More in Common

Public attitudes to charity lotteries in Northern Ireland

March 2026

Executive Summary

Charity funding crisis

People in Northern Ireland are seven times more likely to say that NI charities don't have enough funding (57%) than say they have more than enough (8%)

Appetite for law change

Seven in ten (69%) say the law should be changed to allow GB Charity Lotteries to operate in Northern Ireland, more than four times as many as want to keep the law as it is

Lotteries seen as solution

Three in five people in Northern Ireland think allowing more charity lotteries would help address funding pressures facing local charities

Support across all 11 councils

A majority back changes in the law across age groups, genders and all eleven council areas across Northern Ireland

Strong public support for PPL

Eight in ten (79%) of people in Northern Ireland say that the People's Postcode Lottery should be allowed to operate in Northern Ireland

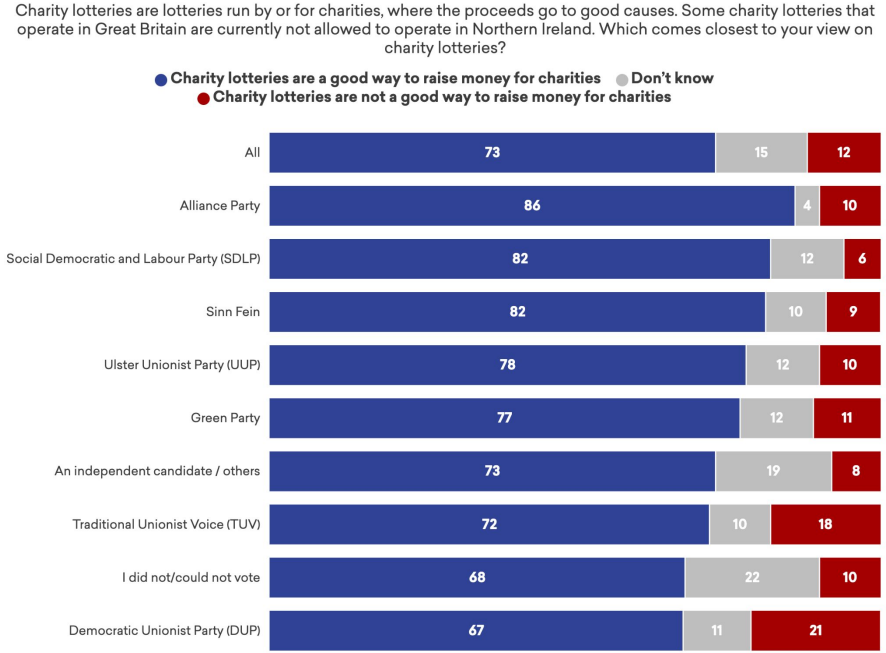
Cross-party consensus

Support for allowing charity lotteries like the People's Postcode Lottery spans across political parties with at least two thirds of voters from all parties supporting

Public see charity lotteries as good ways for charities to raise money

People in Northern Ireland overwhelmingly see charity lotteries as a positive way to support good causes – and that view holds across party lines.

Almost three quarters (73%) say charity lotteries are a good way to raise money for charities. Support is highest among Alliance (86%) and SDLP voters (82%), but is shared by majorities of voters from every party – including two thirds of DUP voters (67%).



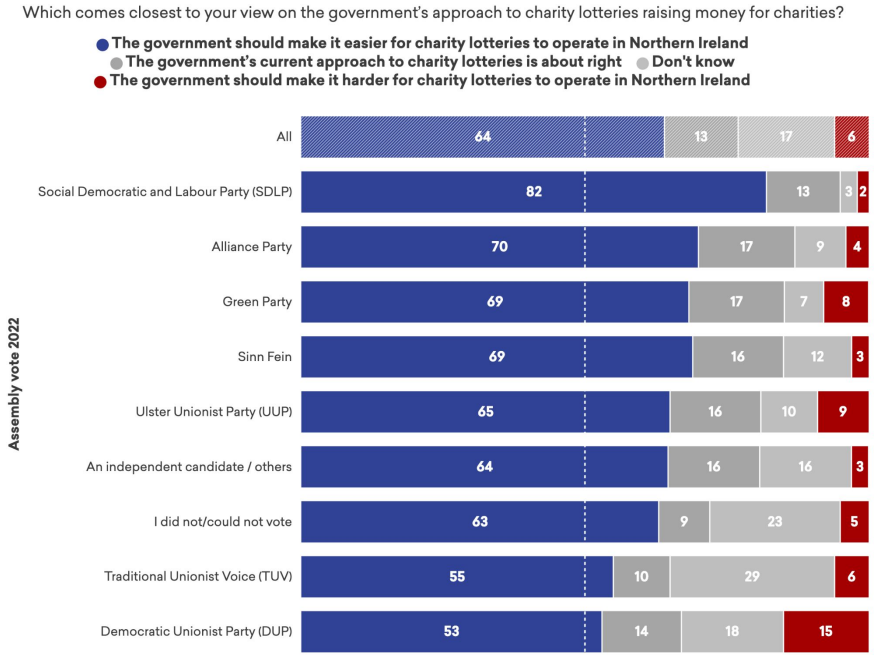
Source: More in Common • (March 2026)

Support for making it easier for charity lotteries to operate in NI

Almost two thirds (64%) of people in Northern Ireland say the government should make it easier for charity lotteries to do operate in Northern Ireland.

Across voters of every political party, a majority say the government should make it easier for charity lotteries to operate in Northern Ireland.

Support is strongest among SDLP voters (82%) and Alliance voters (70%), but is also the majority view among Sinn Féin (69%), UUP (65%), TUV (55%) and DUP voters (53%)

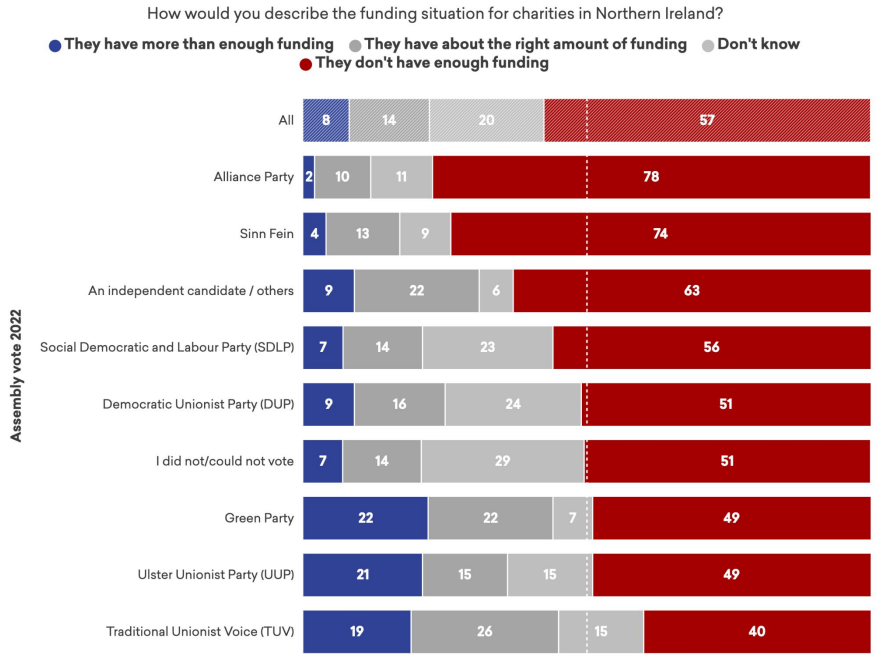


Funding crisis recognised across political spectrum

Behind the strong support for charity lotteries lies a deeper concern: people across Northern Ireland believe local charities are struggling for funding.

A clear majority (57%) say charities in Northern Ireland don't have enough funding – more seven times more than the 8% who say they have more than enough. This perception is shared across party lines, with majorities or pluralities of voters from every party agreeing that charities are underfunded.

The sense of a funding gap is felt most acutely by Alliance voters (78%) and Sinn Féin voters (74%), but is also the dominant view among SDLP (56%), DUP (51%) and those who did not vote (51%).

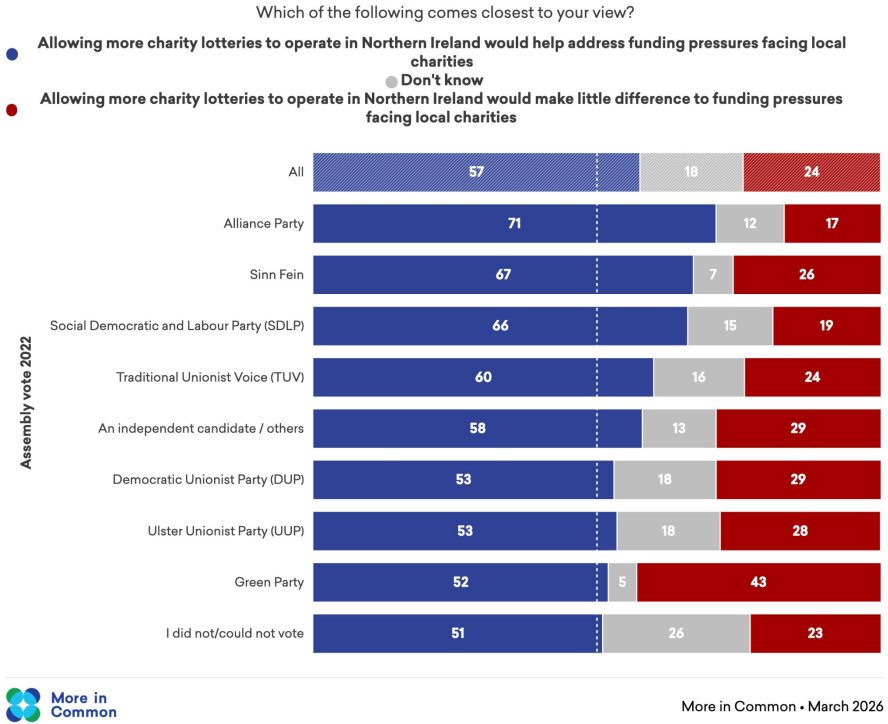


Most see charity lotteries as part of the answer to charity funding crisis

People in Northern Ireland don't just recognise a funding crisis for charities – they see charity lotteries as a practical response to it.

Nearly three in five (57%) believe that allowing more charity lotteries to operate in Northern Ireland would help address funding pressures facing local charities. Just one in four (24%) think it would make little difference.

This view holds across the political spectrum. Alliance voters are most likely to see lotteries as part of the solution (71%), followed by Sinn Féin (67%) and SDLP voters (66%).

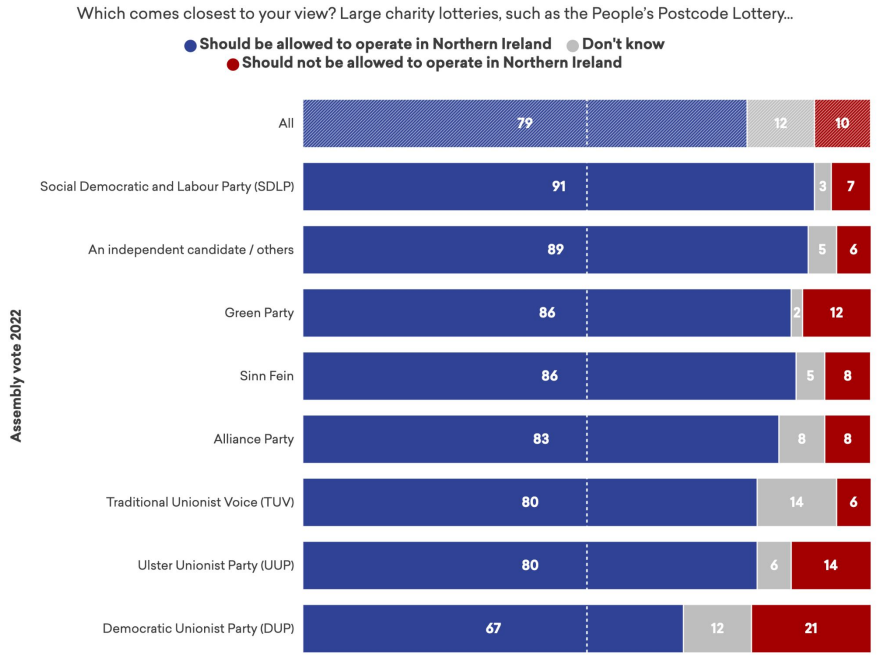


Strong cross-party consensus on charity lottery changes

One of the most striking features of this data is how support cuts across Northern Ireland's political divides.

Among voters for every party represented in the Assembly, a majority back large charity lotteries such as the People's Postcode Lottery being allowed to operate in NI – from 91% of SDLP, through 86% of Sinn Féin and 83% of Alliance voters, to 80% of UUP and TUV voters. Even among DUP voters, where support is lowest, two-thirds are still in favour.

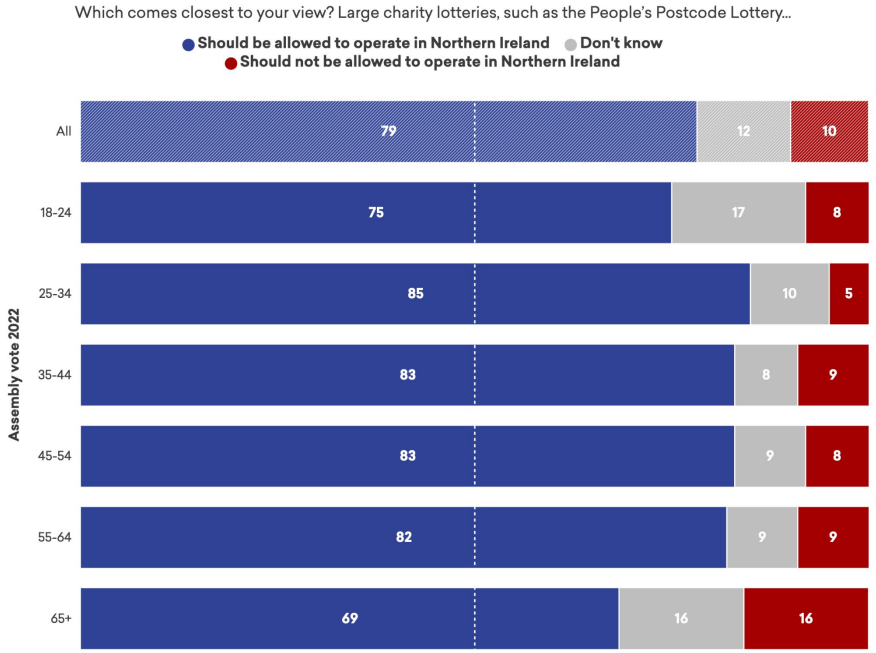
This is a rare issue in Northern Ireland politics where there is genuine cross-community agreement on the direction of travel.



Support for charity lotteries span all ages

Support for charity lotteries is a majority position across every age group and among both men and women. It peaks among 25–54 year olds, where around more than eight in ten (85%) back charity lotteries such as the People's Postcode Lottery being allowed to operate in Northern Ireland.

Gender differences are modest throughout, with men at 81% and women at 77% on the headline PPL question, and women showing slightly higher "don't know" rates across the board.

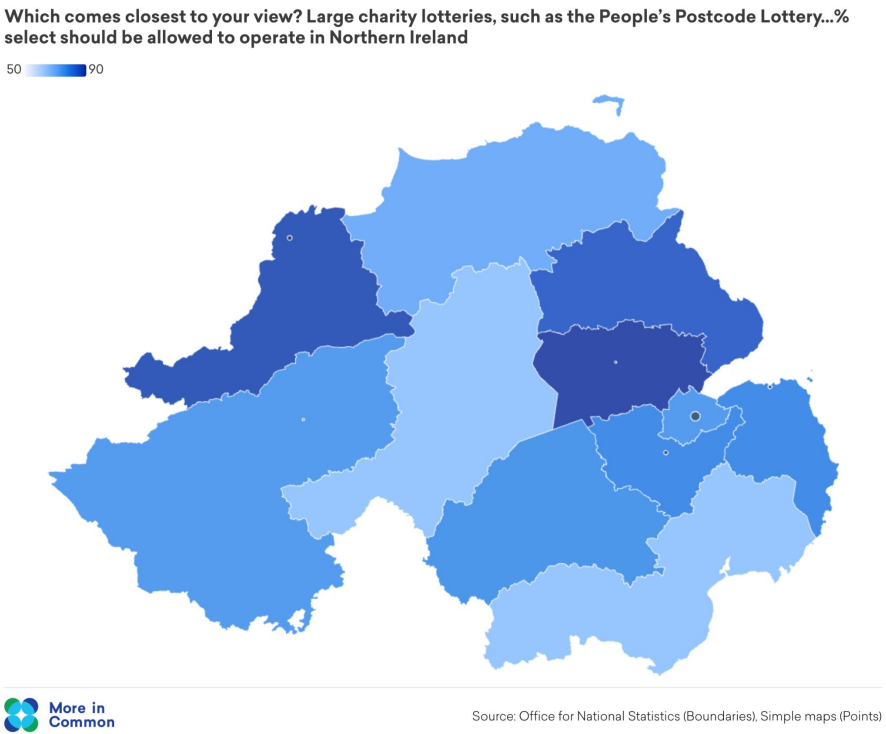


Support in every corner of Northern Ireland

Support for the expansion of large charity lotteries such as the People's Postcode Lottery is a majority position in every single council area in Northern Ireland. It ranges from around 90% in Antrim and Newtownabbey to 66% in Newry, Mourne and Down – but nowhere does opposition exceed 20%.

The perception that charities are underfunded is similarly widespread, with majorities in most council areas agreeing that local charities don't have enough funding.

This geographic breadth reinforces the central message: this is not a regional or urban–rural issue, but an issue of Northern Ireland wide consensus.



Methodology

This polling was conducted by More in Common in February and March 2026.

Fieldwork: 19th February 2026 - 3rd March 2026

Sample size: 1,017 adults aged 18+ in Northern Ireland

Method: Mixed methods online survey and telephone research

Weighting: Data were weighted to be representative of the Northern Ireland adult population by age and sex interlocked, council area, community background, education, 2022 Assembly election vote and ethnicity.

Note: Figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding. 'Don't know' responses are included in all charts. Where results are shown by 2022 Assembly vote, only parties with a sufficient base size for reliable analysis are displayed individually.

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