



Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation

October 2024 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

October 22, 2024

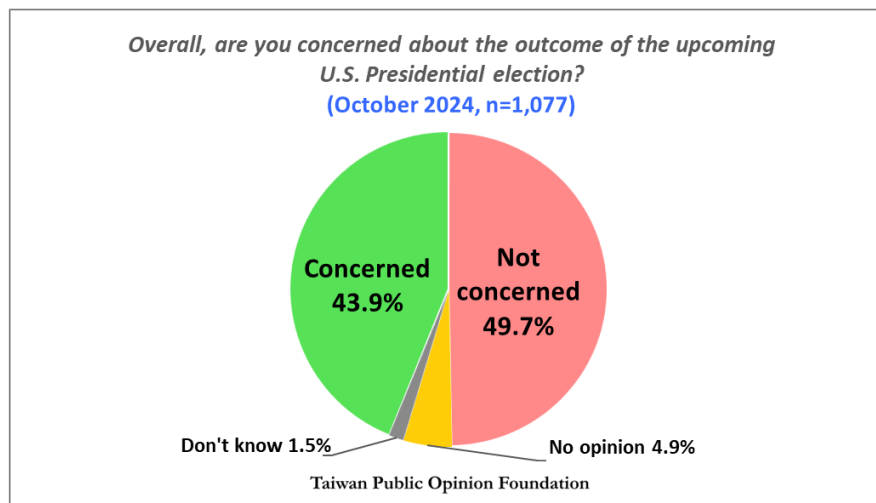
Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its October 2024 nation-wide poll. This marks the 98th monthly survey conducted by the TPOF aimed at tracking the development and changes in Taiwan’s public opinion. The full release in Chinese language is available on our official website.

How the Survey was Conducted

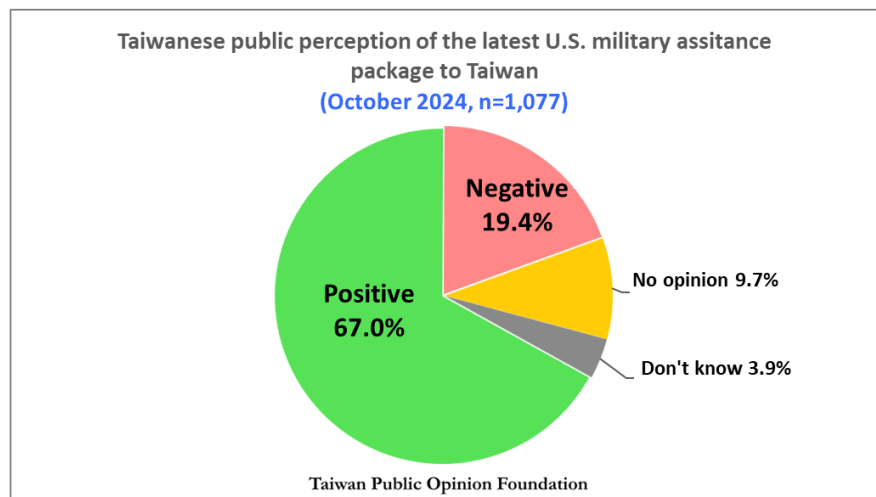
This survey was conducted on October 13-15, 2024, with a sample size of 1,077. Adults 20 years of age and older residing in Taiwan were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline and cellphone numbers were drawn through dual-frame random sampling with a proportion of 70% from landlines 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:

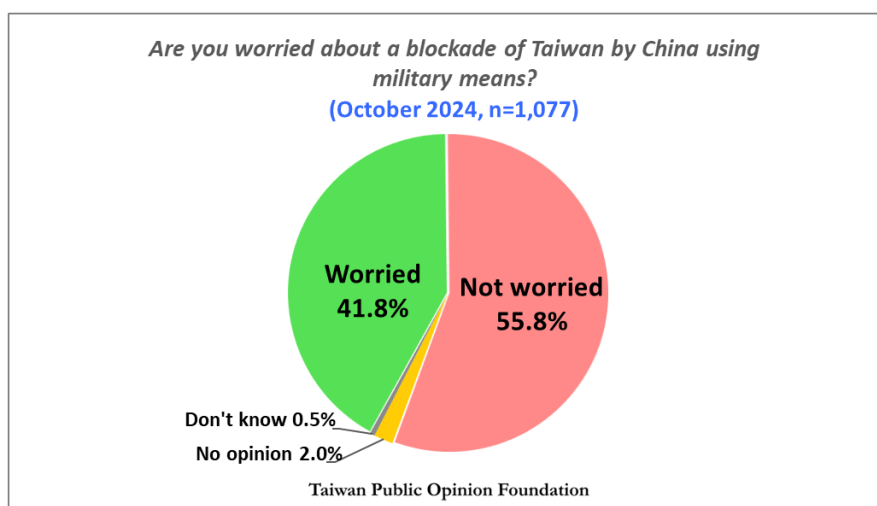
1. Regarding the upcoming U.S. Presidential election between Democrat Vice President Kamala Harris and Republican former President Donald Trump, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 49.7% said they are not concerned about the outcome, while a minority of 43.9% are concerned. Interestingly, the majority of supporters of Taiwan's DPP and TPP are concerned about the U.S. election, while the majority of KMT supporters are not concerned.



2. U.S. President Joe Biden recently [approved](#) a package of \$567 million USD in security (military) assistance to Taiwan. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 67% see this military assistance as positive news, while a minority of 19.4% view it negatively. This means that Taiwanese public at large welcome any increase in U.S.-Taiwan military cooperation and help from the U.S.

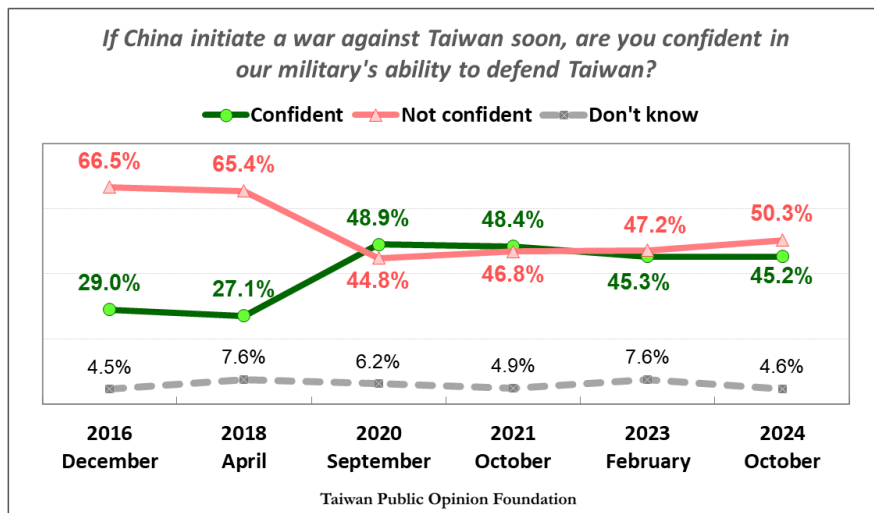
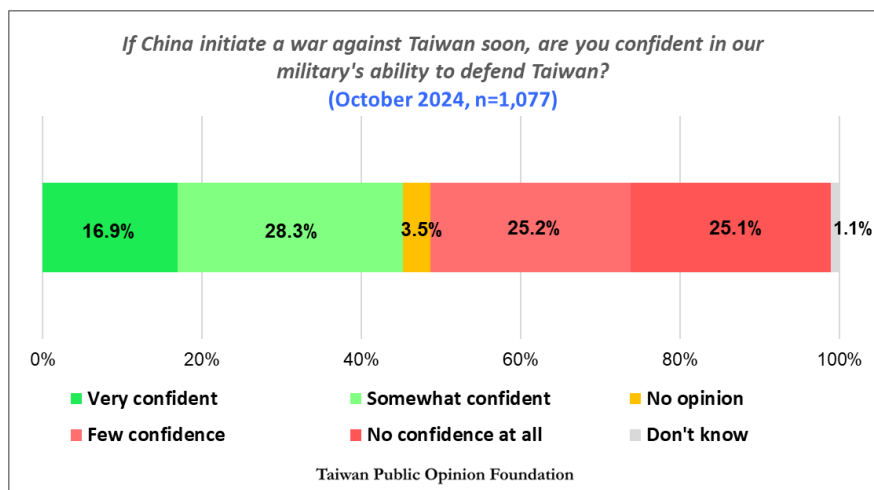
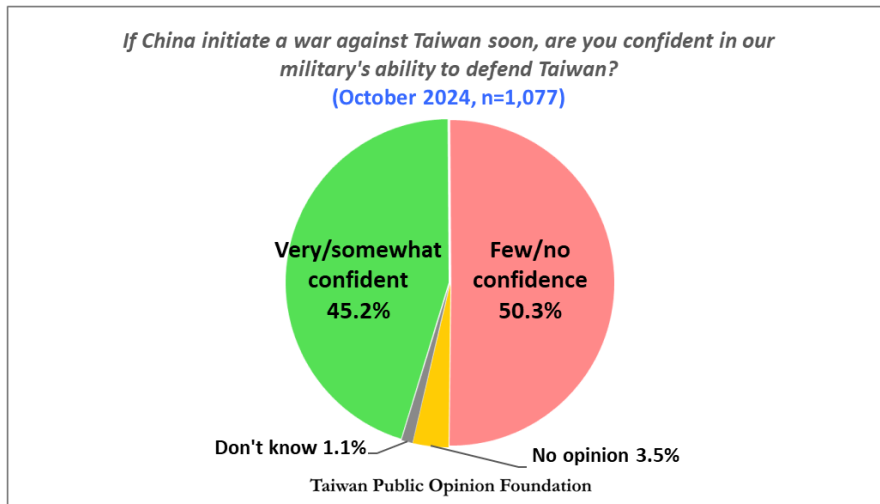


3. Taiwan's Navy commander Tang Hua recently told [foreign media](#) that China is ready to enforce a blockade of Taiwan using with its military. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 55.8% said they are not worried about a Chinese blockade, while a minority of 41.8% are worried. Despite China's military preparations, majority of Taiwanese public are not worrying about the danger of the island being cut off in a blockade.



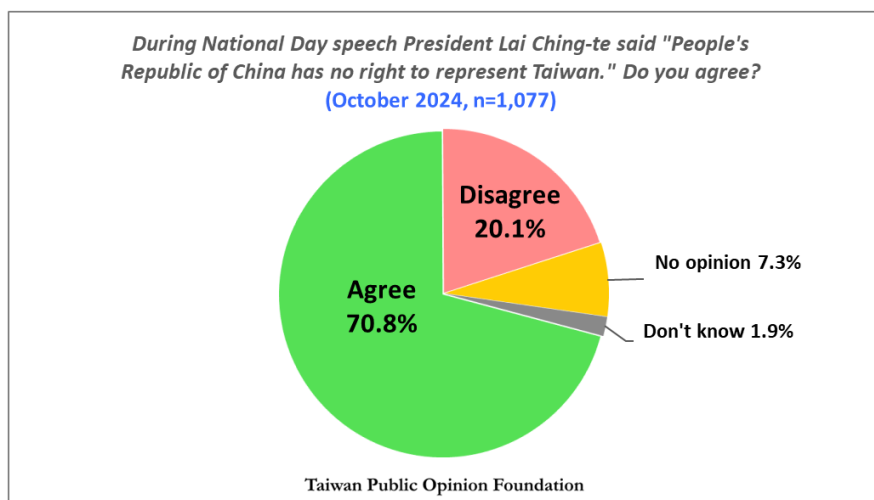
4. How confident are Taiwanese people in the ability of Taiwan's military to resist China in a war? The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 50.3% said they have few or no confidence at all, while a minority of 45.2% said they have some or very strong confidence. This is a warning sign that regardless what the government is saying, the majority of Taiwanese public lack confidence in their military's defense of Taiwan. We also see a steady increase in those lacking confidence compared to our past polls in the last several years. Additionally:

- The only age group that expressed a majority confidence in the military are those aged 65 and above. All other age groups, including Taiwan's young people, don't appear to have much confidence.
- Partisan affiliations strongly correlate with level of confidence in Taiwan's military. Supporters of the ruling DPP are strongly confident at 75%, while all other party supporters expressed non-confidence, including the KMT supporters at 76% and TPP at 70% non-confidence. Among independents, 51% are not confident while 39% are confident.

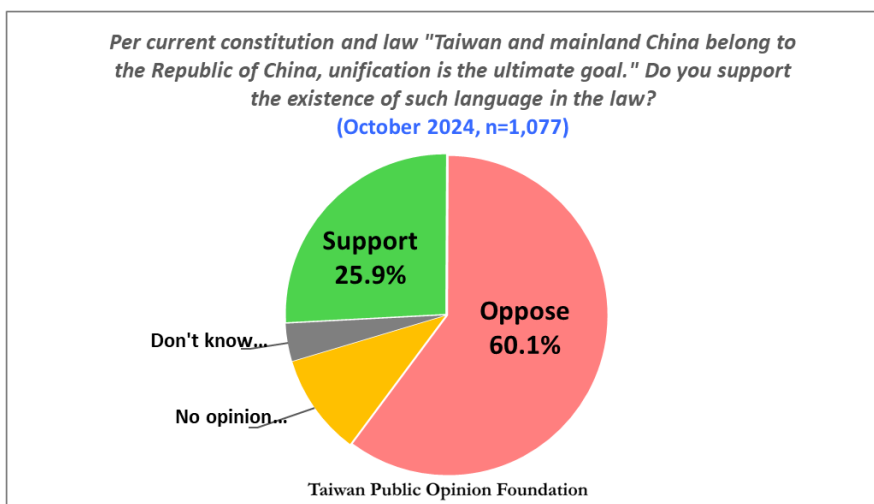


- During Taiwan's ROC Double Ten National Day President Lai Ching-te [delivered](#) a speech that included a statement declaring "People's Republic of China has no right to represent Taiwan." The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 70.8% agree with this statement, while a minority of 20.1% disagree. Majority agreement is observed across all partisan affiliations,

age groups, and education attainments. This means that Taiwanese public by and large agree with President Lai's statement that the PRC cannot represent Taiwan.

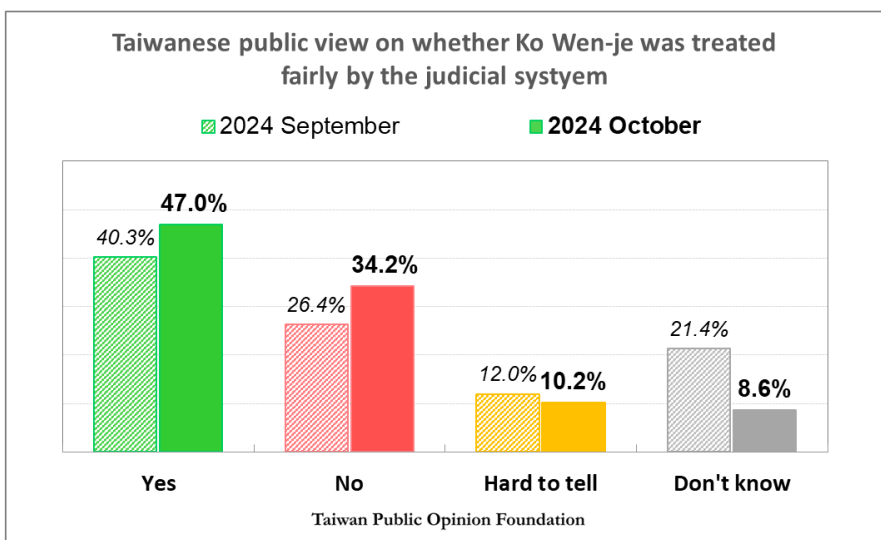
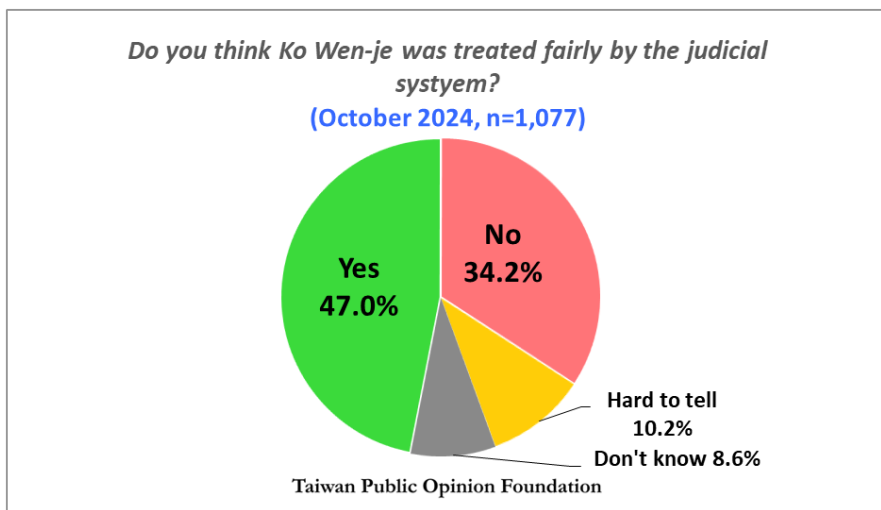


6. Per current Taiwan ROC constitution as well as other the “Cross-Strait Act” governing the relations between Taiwan and mainland China, both Taiwan and mainland China in its entirety are part of the “Republic of China”. Furthermore, the language of the constitution and the law stipulates “unification” with the mainland is the ultimate goal. This totally outdated but still existing part of Taiwan’s constitutional framework is known as “One Country, Two Districts” (—國兩區). The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 60.1% oppose the existence of this language, while a minority of 25.9% support it. This means that the existing ROC constitution’s languages on the relations between Taiwan and China (“the mainland”) is not only outdated in reality but also opposed by most Taiwanese.

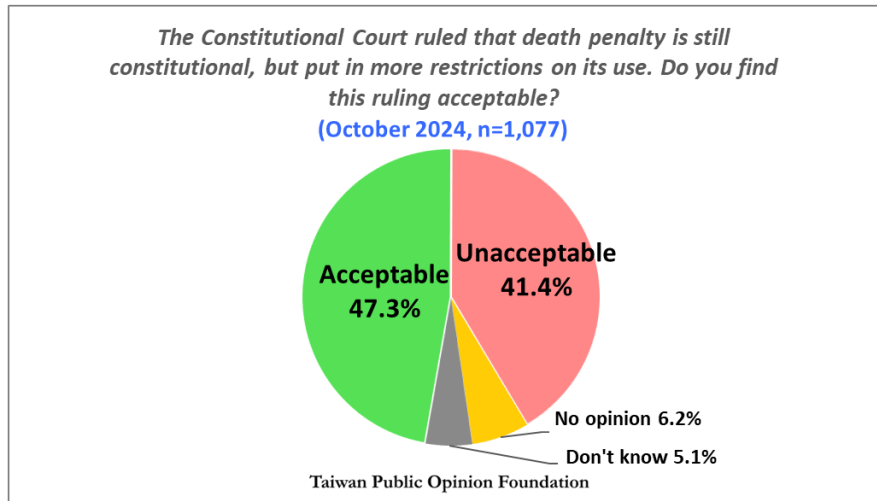


7. Ko Wen-je, the former Taipei City Mayor and the leader of Taiwan People’s Party

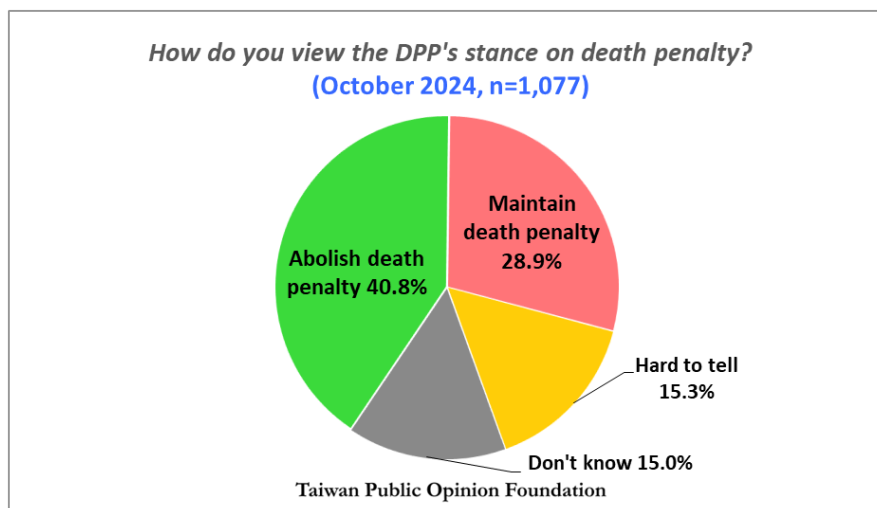
(TPP) has been [put in detention](#) by Taiwan prosecutors pending investigation over his alleged involvement in a corruption case. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 47% thought Ko was treated fairly by the court, while 34.2% said Ko did not receive fair treatment. Compared to last month, public view on Ko’s case has been further polarized as more public have now decided on the case as either a fair investigation or an unfair political prosecution.



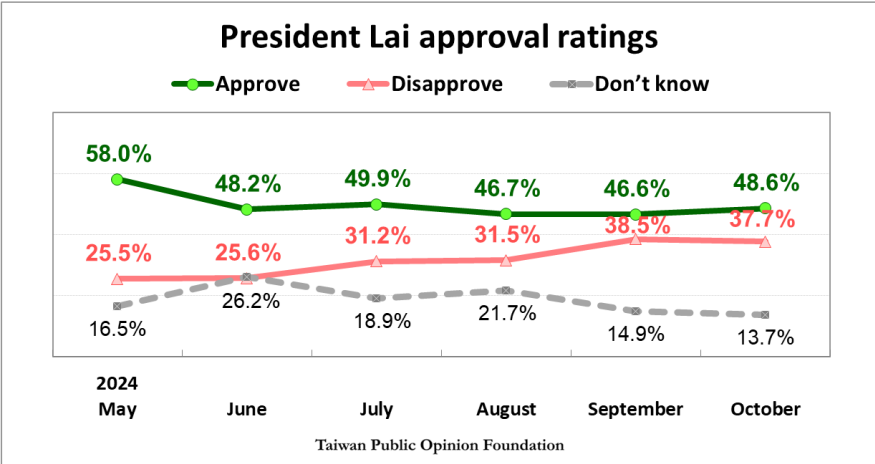
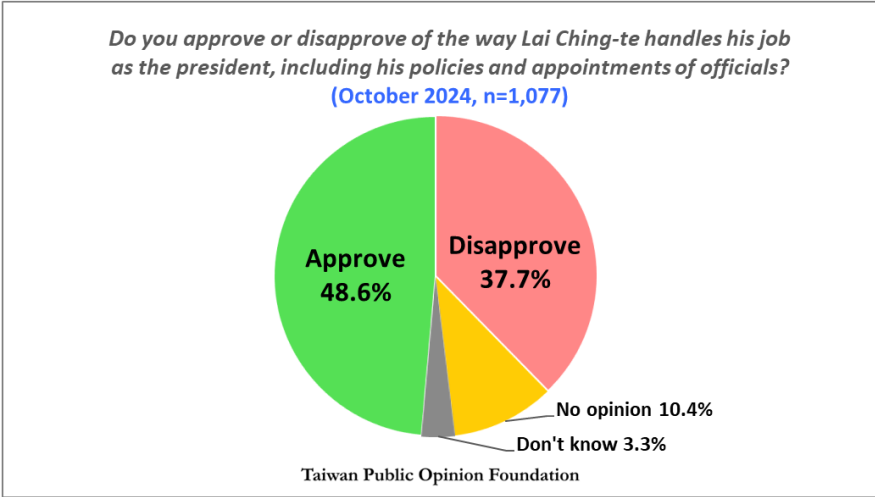
- On September 20 Taiwan’s Judicial Yuan Constitutional Court [ruled](#) that death penalty is still constitutional but put in additional restrictions on its use. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 47.3% find such ruling acceptable, while 41.4% find it unacceptable. As a context, polls have consistently found Taiwanese public overwhelmingly oppose the abolition of death penalty, such as our [May 2024 poll](#) where 85% oppose its abolition.



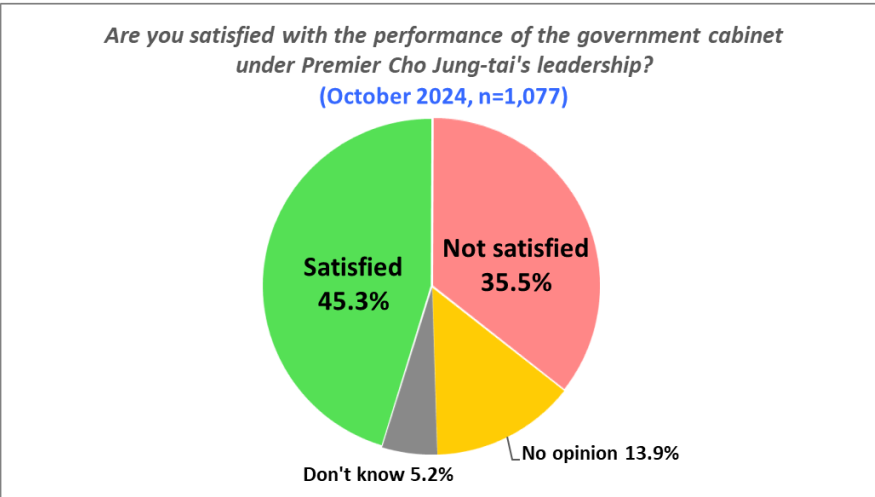
9. The DPP's stance on death penalty has always been ambiguous and lacking clarity. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 40.8% said the DPP is for abolition of death penalty, while a minority of 28.9% said it is for keeping the death penalty, 15.3% said it is hard to tell. This means that Taiwanese public generally perceive the current ruling party as an anti-death penalty party.

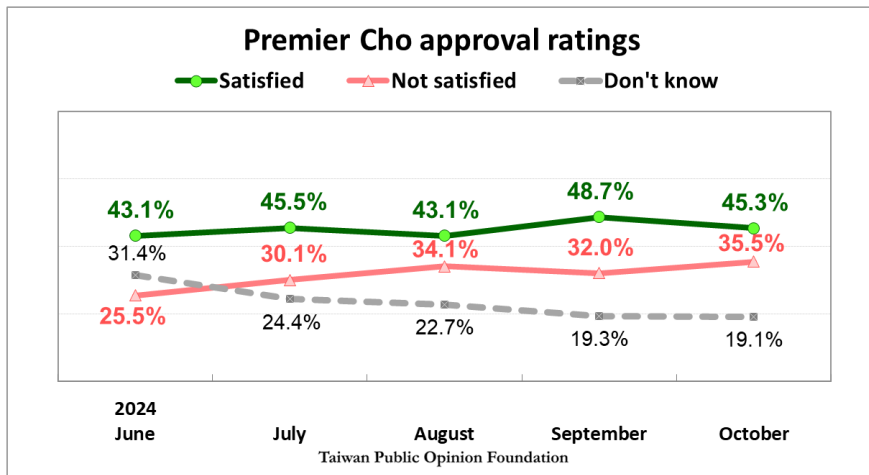


10. On President Lai Ching-te's approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 48.6% said they approve of the way Lai is handling his job as the president, while 37.7% disapprove. Compared to September, the changes are small but likely reflect the recent political developments. Controversies regarding the nominations of Constitutional Court justices and death penalty ruling were offset by positive events such as Lai's National Day speech that demonstrated toughness toward China etc.

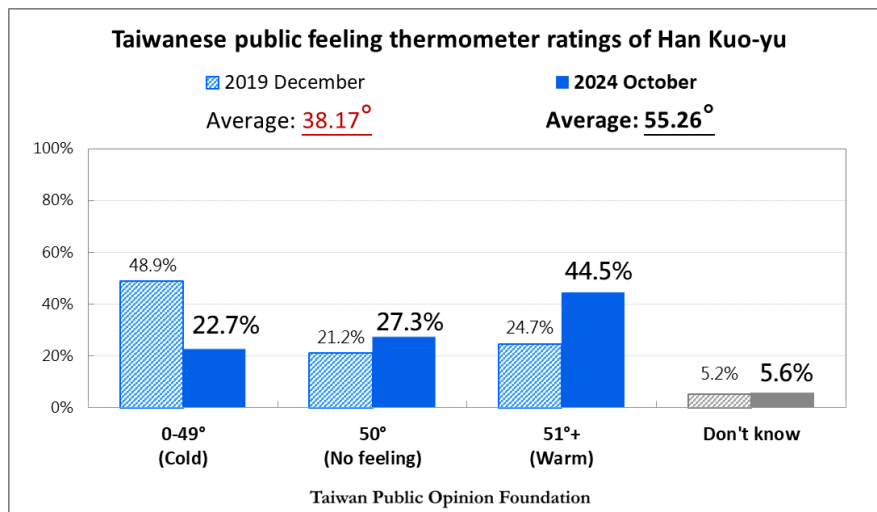


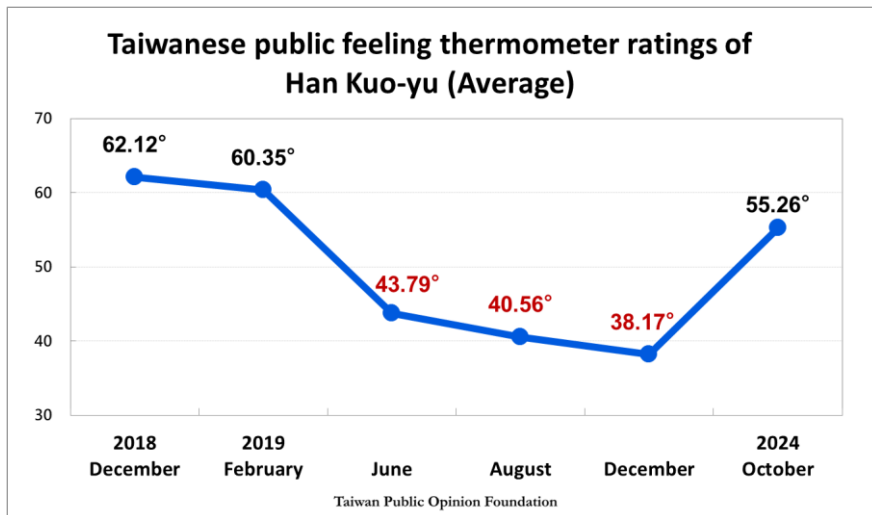
11. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 45.3% said they are satisfied with the government cabinet under Premier Cho Jung-tai, while 35.5% are not satisfied. Compared to September, satisfaction increased while dissatisfaction increased slightly, although majority are still satisfied.





12. The poll asked respondents, Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, to rate Taiwan’s Legislative Yuan speaker Han Kuo-yu, of the opposition KMT, on a feeling thermometer between 0 and 100 – whereas 0 is the most negative and 100 is the most positive. Han received an average rating of 55°. The last time Han’s feeling thermometer was polled was in December 2019, during that year’s tortuous presidential campaign which saw Han heavily trailed behind then-president Tsai Ing-wen by the end of the campaign. After nearly five years Han’s feeling rating among Taiwanese public substantially recovered from the 2019 low. This dramatic recovery could pave the way for Han to run for higher office in the next few years.





13. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 31.1% support the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 25.3% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 12.6% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 2.3% support the New Power Party (NPP), and 26.6% respondents identified themselves as independents.

Compared to September, the TPP has “bottomed out” from the damages due to its party chairman Ko Wen-je’s corruption allegations and detention, it is clear that Ko and TPP have the firm backing and trust of these 12% core supporters even while Ko is still in detention. Support for DPP declined somewhat while KMT saw some increase. Altogether, the opposition KMT-TPP supporters outnumbered the ruling DPP supporters by 4.5%, which means majority of Taiwanese public identify themselves with the opposition parties rather than the ruling party.

