



Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation

March 2025 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

March 18, 2025

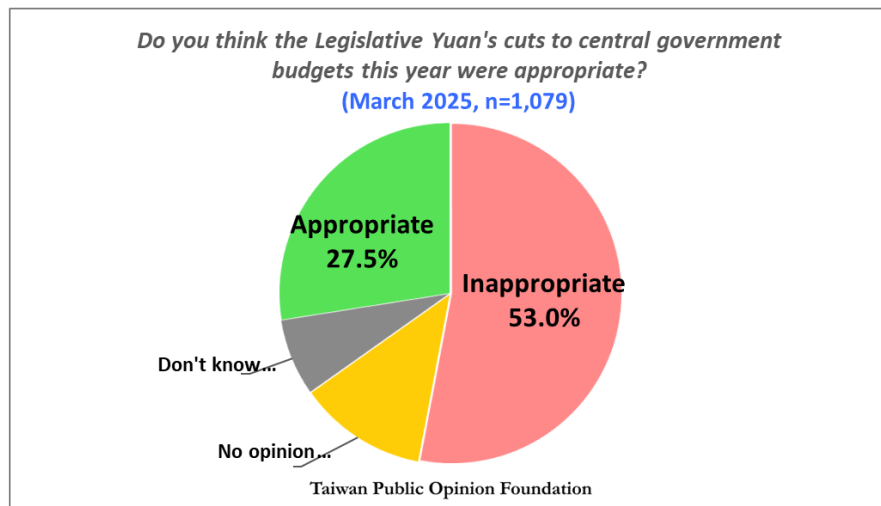
Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its March 2025 nation-wide poll. This marks the 102nd monthly survey conducted by the TPOF aimed at tracking the development and changes in Taiwan’s public opinion. The full release in Chinese language is available on our official website.

How the Survey was Conducted

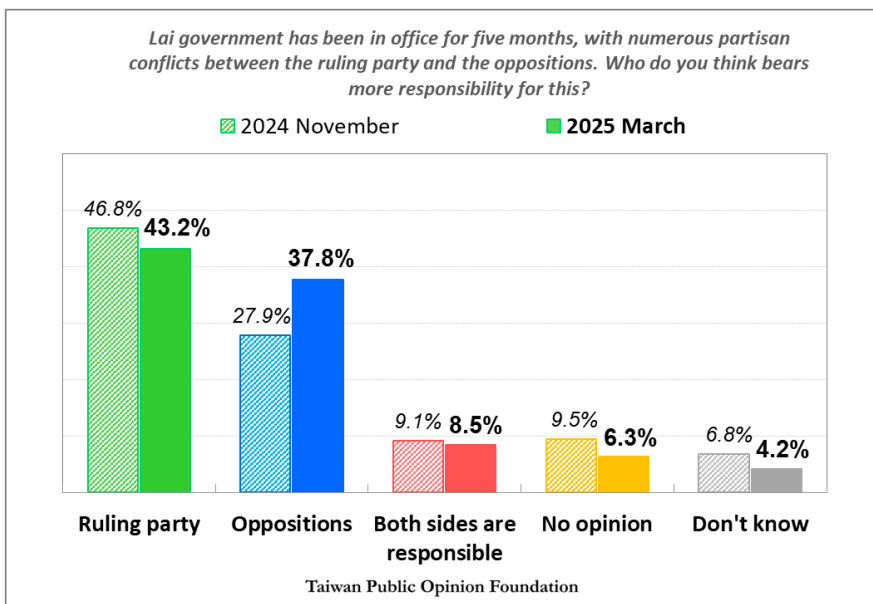
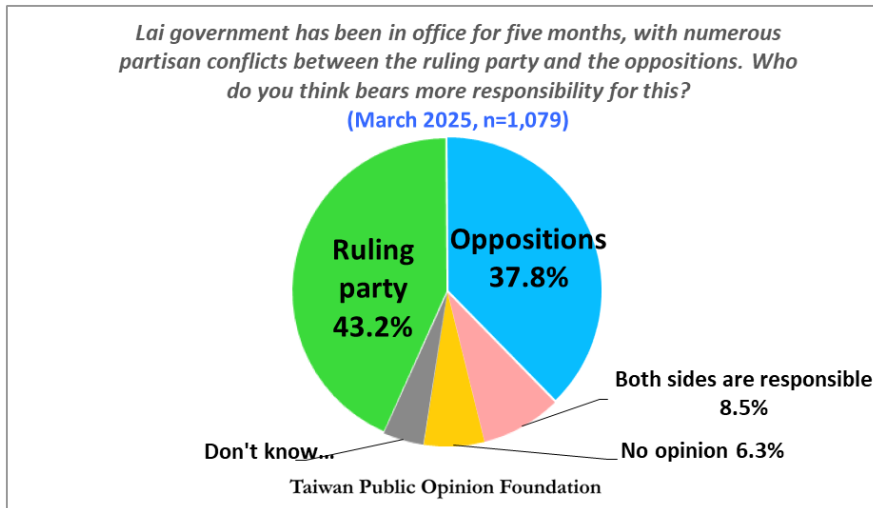
This survey was conducted on March 10-12, 2025, with a sample size of 1,079. Adults 20 years of age and older residing in Taiwan were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline and cellphone numbers were drawn through dual-frame random sampling with a proportion of 70% from landlines 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:

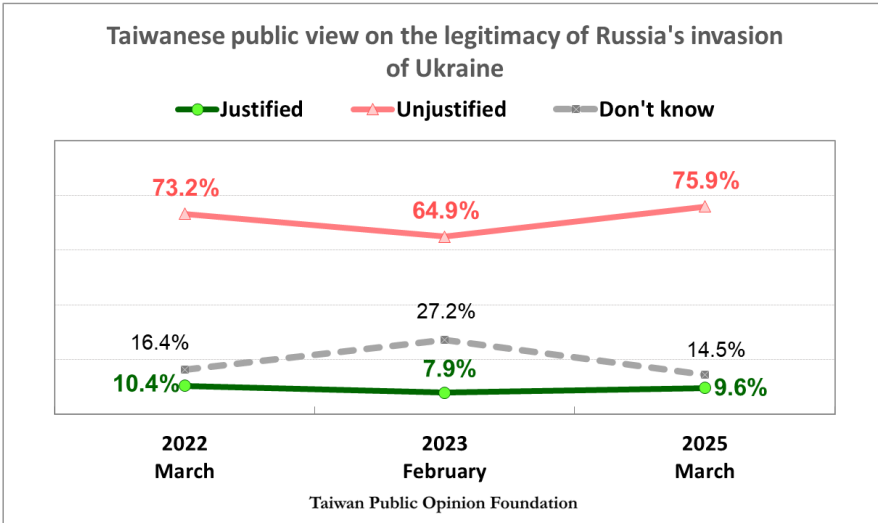
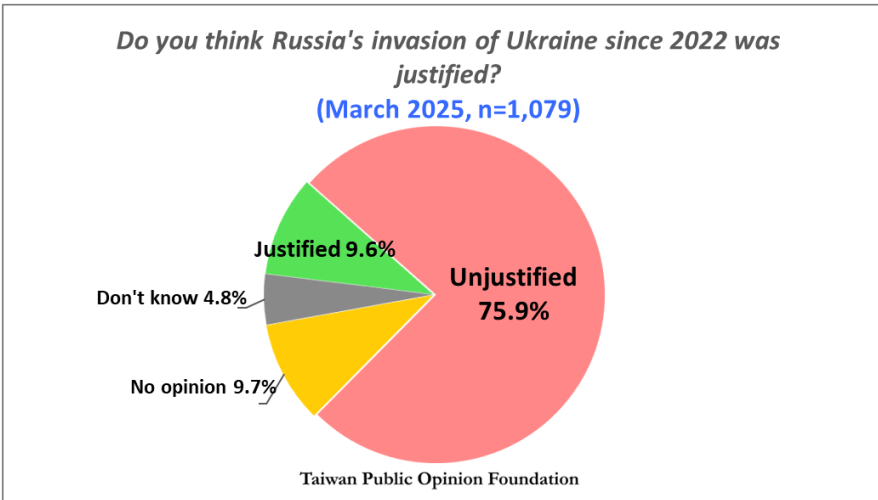
1. In January of this year, Taiwan's opposition-controlled parliament the Legislative Yuan cut total central government budgets by 207.5 billion New Taiwan dollar, or 6.6% of the total budgets. Among the budget cuts were several cuts to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of National Defense. These cuts were controversial and vehemently opposed by the ruling Democratic Progressive Party government, which initiated a mass recall movement against opposition legislators. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 53% thought the cuts were inappropriate, while a minority of 27.5% said they were appropriate. This means that the majority of Taiwanese generally do not agree with the opposition's cutting of central government budgets.



2. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 42.6% said the ruling DPP bears more responsibility to the partisan conflicts between the ruling government and the opposition since Lai's inauguration, while a minority of 38.8% said the oppositions are responsible. However, compared to last time this question was polled in November 2024, it is clear that the public opinion has noticeably shifted, and more people now perceive the opposition as bearing more responsibility for the partisan conflict. Overall, there are still more people who hold the ruling party responsible though the margin has significantly reduced.

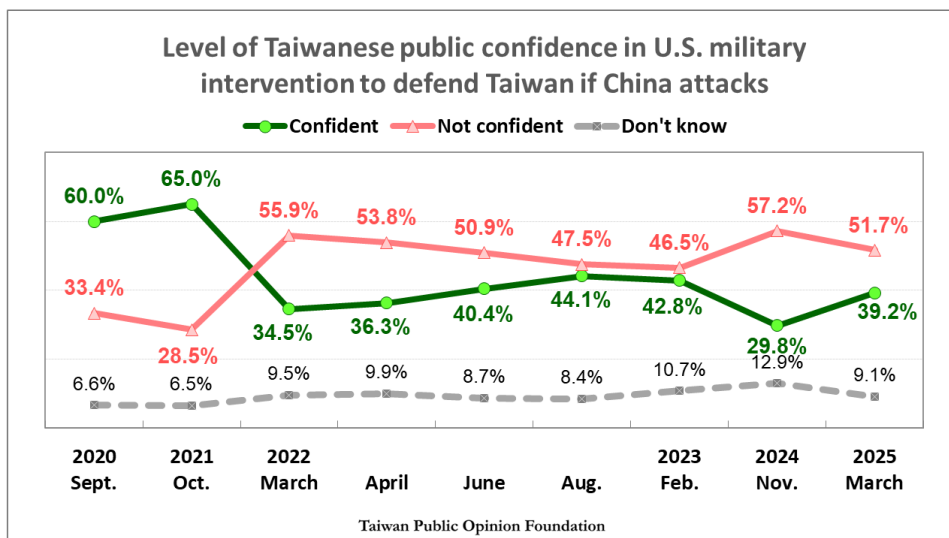
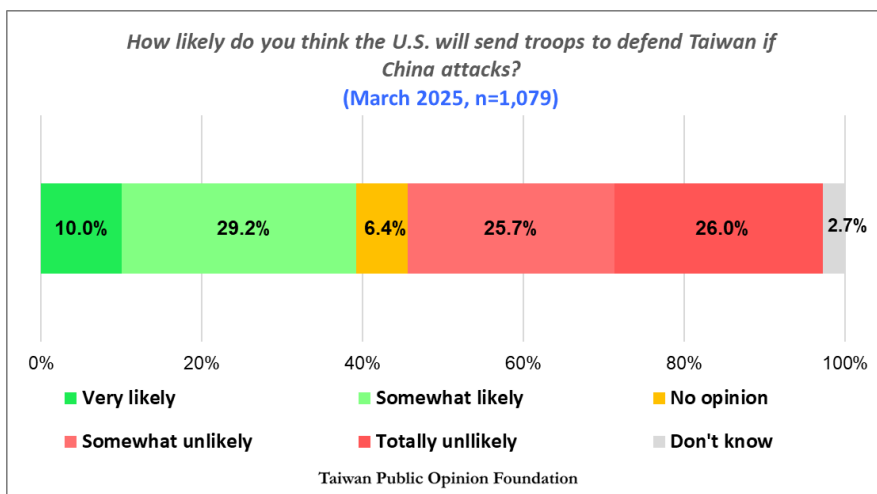
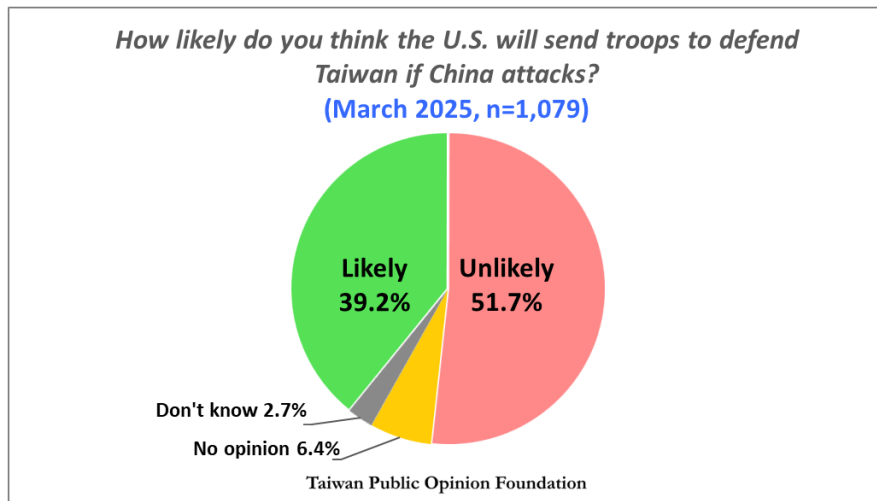


- Regarding the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a strong majority of 75.9% thought Russia's invasion of Ukraine was unjustified, while only about 9.6% thought it was justified in some way. More than three years after the start of the Ukraine War, Taiwan's public opinion on the legitimacy of Russia's invasion remains strongly against Russia, and there is across-the-board societal consensus that the invasion was unjustified.



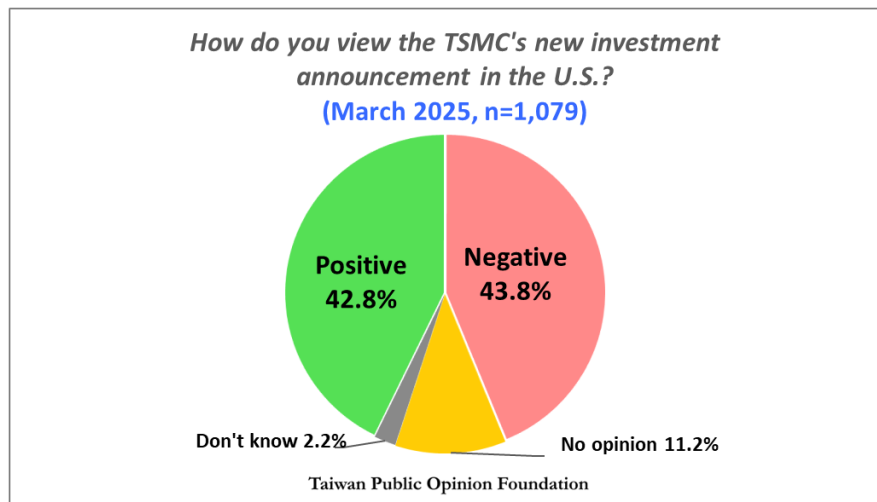
4. The poll asked Taiwanese public whether they believe the United States will send troops to Taiwan should China attacks. Among adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 51.7% believe the U.S. intervention is either somewhat or totally unlikely, while a minority of 39.2% believe it is somewhat or totally likely.

Compared to past poll done in November 2024, immediately after Donald Trump's winning of U.S. presidential election, number of those confident in U.S. intervention have noticeably increased, and those lacking confidence have decreased slightly. This is even more surprising given the [major breakup](#) in the relationship between the U.S. and Ukraine since Trump's presidency, with many [international media and pundits](#) alarmingly (but ultimately erroneously) predicted Taiwanese public would be alarmed by the U.S.-Ukraine development.

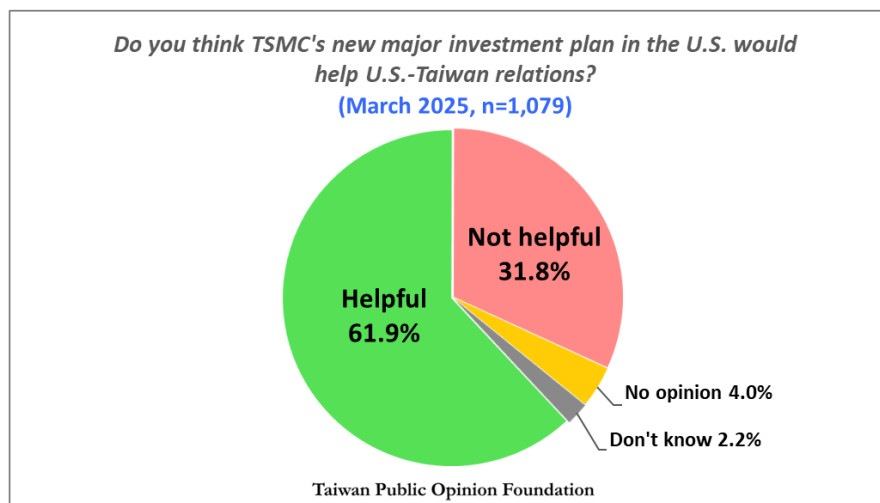


5. TSMC, Taiwan's semiconductor giant, [announced](#) on March 3 together with U.S. President Donald Trump that it would add an additional \$100 billion USD worth of investment in the U.S. This move sparked a major debate in Taiwan as many are worried that the increased TSMC involvement in the U.S. would reduce the

world, and in particular the U.S. reliance on Taiwan-manufactured semiconductors. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a slim majority of 43.8% view the announcement negatively, while a slim minority of 42.8% view it positively. This means that Taiwanese public are almost equally divided on the merit of TSMC's new investment decision in the U.S, with some seeing it as a threat to Taiwan's interest but others share the ruling government's optimistic view and acceptance of the move.



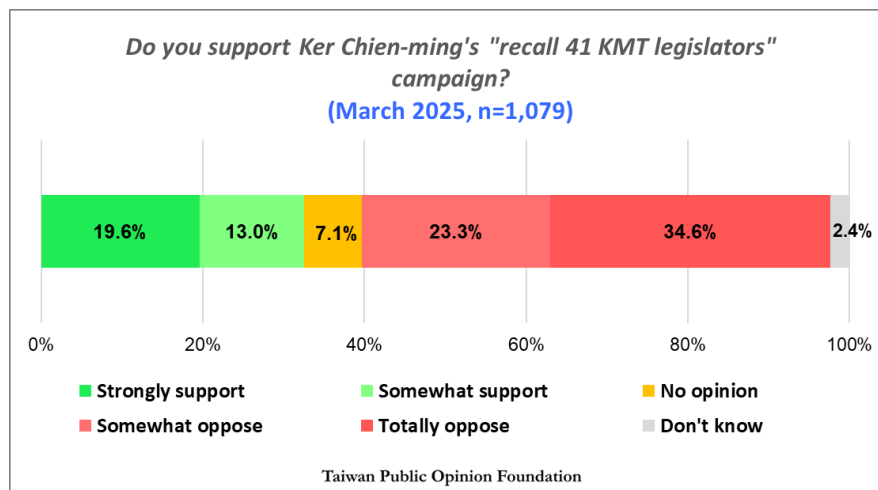
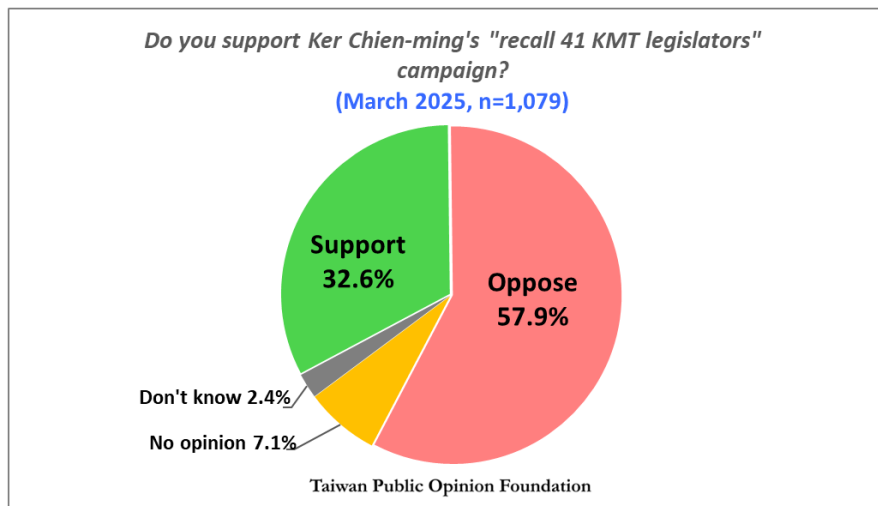
- The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 61.9% believe TSMC's new major investment plan in the U.S. will help U.S.-Taiwan relations, while a minority of 31.8% believe it will not help. This means that a clear majority of Taiwanese see the investment as a boost for U.S.-Taiwan relations rather than a cause for concern.



- The ruling Democratic Progressive Party, specifically its Legislative Yuan minority caucus led by political boss Ker Chien-ming, has launched a nationwide

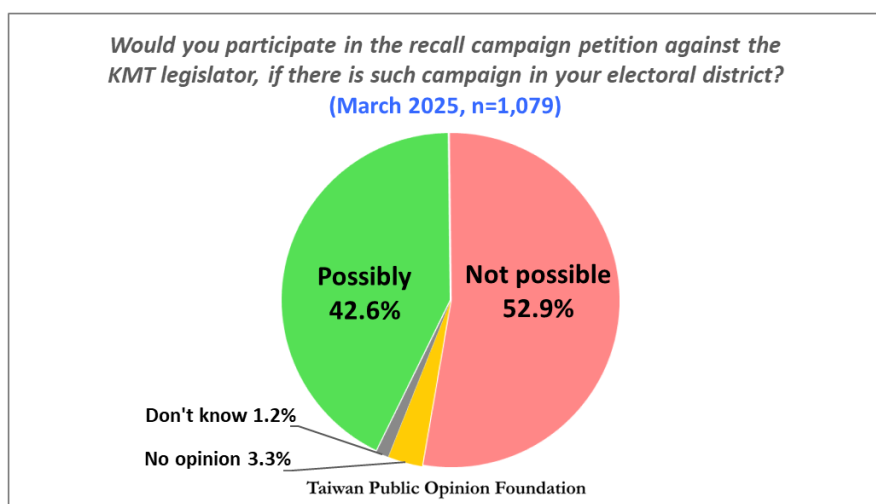
recall campaign against 41 opposition legislators of the Kuomintang Party. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 57.9% oppose the DPP recall campaign, while a minority of 32.6% support it. Notably, 34.6% of the respondents said they are totally opposing to the recall campaign, which is more than the total of those who strongly or somewhat support it.

This means that currently the majority of Taiwanese public do not support the ruling party's recall campaign, though that minority of 32% who support it are significant and would most likely succeed in passing the first and second stages of the recall petition requirements, due to Taiwan's existing recall election law.



- Per Taiwan election recall law, the second stage of a recall campaign must gather valid petitions of at least 10% of the total eligible voters in that district. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 52.9% said they will not participate in the recall petition if they are in one of the districts, while a minority of 42.6% said they will possibly sign a petition. Despite this, the

significant number of those willing to participate in the petition means that many or most of the recall campaigns will pass their second stage due to the low requirement of the election law. The ruling DPP has seized this as an opportunity to change its minority status in the parliament, a move that is surely going to exacerbate Taiwan's partisan divide and infighting and could produce serious damages to Taiwan's democracy.

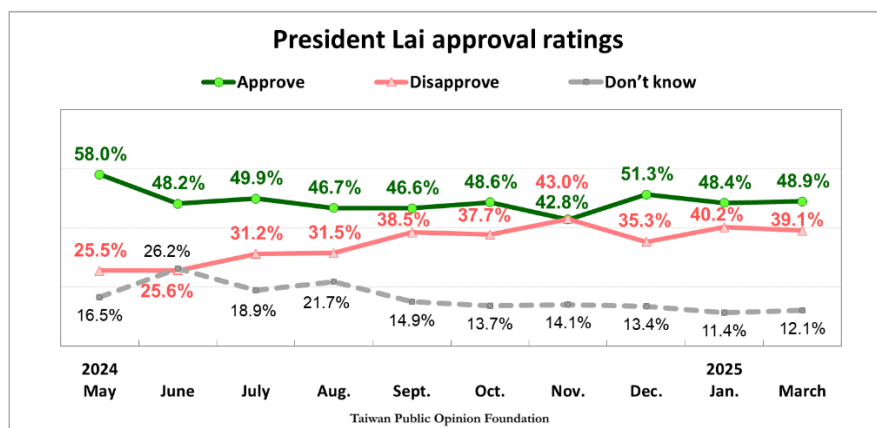
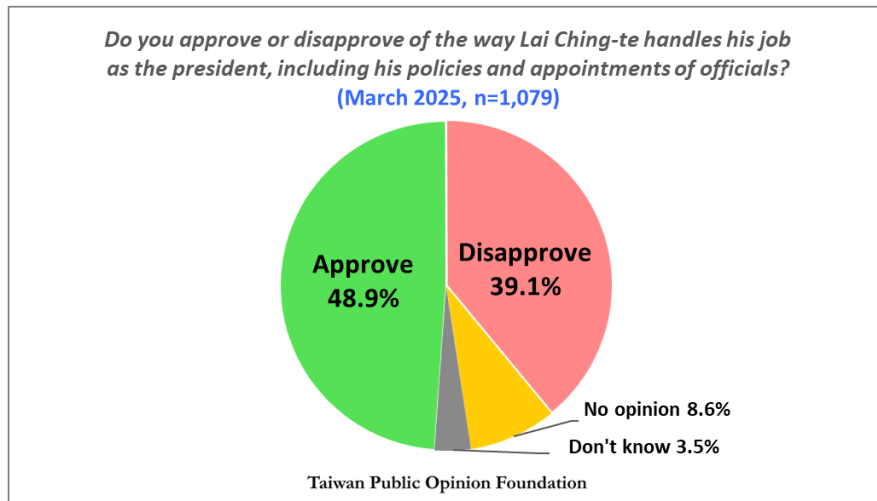


9. On President Lai Ching-te's approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 48.9% said they approve of the way Lai is handling his job as the president, while a minority of 39.1% disapprove of him. Despite the turbulent partisan infighting in the Legislative Yuan and the feud between the ruling party and the opposition parties, Lai's approval rating has hardly changed at all in the past two months and the majority remains approving of his presidency.

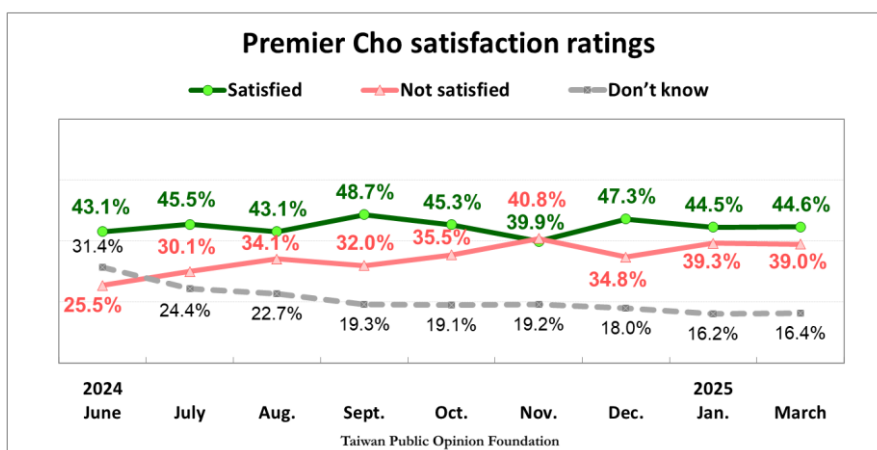
Why have Lai's approval ratings remained strong over the past year? Lai's long term positions on asserting Taiwan's sovereignty, showing toughness toward China are consistent with the prevailing Taiwanese public preferences and contributed to his base of support. Taiwanese public also do not associate Lai with the various controversies the ruling DPP's party caucus in the Legislative Yuan have been involved. The DPP's attempt to recall all of the opposition KMT legislators, for example, are perceived by the public as having been organized by the DPP caucus rather than President Lai himself, despite Lai being the Chairman of the party.

As for the recent U.S. investment announcement by the TSMC, while Taiwanese public are divided as to its overall impact on Taiwan, the majority perceive it as a net positive for U.S.-Taiwan relations, which could also have played a role in

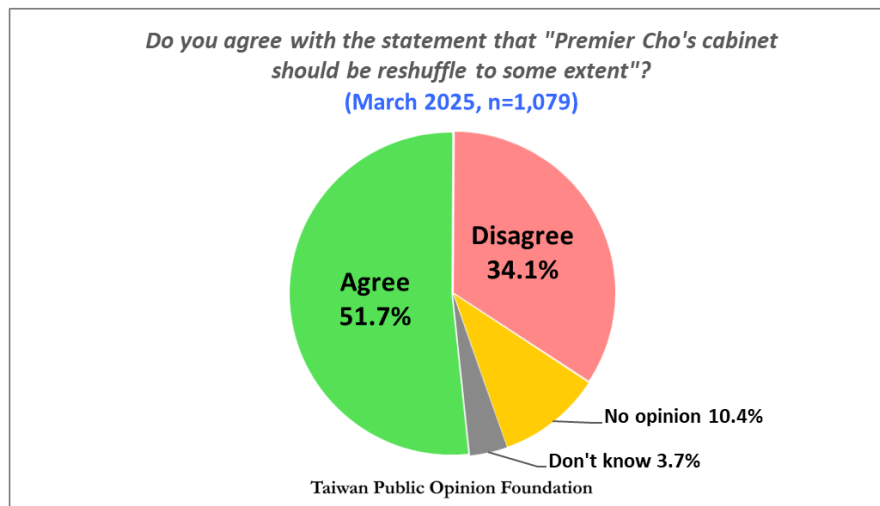
maintaining Lai's approval rating.



10. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 44.6% said they are satisfied with the government cabinet under Premier Cho Jung-tai, while a minority of 39% are not satisfied. Like President Lai's approval rating, the public's views on Premier Cho's cabinet have hardly shifted at all in the past two months, and he maintains an overall positive satisfaction rating.



11. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 51.7% agree with the statement that Premier Cho's central government cabinet should be reshuffled to some extent, while a minority of 34.1% disagree. Almost a year into office, Cho's cabinet has met a political stymie with the Legislative Yuan being controlled by the opposition majority, and the public do seem to share the sentiment that some reshuffle of the government cabinet is needed.



12. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 37.3% support the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 20.5% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 13.5% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 1.5% support the New Power Party (NPP), and 25% respondents identified themselves as independent. Compared to January, there has not been much change to the party affiliation level in the past two months. While the ruling DPP government has been stymied in the Legislative Yuan, it still saw its support increase slightly and is now ready to rally that significant though still minority partisan support to engage in the unprecedented mass recall campaigns against the KMT.

On the other hand, the KMT continues to see its support stagnate at around low 20% mark in the past several months, despite being the majority coalition party in the Legislative Yuan. While the Taiwan People's Party continues to maintain a stable 13% level of support.

