



Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation

January 2025 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

January 21, 2025

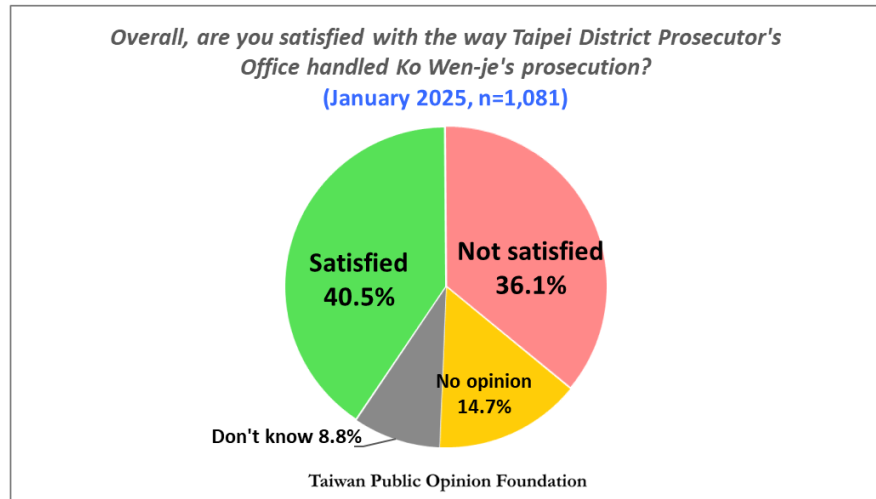
Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its January 2025 nation-wide poll. This marks the 101st monthly survey conducted by the TPOF aimed at tracking the development and changes in Taiwan’s public opinion. The full release in Chinese language is available on our official website.

How the Survey was Conducted

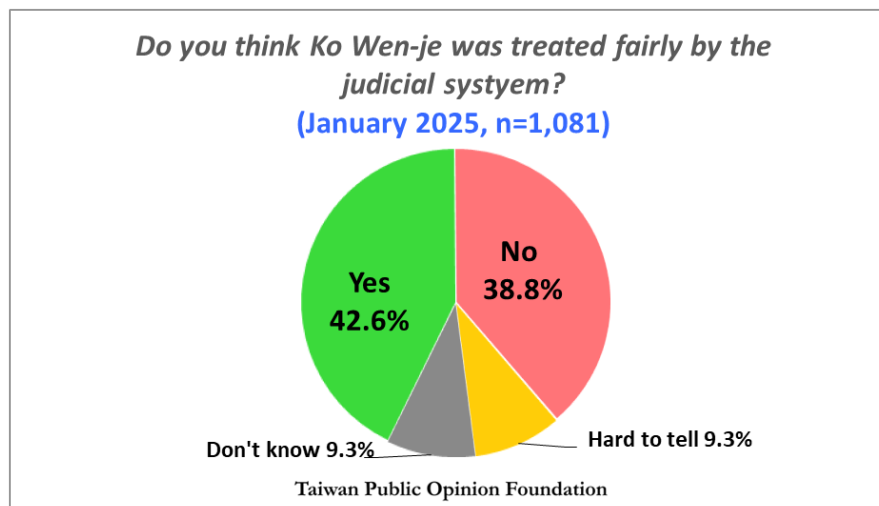
This survey was conducted on January 12-14, 2025, with a sample size of 1,081. Adults 20 years of age and older residing in Taiwan were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline and cellphone numbers were drawn through dual-frame random sampling with a proportion of 70% from landlines 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 ± 2.98 percentage points with 95% level of confidence.

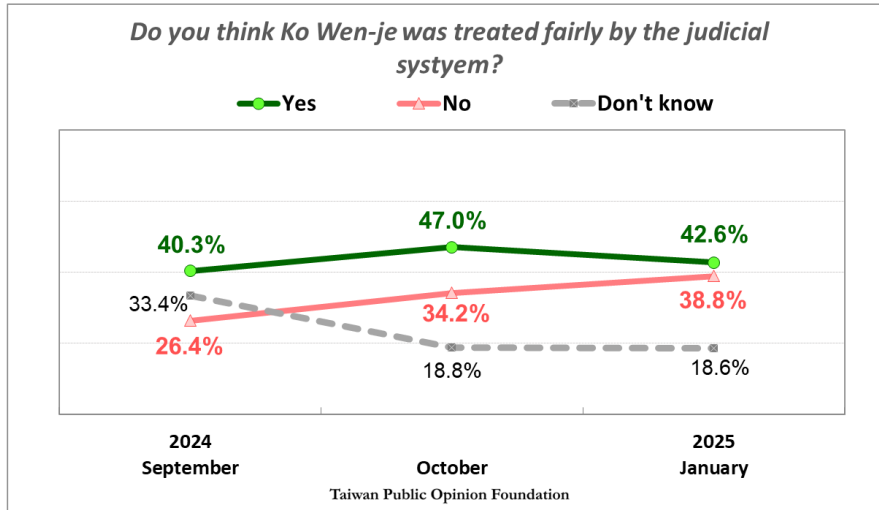
Main Findings:

1. Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je has been [formally charged](#) with corruption after months in detention. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 40.5% said they are satisfied with Taipei District Prosecutor's office's handling of the case, while a minority of 36.1% are not satisfied. This means that a significant minority of Taiwanese public are not convinced by authority's handling of this high profile prosecution of a major opposition political figure.

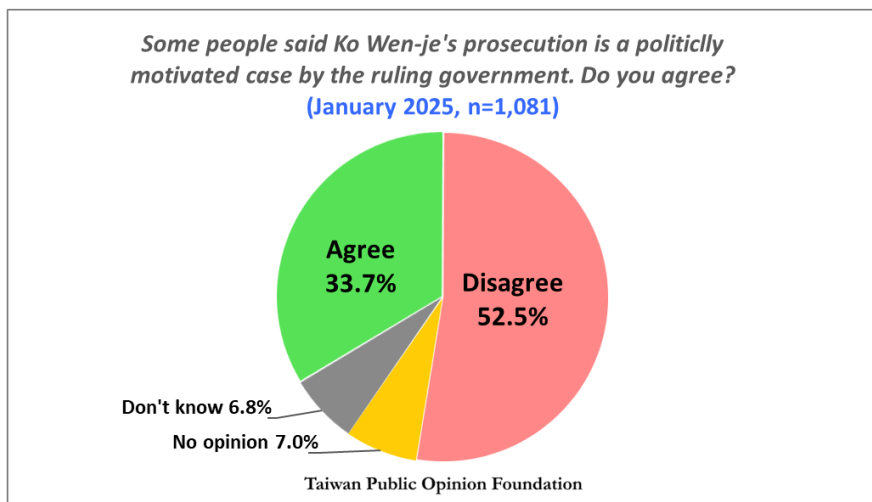


2. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 42.6% thought Ko was treated fairly by the court, while 38.8% said Ko did not receive fair treatment. Compared to past two polls from September and October 2024, respectively, the number of people who thought Ko was not treated fairly has steadily increased as the case progressed.



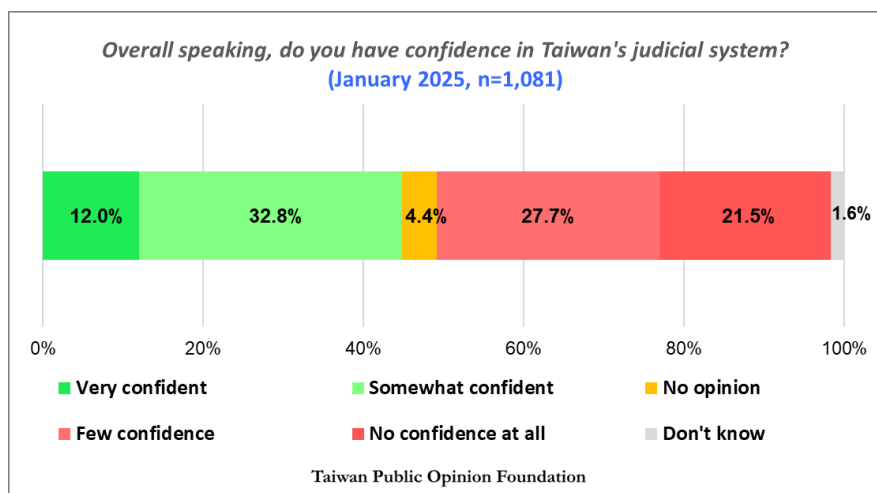
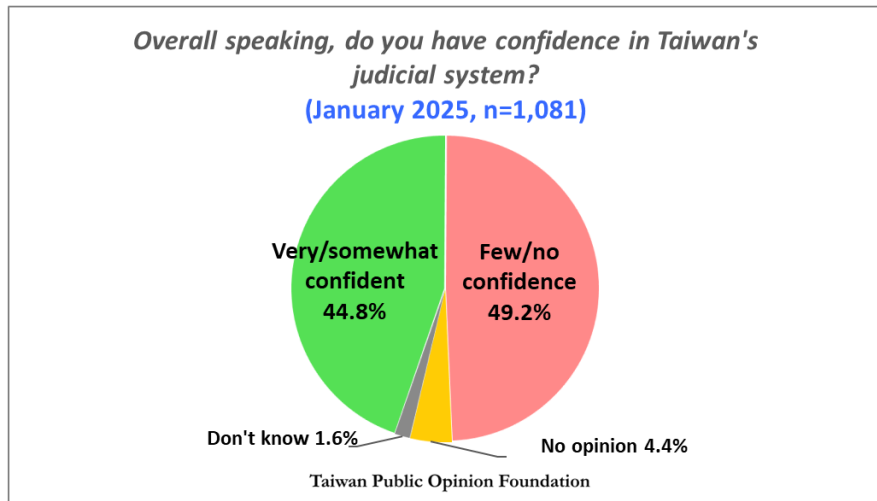


3. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 52.5% disagree with the statement that Ko’s prosecution is politically motivated by the ruling government, while 33.7% agree with it. This means the majority of Taiwanese do not think the case is politically motivated, but a significant minority think it is. Noticeably, compared to last time the question was asked in the poll in September 2024 when Ko was first detained by the authority, the percentage of people who perceive the case as politically motivated has increased by 5%, meaning that more and more people now perceive Ko’s prosecution as politically motivated.

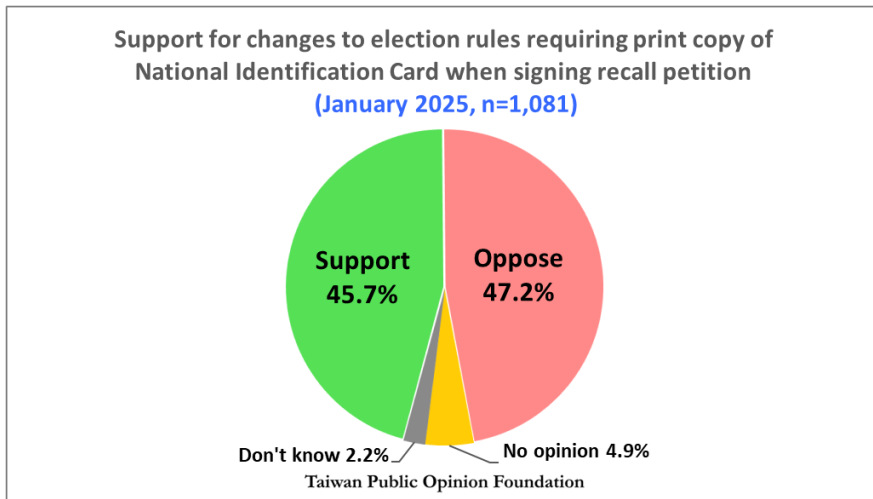


4. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 49.2% said they have few or no confidence in Taiwan’s judicial system, while 44.8% said they are either very or somewhat confident in it. This means that currently the majority of Taiwanese lack confidence in Taiwan’s judicial system. Compared to the last time the question was asked in September 2024, there has

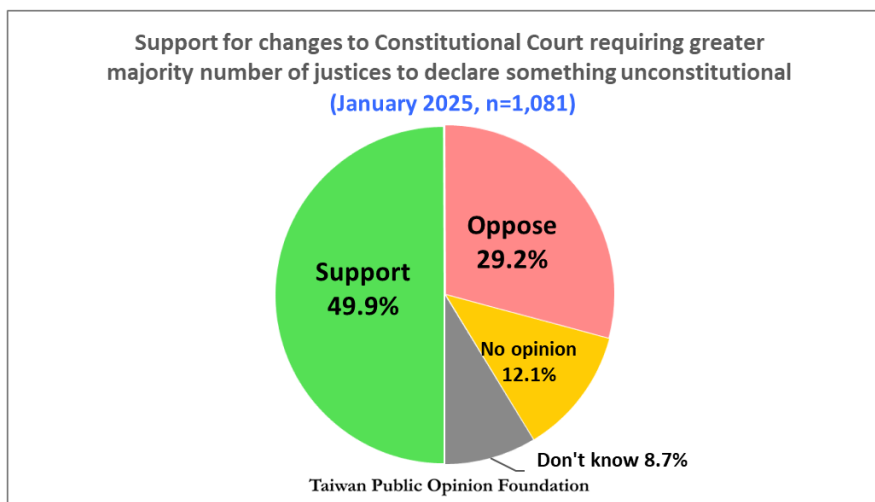
been minimum changes to the level of confidence.



5. The oppositions-controlled Taiwan Legislative Yuan [passed changes to recall election rules](#) requiring recall petition must provide a print copy of the front and back of their National Identification Card. This change was strongly opposed by the ruling DPP. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a slim majority of 47.2% oppose the changes, while a minority of 45.7% support it. This means that Taiwanese public are heavily divided on the issue though slightly more people oppose the changes.

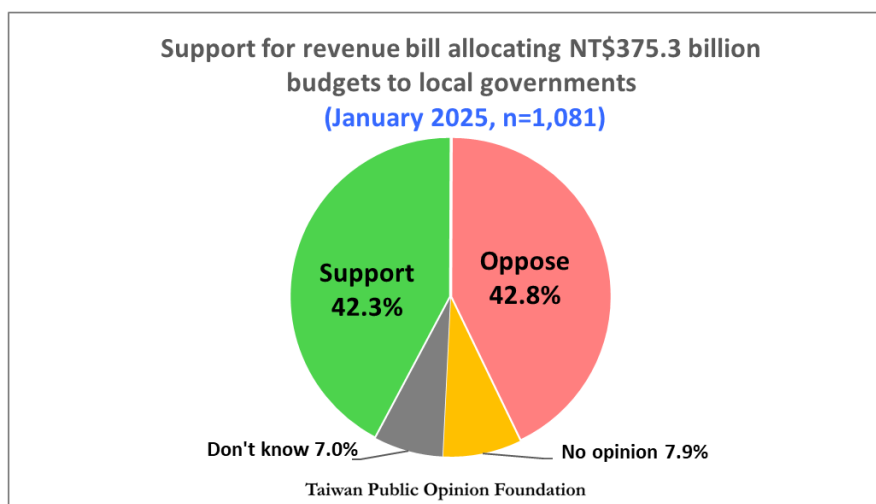


6. The oppositions-controlled Legislative Yuan [passed changes to Constitutional Court procedures](#) requiring the attendance of at least ten justices on the court (which normally has 15 justices) and a majority of at least nine justices to declare something as unconstitutional. This change was strongly opposed by the ruling DPP. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 49.9% support the changes, while a minority of 29.2% oppose it. This means that the majority of Taiwanese public do side with the opposition parties on the matter and support stricter requirement to the Constitutional Court's power in issuing rulings regarding constitutional matters.



7. The oppositions-controlled Legislative Yuan [passed a revenue bill](#) to allocate an additional NT\$375.3 billion (US\$11.5 billion) in funding from the central government to local governments. This change was opposed by the ruling DPP. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 42.8% oppose the bill while 42.3% support it. This means Taiwanese public are heavily divided on

the heavily debated revenue bill, and the public views on it are very much defined by partisan lines.



8. On President Lai Ching-te's approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 48.4% said they approve of the way Lai is handling his job as the president, while a minority of 40.2% disapprove of him. While Lai's approval suffered a slight decline in the new year, it is still in the green after eight months in office.

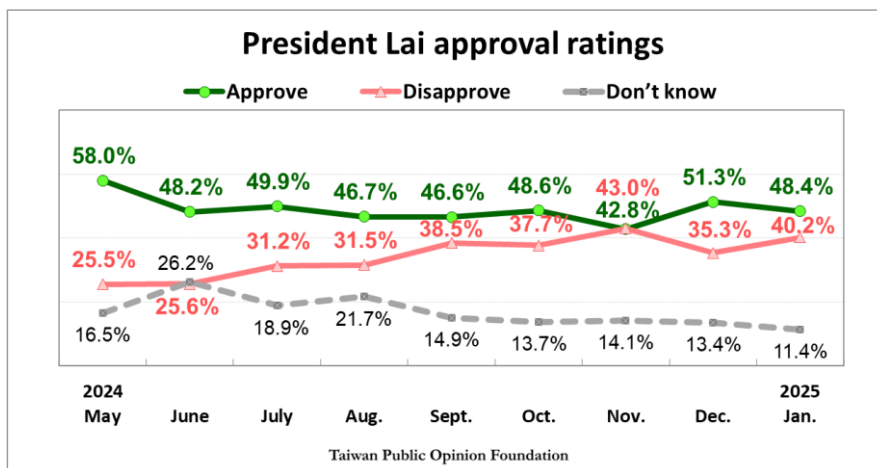
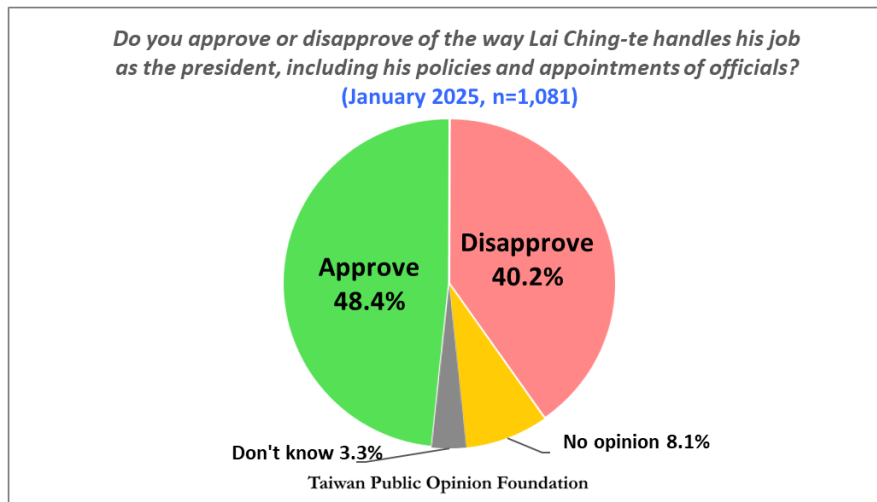
Several reasons could have contributed to Lai's overall stable, dependable approval rating. Lai's long term positions on asserting Taiwan's sovereignty, showing toughness toward China are consistent with the prevailing Taiwanese public preferences and contributed to his base of support.

Secondly, the public thus far do not seem to perceive Lai as having orchestrated or directed the various controversial acts or behaviors that the ruling DPP's party caucus in the Legislative Yuan have been engaging. The DPP party caucus leadership's attempt to recall *all* of opposition KMT legislators for example, has been widely panned as unrealistic and Lai has distanced himself from it.

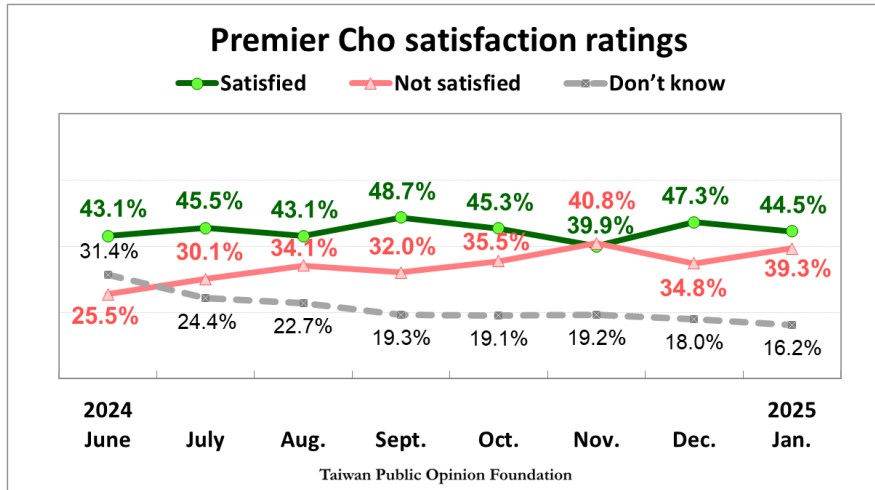
Lai has also made some attempts to reach out to oppositions, including [meeting](#) with the KMT Speaker of the Legislative Yuan Han Kuo-yu, which could have boosted his approval among the KMT supporters. Whether this indicates a broader move by Lai government to make amend and working with the oppositions, that remains to be seen.

The judicial prosecution of opposition TPP party leader Ko, while controversial, was also not perceived by the majority Taiwanese as politically motivated. Thus,

Lai's approval rating has not been affected by the case. Finally, the DPP remains the most popular political party with 35% partisan affiliation, Lai being current flag bearer and chairman of the party certainly would have the support of majority portion of these supporters.

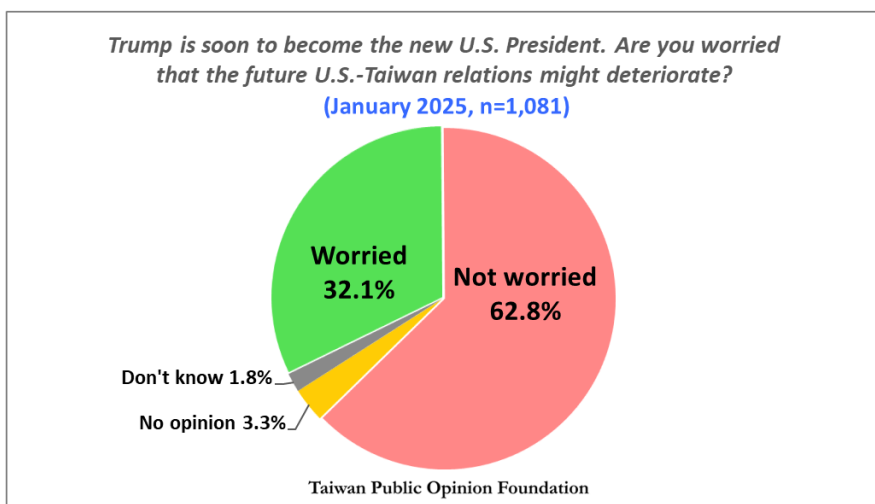


- The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 44.5% said they are satisfied with the government cabinet under Premier Cho Jung-tai, while a minority of 39.3% are not satisfied. This means that Premier Cho's cabinet still has the approval of the majority of Taiwanese public, though dissatisfaction has increased slightly in the new year.

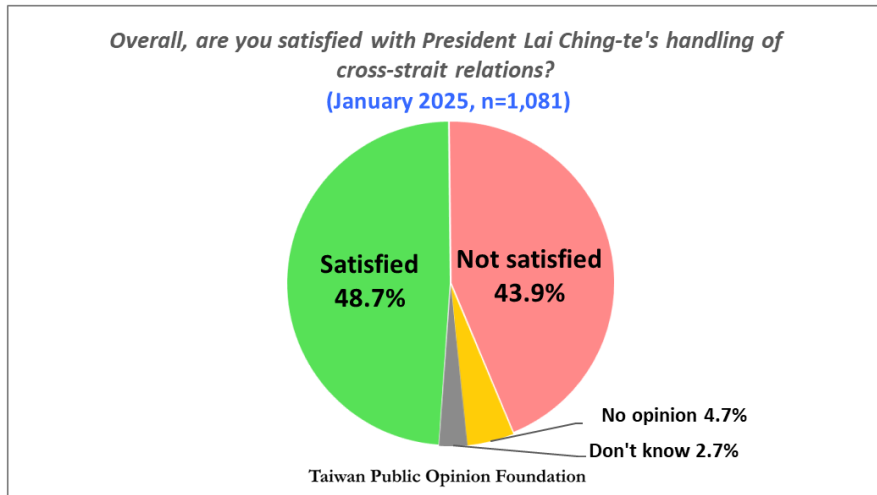


10. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 62.8% said they are not worried that about the potential deterioration of U.S.-Taiwan relations under new U.S. President Donald Trump, while a minority of 32.1% are worried.

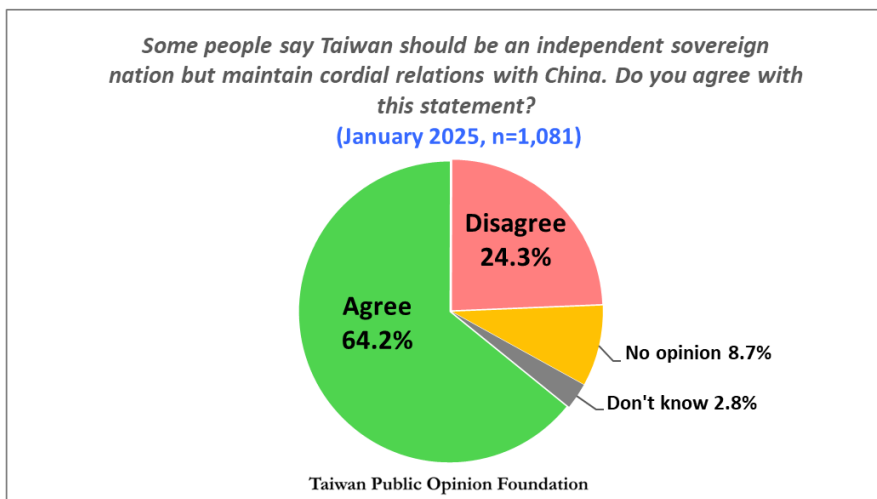
Remarkably this is almost the exact same composition compared to four years ago when Joe Biden was about to take office as the 46th U.S. President in January 2021, when 28% of the Taiwanese back then said they were worried U.S.-Taiwan relations might backtrack under Biden, while 65% were not worried.



11. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 48.7% are satisfied with President Lai Ching-te's handling of cross-strait relations so far, while a minority of 43.9% are not satisfied. Compared to last time the question was asked in September 2024 poll, satisfaction and dissatisfaction both increased by small percentages, but overall majority of Taiwanese are still satisfied with the cross-strait relations under Lai.



12. The poll asked respondents whether they agree with the statement that Taiwan should be an independent nation but maintain cordial relations with China. Among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 64.2% agree with the statement, while a minority of 24.3% disagree. Notably, the level of majority agreement is observed and mostly similar across political partisan lines, meaning that most Taiwanese – regardless of party affiliations, do believe Taiwan can be an independent nation while keeping cordial relations with China.



13. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 35.1% support the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 20.8% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 13.5% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 2.1% support the New Power Party (NPP), and 27.3% respondents identified themselves as independent.

Compared to December, there has not been much change to the party affiliation level between the ruling DPP and largest opposition party KMT. But notably the

second largest opposition party, TPP, saw its support stabilized and even increased slightly. This means that despite TPP party leader Ko Wen-je's corruption case prosecution and detention in prison, most TPP supporters still stick with the party and might even support it even more due to sympathy with Ko's situation.

