



Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation

July 2024 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

July 16, 2024

Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its July 2024 nation-wide poll. This marks the 95th monthly survey conducted by the TPOF aimed at tracking the development and changes in Taiwan’s public opinion. The full release in Chinese language is available on our official website.

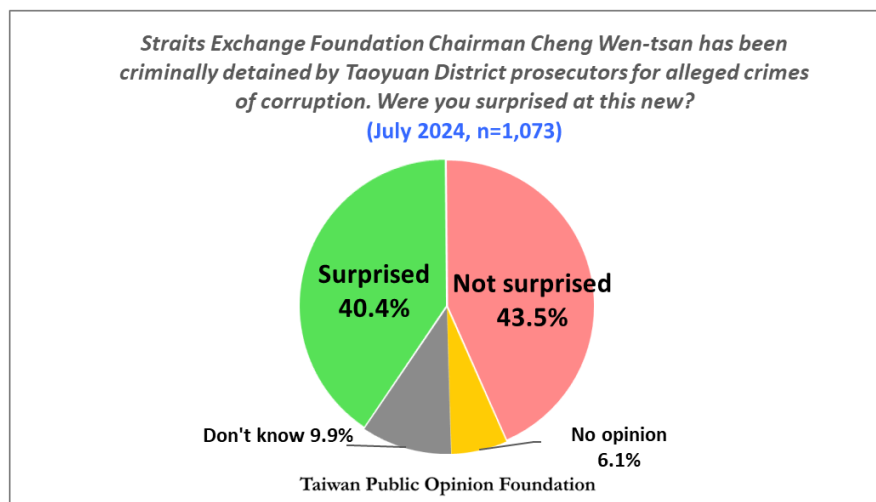
How the Survey was Conducted

This survey was conducted on July 8-10, 2024, with a sample size of 1,073. Adults 20 years of age and older residing in Taiwan were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline and cellphone numbers were drawn through dual-frame random sampling with a proportion of 70% from landlines and 30% from cellphones. Samples were demographically weighted to adjust for gender, age, education and the district of residency based on the latest statistics published by the Ministry of the Interior. Sampling error is around ± 2.99 percentage points with 95% level of confidence.

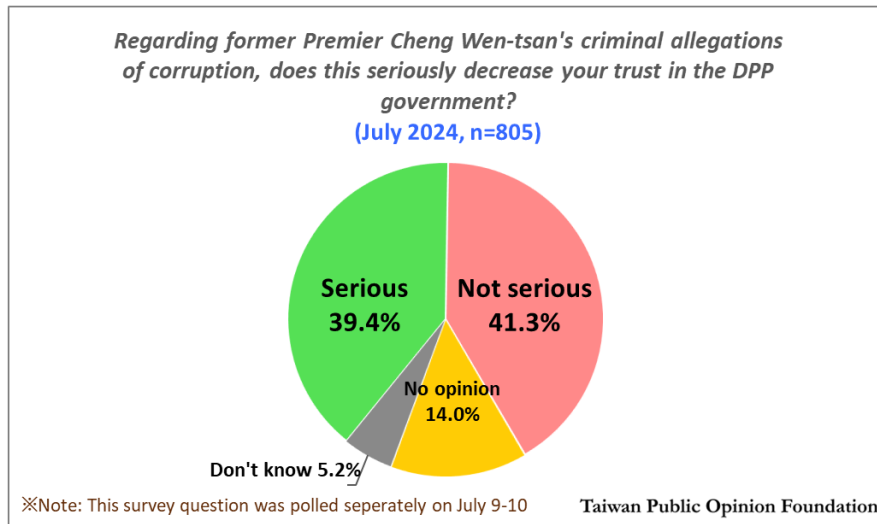
Main Findings:

1. Cheng Wen-tsan, the newly appointed Chairman of Straits Exchange Foundation and former Taoyuan City Mayor of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, was criminally detained by Taoyuan prosecutors on July 6 for alleged corruptions and bribery just two months into President Lai's new administration. The scandalous news and allegations of corruption dominated Taiwanese media headlines for days. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 43.5% said they were not surprised at the news, while 40.4% were surprised.

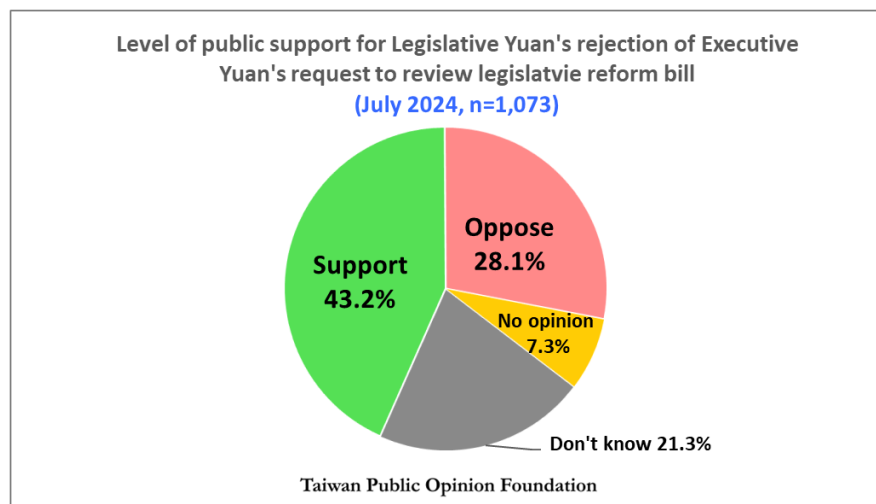
Most supporters of the ruling DPP were surprised at the scandal, while most supporters of opposition KMT and TPP were not surprised. Independents were also mostly not surprised.



2. Prior to his criminal allegations became public Cheng Wen-tsan was made Chairman of Straits Exchange Foundation (Taiwan government's de facto communication organ with the PRC government) in the new Lai administration, in addition he was also a powerful DPP party boss who held various positions in the previous Tsai administration including as the former Vice Premier of the government. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 39.4% said the news of Cheng's criminal allegations seriously decreases their trust in the DPP government. This percentage would translate to roughly 7.68 million adult population and is a warning sign for the ruling DPP even though a slim majority of 41.3% said their trust in government was not seriously affected.

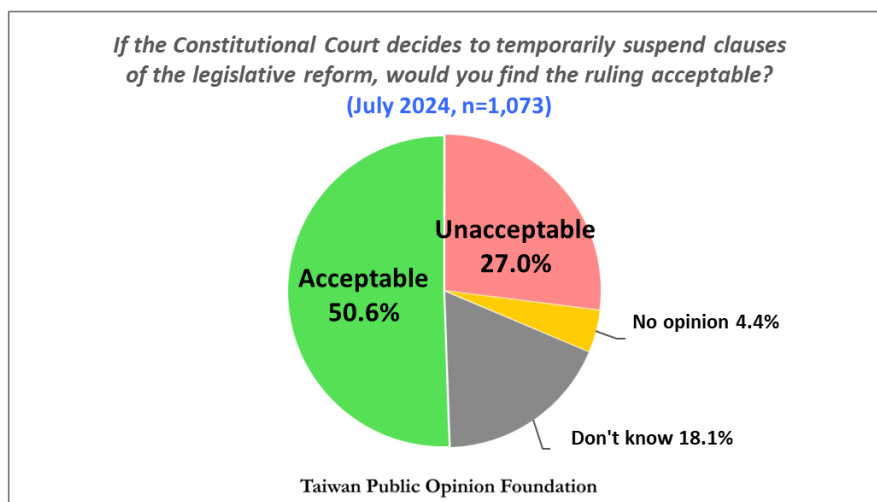


- On July 21 Taiwan's opposition-controlled Legislative Yuan [rejected](#) the ruling government's Executive Yuan's request to review or reconsider the recently-passed legislative reform bill, which was vehemently opposed by the ruling DPP party. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 43.2% support the parliament's rejection of the ruling government's review request, while 28.1% oppose it. In other words, a majority of Taiwanese public still side with the oppositions in passing the legislative reform.

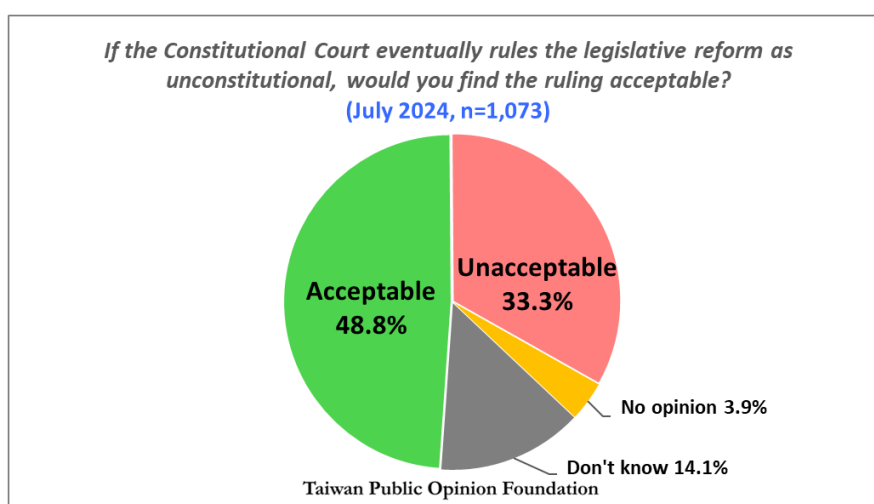


- The Constitutional Court of the Judicial Yuan has been requested by the ruling DPP government to rule on the clauses in the newly passed legislative reform bill that the ruling DPP claimed to be unconstitutional. While the eventual ruling will have to wait, the court [issued](#) on July 20 a temporary suspension of the clauses in dispute which for now prevents the parliament from exercising the said power. The poll conducted days before this suspension found among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 50.6% said they would accept the

Constitutional Court's decision should it temporarily suspend the disputed clauses, while a minority of 27% said it be unacceptable. This means that most Taiwanese public appears to have accepted the prospect of the Constitutional Court's suspension of legislative reform.

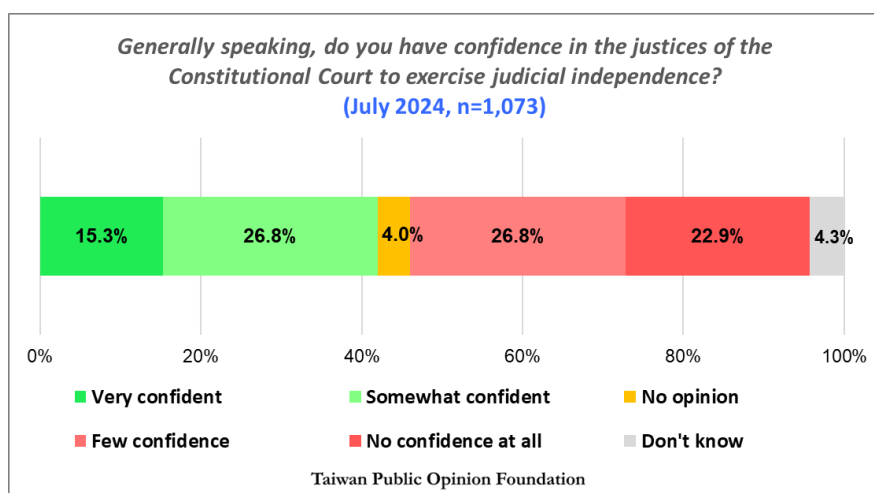
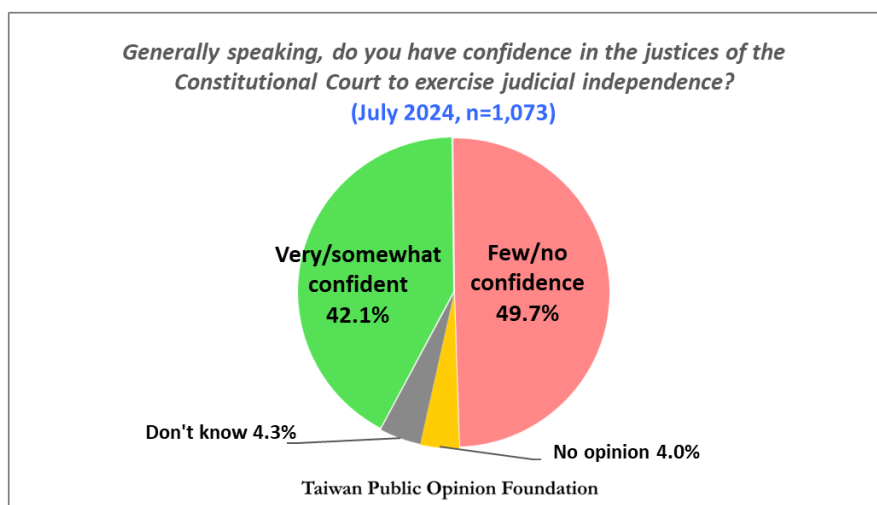


- The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 48.8% said they can accept the Constitutional Court's ruling if it eventually rules legislative reform as unconstitutional and therefore invalidate it, while a minority of 33.3% said such ruling would be unacceptable. It means nearly half of the Taiwanese public are ready to accept the court's ruling if it suspends the legislative reform.



- The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 49.7% said they have few or no confidence in the judicial independence of the justices of the Constitutional Court, while a minority of 42.1% said they are confident. This means that half of the Taiwanese public are not confident in the

independence of the Constitutional Court, which certainly would decrease the trust and legitimacy of the court’s ruling in the eyes of the public.

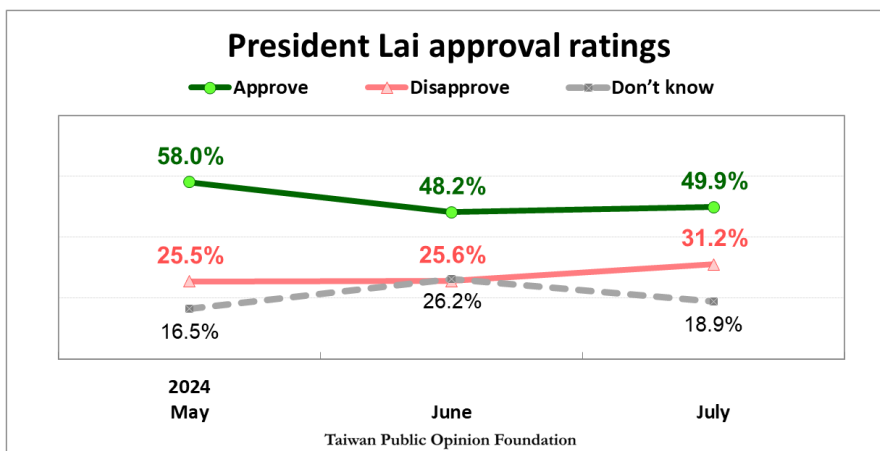
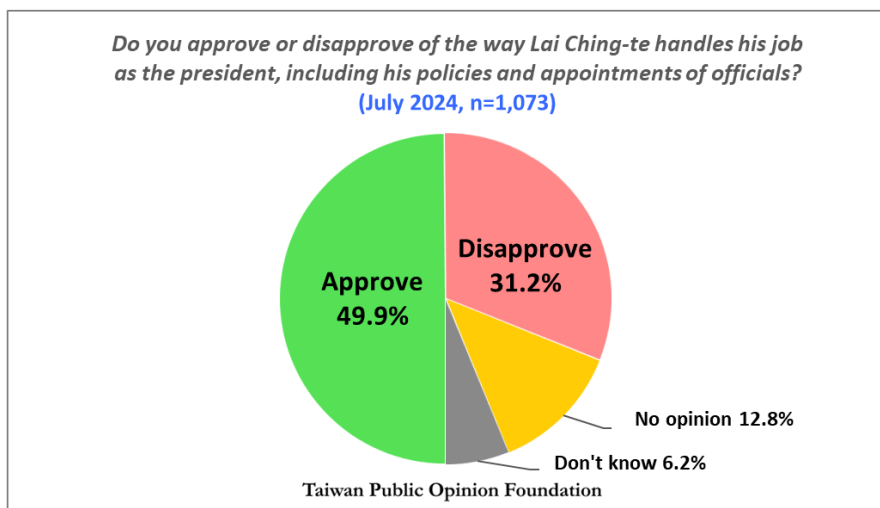


7. On President Lai Ching-te’s approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 49.9% said they approve of the way Lai is handling his job as the president, while 31.2% disapprove. Compared to June, the level of disapproval increased slightly by 5.6%, however Lai still maintains and even slightly increased a majority level of approval. Why is Lai able to halt the decline in approval that we saw in June? Several possible factors at play here:

- The public noticed Lai’s tough rhetoric on China and Taiwan’s political status, such as his [speech](#) at the ROC Military Academy warned against “defeatism”, and his strong criticism of China’s “22 guidelines” about punishing Taiwanese independence activists. Past cases suggest every time Taiwanese president shows toughness or defiance against China there will be a boost to his/her popularity. Noticeably, the latest

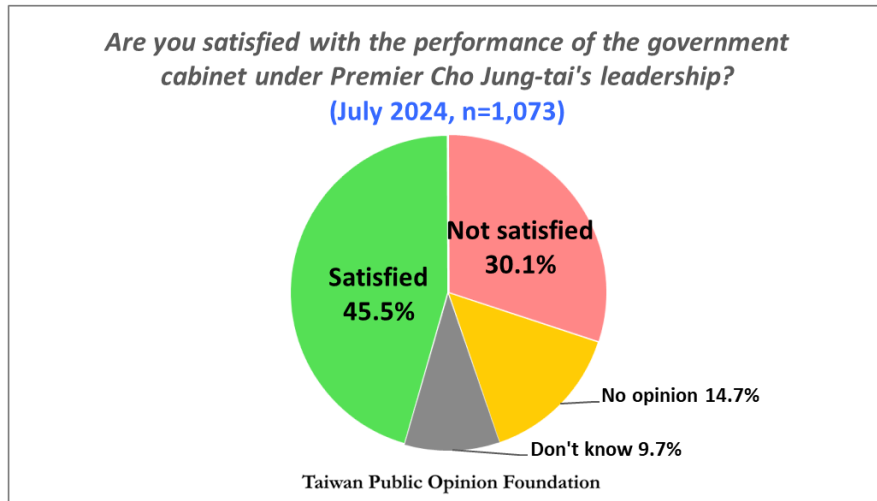
July poll found Lai's support among youngest people of 20-24 now stands at 63.1%, a 26.7% increase from June.

- Presidential “honeymoon” effect is not over yet, since Lai is just two months into office.
- Lai's hinting at a possible shift in the government's energy policy and a loosening of the DPP's long standing “non-nuclear homeland” pledge. Some individuals and officials close to Lai have recently made comments suggesting bringing back nuclear power.
- Although former Vice Premier Cheng Wen-tsan's corruption allegations was seen as an embarrassing scandal for the DPP, he was seen as an ally and crony of former President Tsai rather than Lai. As such there was limited or no damage to Lai's reputation.



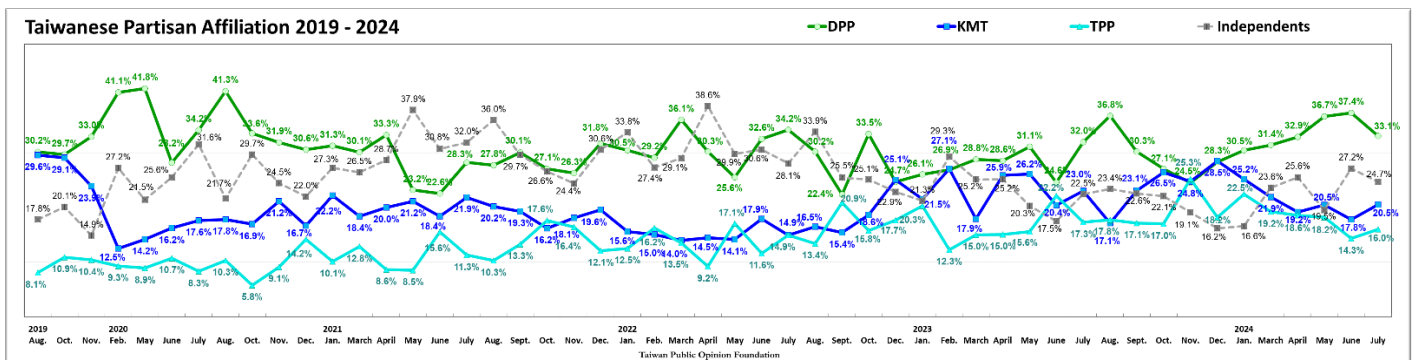
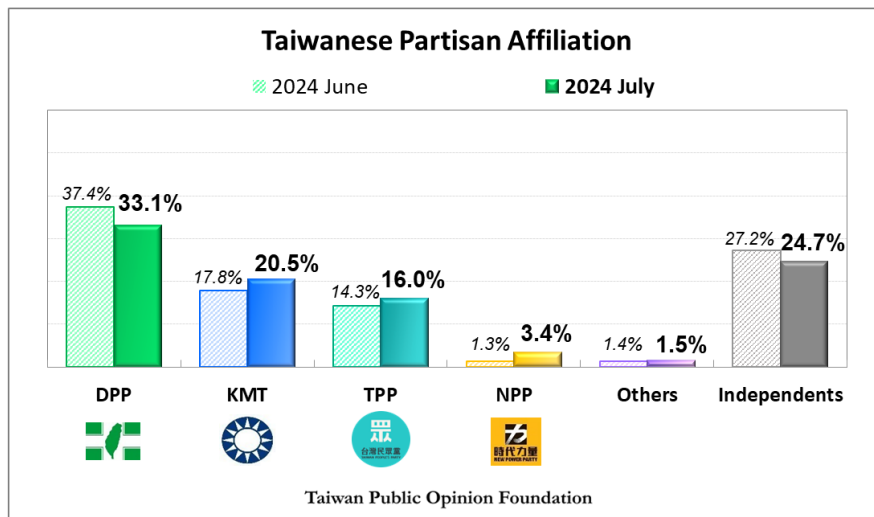
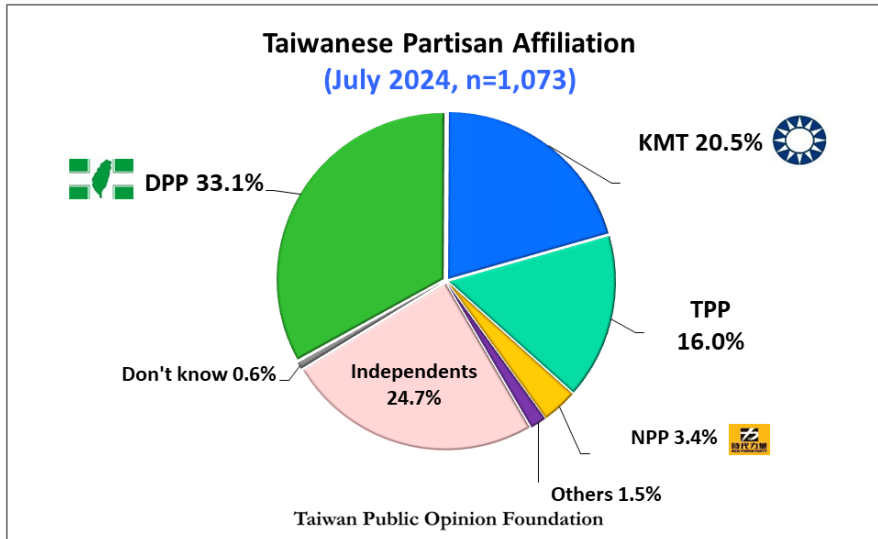
8. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 45.5% said they are satisfied with the government cabinet under Premier Cho

Jung-tai, while 30.1% are not satisfied. Compared to June, satisfaction increased by 2.4% but dissatisfaction also increased by 4.7%. Much like Lai's approval rating, Cho's cabinet leadership is still supported by the majority public, but the relative level of support has been declining.

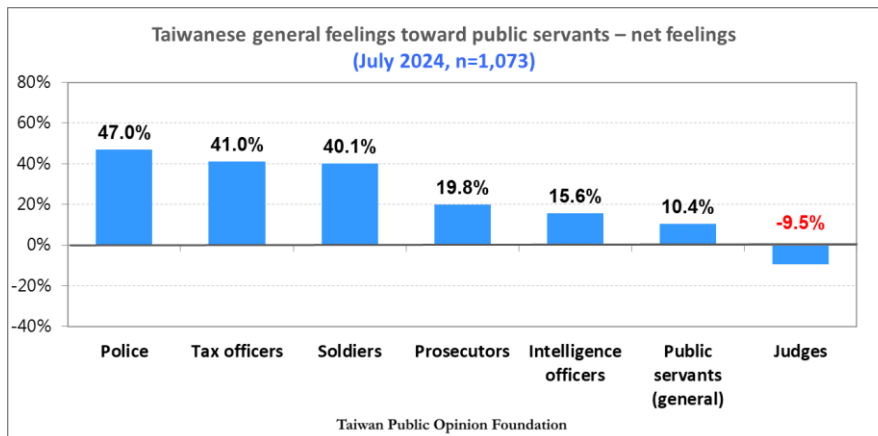
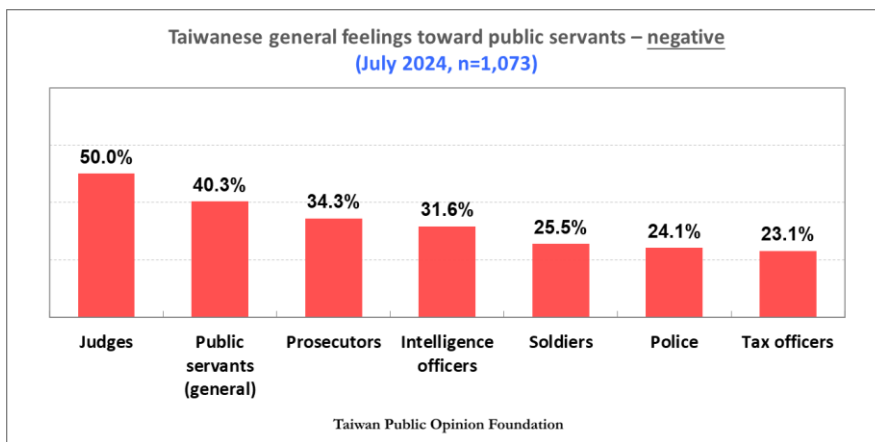
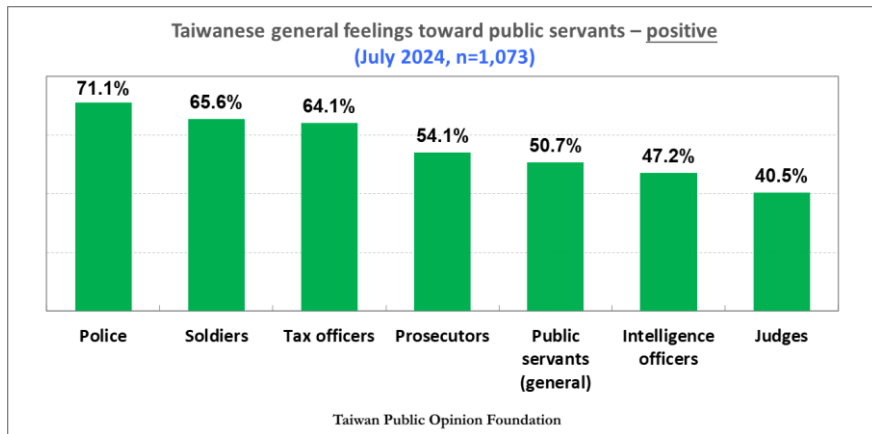


9. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 33.1% support the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 20.5% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 16% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 3.4% support the New Power Party (NPP), and 24.7% respondents identified themselves as independents.

Compared to June, the DPP saw a significant decrease while both opposition parties KMT and TPP saw slight gains. A likely factor was former Vice Premier and DPP party boss Cheng Wen-tsan's corruption allegations. The poll was conducted on July 8-10, just a day after news of Chen's corruption allegation by the prosecutors was reported, but still days before the court ordered Chen's criminal detention. As such, the impact on DPP might be even greater than the number here.



10. The level of public confidence in the institutions of the *state* is an important indicator of public trust. To measure Taiwanese public trust in the government, the poll asked the public's views about the public servants of several public institutions including general public servants, judges, prosecutors, tax officers, soldiers, police, and intelligence officers. This can also be compared to the results from the last time this poll was done in April 2017.



The poll finds Taiwanese public view the police mostly positively, followed by military and tax officers. Judges are viewed mostly negatively. In terms of net feelings, the public have strong positive feelings toward the police, tax officers, and soldiers while judges are the only category of public servants that Taiwanese public view negatively more than positively.

However, a comparison with the results from 2017 reveals surprising changes

have happened. Noticeably the judges saw massive improvement in their public perception, with an increase of more than 31% in net feeling although the overall public feeling is still in the negative.

On the other hand, while the police remain the most popular government servants as it was the case in 2017, its net positive feeling decreased slightly and is the only institution that did so in this survey. Overall, Taiwanese public perceptions of their government and public servants have improved substantially almost across the board, which is certainly a good sign for Taiwan's government and national unity.

