



Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation

October 2022 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

October 18, 2022

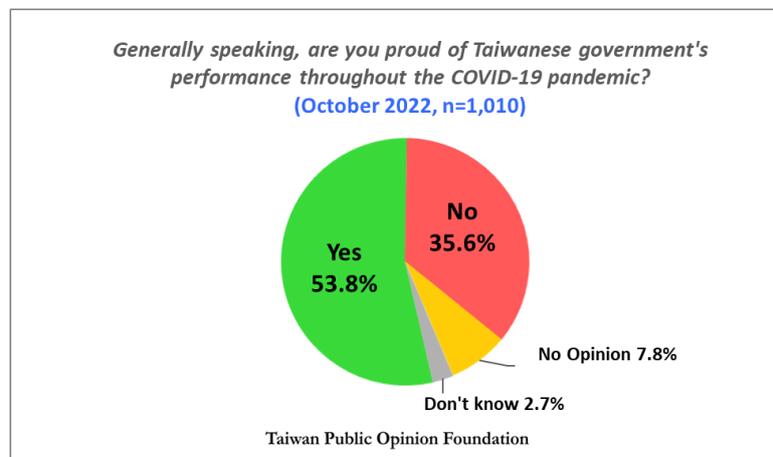
Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its September 2022 nation-wide poll. This marks the 74th monthly survey conducted by the TPOF aimed at tracking the development and changes in Taiwan’s public opinion. The [full release](#) in Chinese language is available on our [official website](#).

How the Survey was Conducted

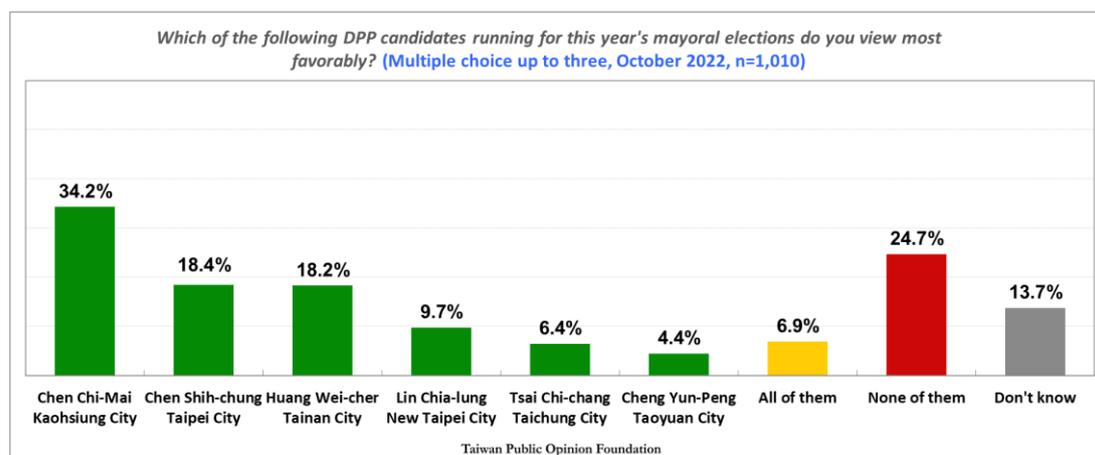
This survey was conducted on October 10-11, 2022, with a sample size of 1,010. Adults 20 years of age and older residing in Taiwan were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline numbers were drawn through random digit dialing system. The samples were demographically weighted to adjust 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 ± 3.08 percentage points with 95% level of confidence.

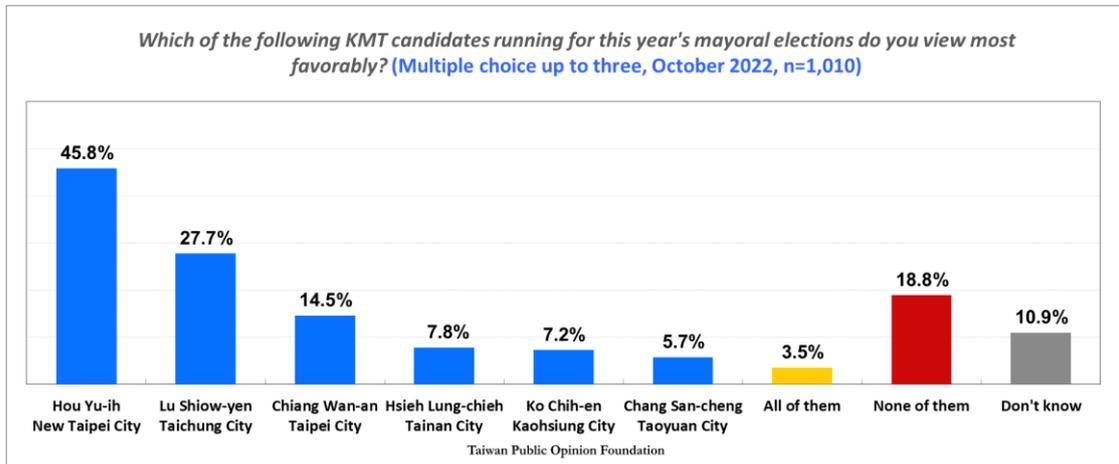
Main Findings:

1. On October 13 Taiwanese government followed through its earlier announcement and [officially opened borders](#), lifted the majority of its COVID-19 quarantine requirements after 2.5 years of strict border measures. How does this impact Taiwanese views on the government's overall performance in dealing with COVID? The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 53.8% said they are proud of the government's performance, while 35.6% answered negatively. Comparing to our poll last month there is a 5.1% increase in positive view and reflects the public's approval of the long-anticipated border opening and the normalization of life under COVID.



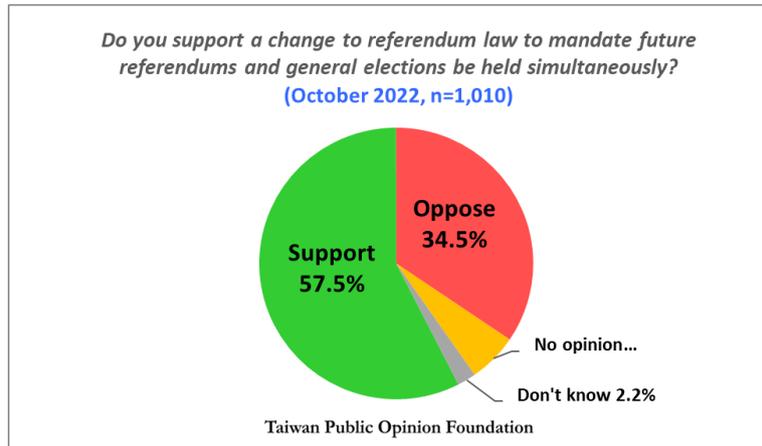
2. Taiwan is scheduled to hold local elections in November this year that will elect city mayors, county magistrates, city councilors, and other positions. For mayoral elections, we asked respondents separately which of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and Kuomintang (KMT) candidates they view most favorably. Note the following are results from national polling and hence they reflect the views of not just local electorates but nation-wide public favorability of these candidates.





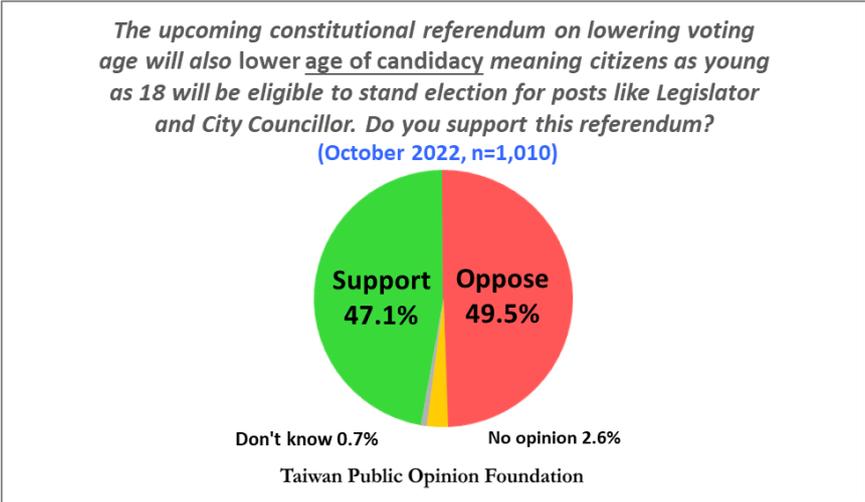
3. The incumbent New Taipei City Mayor Hou Yu-ih has been widely speculated as a potential Presidential candidate for the Kuomintang Party (KMT) for 2024 race. Hou is also running for mayoral re-election this year (a four-years term) and has not publicly confirmed nor declined his plan to seek presidency in 2024. We asked whether Taiwanese public approve of him running for mayor this year knowing that he could potentially leave the office early should he seek and win presidential race in 2024. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a slim majority of 44.3% said they find Hou's attitude as acceptable while a minority of 42.4% find it unacceptable.

4. We asked respondents whether Taiwan's referendum law should be changed to mandate future referendum elections be held on the same date as general elections. This was a proposition that was rejected in December 2021 referendums amidst a low turnout rate. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 57.5% support holding referendum and general elections simultaneously, while a minority of 34.5% oppose it. This means that despite the failed referendum in 2021, Taiwanese public still support the idea that referendum election should be tied to general election to increase participation and turnout rate.



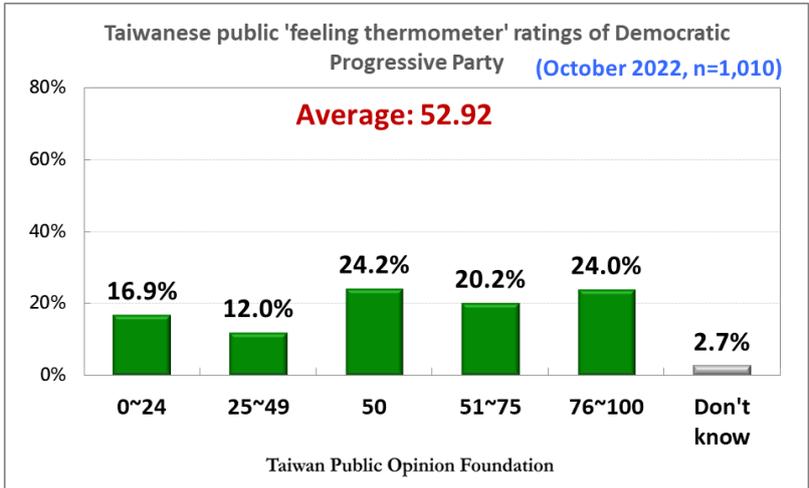
- Concurrent to the November local elections, Taiwanese voters will also vote on a single constitutional referendum that would simultaneously lower voting age *and* minimum age of candidacy for most local and parliamentary offices to just 18 (excluding President, Vice President, mayors and county magistrates). While the lowering of voting age from 20 to 18 has wide public support, the part of the referendum that lowers age of candidacy to 18 is poorly-understood by the public and has not received much discussion nor debate. The move would also be unprecedented considering few democracies today have such low minimum age for candidacy, while most major democracies set minimum age of candidacy for parliament to at least 23 or 25.

We asked respondents their views on the lowering of age of candidacy and finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 49.5% oppose the referendum and a minority of 47.1% support it. This means that the perceived overwhelming public support for lowering voting age certainly cannot be conflated as evidence of high public support for lowering age of candidacy. It is also a testament to the failure of Taiwan's democratic process that the two very different referendum items were rashly and poorly tied together by Taiwan's legislature while the majority of the public have not yet understood they are voting on essentially *two* different proposals.

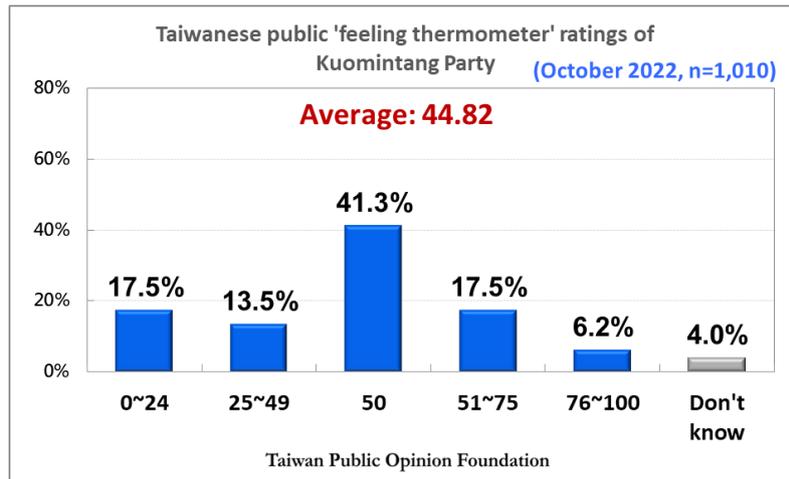


6. Regarding party affect, we asked respondents to rate Taiwan’s two major political parties, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and Kuomintang (KMT) on a *feeling thermometer* between 0 and 100 – whereas 0 is the most negative and 100 is the most positive. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older:

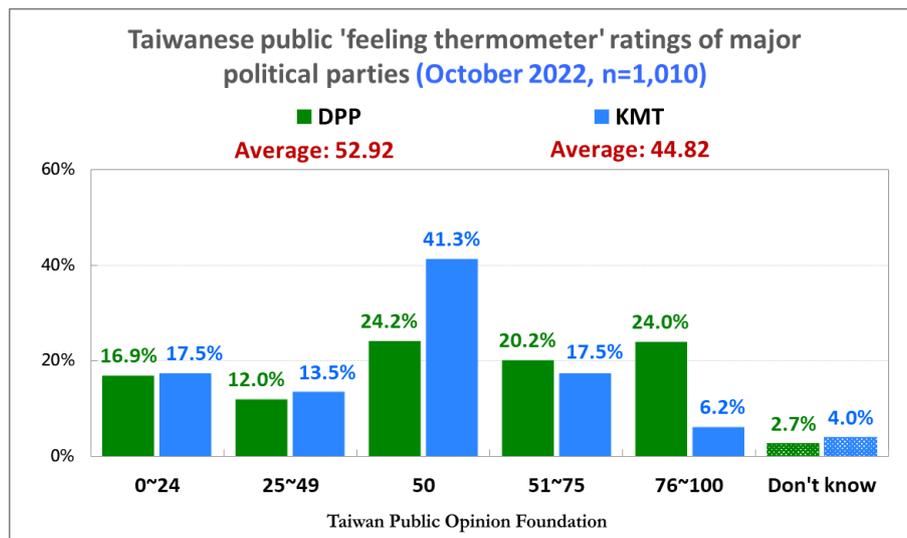
- 44% said they have warm feelings (a rating of 51-100) toward the ruling DPP, while 24% said they have neutral feelings (a rating of 50, and 28% have cold or negative feeling (a rating below 50).



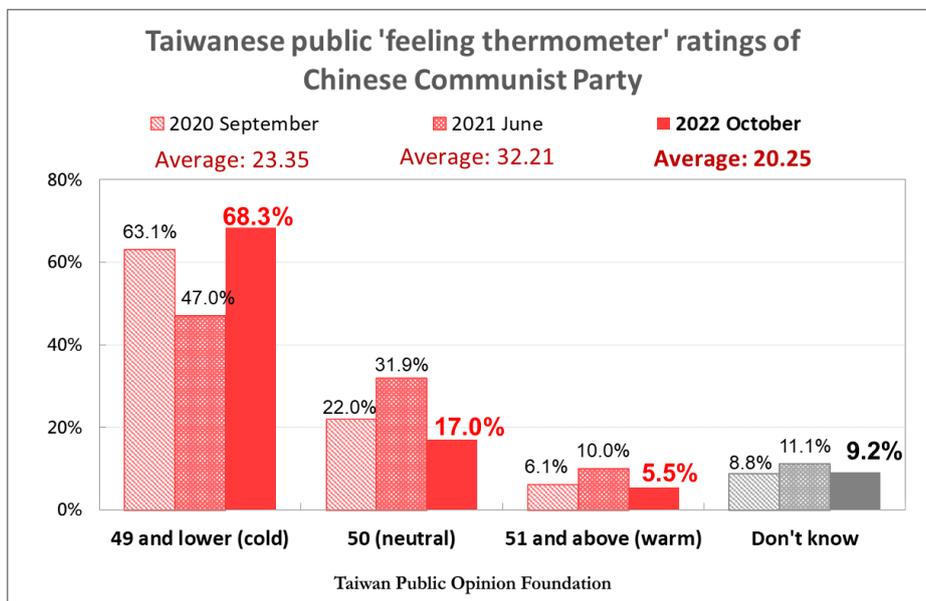
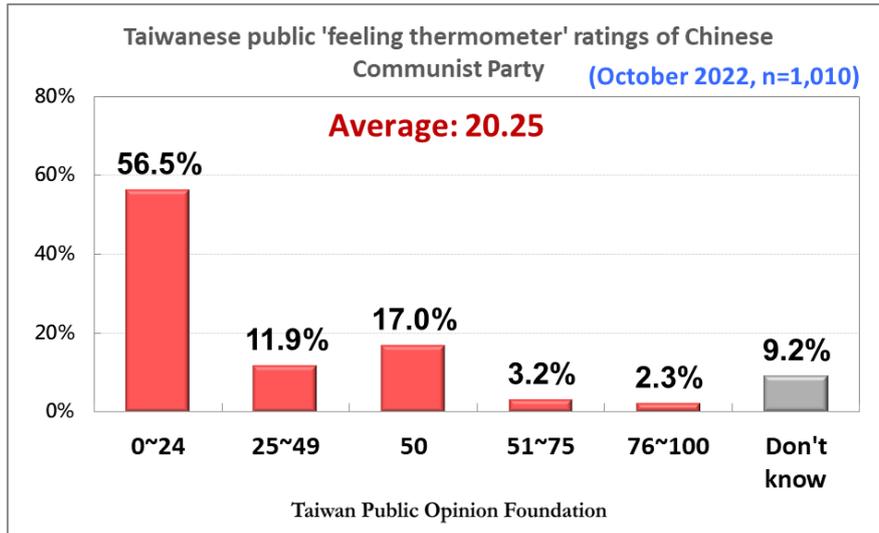
- 23% have warm feelings toward the main opposition party KMT, while 41% have neutral feelings and 31% have negative feelings.



- Overall, DPP clearly enjoys relatively more warm feelings among Taiwanese public. Cold or negative feelings toward either party remains comparable (28% DPP vs 31% KMT), but KMT's relative lack of warm feelings is an indication of the party's failure to galvanize support and enthusiasm among the general public.



- We also asked respondents to rate Chinese Communist Party (CCP) on a feeling thermometer scale. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 68% said they have cold (negative) feelings toward the CCP, and only 5.5% have warm (positive) feelings toward it, while 17% have neutral feelings (a rating of 50). It is clear that mass majority of Taiwanese public have overwhelmingly negative feeling toward the CCP.

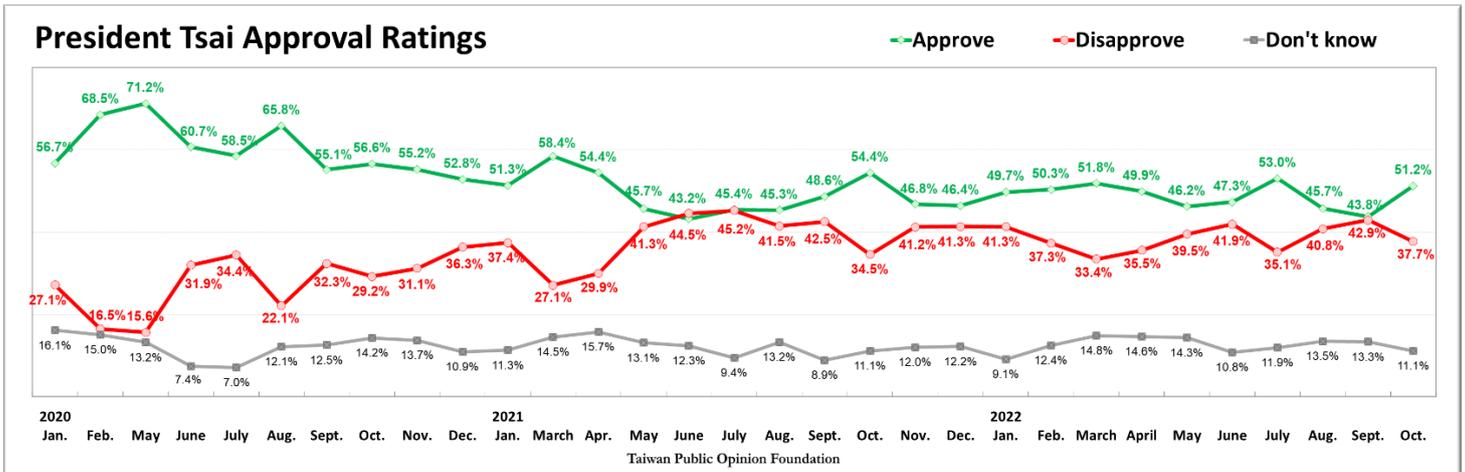


8. On the Presidential job approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 51.2% approved of the way Tsai Ing-wen is handling her job as the President, while a minority of 37.7% expressed disapproval. This is a surprise 7.4% rebound comparing to the October poll. Several factors likely contributed to this:

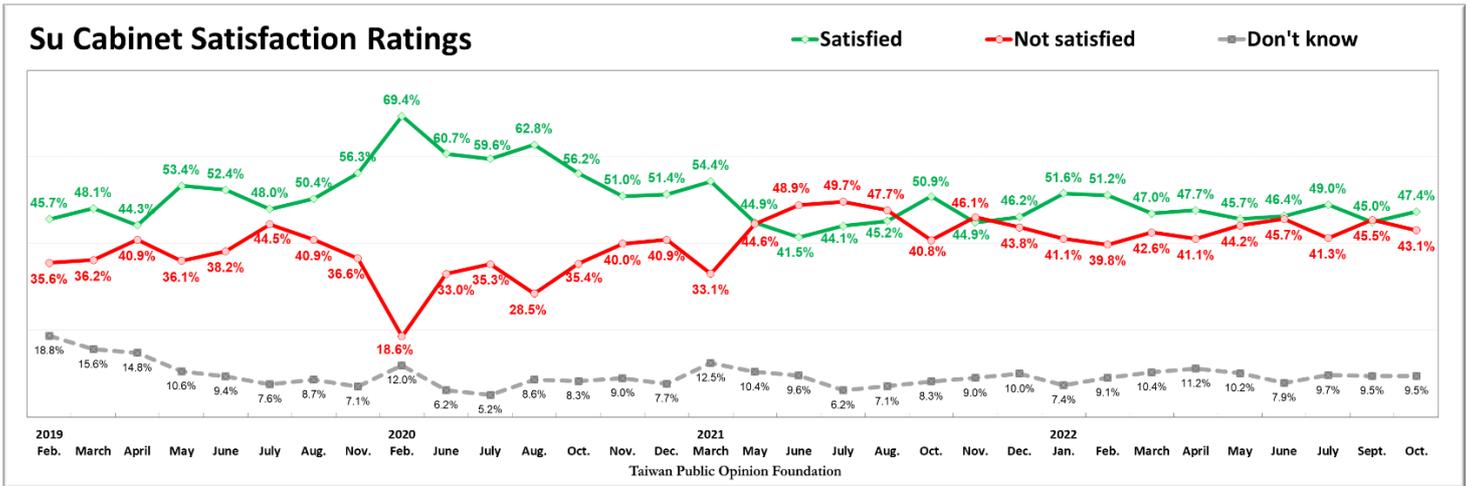
- **Border reopening:** The lifting of border entry and quarantine restrictions starting from October 13 would allow Taiwanese to travel overseas at ease, a relaxation of two-year-long COVID restrictions that has been widely-anticipated and long called for by many especially in the tourism industry.
- **Double Ten National Day:** The “Republic of China” National Day on October 10th and the lavish celebration parade has always been an

opportunity for Taiwanese seating president to showcase authority and boost own popularity at the taxpayers' expenses. The parade also featured a [Japanese high school performance group](#) which received much fanfare in Taiwan and was seen as a celebration of Japan-Taiwan relations.

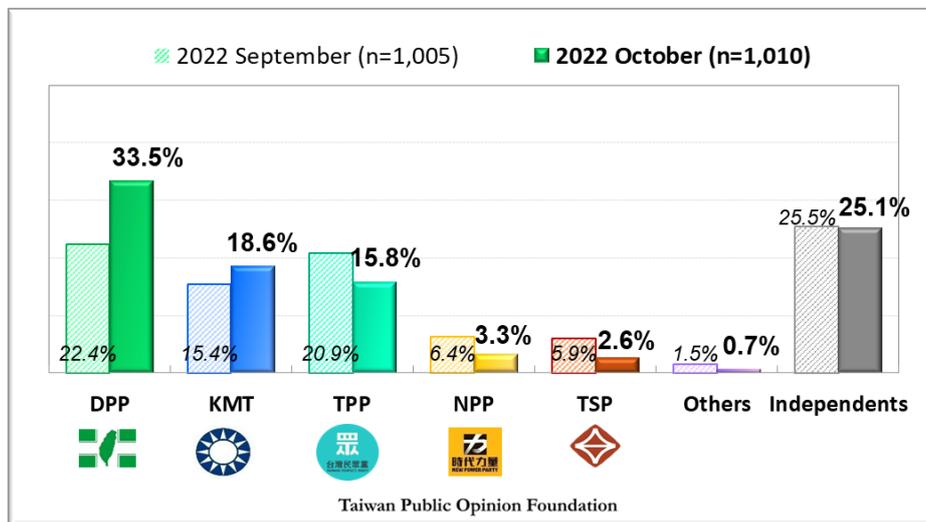
- **Biden “defend Taiwan” remark:** On September 19 U.S. President Biden promised [during an interview](#) that he would “defend Taiwan” if China attacks, the remark which was widely reported internationally and within Taiwan and likely boosted Taiwanese belief in U.S. commitment to Taiwan.
- **China’s CCP 20th Party Congress** which saw Xi Jinping won an unprecedented third term as supreme ruler, likely only deepened Taiwanese public’s negative feelings toward the CCP and played a rallying effect to strengthen ruling Tsai government’s support.
- **Economic stimulus:** Ahead of elections Tsai government recently announced a NT\$30 billion housing rent subsidy program and an increase of monthly child-rearing allowance to NT\$5,000.



9. On the performance of Premier Su Tseng-chang cabinet, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 47.4% were satisfied of the way Su cabinet is handling the government, while the other 43.1% were not satisfied.



10. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 33.5% said they support the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 18.6% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 15.8% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 3.3% support the New Power Party (NPP), 2.6% support the Taiwan State-building Party (TSP), and 25.1% respondents identified themselves as independents. Comparing to our September poll, both DPP and KMT saw their support boosted ahead of the November local elections, with DPP saw an 11% increase.



Taiwanese Partisan Affiliation 2019 - 2022

DPP KMT TPP Independents

