



Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation

September 2024 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

September 17, 2024

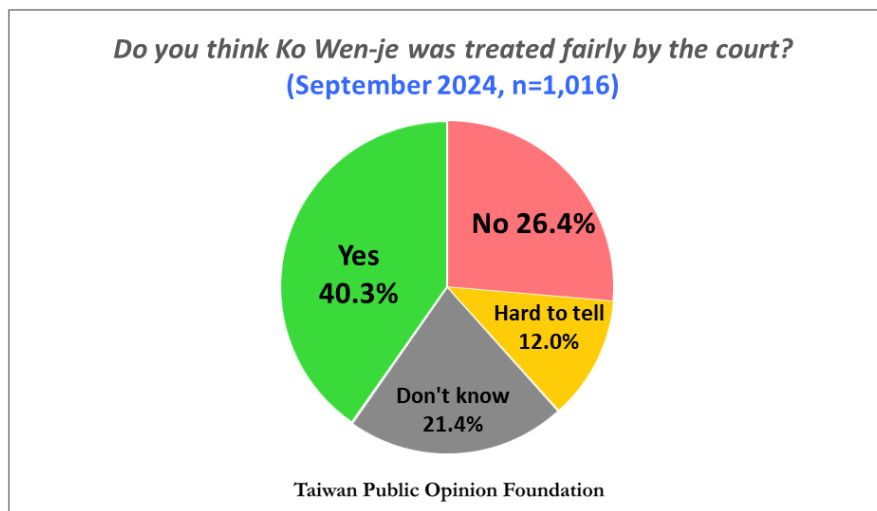
Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its August 2024 nation-wide poll. This marks the 97th monthly survey conducted by the TPOF aimed at tracking the development and changes in Taiwan’s public opinion. The full release in Chinese language is available on our official website.

How the Survey was Conducted

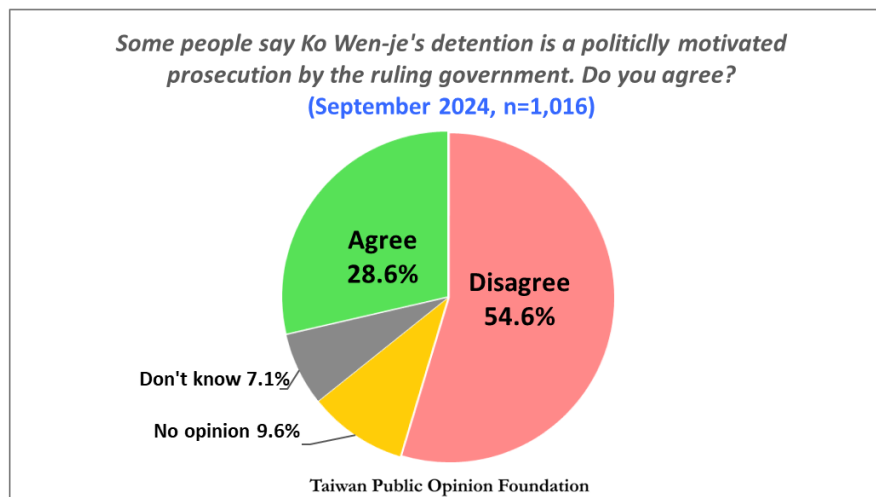
This survey was conducted on September 9-11, 2024, with a sample size of 1,016. Adults 20 years of age and older residing in Taiwan were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline and cellphone numbers were drawn through dual-frame random sampling with a proportion of 70% from landlines 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 ± 3.07 percentage points with 95% level of confidence.

Main Findings:

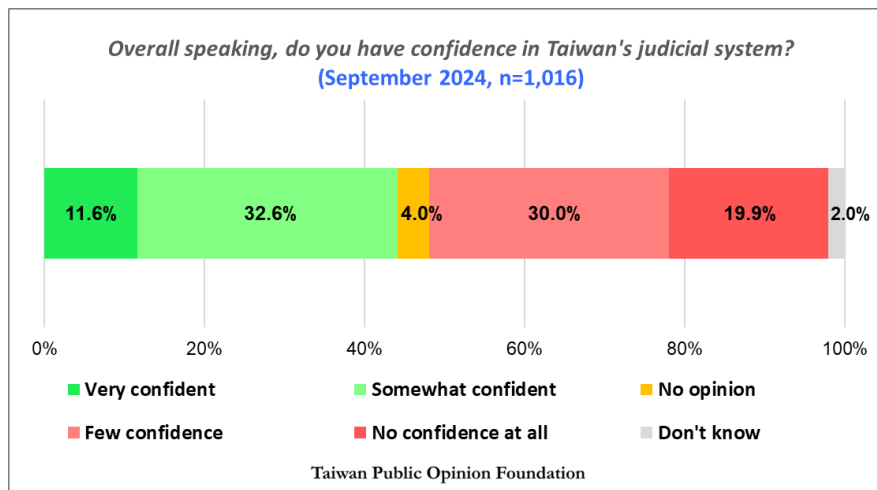
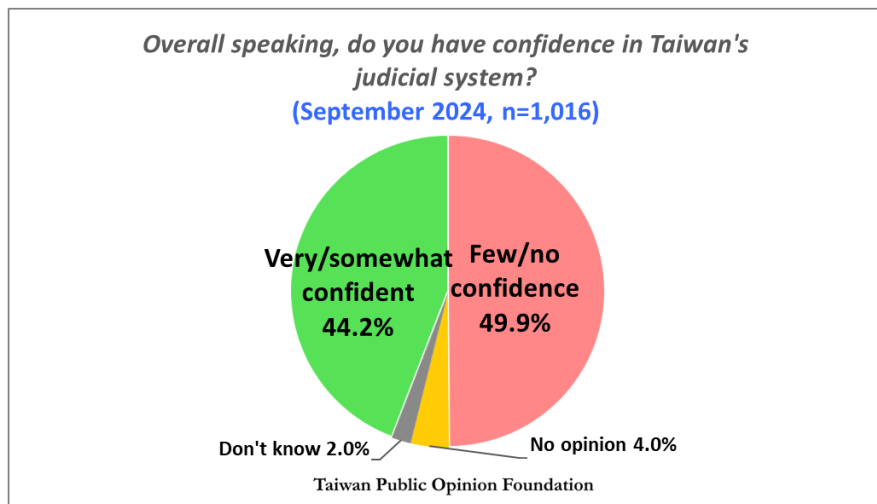
1. Ko Wen-je, the former Taipei City Mayor and the leader of Taiwan People's Party (TPP) has been [put in detention](#) by prosecutors pending investigation over his alleged involvement in a corruption case. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 40.3% thought Ko was treated fairly by the court, while 26.4% said Ko did not receive fair treatment. 12% said it is "hard to tell", 21.4% said they simply don't know the answer to the question. Although more people believe in the fairness of the court, a quarter of the Taiwanese do not believe the court treated Ko's case fairly, which is a sizeable minority.



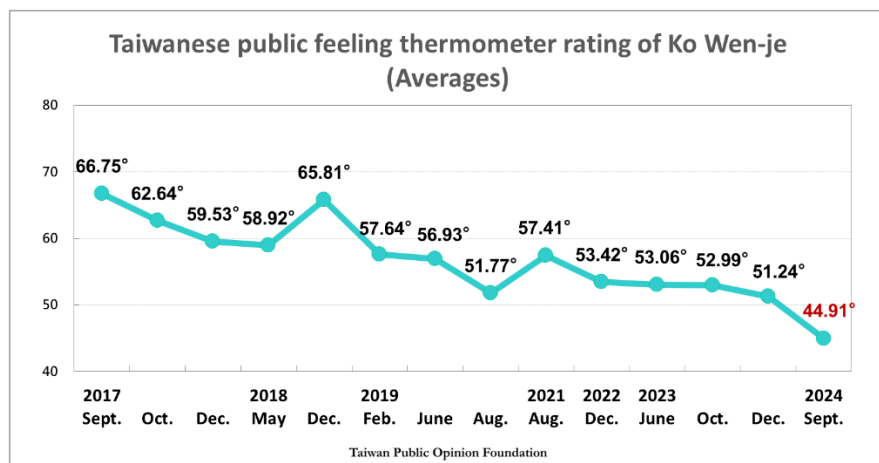
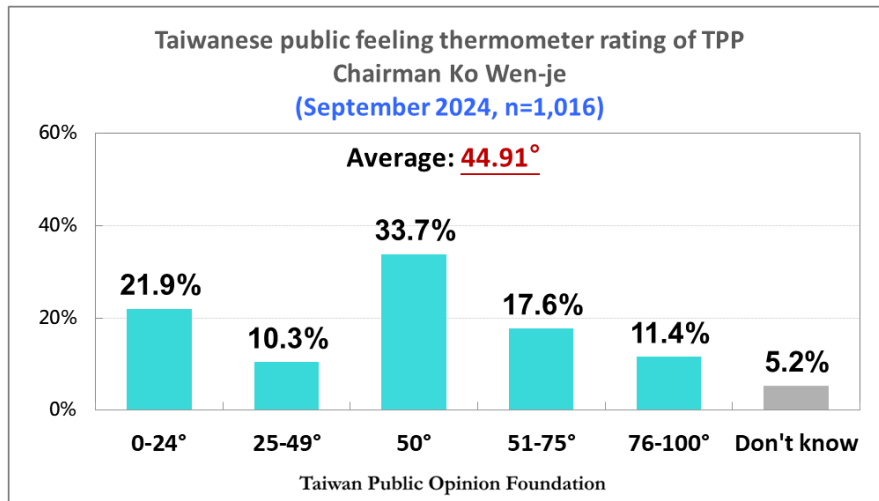
2. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 54.6% disagree with the statement that Ko's detention was a politically motivated prosecution by the ruling government, while 28.6% agree with it. This means that so far, the majority of Taiwanese do not think the case is politically motivated, but about a quarter of the people believe it is.



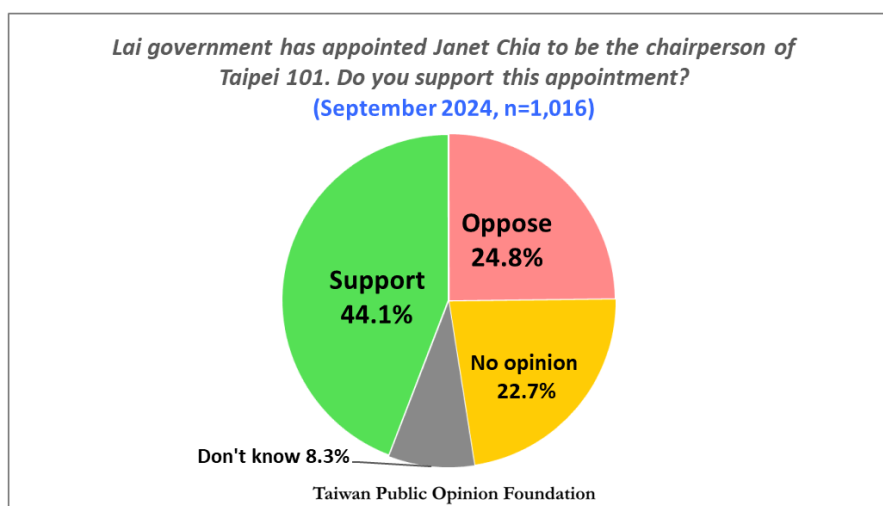
3. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 49.9% said they have few or no confidence in Taiwan’s judicial system, while 44.2% said they are either very or somewhat confident in it. This means that currently the majority of Taiwanese lack confidence in Taiwan’s judicial system. This is consistent with past polls that found Taiwanese public have had strong desire for comprehensive judicial reform.



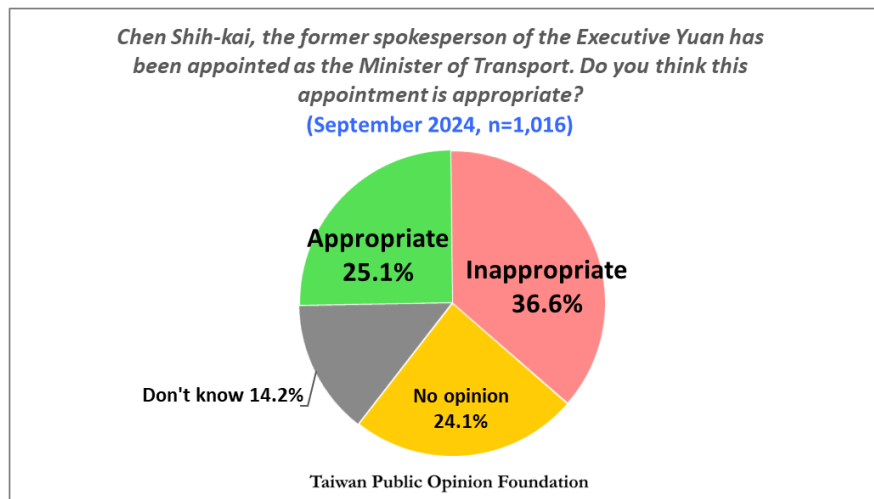
4. The poll asked respondents, Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, to rate Ko Wen-je on a feeling thermometer between 0 and 100 – whereas 0 is the most negative and 100 is the most positive. Ko received an average temperature of 44.9° which indicates a cold public feeling toward him. It is also 6.3 degrees colder than the last time poll was taken in December 2023. It is apparent that the several corruption allegations that have plagued the TPP and Ko over the past month, and his current detention have all contributed to Ko’s declining public perceptions.



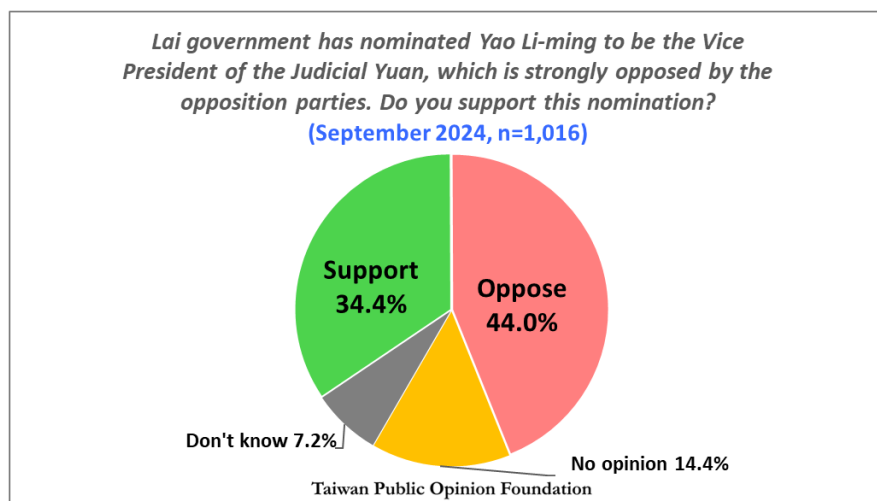
5. The ruling Lai Ching-te government has [appointed](#) Janet Chia, a Taiwanese entertainer as the chairperson of Taipei Financial Center Corporation (TFCC), the company running the most prominent Taipei skyscraper and landmark “Taipei 101”. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 44.1% support the appointment, while 24.8% oppose it.



6. In late August Li Meng-yen, the Minister of Transport was [forced to resign](#) after his extramarital affair was exposed. Controversially the Lai government appointed Chen Shih-kai, a DPP political operative with no administrative experience as the new minister. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a small majority of 36.6% thought the appointment was inappropriate, while only 25.1% thought it was appropriate.

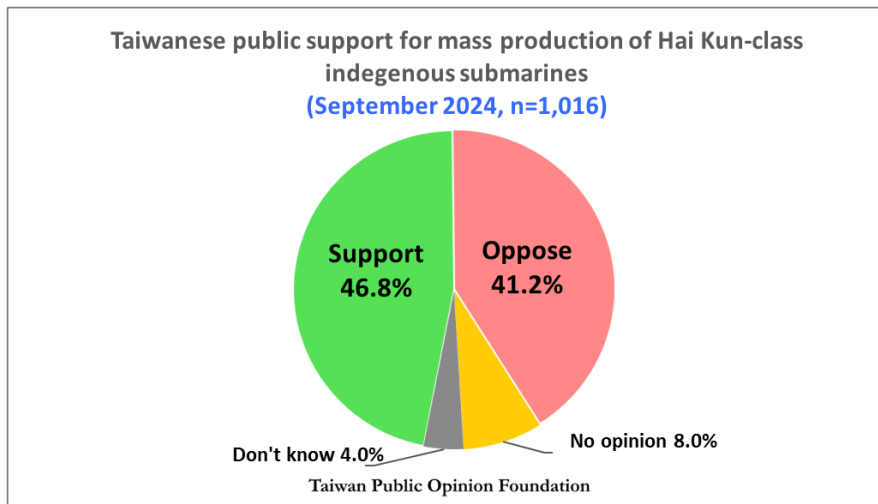


7. Lai government has [nominated](#) Yao Li-ming, a former legislator mostly known as a controversial TV pundit pandering to DPP party lines in recent decades, as the new Vice President of the Judicial Yuan, which is Taiwan's comparable position to that of U.S. Supreme Court associate justice if not of higher importance. The nomination was controversial and has been strongly opposed by the opposition parties. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 44% oppose the nomination, while a minority of 34.4% support it.

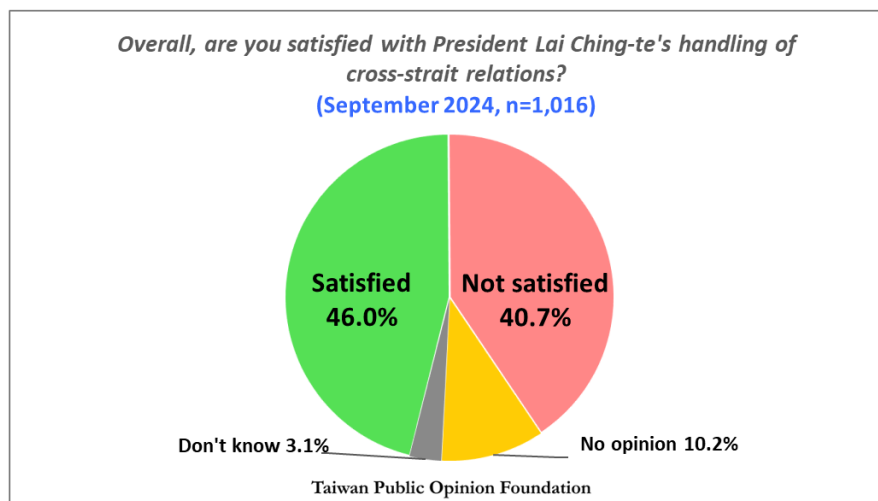


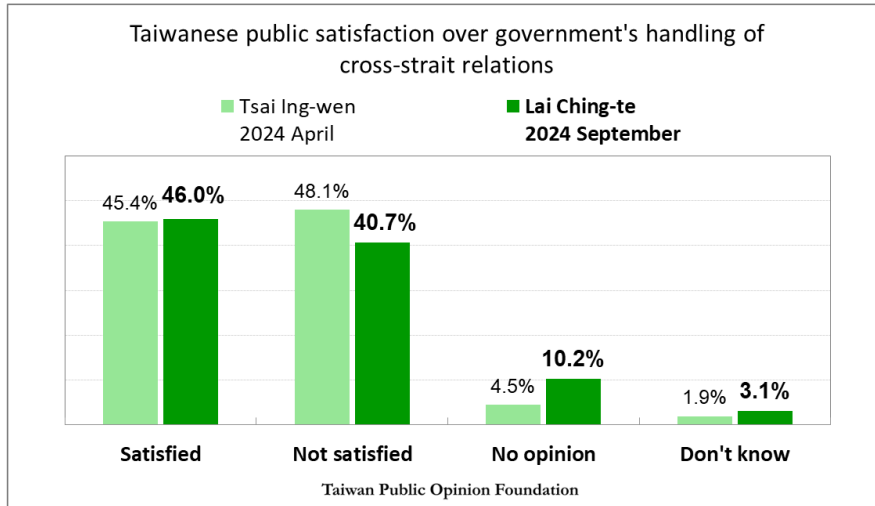
8. The Lai government has proposed a NT\$284 billion (US\$8.75 billion) budget over

14 years to build seven attack submarines based on the supposedly indigenous submarine prototype “Hai Kun”. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 46.8% support the mass production of the indigenous submarines, while a minority of 41.2% oppose it. This means that Taiwanese public are divided over the massive indigenous submarine project, though slightly more people favor it.

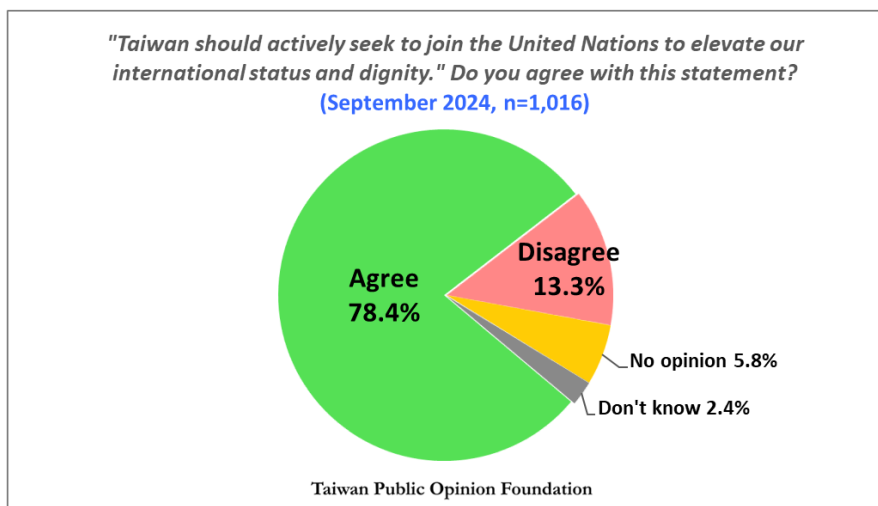


9. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 46% are satisfied with President Lai Ching-te’s handling of cross-strait relations so far, while 40.7% are not satisfied. Comparing to former President Tsai’s satisfaction in April 2024 shortly before she left office, Lai’s overall satisfaction is slightly higher.

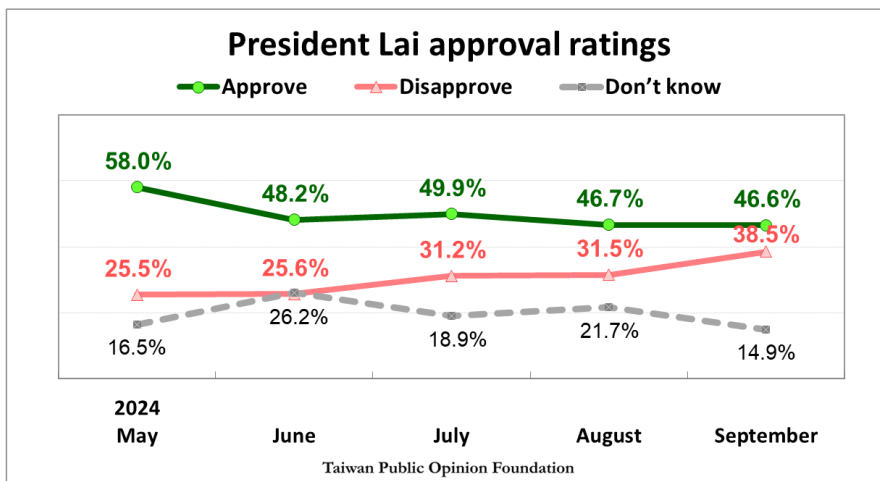
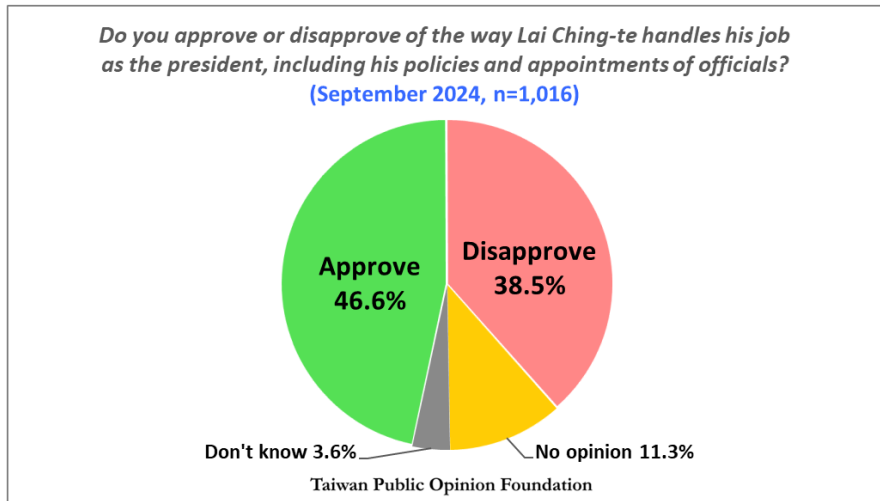




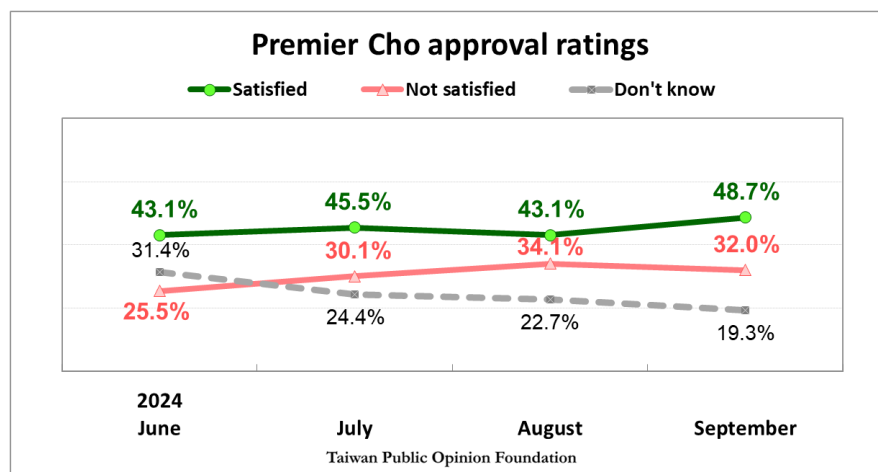
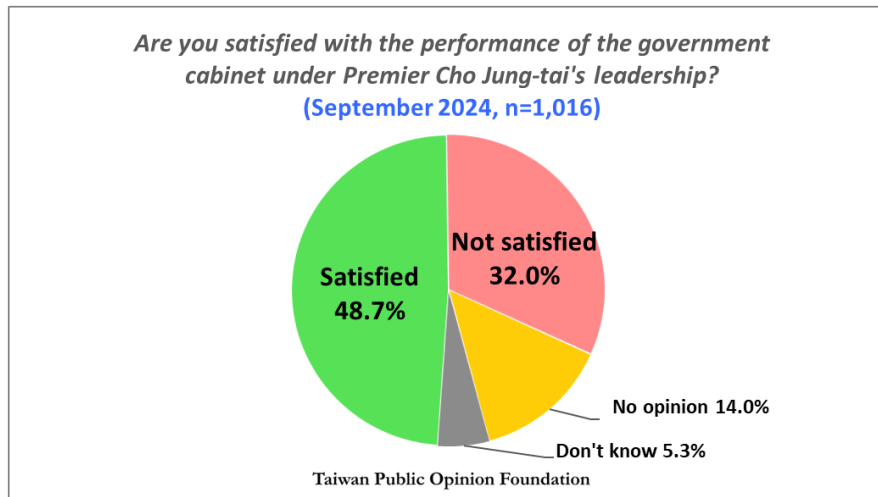
10. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a vast majority of 78.4% agree with the proposition that Taiwan should actively seek to join the United Nations, while only 13.3% disagree. This agreement is strong across all demographic divides and partisan affiliations, and as such it can be said it is a consensus of Taiwanese society that its government should actively seek to join the United Nations, no matter how difficult a task that is.



11. On President Lai Ching-te's approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 46.6% said they approve of the way Lai is handling his job as the president, while 38.5% disapprove. Compared to August, the level of approval remains the same, but disapproval increased noticeably by 7%. This is a concerning sign for the Lai as it means the minority of people who disapprove of his presidency are steadily growing.



12. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 48.7% said they are satisfied with the government cabinet under Premier Cho Jung-tai, while 32% are not satisfied. Compared to August, satisfaction increased by 5.6%. This could have been due to a series of high profile prosecutions of corruption cases including the indictment of former Vice Premier and DPP politician Tseng Cheng Wen-tsan, as well as the detention of TPP Chairman Ko Wen-je leading the public to perceive the government as “tough on corruption”. However, Taiwan’s judicial system is supposed to be independent from political directives, so were these prosecutions really the result of Premier Cho’s government? That is yet to be explained.



13. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 35.5% support the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 23.2% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 12% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 5.1% support the New Power Party (NPP), and 21.3% respondents identified themselves as independents.

Compared to August, both the DPP and KMT did not see much change in support at all. While the TPP saw another 1.8% decline following its chairman Ko Wen-je's corruption allegations and detention, but still clings on 12% support, meaning that about 2.3 million Taiwanese are still willing to back the party and Ko's leadership. This is testament to how loyal Ko's core supporters are despite the magnitude of the allegations and crisis the party is currently experiencing.

On the other hand, the small party New Power Party saw a surprise increase in support from 1.3% to 5.1%, The reason for this increase is not immediately clear but is a sign that the small party might still be viable in today's Taiwan politics.

