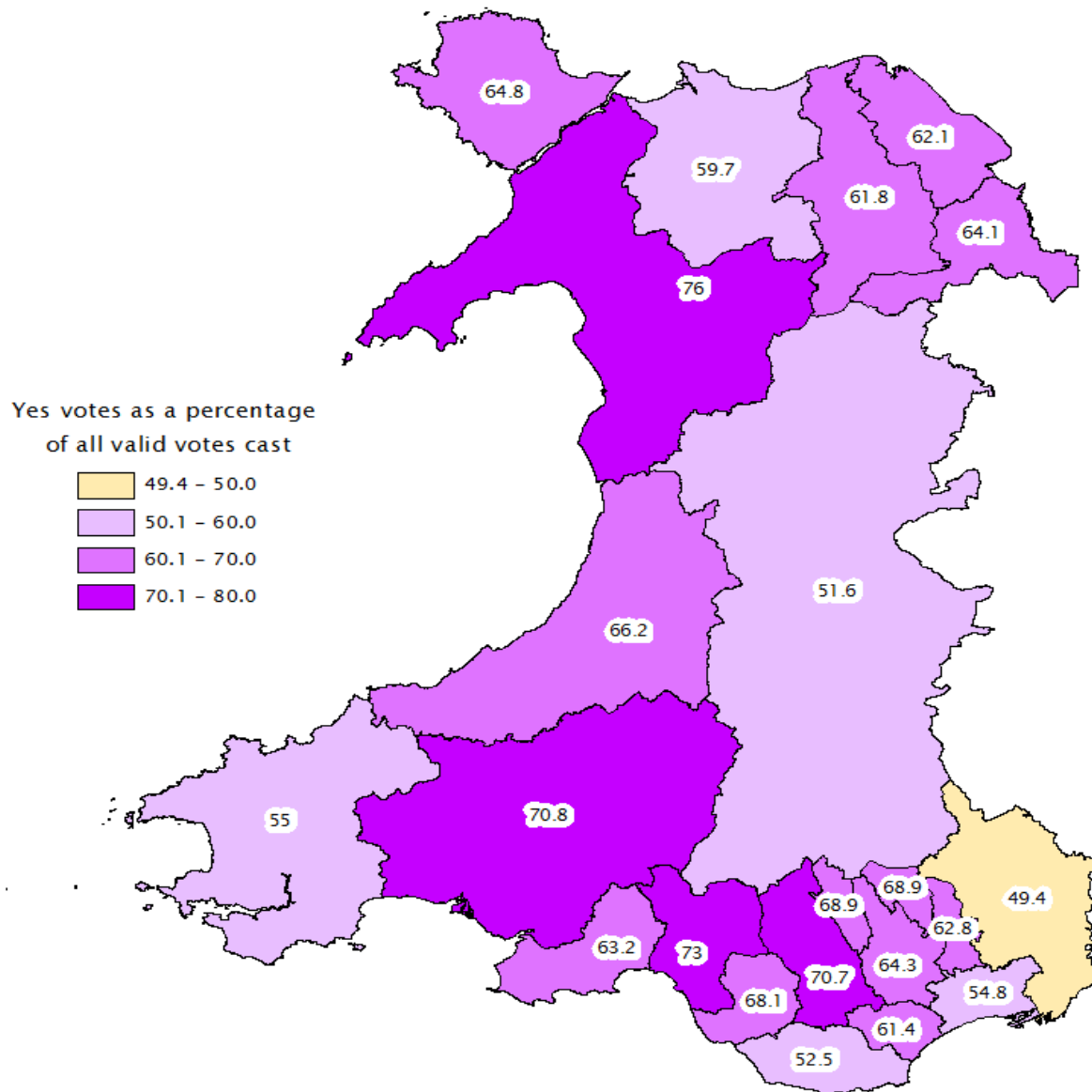
(a) Valid votes cast in favour of the Assembly being able to make laws on all matters in the 20 subject areas it has powers for.

(b) Valid votes cast against the Assembly being able to make laws on all matters in the 20 subject areas it has powers for.

Note – Turnout shows the proportion of the electorate registered to vote who cast a vote, this includes rejected ballot papers

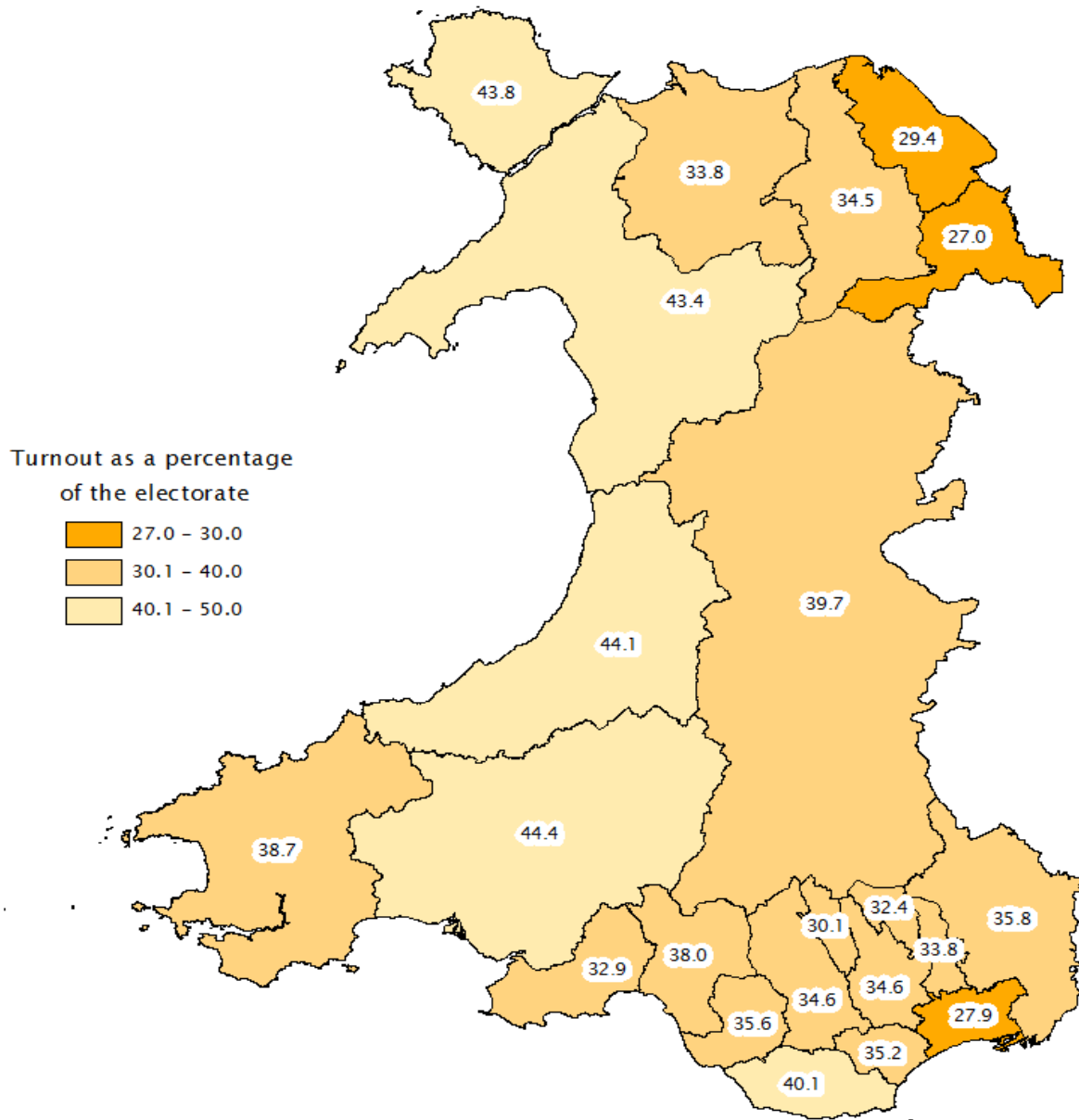
The percentage of yes votes, as a proportion of valid votes, is shown in Map 1 and the percentage turnout is shown in Map 2. For comparative purposes equivalent maps for results to the 1997 Referendum are provided in Annex A. This provides some interesting comparisons of how relative results and turnout differed in areas vary between the two polls.

Map 1 Referendum 2011 results by local authority, proportion of 'yes' votes



Source: The Electoral Commission and Members' Research Service
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Map 2 Referendum 2011 turnout by local authority



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Comparison of turnout with other polls in Wales

The definition of turnout used in this paper is the valid votes cast as a percentage of the electorate.

The turnout for the 1997 referendum on whether there should be a Welsh Assembly was 50.3 per cent. This compares with the turnout of 35.6 per cent at the 2011 referendum on Assembly powers.

The table below shows the turnout at various significant polls in Wales since 1999, plus the 1997 referendum.

Table 2 Turnout in elections and referendums in Wales

<u>Election / Referendum</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Turnout %</u>
Welsh Assembly Referendum	1997	50
National Assembly for Wales	1999	46
Welsh Local Government	1999	49
European Elections (Wales)	1999	28
UK General Election (Wales)	2001	62
National Assembly for Wales	2003	38
Welsh Local Government	2004	42
European Elections (Wales)	2004	42
UK General Election (Wales)	2005	62
National Assembly for Wales	2007	43
Welsh Local Government	2008	44
European Elections (Wales)	2009	31
UK General Election (Wales)	2010	65
Law-making Referendum	2011	36

Source: Digest of Welsh Local Area Statistics 2000, Members' Research Service - [2007 Assembly Election Results \(updated\)](#), [The Electoral Commission Report on local elections in Wales published](#), [European Parliament Information Office in the UK](#), The Electoral Commission website - [The 2010 General Election: aspects of participation and administration](#)

The table shows that in general almost two-thirds of the electorate have voted in General Elections, around half in referendums per cent of people, between 40 and 50 per cent voted in local government elections, slightly less in National Assembly elections and around a third in European elections.

Comparison between 1997 referendum and 2011 referendum results

The following table compares results in the 1997 and 2011 referendums. It should be noted that the questions in these referendums were different and the results are in no way comparable.

The information is interesting to compare relative voter turnout and results.

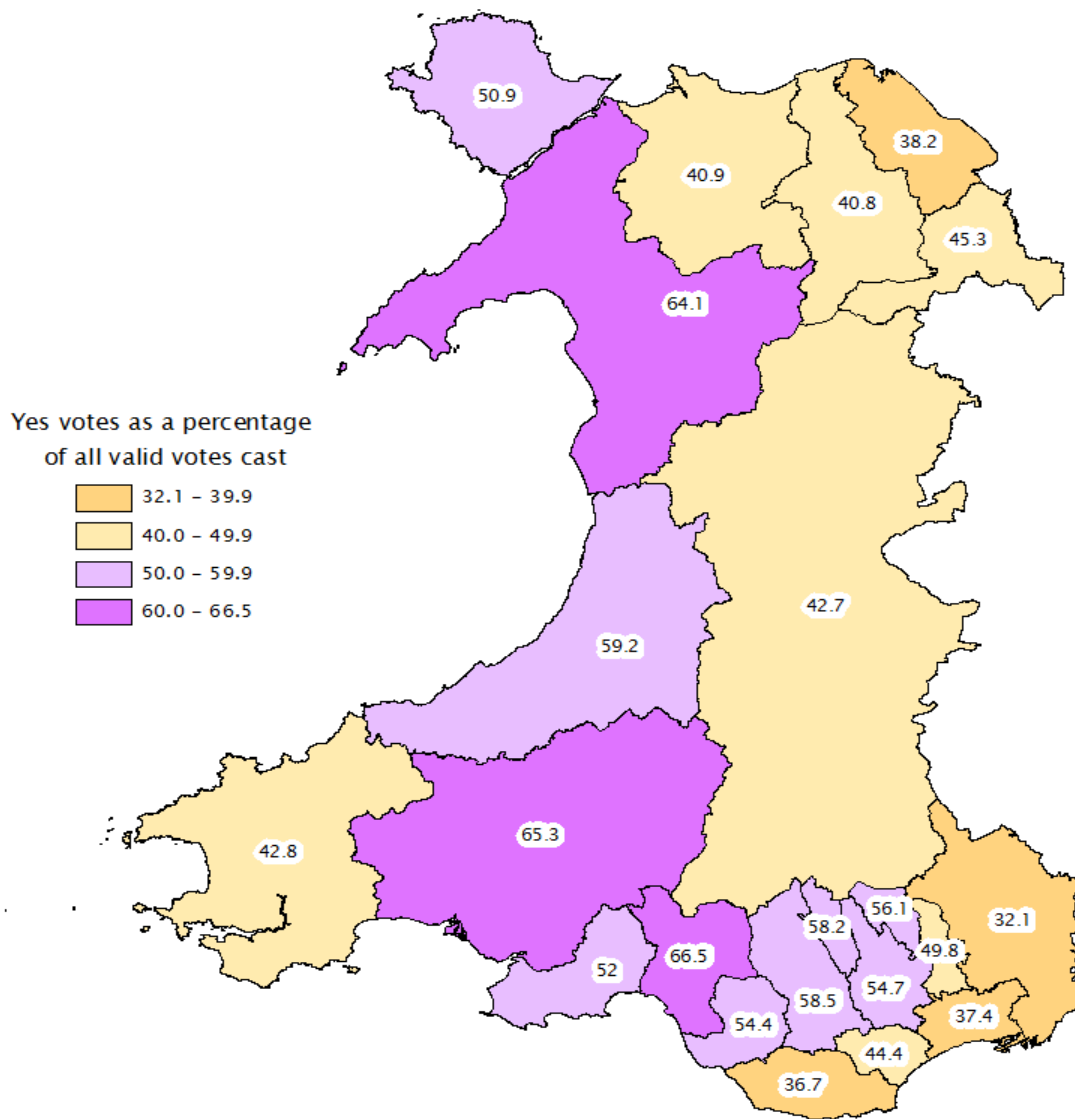
Table 3 Results and turnout by local authority, 1997 and 2011 referendums

	1997 referendum			2011 referendum		
	Turnout %	Yes votes (b)		Turnout %	Yes votes (a)	
		%	Number		%	Number
Isle of Anglesey	57.0	50.9	15,649	43.8	64.8	14,011
Gwynedd	60.0	64.1	35,425	43.4	76.0	28,200
Conwy	51.6	40.9	18,369	33.8	59.7	18,368
Denbighshire	49.9	40.8	14,271	34.5	61.8	15,793
Flintshire	41.1	38.2	17,746	29.4	62.1	21,119
Wrexham	42.5	45.3	18,574	27.0	64.1	17,606
Powys	56.5	42.7	23,038	39.7	51.6	21,072
Ceredigion	57.1	59.2	18,304	44.1	66.2	16,505
Pembrokeshire	52.8	42.8	19,979	38.7	55.0	19,600
Carmarthenshire	56.6	65.3	49,115	44.4	70.8	42,979
Swansea	47.3	52.0	42,789	32.9	63.2	38,496
Neath Port Talbot	52.1	66.5	36,730	38.0	73.0	29,957
Bridgend	50.8	54.4	27,632	35.6	68.1	25,063
The Vale of Glamorgan	54.5	36.7	17,776	40.1	52.5	19,430
Cardiff	47.0	44.4	47,527	35.2	61.4	53,427
Rhondda Cynon Taff	49.9	58.5	51,201	34.6	70.7	43,051
Merthyr Tydfil	49.8	58.2	12,707	30.1	68.9	9,136
Caerphilly	49.5	54.7	34,830	34.6	64.3	28,431
Blaenau Gwent	49.6	56.1	15,237	32.4	68.9	11,869
Torfaen	45.6	49.8	15,756	33.8	62.8	14,655
Monmouthshire	50.7	32.1	10,592	35.8	49.4	12,381
Newport	46.1	37.4	16,172	27.9	54.8	15,983
Wales	50.3	50.3	559,419	35.6	63.5	517,132

Source: Digest of Welsh Local Area Statistics 2000, Electoral Commission (website) and Members' Research Service calculations

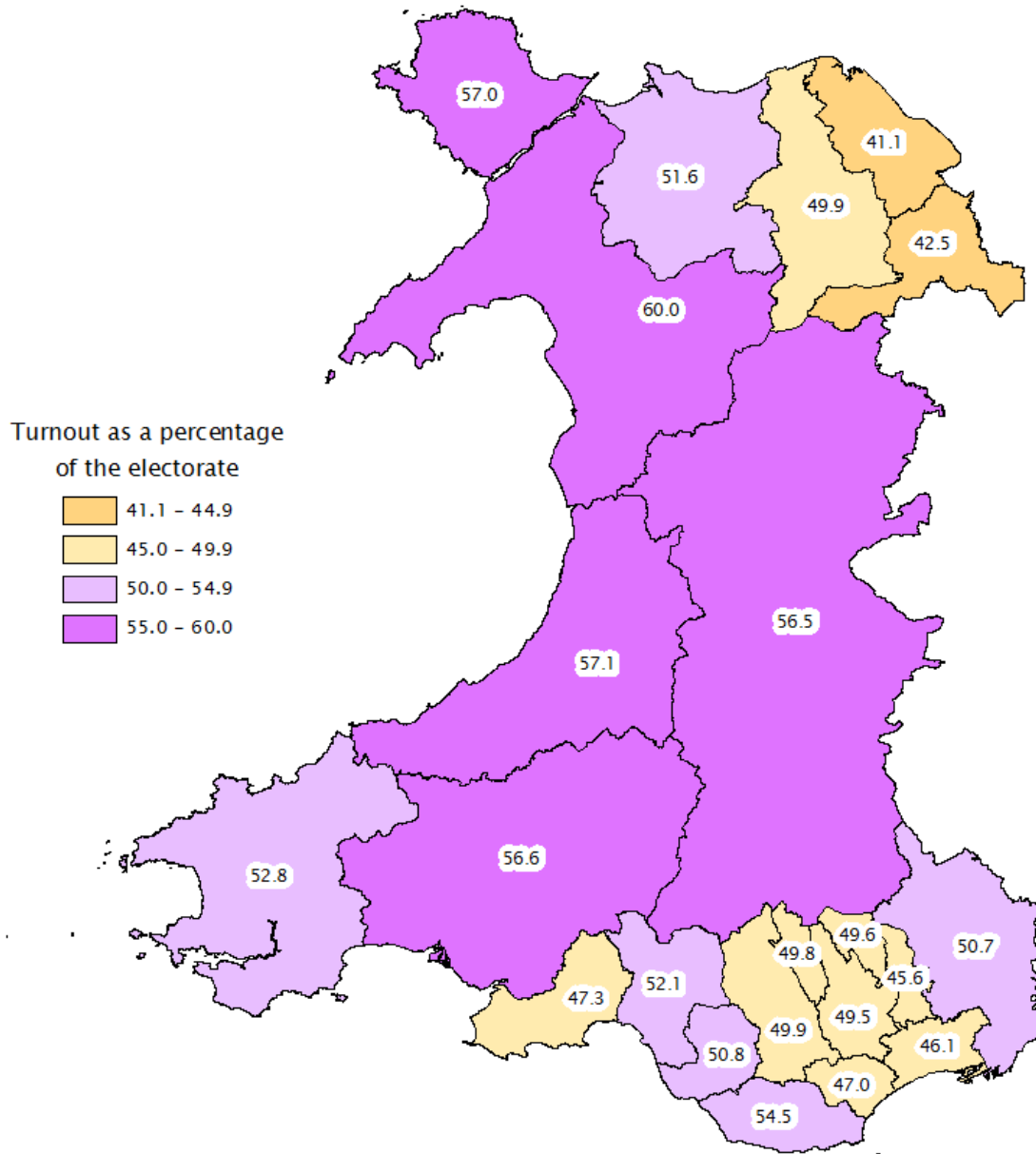
A. Maps showing results and turnout for 1997 Referendum

Map 3 Referendum 1997 results by local authority, proportion of 'yes' votes



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Map 4 Referendum 1997 turnout by local authority



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