



Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation

December 2022 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

December 20, 2022

Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its December 2022 nation-wide poll. This marks the 77th 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](#).

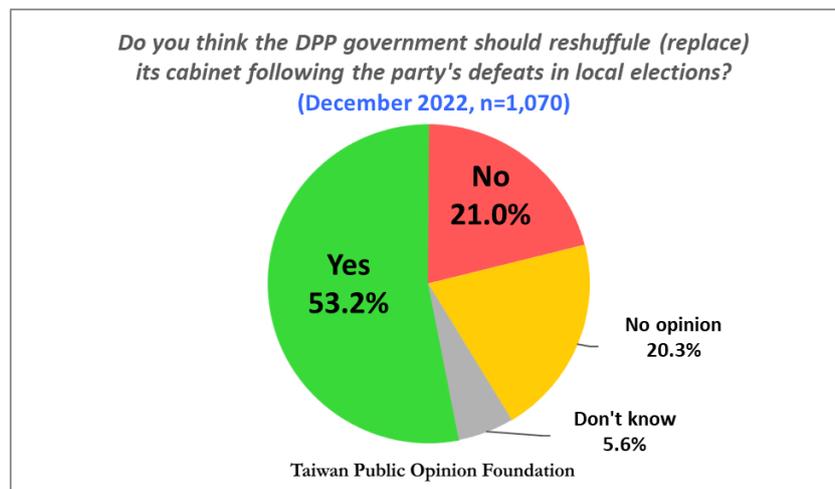
How the Survey was Conducted

This survey was conducted on December 12-13, 2022, with a sample size of 1,070. 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 ± 3.00 percentage points with 95% level of confidence.

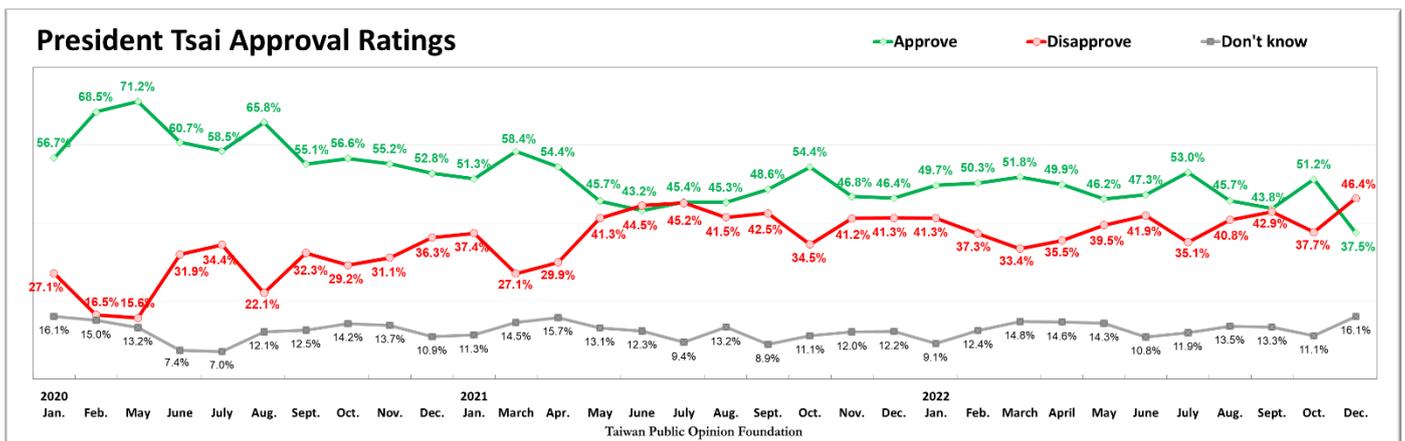
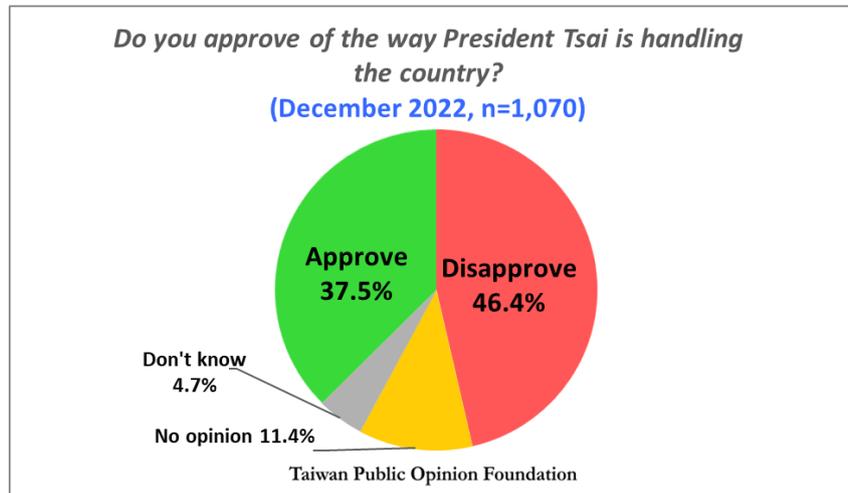
Main Findings:

1. On November 26, 2022, Taiwan held nation-wide local elections which saw the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) [suffered heavy defeats](#) across numerous mayoral and county magistrate races (TPOF conducted pre-election [polls](#) on two key mayoral races of Taipei City and Taoyuan City which accurately projected the eventual winners).

In the wake of DPP's historic defeats, there has been mounting pressure, from both within and outside of DPP, on President Tsai Ing-wen to remove her Premier Su Tseng-chang and initiate a complete cabinet reshuffle. President Tsai has thus far been hesitant to make this move while Premier Su also refused to resign. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 53.2% think the DPP government should immediately reshuffle its cabinet while only 21% do not think so. A majority of Taiwanese public clearly perceived the local elections as a referendum on the ruling DPP national government and want to see changes at that level.



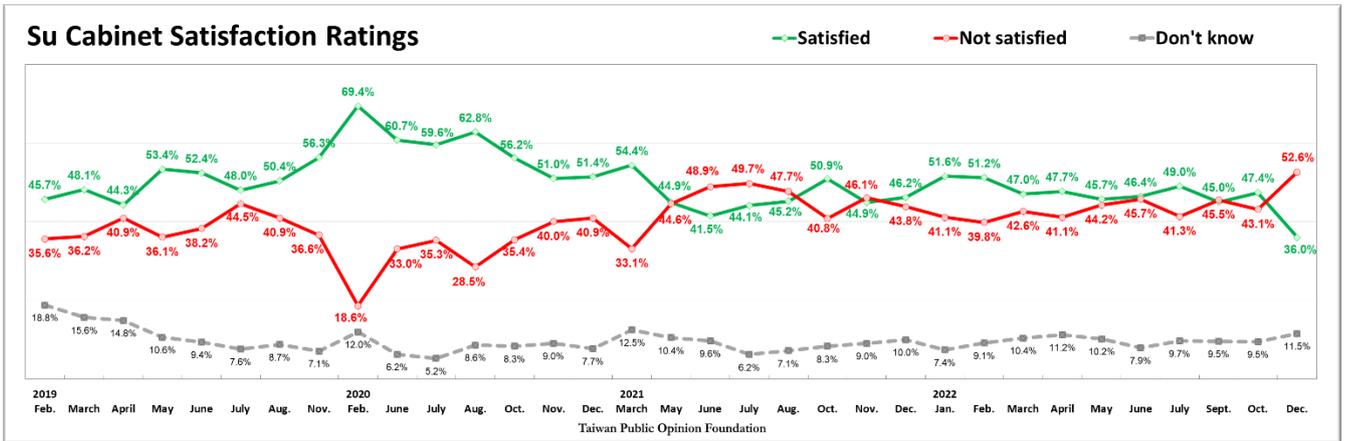
2. On the Presidential job approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 46.4% disapproved of the way Tsai Ing-wen is handling her job as the President, while a minority of 37.5% expressed approval. Comparing to result from October, President Tsai's approval suffered a 13.7% decline following DPP's local elections defeat in November.



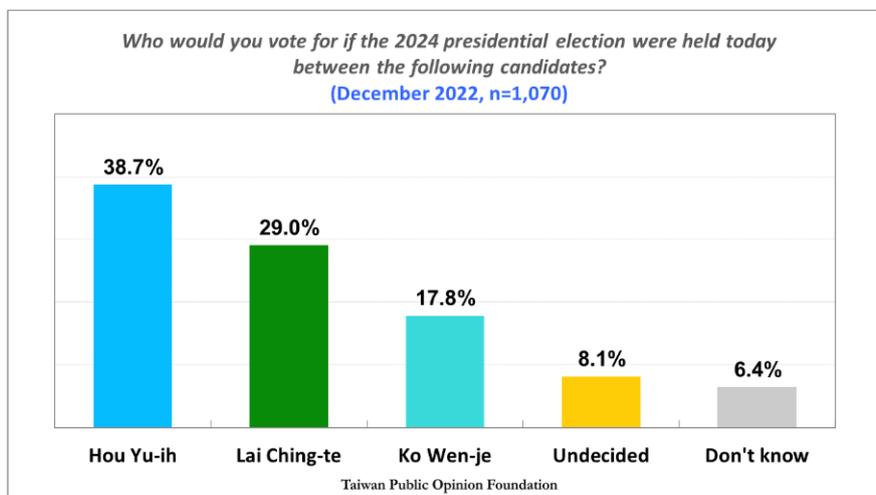
Based on demographic data the poll also provided the following observations:

- All age groups except those 20-24 have majority disapproval of Tsai's governance. Even among the youngest age group of 20-24, which has usually been overwhelmingly supportive of DPP, there is 42% approve versus 30% disapproval, a difference of 12%, the smallest margin we have observed in years.
 - Higher education attainments have higher disapproval of the Tsai government, while lower education attainments remain more supportive of the government.
 - Across Taiwan's six cities and sixteen counties, five cities and sixteen counties have majority disapproval of Tsai government, only Tainan City has majority approval of the government.
3. On the performance of Premier Su Tseng-chang cabinet, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 52.6% were not satisfied

of the way Su cabinet is handling the government, while a minority of 36% were satisfied. This is an 11% decline from our October poll, and it shows that the current cabinet has reached its highest level of disapproval since Su assumed Premier position in January 2019.

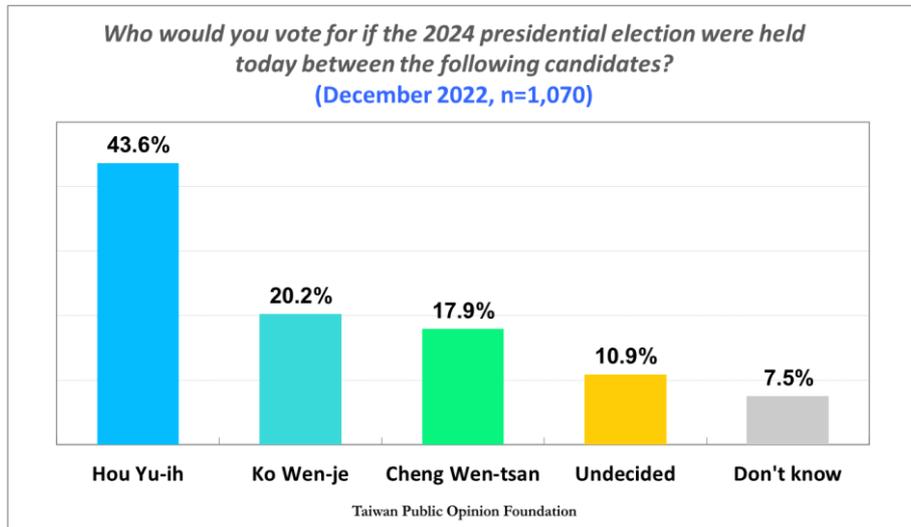


- Taiwan’s next presidential election is expected to be held on January 13, 2024. While no major candidate has yet to declare intention to run, the widely speculated lineup of prospective candidates consist of incumbent New Taipei City Mayor Hou Yu-ih (KMT), incumbent Vice President Lai Ching-te (DPP), and outgoing Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je (TPP). In this three-way race, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, Mayor Hou leads by a dominating support of 38.7%, while Vice President Lai came second at 29%, and Ko came third at 17.8%.

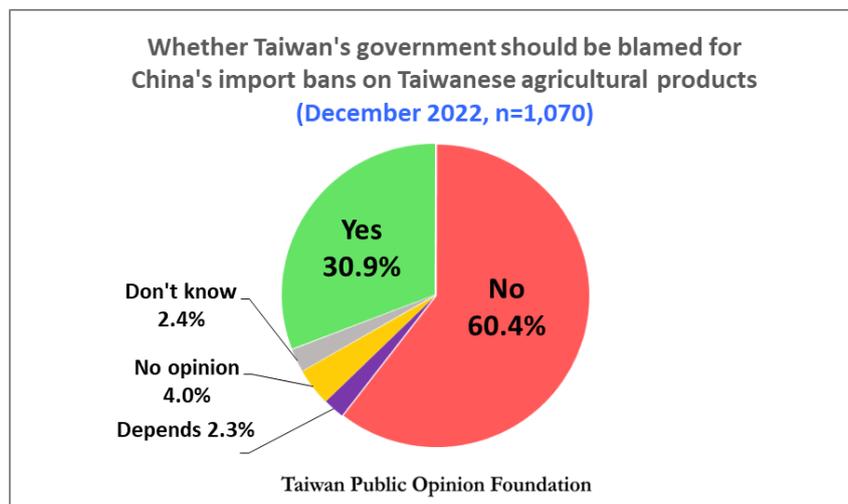


- Another potential lineup of 2024 presidential race has the outgoing Taoyuan City Mayor Cheng Wen-tsan running as DPP’s presidential candidate. In this three-way race, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, Mayor Hou

leads by an even more impressive 43.6%, Ko came second at 20.2%, and Cheng came third at 17.9%.



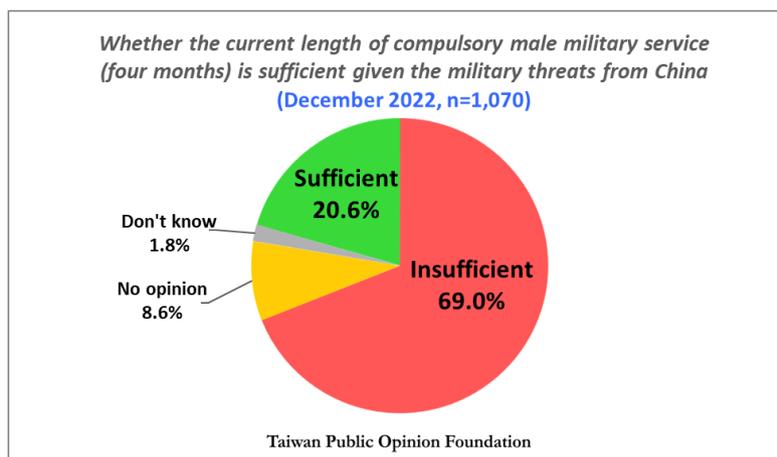
- China recently moved to [suspend import permits](#) of hundreds of Taiwanese companies that would block them from selling more agricultural goods to mainland China. This is in addition to a string of bans and restrictions on Taiwanese products Beijing has imposed since earlier this year, which Taiwan side accused as politically motivated moves though Beijing insisted to be necessary regulatory measures. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 60.4% said Taiwan side is not to be blamed for China's import bans, while 30.9% said Taiwan should also be held responsible.



- Concerning the ongoing debate regarding the length of Taiwan's compulsory military service for male, which was drastically shortened in 2017 from one-year to just four months, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 69% think the four-month length is insufficient while only

20.6% find it to be sufficient. Previously a TPOF poll from March that asked the same question found 77% thought four-month service was insufficient while 15% said it was sufficient. In other words, majority of Taiwanese public still feel the current length of military service to be too short and insufficient given the perceived military threats from China, and there has not been significant change of this prevailing opinion from March.

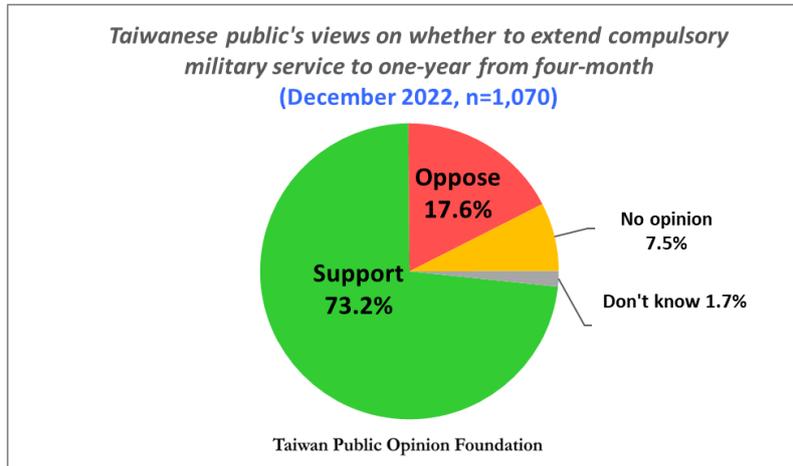
Interestingly however, the only noticeable shift was observed among the youngest demographic group (20-24) which see four-month service to be sufficient (41% sufficient vs. 27% insufficient) comparing to result from March (25% sufficient vs. 52% insufficient).



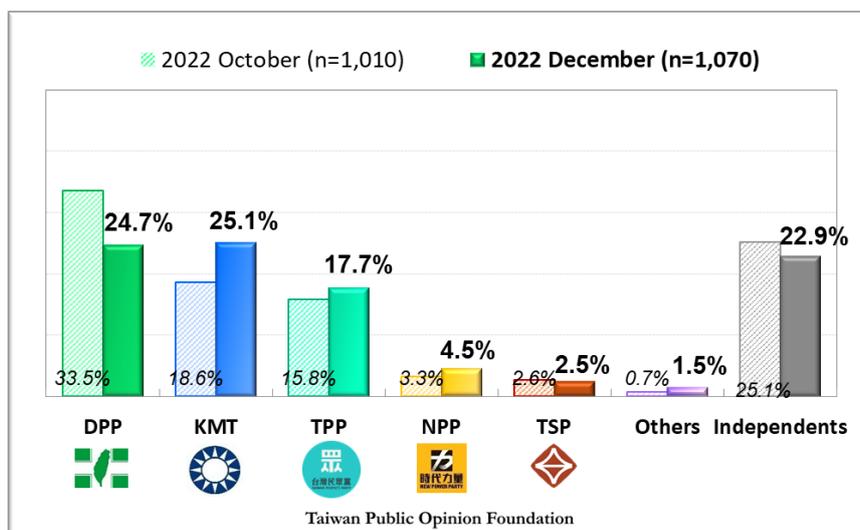
8. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 73.2% said they would support an extension of compulsory military service to one-year, while only 17.6% opposed it. This result is largely unchanged since our past poll from March (75% support vs. 17% oppose). Noticeable findings are:

- Among the youngest demographic group (20-24) a majority of 37.2% oppose extension of military service while a minority of 35.6% support it. Conceivably this is due to male respondents from this group could be facing much longer military service obligation and are hesitant to support it. All other age groups have majority support for extending conscription.
- Across the partisan spectrum supporters of DPP, KMT, TPP, and other smaller parties all have majority supporting extending military service.
- Other than the aforementioned opposition from the youngest electorates, extending conscription is the majority consensus across gender, partisan affiliation, education attainment, occupation, and geographic location. Such

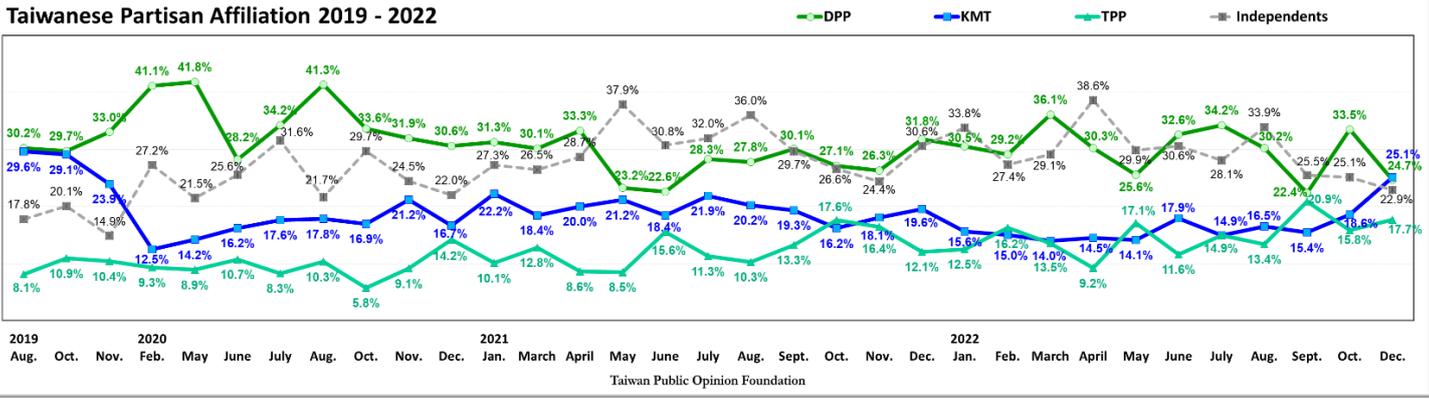
strong consensus across the board is rare in Taiwan’s public policy issues and is a sign that Taiwanese public is prepared to commit more to defend itself, though ultimately it is left to the politicians in power whether they have the will and the competence to implement such policy.



9. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 25.1% said they support the Kuomintang (KMT), 24.7% support the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 17.7% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 4.5% support the New Power Party (NPP), 2.5% support the Taiwan State-building Party (TSP), and 22.9% respondents identified themselves as independents. Comparing to our October poll, DPP suffered a decisive blow with its partisan support plummeted 8.7% in two months, while KMT has now regained the most popular political party position for the first time since 2019, though only leading by a razor-thin margin.



Taiwanese Partisan Affiliation 2019 - 2022



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