



Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation

July 2022 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

July 19, 2022

Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its July 2022 nation-wide poll. This marks the 71st 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

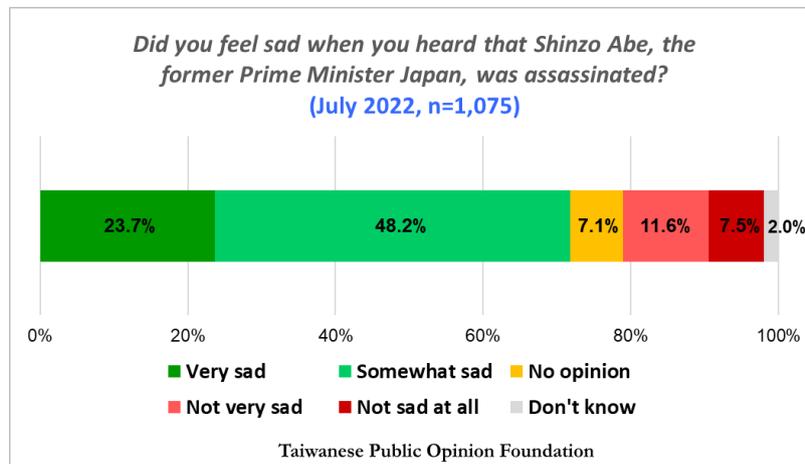
This survey was conducted on July 11-13, 2022, with a sample size of 1,075. Adults 20 years of age and older residing in Taiwan were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline numbers were drawn through random digit dialing system. The samples were demographically weighted to adjust for 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:

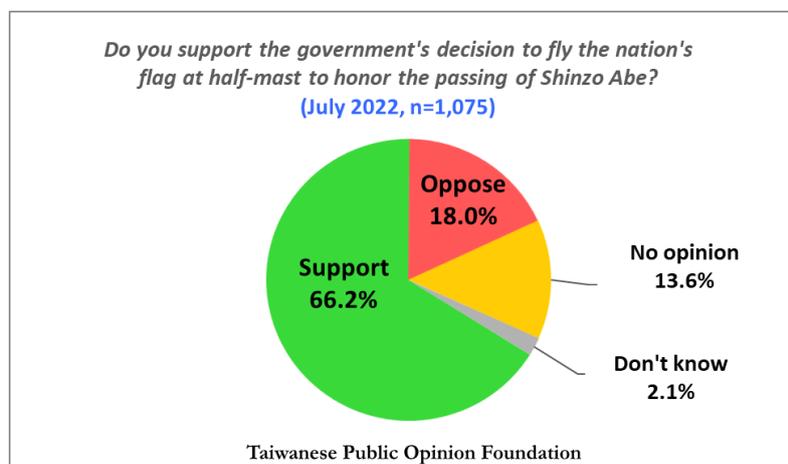
1. Concerning the assassination of Shinzo Abe, the former Prime Minister of Japan noted for his Taiwan-friendly stance and rhetoric, the poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 71.9% said they felt sad

about Abe's death, while only 19.1% said they did not feel sad. It is certainly exceptional that the passing of a foreign politician created such widespread sadness among the Taiwanese people. Some specific observations:

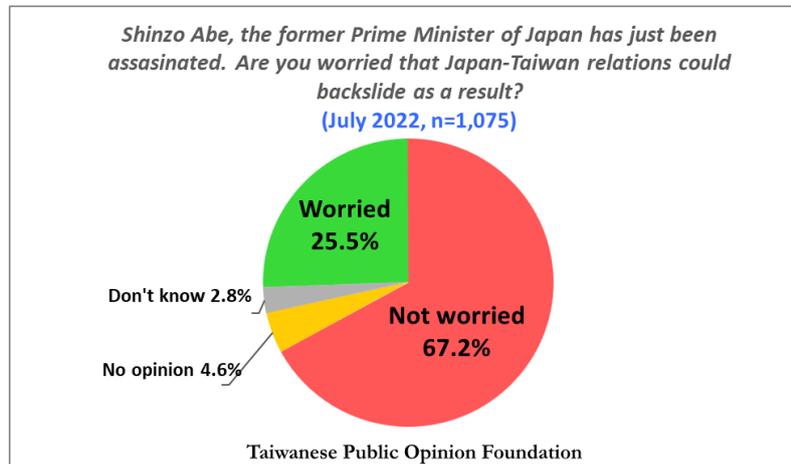
- The majority of supporters of all main political parties said they felt sad about Abe's passing. 89% of Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) supporters, 66% of Kuomintang (KMT) supporters, and 65% of those identified as independents said they felt sad.
- In terms of social-ethnic subgroups, both Hoklo Taiwanese and Hakka Taiwanese have more than 75% who felt sad. However, among the Taiwanese mainlanders only 38% felt sad while a majority of 44% didn't.



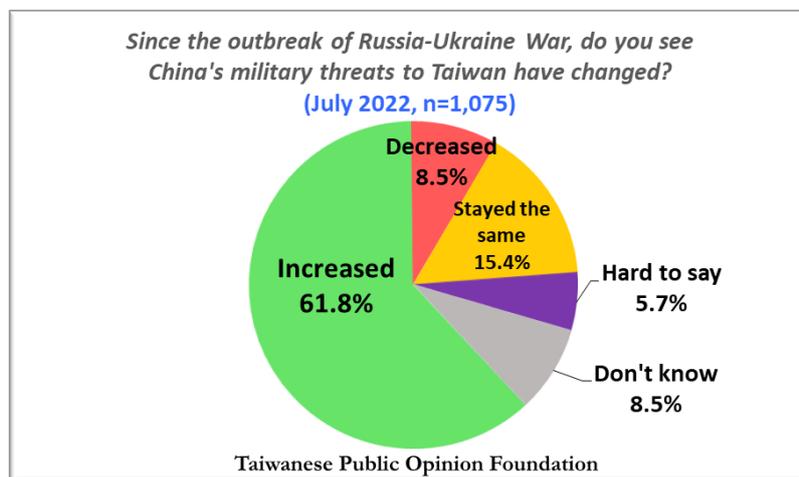
2. Concerning the ruling Tsai Ing-wen government's decision to [fly the nation's flag at half-mast](#) for one day to honor Shinzo Abe's passing, the poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 66.2% supported the government's decision, while 18% opposed it.



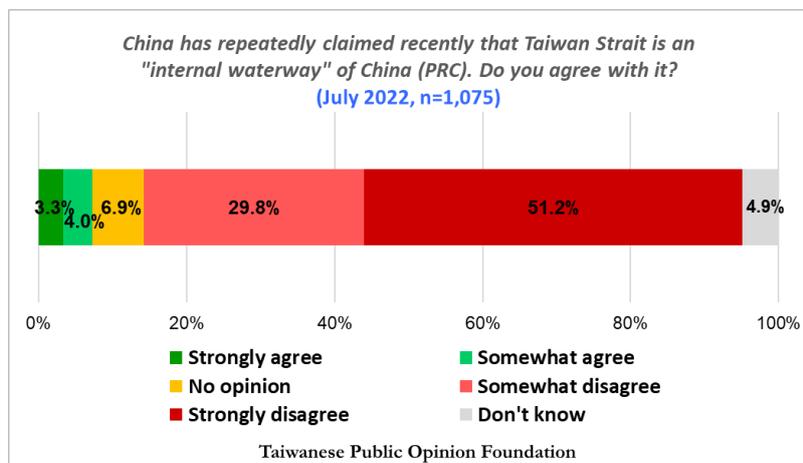
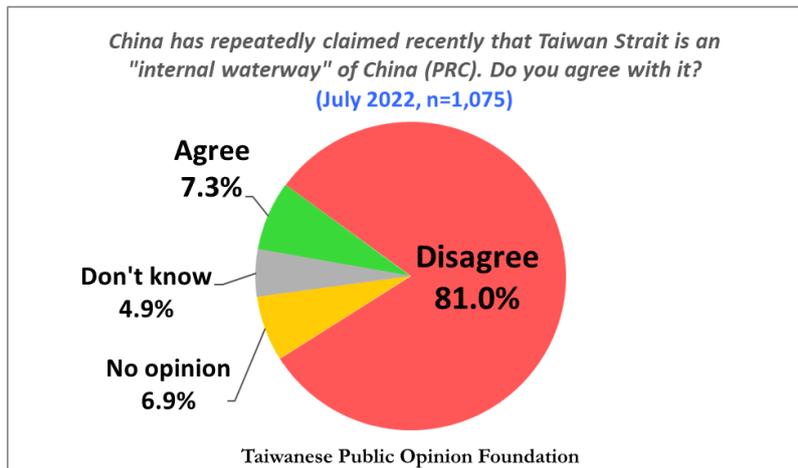
3. Are Taiwanese worried that the passing of Taiwan-friendly Shinzo Abe might impact the current Japan-Taiwan relations negatively? The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 67.2% said they are not worried and only 25.5% are worried.



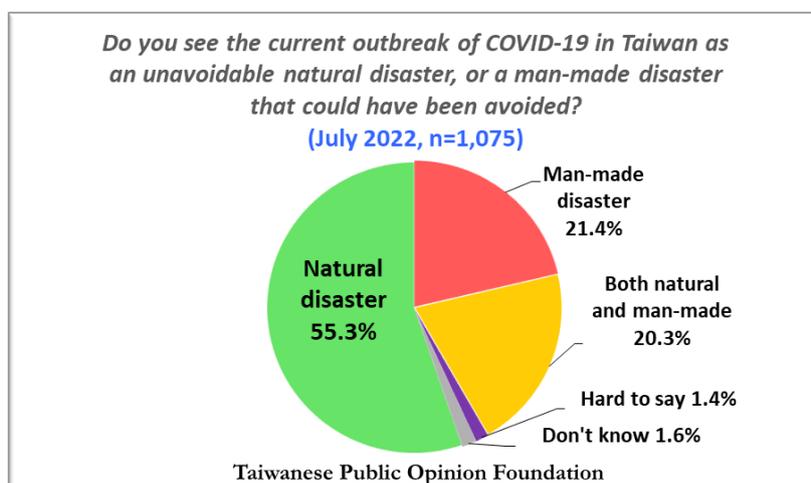
4. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 61.8% said they felt China's military threats to Taiwan have increased since the outbreak of Russia-Ukraine War, while 15.4% said the threats have stayed the same, and only 8.5% said threats have decreased. In other words, most Taiwanese public today are quite aware of the military threats posed by China.



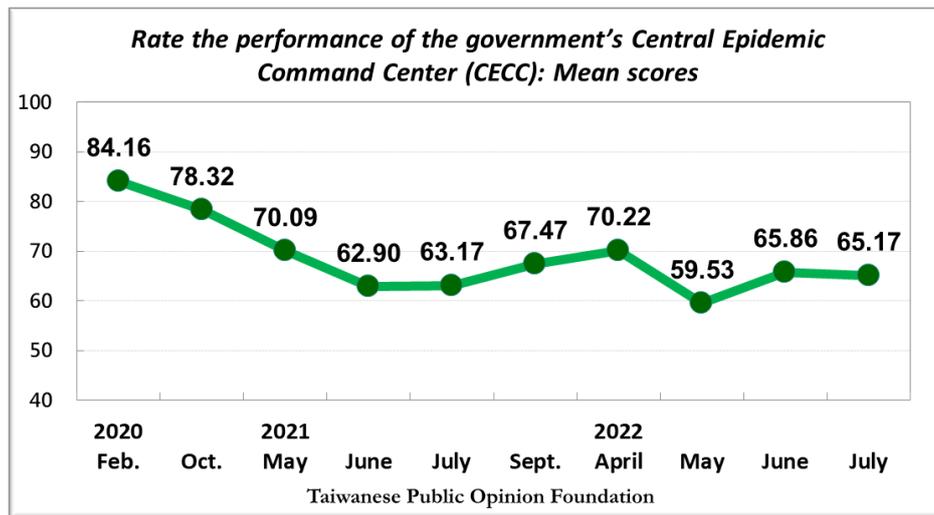
5. Concerning controversies over [Chinese officials' recent statements](#) claiming that Taiwan Strait is an internal waterway of China (PRC), the poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 81% disagreed with the statement and only 7.3% agreed with it.



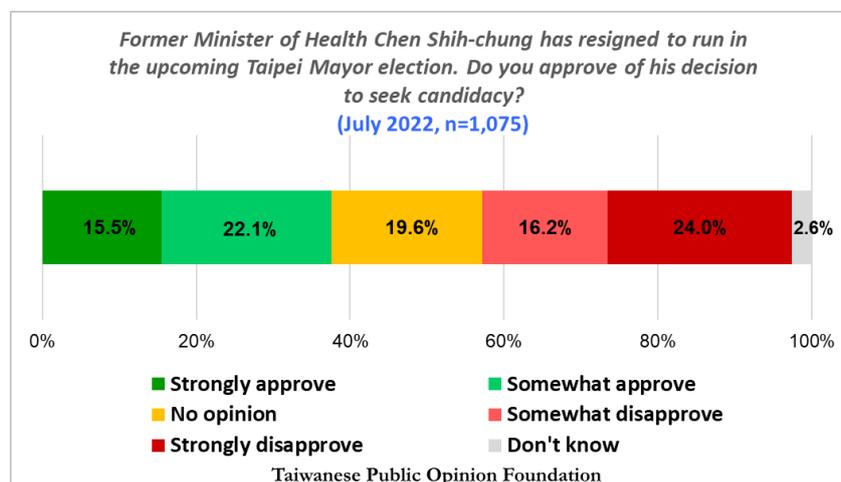
6. Concerning Taiwan’s ongoing COVID outbreak with the Omicron variant of the virus which have infected millions and killed thousands, the poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 55.3% attributed it as a “natural disaster” while 21.4% attributed it entirely as a man-made disaster that could have been avoided. This means that Taiwan’s majority still does not blame the government for the recent spikes in COVID infections.



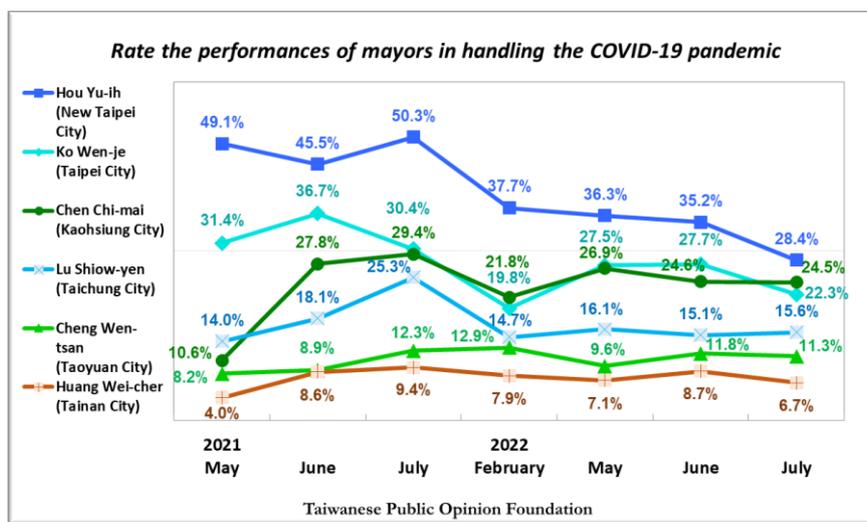
7. How do Taiwanese rate the performance of the government’s Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC), which until recently was headed by former health minister Chen Shih-chung? The poll finds on a scale of 0-100, 47.7% of those surveyed rated CECC a score of above 60, 22.1% rated a passing score of 60, while 25.8% rated failing scores. The mean score is 65.17. This result is largely unchanged from our poll in June.



8. Former Minister of Health Chen Shih-chung, noted for his leadership of Taiwan’s Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) throughout the COVID pandemic, has [recently resigned](#) from his posts as he has been drafted by the ruling party DPP to run in the upcoming Taipei Mayor election. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 37.6% said they approved of Chen seeking the candidacy, however a majority of 40.2 disapproved of it. Considering the relatively high marks Chen’s CECC received for its pandemic fighting efforts, it is interesting to note this has not equally translated to a high support for his Taipei Mayor candidacy.



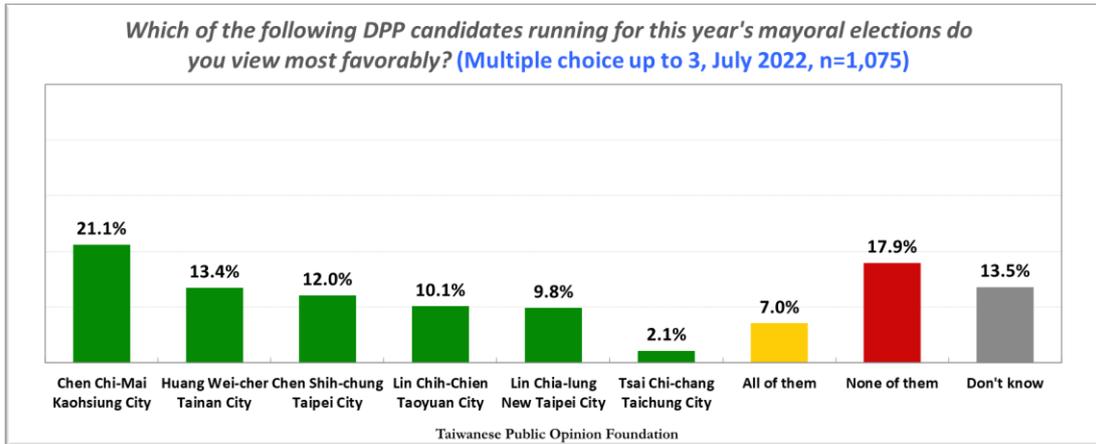
9. How do Taiwanese rate the various mayors in handling the COVID-19 pandemic? The poll finds among adults aged 20 years and older, New Taipei City Mayor Hou Yu-ih retained the top spot with 28.4%, Kaohsiung City Mayor Chen Chi-mai came second with 24.5%, Taipei City Mayor Ko Wen-je at 22.3%, Taichung City Mayor Lu Shioh-yen at 15.6%, Taoyuan City Mayor Cheng Wen-tsan at 11.3%, Tainan City Mayor Huang Wei-cher came last with just 6.7% approval. Noticeably, while Hou still retained the top spot, his ratings have been falling for months, the 6.8% decrease this month was likely due to recent controversy surrounding the death of a 2-year-old toddler from COVID, which the DPP alleged as caused by slow ambulance response time in New Taipei City.



10. Taiwan is scheduled to hold local elections in November this year that will elect city mayors, county magistrates, city councilors, and other positions. For mayoral elections, we asked respondents which of the Democratic Progressive Party candidates they view most favorably, regardless of where they live. The poll finds that on a national level:

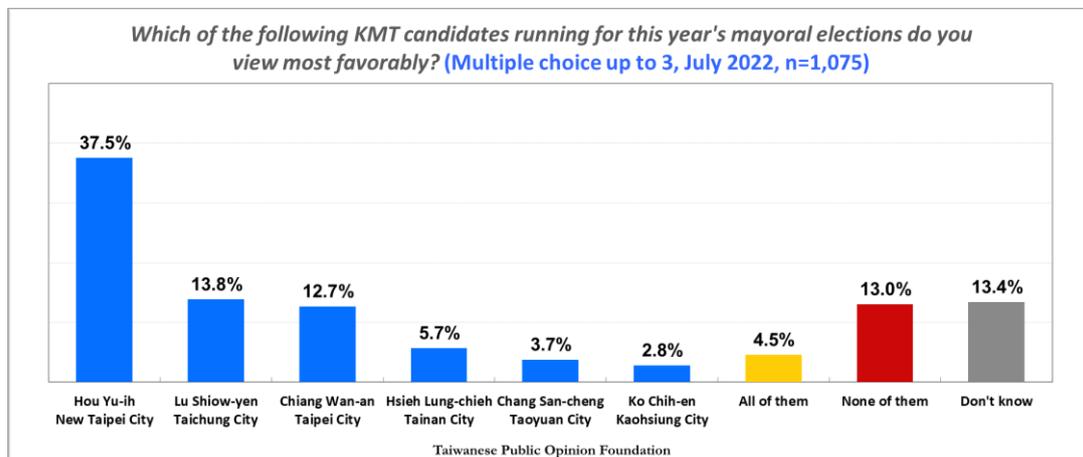
- Incumbent Kaohsiung City mayor Chen Chi-Mai is viewed most favorably among all DPP candidates, a sign of national popularity and strength for his reelection campaign.
- Recently resigned Minister of Health Chen Shi-chung only came at third. For a former official that was once glorified by the ruling government as the star of Taiwan's COVID pandemic fighting efforts who held high approvals for years in that position, Chen's currently lackluster reception after he formally declared candidacy is a sign that he is far from certain to win the Taipei City mayor election.

- Tsai Chi-chang who will challenge the incumbent KMT Taichung City mayor Lu scored last in terms of national favorability. It remains to be seen how he can improve profile and favorability among voters.

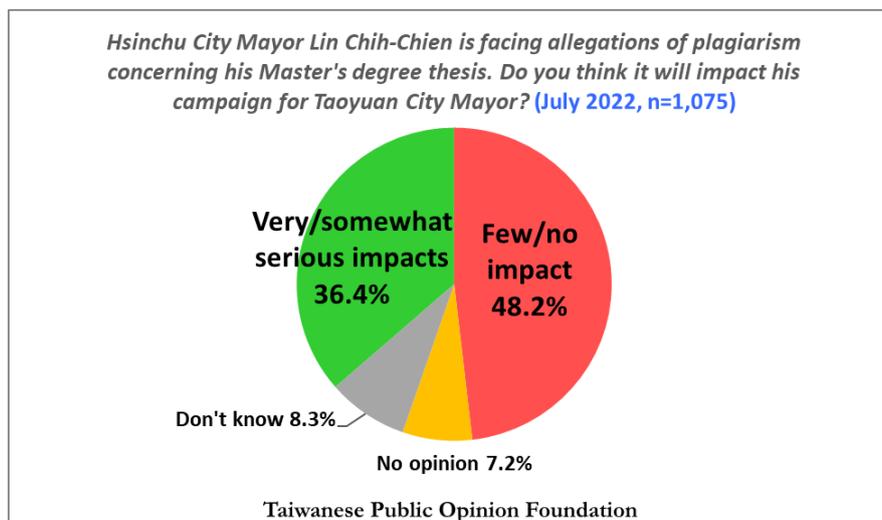


11. As for KMT mayoral candidates, the poll also finds several important points:

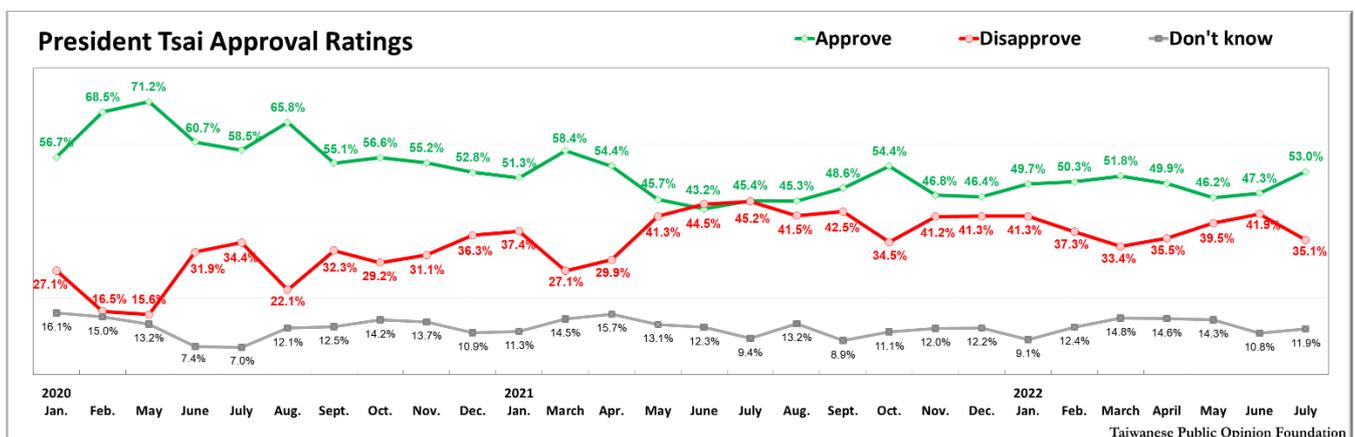
- Ho Yu-ih's still sky-high favorability is almost higher than all other KMT candidates combined, shows that he is KMT's top superstar politician nationally, despite having been trending downward over the past years.
- Chiang Wan-an, a high profile KMT legislator who has been nominated to seek Taipei Mayor seat, is still lagging behind incumbent KMT mayors in terms of national favorability.
- KMT candidates for Tainan City, Taoyuan City, Kaohsiung City all have very low national favorability. This could be due to these candidates being relatively less-known nationally, or that these campaigns are still at an early stage.



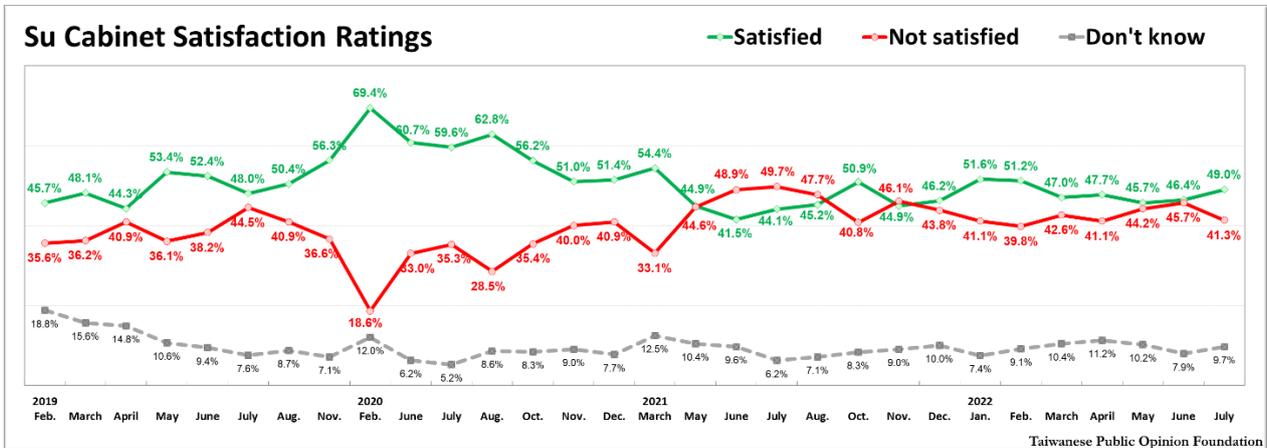
12. The current Hsinchu City Mayor Lin Chih-chien, who has been nominated by the DPP to run for the upcoming Taoyuan City Mayor election, is now embroiled in a [scandal](#) concerning his Master's degree thesis, which his critics found evidences of academic plagiarism. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 48.2% thought this controversy would have few or no impact on his campaign, while 36.4% thought it would have some or very serious impacts. As official investigations by the university and institutions involved are still ongoing, it remains to be seen to what extent the final verdict will taint his reputation and mayoral campaign, if at all.



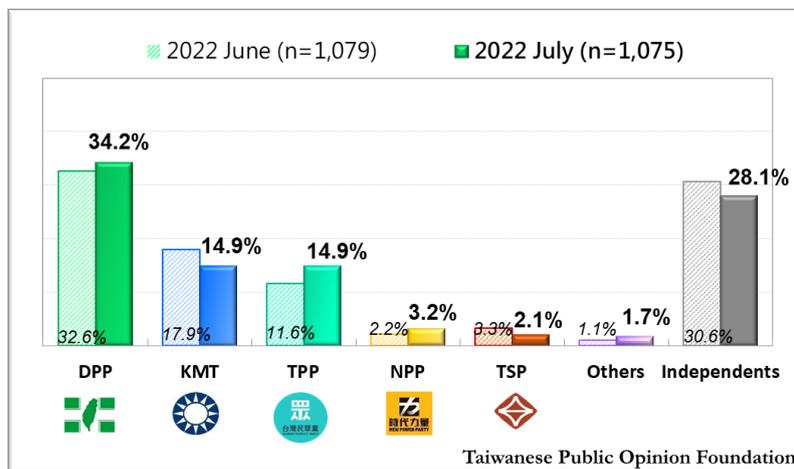
13. On the Presidential job approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 53% approved of the way Tsai Ing-wen is handling her job as the President, while a minority of 35% expressed disapproval. Several recent events could have contributed to Tsai's higher ratings, such as the assassination of Japan's Shinzo Abe, China's import ban on Taiwan's fish, and the frequent visits by high level U.S. officials.



14. On the performance of Premier Su Tseng-chang cabinet, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 49% were satisfied of the way Su cabinet is handling the government, while the other 41.3% were not satisfied.

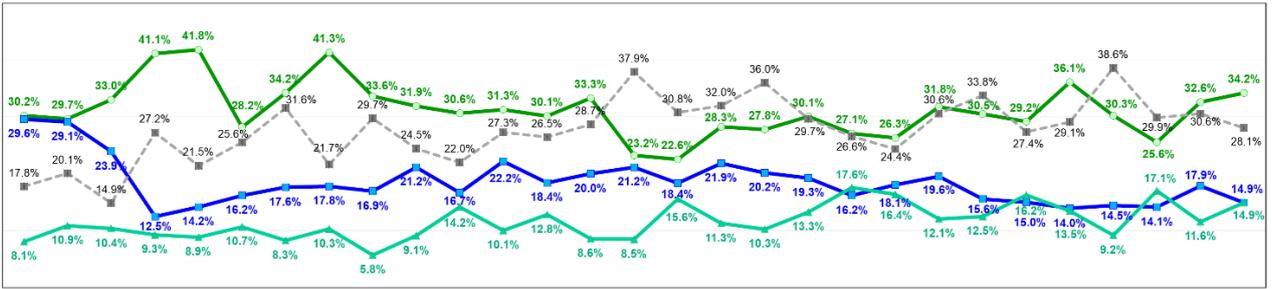


15. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 34.2% said they support the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 14.9% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 14.9% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 3.2% support the New Power Party (NPP), 2.1% support the Taiwan State-building Party (TSP), and 28.1% respondents identified themselves as independents. As Taiwan heading into November local elections DPP's continuing strength in partisan affiliation could help its local races especially when considering the low supports for KMT and TPP. KMT's small decline this month could be due to the party's recent infighting over the responses to Shinzo Abe's assassination. While the KMT chairman Eric Chu embraced a clear pro-U.S., anti-Beijing, Japan-friendly foreign policy position and ordered the party to honor Japan's Abe by flying flags at half-mast, the decision was harshly criticized by some within the KMT as too "pro-Japan".



Taiwanese Partisan Affiliation 2019 - 2022

—○— DPP —■— KMT —▲— TPP —■— Independents



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