



Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation

October 2021 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

October 26, 2021

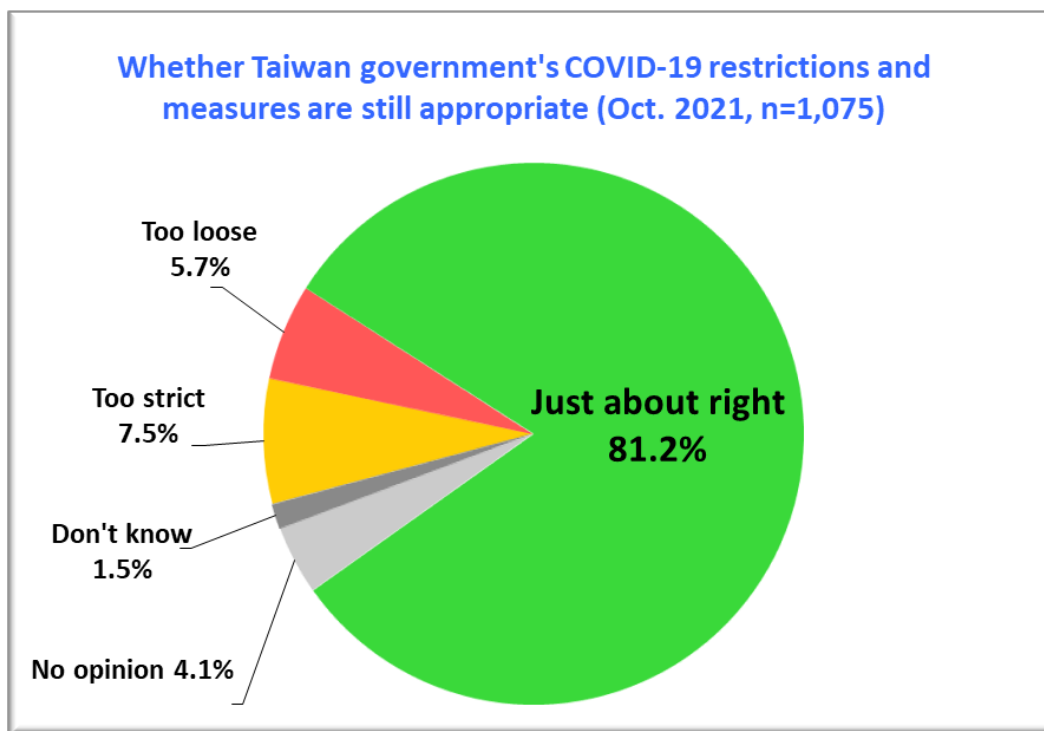
Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its October 2021 nation-wide poll. This marks the 62nd monthly survey conducted by the TPOF aimed at tracking the development and changes in Taiwan’s public opinion. The [full release](#) in Chinese language is available on our official website www.tpof.org.

How the Survey was Conducted

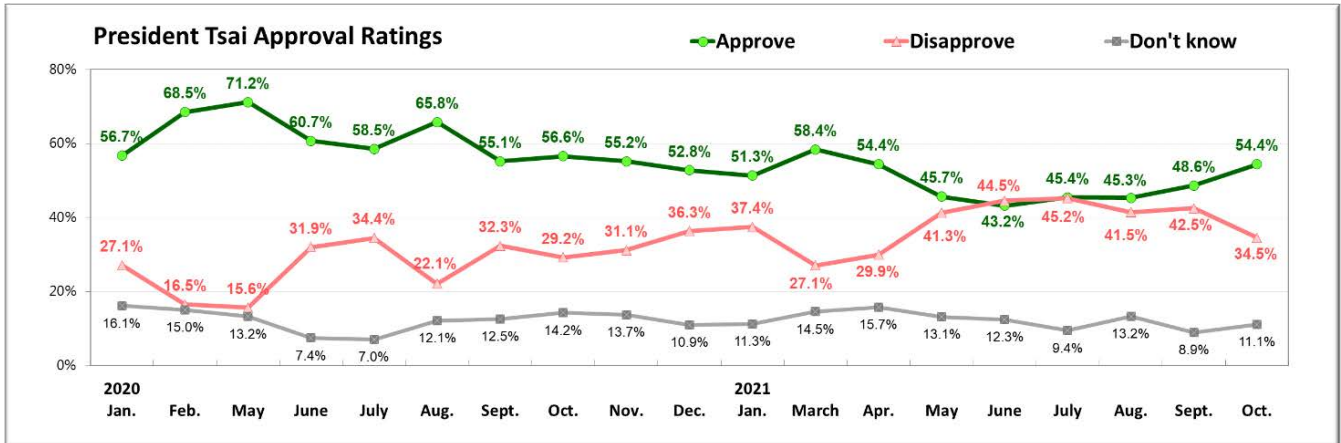
This survey was conducted on October 18-20, 2021. Sample size is 1,075. Adults 20 years of age and older residing in Taiwan were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline numbers were drawn through random digit dialing system. The samples were demographically weighted to adjust for gender, 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:

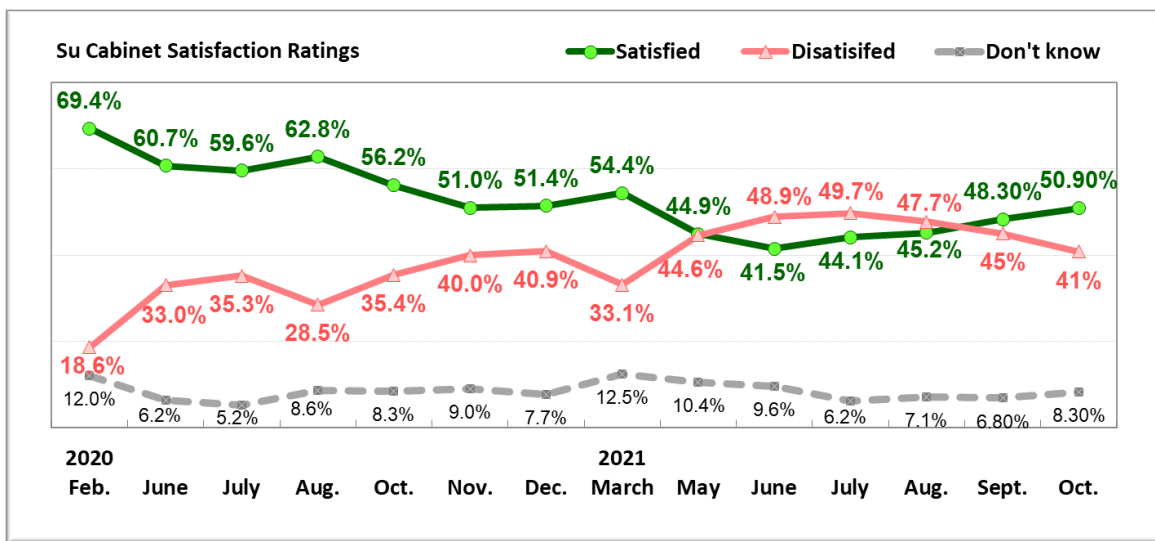
1. After a serious COVID-19 outbreak started in May, Taiwan finally saw reported cases gone down substantially in recent months while the government has been gradually lifting certain restrictions but keeping others intact. Taiwan still implements stringent border restrictions which include a mandatory 14-day quarantine on all arrivals, and a ban on most foreign visitors. The continuing of these restrictions has been called into question by some, most notably by [several foreign missions](#) in Taiwan. Concerning Taiwanese public's views of the government's current COVID-19 measures, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 7.5% think they are "too strict", 5.7% think they are "too loose", while an overwhelming majority of 81.2% think they are "just about right". This means the current measures are still well-received by the public and there is little popular support for a drastic lifting of the border restrictions.



2. Concerning the Presidential job approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 15.5% rated strongly approve, 38.9% somewhat approve, 21.4% somewhat disapprove, and 13.1% strongly disapprove. Overall, a majority of 54.4% approved of the way Tsai Ing-wen is handling her job as the President, while a minority of 34.5% expressed disapproval. This indicates Tsai's approval rating has fully recovered from the low point in the months following the May 2021 COVID outbreak.



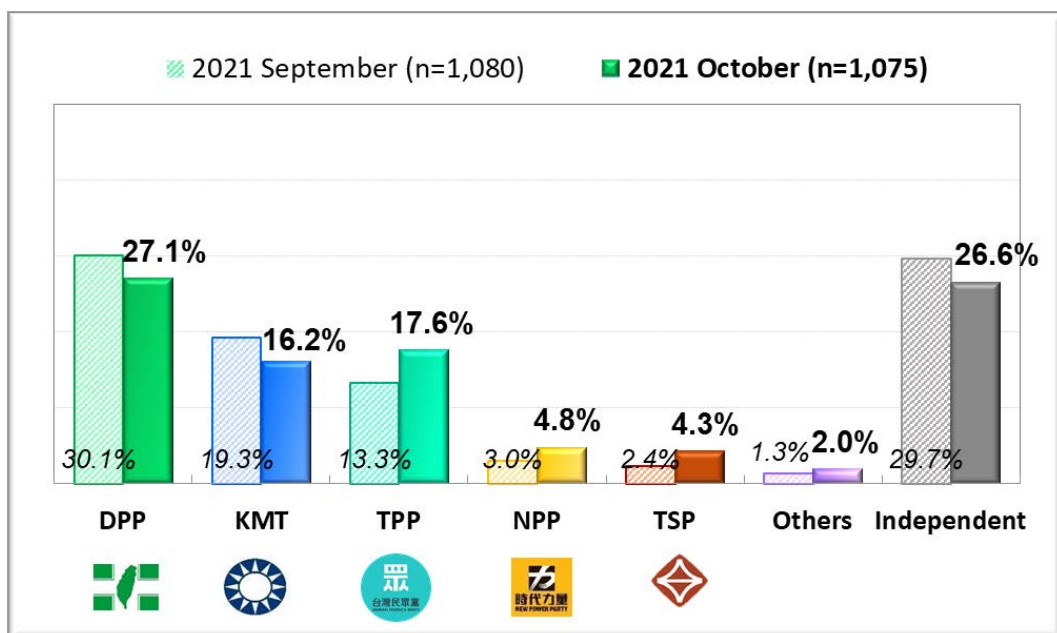
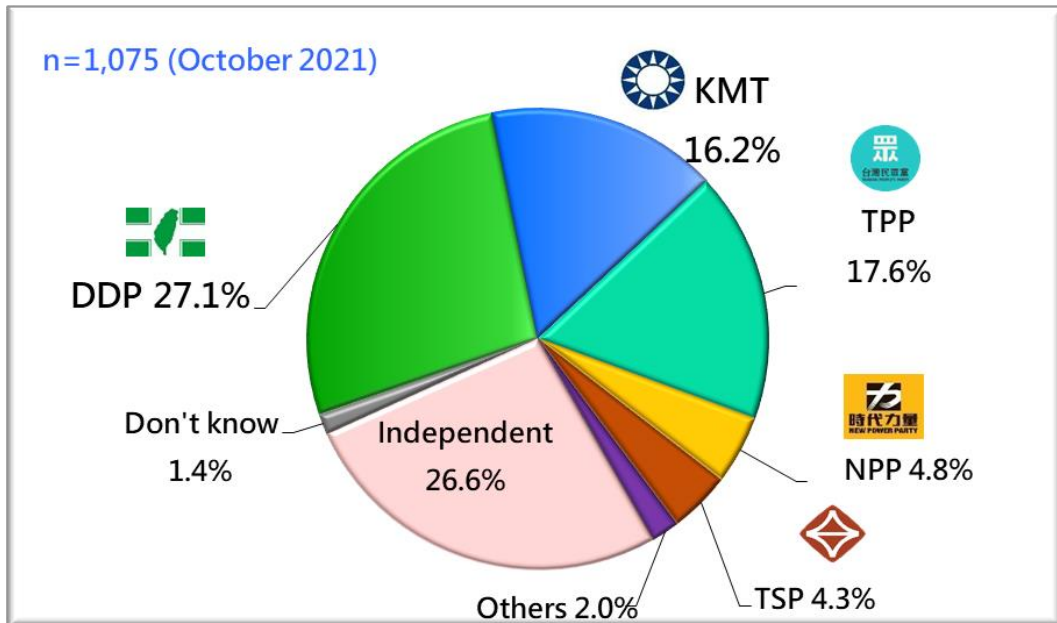
3. Regarding the performance of Premier Su Tseng-chang cabinet, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 50.9% were satisfied of the way Su cabinet is handling the government, while the other 40.8% were not satisfied. This means that in terms of Taiwan’s public opinion, the Su cabinet has fully recovered from the low point in the months following the May 2021 COVID outbreak, and more than half of the Taiwanese are now satisfied with Su cabinet’s handling of the central government matters.



4. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 27.1%% said they support the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 16.2%% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 17.6% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 4.8% support the New Power Party (NPP), 4.3% support the Taiwan State-building Party (TSP), and 26.6% respondents identified as independents. Most surprisingly, partisan support for TPP headed by Taipei City Mayor Ko Wen-je exceeded the KMT for the first time in history, therefore

making the TPP Taiwan's second most popular political party temporarily.

We also see Taiwan State-building Party's support reached a new high at 4.3%, which happened just days before the voting day of October 23, a high-profile recall election of TSP's only sitting legislator Chen Po-wei who [eventually lost](#) and became the first legislator in Taiwan's history to be recalled through popular vote.



Taiwan's National Referendums:

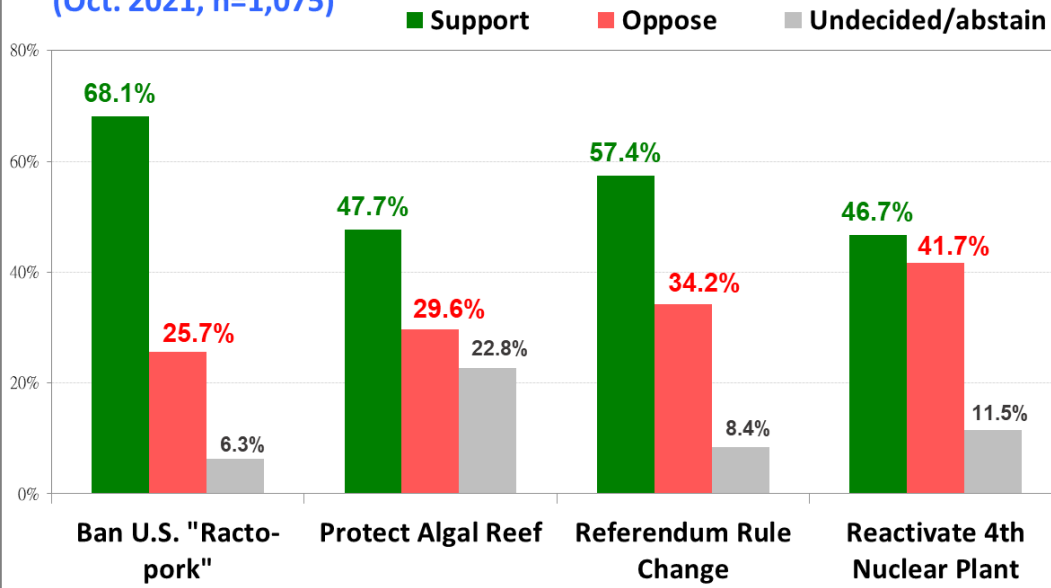
Taiwan's Central Election Commission has declared December 18, 2021 as the date that the government would finally hold four national referendums that have been legally forwarded by citizens' initiatives. Originally scheduled for August 28, the referendums were postponed by the ruling government in July citing COVID-19 pandemic as the reason for delaying the vote.

Previously, TPOF's [monthly opinion poll in May](#) found three out of the four propositions received clear majority support, and only the proposition to reactivate nuclear power plant was a near tie.

5. Concerning the upcoming national referendum on the proposal to reinstate import ban on pork from the United States containing controversial additive ractopamine, 68.1% said they would vote to support a ban, 25.7% said they would oppose a ban, 1.5% undecided, 1.1% abstain, 3.7% do not know or declined to answer.
6. Concerning the upcoming national referendum on the proposal to protect the algal reef ecosystem in Taoyuan against the central government's construction plan for a natural gas receiving terminal there, 47.7% said they would vote to support protecting the algae reef, 29.6% said they would oppose, 6.1% undecided, 2.2% abstain, 14.5% do not know or declined to answer.
7. Concerning the upcoming national referendum on the proposal to reform referendum rules that would mandate future referendum elections to be held on the same dates as general elections, 57.4% said they would vote to support the proposed reform, 34.2% said they would oppose, 1.7% undecided, 1.1% abstain, 5.6% do not know or declined to answer.
8. Concerning the upcoming national referendum on the proposal to reactivate the unfinished Fourth Nuclear Power Plant (also known as Lungmen Nuclear Power Plant), 46.7% said they would vote to support its reactivation, 41.7% said they would oppose, 3.7% undecided, 1.3% abstain, 6.6% do not know or declined to answer.

It should be noted that all four propositions are vehemently opposed by the Tsai Ing-wen government and the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). It therefore appears that President Tsai and her ruling clique are on track for a historical defeat of all four referendums judging from the current polling results, provided that the currently observed public opinion trends hold for another two months until December.

Taiwanese public views on upcoming December referendums
(Oct. 2021, n=1,075)



Taiwanese public views on reactivating Fourth Nuclear Power Plant

