



Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation

December 2021 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

December 28, 2021

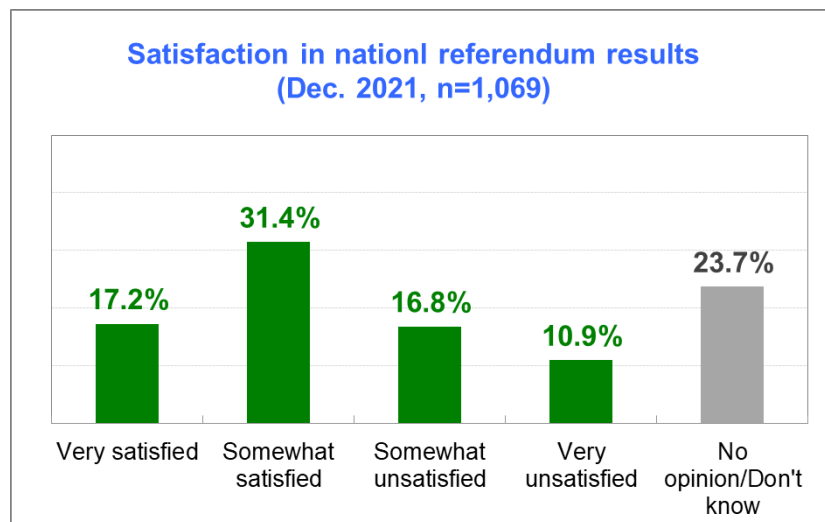
Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its December 2021 nation-wide poll. This marks the 64th monthly survey conducted by the TPOF aimed at tracking the development and changes in Taiwan’s public opinion. The full release in Chinese language is available on our official website www.tpof.org.

How the Survey was Conducted

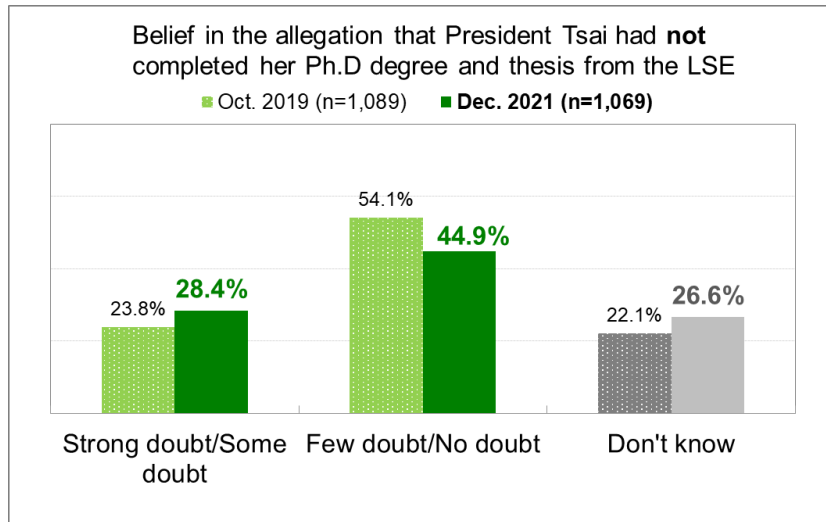
This survey was conducted on December 20-21, 2021, with a sample size of 1,069. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in Taiwan were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline numbers were drawn through random digit dialing system. The samples were demographically weighted to adjust 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 ± 3 percentage points with 95% level of confidence.

Main Findings:

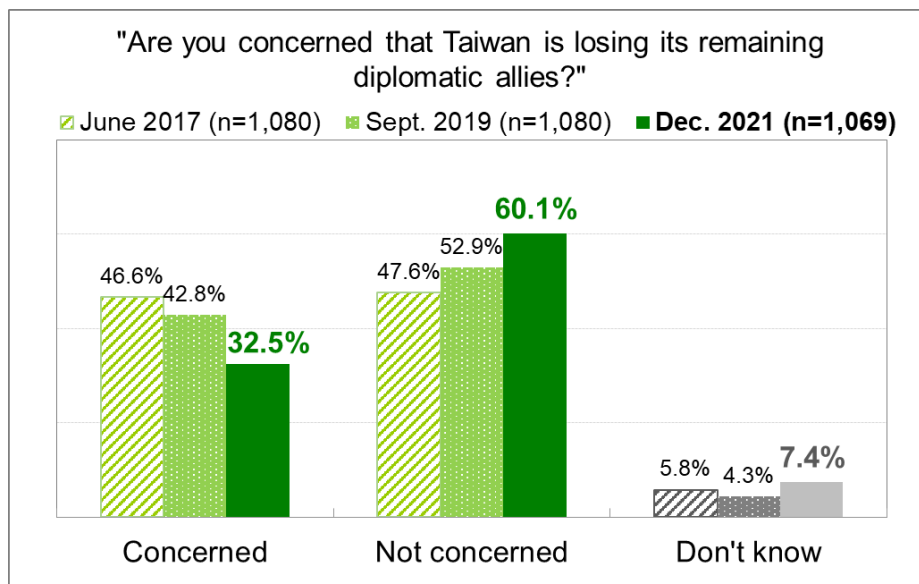
1. On December 18, 2021, Taiwan held a national referendum which saw all four proposals introduced by civil groups and main opposition party rejected within small margins, amidst a low turnout rate of 41.09%. The results were celebrated by the ruling government, which opposed all four proposals and had poured extensive public resources in the campaigning against the proposals, as an endorsement of its governance and policies. Regarding this result, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 18 years and older, a majority of 48.6% said they are satisfied with the result, while a minority of 27.7% said they are not satisfied, while 23.7% said they don't know or have no opinion. This shows that the results of the referendum were accepted by the majority of the Taiwanese public but is nowhere near an overwhelming approval as the ruling government claimed to be.



2. Concerning the years-long allegations regarding the validity and integrity of President Tsai Ing-wen's Doctorate degree and thesis, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 18 years and older, 45% said they have few or no doubt that President Tsai did complete the required thesis and received the doctoral degree from the London School of Economics properly. While 28% said they still harbor some or very strong doubt. Compared to two years ago, people who expressed doubt regarding the President's academic qualifications increased 4.6% while those who believe in the President decreased 9.2%.



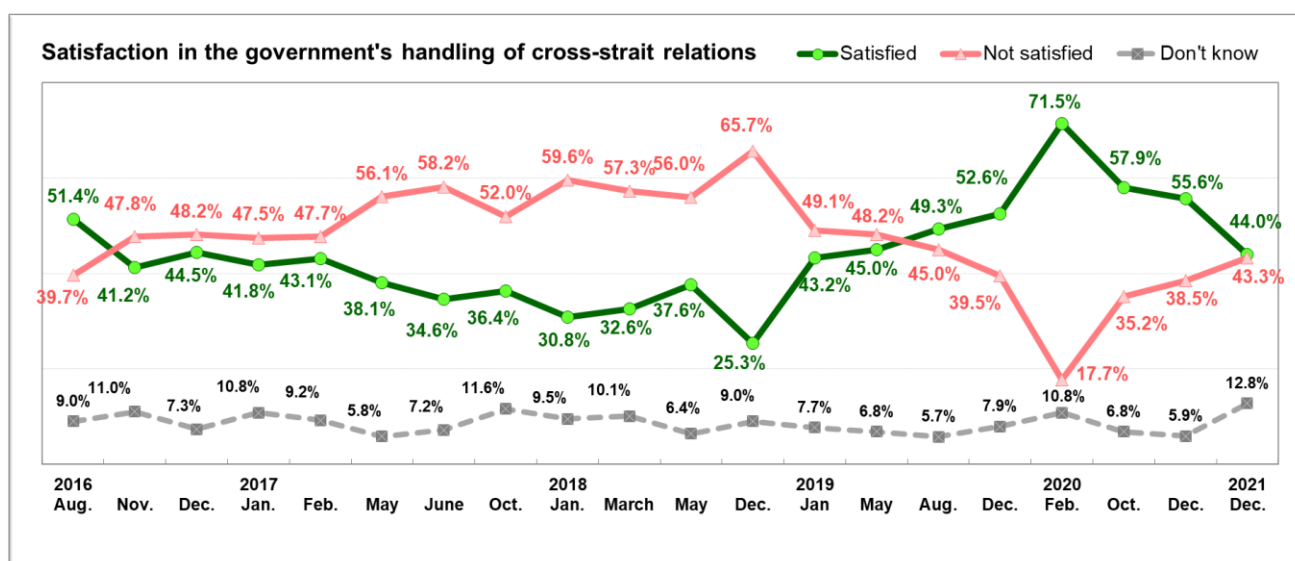
3. On December 10, 2021, Nicaragua became the latest country to [cut formal diplomatic ties](#) with Taiwan in favor of China, leaving Taiwan's number of formal diplomatic allies to barely a dozen. We asked Taiwanese public how they think about the country's dwindling number of diplomatic allies. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 18 years and older, 32.5% said they are concerned that Taiwan is losing its remaining diplomatic allies, while 60.1% said they are not concerned. This shows that a majority of Taiwanese public have become increasingly accustomed to losing diplomatic allies, although significant minority are still worried about the country's international isolation.



4. Concerning Taiwanese public's perception of Taiwan's economic situation throughout 2021, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 18 years and older, 32% said they feel the economy has become worse, 26% said it has become better,

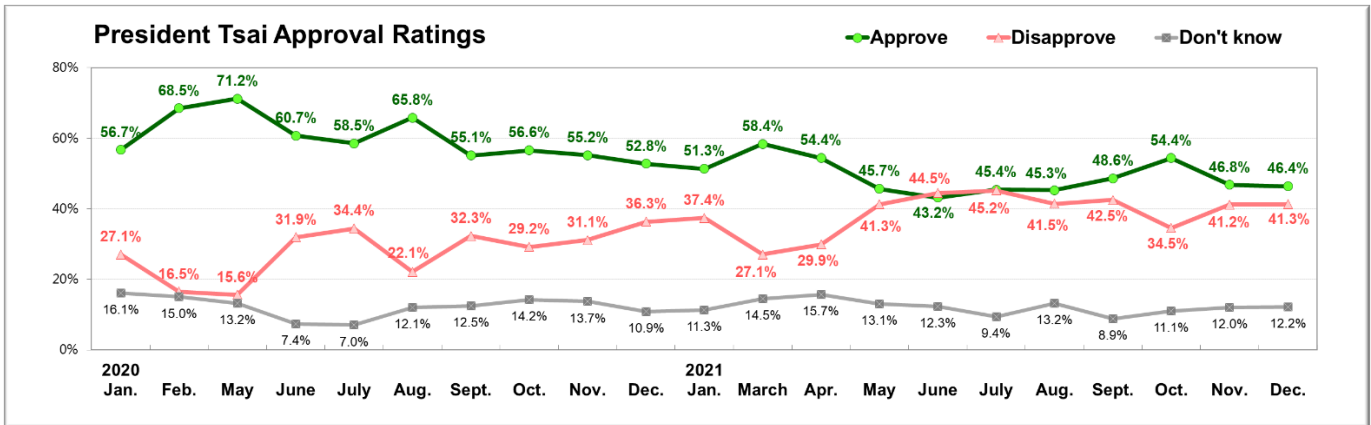
while 38% said it has remained unchanged. This shows that despite the ruling government brandishing a 6% growth in Taiwan's GDP in 2021 as a proof of a booming economy, an overwhelming majority of Taiwanese public still did not feel the economic growth.

5. Concerning Taiwanese public's perception of their personal economic well-being throughout 2021, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 18 years and older, a majority of 59% said they do not feel much has changed, while 24% said they feel it has become worse, and only 15% said it has become better. In other words, an overwhelming majority of Taiwanese have not felt the benefit of the strong economic growth as indicted by the government's published statistics this year.
6. On the ruling DPP government's handling of the cross-strait relations with China, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 18 years and older, 43.3% said they are not satisfied, while 44% said they are satisfied. This shows that the Taiwanese public now has an equally divided view when it comes to the government's handling of relations with China, in sharp contrast to past polls from 2020 in the immediate aftermath of COVID-19 outbreak when mass majority of Taiwanese public approved of the government's dealing with China.

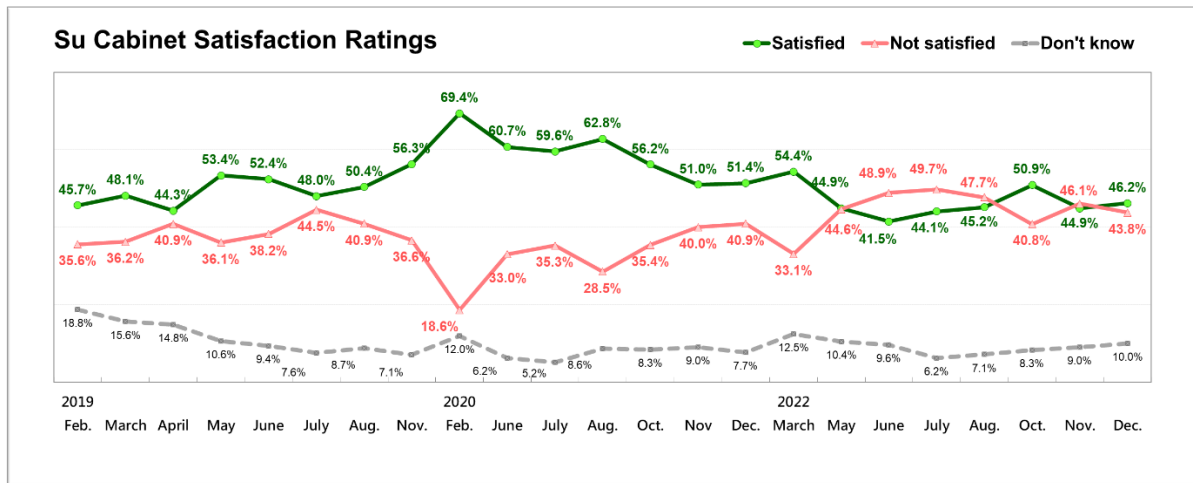


7. Concerning the Presidential job approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 18 years and older, 11.7% rated strongly approve, 34.7% somewhat approve, 23.4% somewhat disapprove, and 17.9% strongly disapprove. Overall, 46.4% approved of the way Tsai Ing-wen is handling her job as the President, while 41.3% expressed disapproval. This result is essentially unchanged from the past month and indicates that the referendum and the marginal victory that the ruling government won has not boosted President Tsai's approval rating to any

significant extent.



- Regarding the performance of Premier Su Tseng-chang cabinet, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 46.2% said they were satisfied of the way Su cabinet is handling the government, while the other 43.8% were not satisfied. This shows that the result of the referendum has had little impact on Su cabinet's satisfaction ratings.



- On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 18 years and older, 31.8%% said they support the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 19.6%% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 12.1% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 2.7% support the New Power Party (NPP), 1.9% support the Taiwan State-building Party (TSP), and 30.6% respondents identified as independents. This shows that in the aftermath of the national referendum major parties successfully rallied more supports at the expense of small parties, while the smallest NPP and TSP suffered the most and are at the brink of becoming irrelevant.

Dec. 2021, n=1,069

