



Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation

April 2023 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

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April 18, 2023

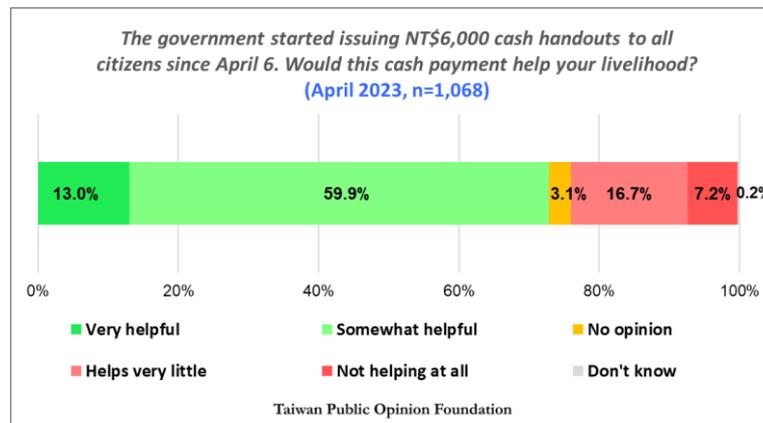
Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its April 2023 nation-wide poll. This marks the 81st monthly survey conducted by the TPOF aimed at tracking the development and changes in Taiwan’s public opinion. The full release in Chinese language is available on our [official website](#).

How the Survey was Conducted

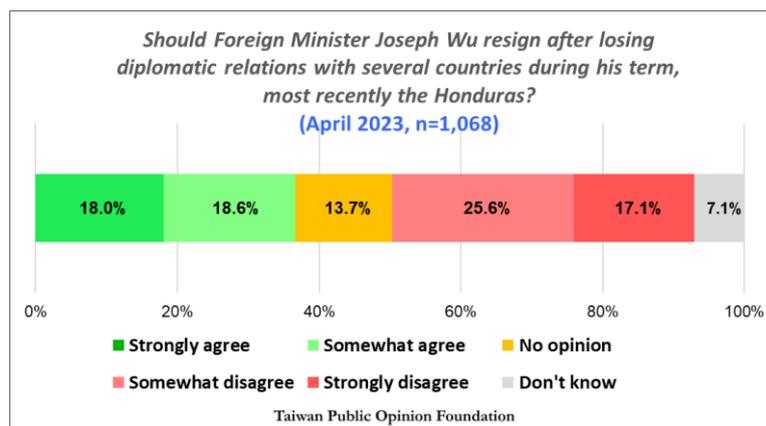
This survey was conducted on April 9-11, 2023, with a sample size of 1,068. Adults 20 years of age and older residing in Taiwan were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline numbers were drawn through random digit dialing system. The samples were demographically weighted to adjust for 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. Taiwan government saw a large tax surplus last fiscal year, which resulted in a public debate regarding the use of the surplus. The ruling government eventually decided to distribute a portion of the surplus back to the public in the form of NT\$6,000 [cash rebate](#) for each eligible citizen, which it began to disburse since April 6. The Poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 73% said they find the cash handout to be helpful for their livelihood, while a minority of only 24% said it helps very little or not helping at all.



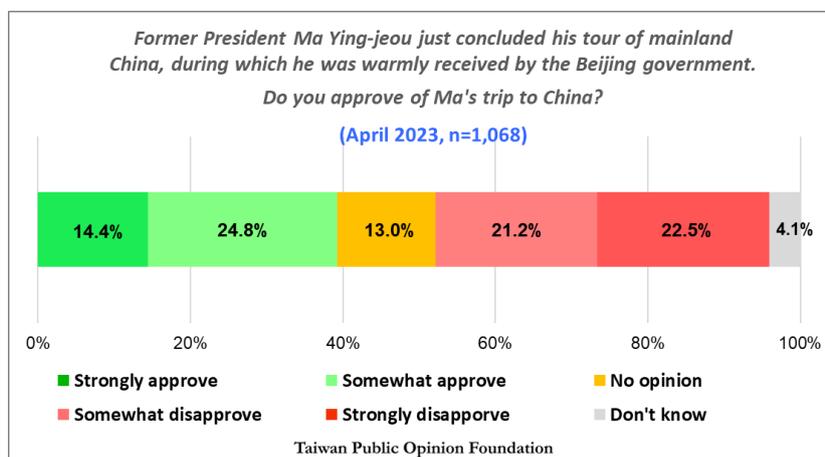
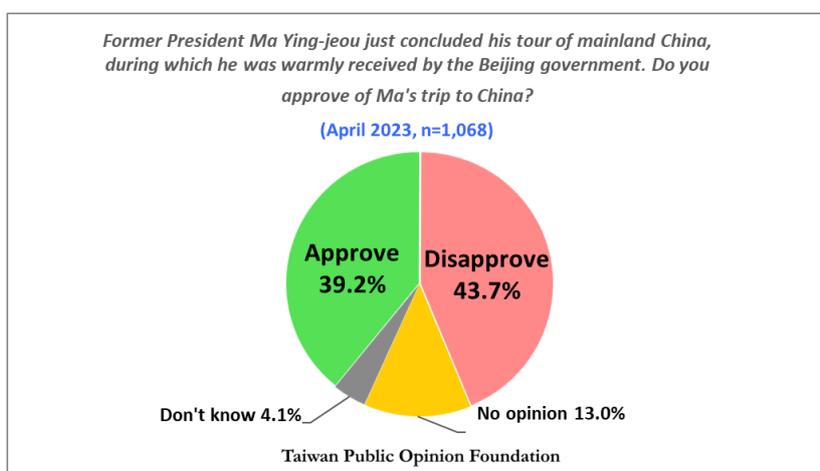
2. On March 26, Honduras broke off formal diplomatic relations with Republic of China (Taiwan) in favor of relations with People's Republic of China. The Poll asked whether Taiwanese thought Minister of Foreign Affairs Joseph Wu should resign following the losses of diplomatic ties with Honduras and others (a total of seven) countries during his term. Among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a minority of 36.6% said Wu should resign but a majority of 42.7% said no.



3. Former President Ma Ying-jeou concluded his [grand tour across China](#) which was widely reported and discussed within Taiwan. During the tour Ma was warmly received by Chinese government officials at various occasions, and in many

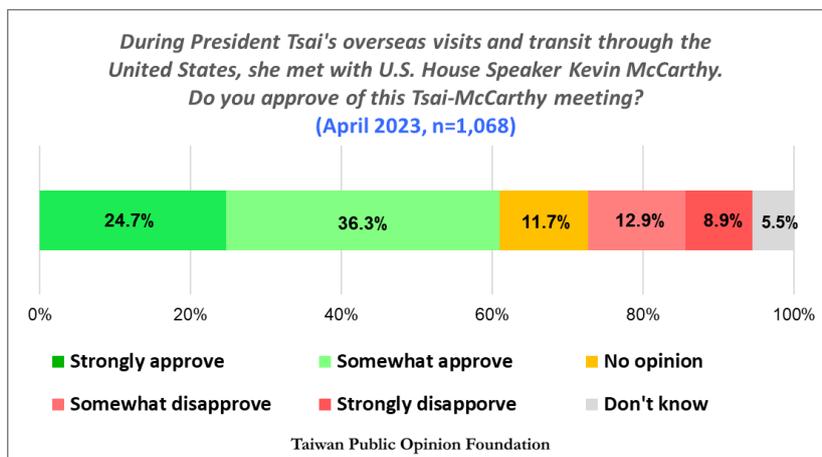
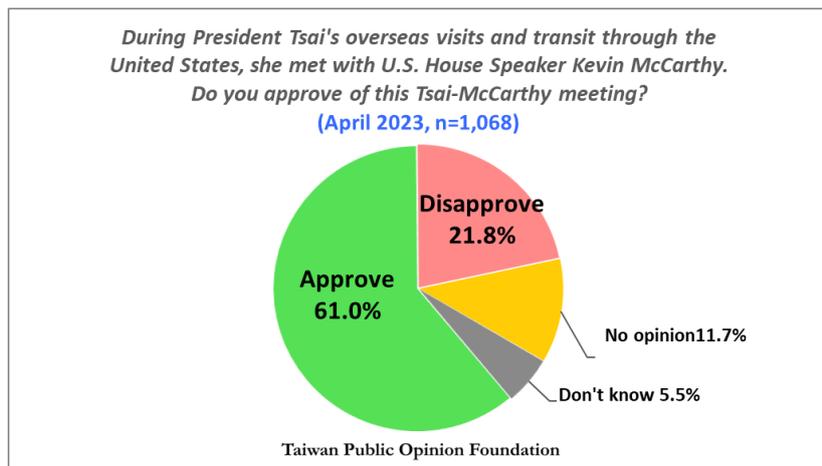
instances made [politically sensitive remarks](#) that raised eyebrows. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a significant minority of 39% said they approve of Ma's trip while a slim majority of 43% disapprove of it. It is clear therefore that Taiwanese public opinion is split on the worthiness of Ma's China trip. More specifically:

- All age groups except those between 45-54 have majority disapproval of Ma's trip, but the majority margins are all small and confine within 10%. Even among the youngest groups of 20-24 saw a significant 45% approval versus just 52% disapproval.
- Higher education attainment seems to correlate with more approval of Ma's China outreach. Among those with college education and above, 47% approve of Ma's trip versus 40% who don't.
- Among supporters of the ruling DPP, only 6.7% approve of Ma's trip versus 81% who disapprove. Among KMT supporters, 79% approve versus 12% disapprove. Among independents, 32% approve versus 33% disapprove.



4. Coincided with Ma’s visit to China was President Tsai Ing-wen’s official overseas visit to Taiwan’s diplomatic allies in Central America, which came with two short transits through the United States. While President Tsai did not secure any meeting with U.S. executive branch officials of significance, she [met with U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy](#) along with a dozen congressional members in California. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 61% approve of Tsai’s meeting with McCarthy, while only 21.8% disapprove of it. Despite China’s opposition and military threats, majority Taiwanese were happy to see their President meeting with a U.S. House Speaker again, following last year’s Nancy Pelosi visit to Taiwan. More specifically:

- All age groups and all levels of education attainment have a strong majority approval of the meeting.
- Only supporters of KMT have majority disapproval of Tsai’s meeting with McCarthy, whereas supporters of DPP, TPP, and independent all have majority approval of the meeting.

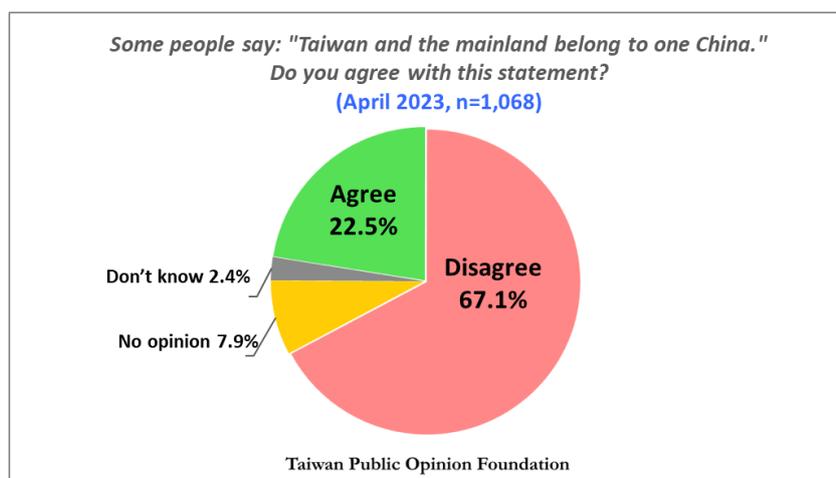


5. Just like last year’s Nancy Pelosi visit to Taiwan, China again launched [a wave of](#)

[military exercises](#) following the news of President Tsai's meeting with McCarthy, albeit on a far smaller and more restrained scale comparing to last August's exercises. We asked how Taiwanese public see China's military exercise in the context of this meeting and found that an overwhelming majority of 74.7% see the exercise as unnecessary.

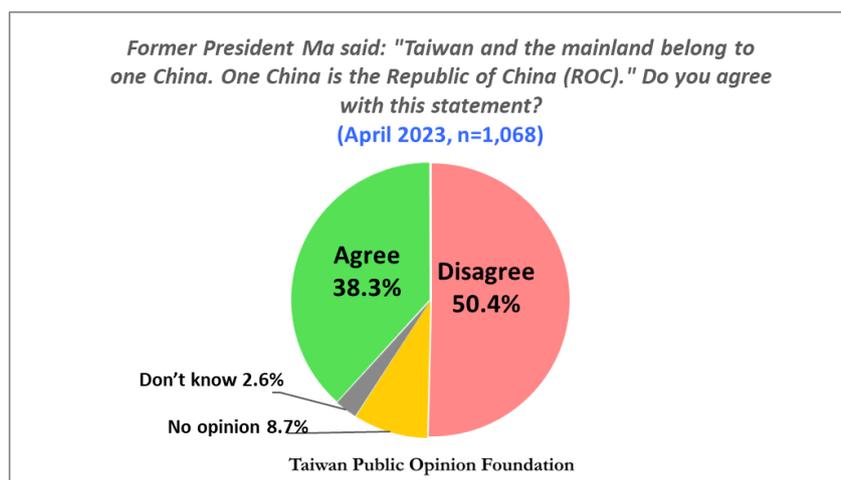


- On March 13, Chinese President Xi Jinping made a statement echoing the support for “upholding One-China Policy and 1992 Consensus.” At the conclusion of Former President Ma’s trip to China, he also made a statement [calling for upholding 1992 Consensus](#). But what are the Taiwanese public’s views? We first asked question regarding the statement that “Taiwan and the mainland belong to one China”, which is the most basic version of the so-called “1992 Consensus” that both Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and most in Taiwan’s KMT agreed upon. Poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 67.1% disagree with the statement, while only 22.5% agree with it.

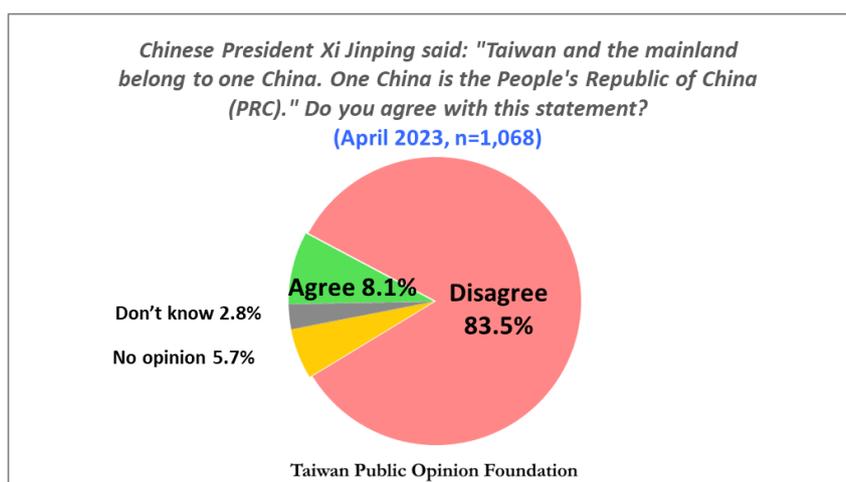


- We then asked question regarding the public views on what’s traditionally KMT’s interpretation of One-China and 1992 Consensus, which as exemplified by Ma’s

statement is that “One China is the Republic of China (ROC)”. The Poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 50.4% disagree, while a minority of 38.3% agree with it. While this statement does not have anywhere near majority public support, it does have noticeably more support comparing to the” basic” version of 1992 Consensus, possibly due to Taiwanese who support the “Republic of China” constitutional name and framework find it appealing to imagine that mainland China can also be part of the ROC.



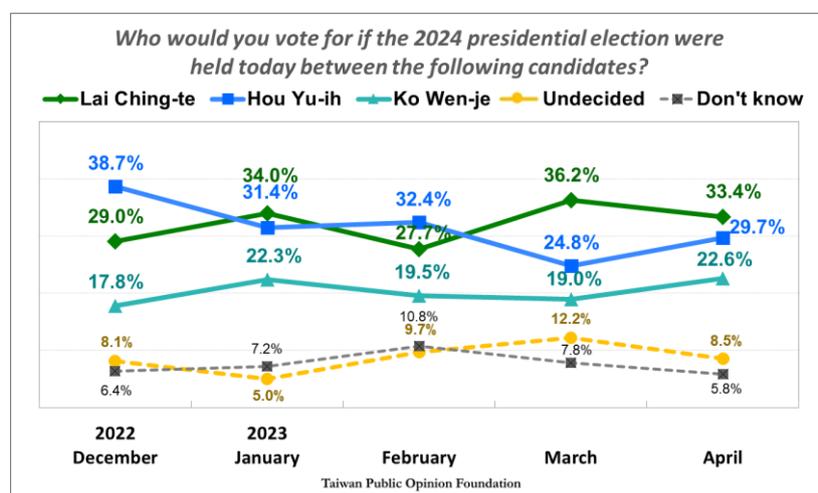
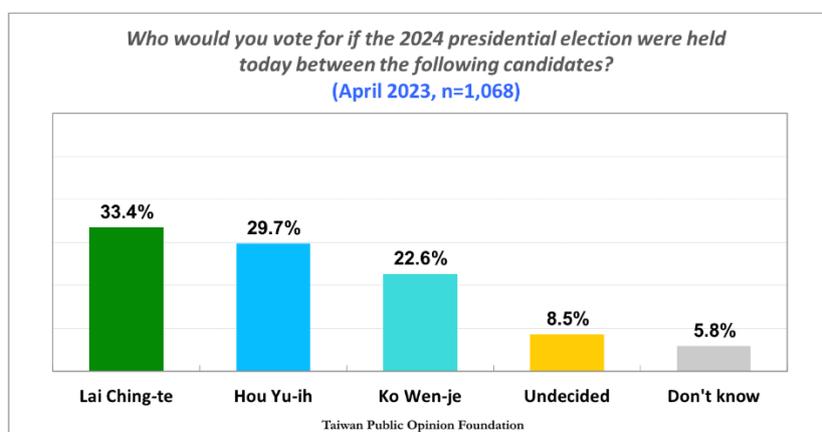
8. Finally, we asked Taiwanese public whether they agree with Chinese Communist Party’s interpretation of the One-China Policy and 1992 Consensus, which is that the “One-China” is the People’s Republic of China (PRC). The Poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a vast majority of 83.5% disagree, and only 8.1% agree with it.



To summarize, majority of Taiwanese public do *not* support the basic tenet of the “1992 Consensus”, which is that Taiwan belongs to One-China. A slightly more percentage of Taiwanese support the KMT’s interpretation of One-China that

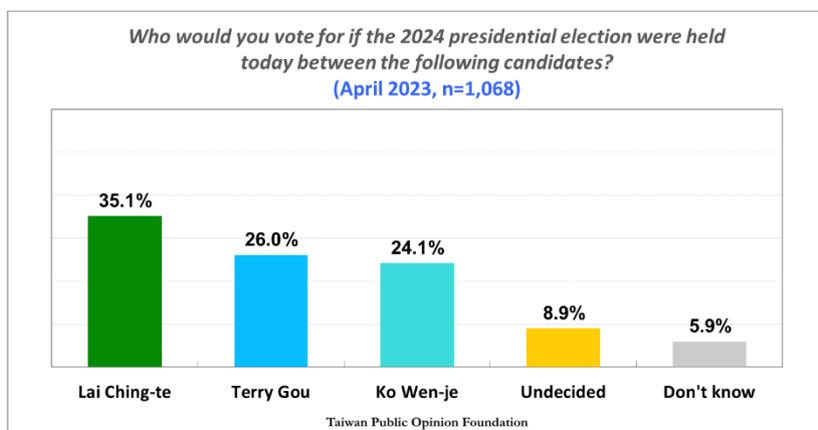
came with the provision which insists China is the “Republic of China”, however they are still far from being the majority view of the Taiwanese people. Finally, CCP’s interpretation of Taiwan belongs to One-China which is the “People’s Republic of China” is overwhelmingly rejected by most Taiwanese people.

- Taiwan’s next presidential election is scheduled to be held on January 13, 2024. Among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, Vice President Lai Ching-te leads the poll at 33.4%, New Taipei City Mayor Hou Yu-ih came second at 29.7%, former Taipei City Mayor Ko Wen-je came third at 22.6%. Compared to past polls, Hou finally made some recovery after months of decline. Ko continues to maintain a stable level of support but does not seem likely to break through the partisan barrier of the KMT and DPP.

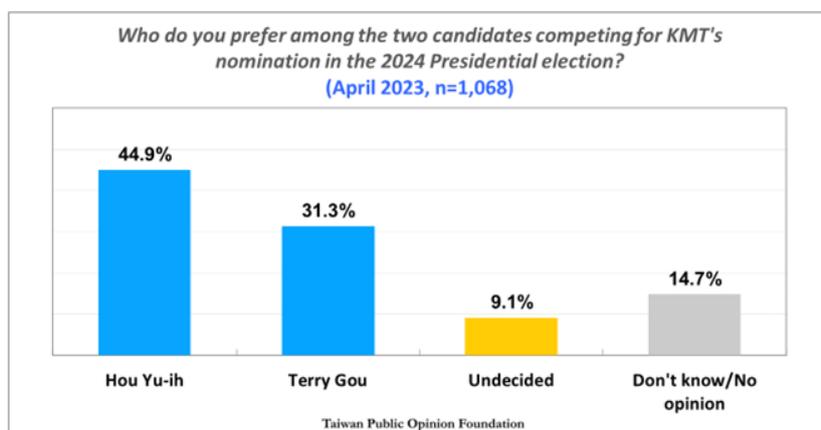


- What if instead of Mayor Ho KMT nominates Terry Gou, the Foxconn business tycoon who is currently pursuing KMT’s presidential nomination despite objections from many within the KMT? Among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, Lai leads the poll at a greater margin of 35.1%, Terry Gou came second at 26%, Ko came third at 22.6%. Comparing to result from the Lai-Hou-Ko

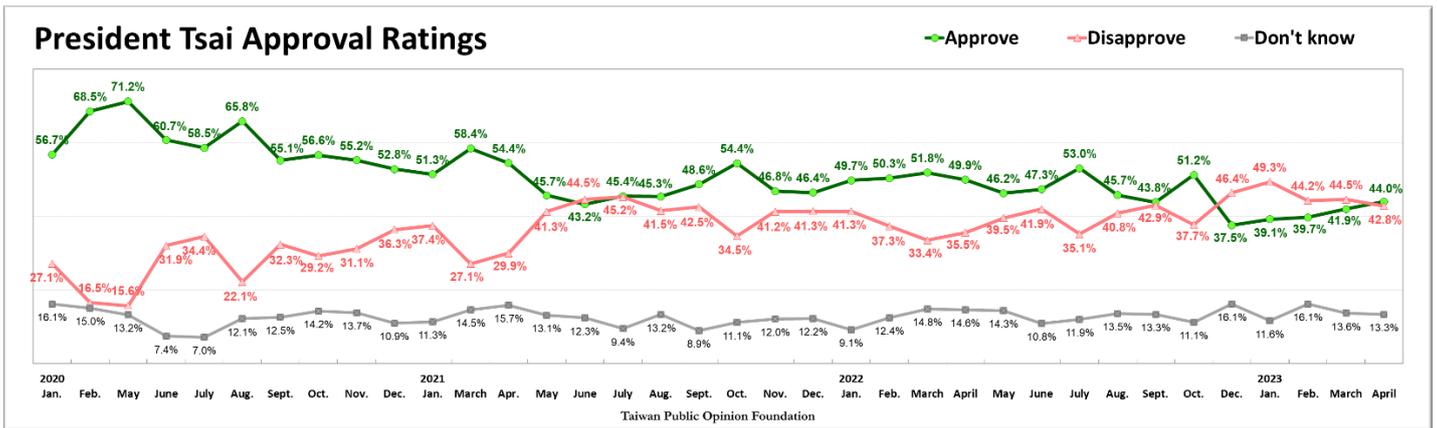
lineup, it is clear that Gou is lagging slightly behind Ho in terms of popular support on the presidential ticket, though the campaign still has months to go and it is possible that Gou would gain the upper hand above Ho in the coming months.



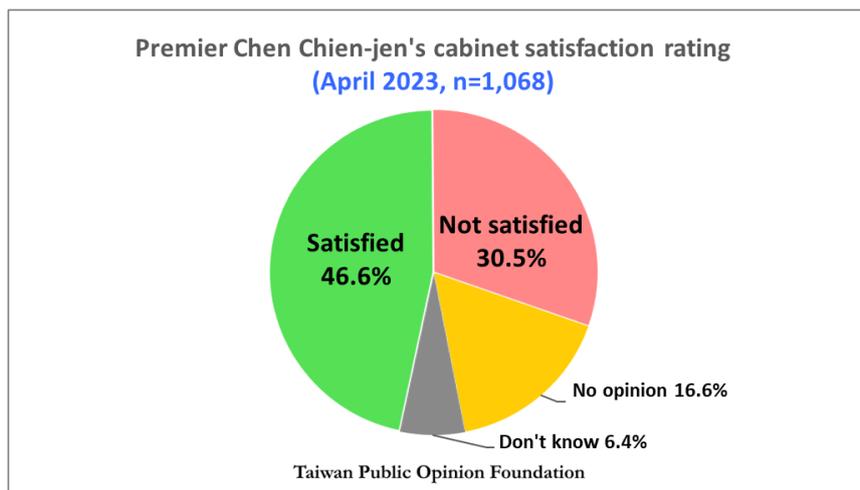
11. Which of the two candidates competing for KMT's nomination for 2024 Presidential election do Taiwanese public prefer? The Poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 44.9% prefer Hou Yu-ih while 31.3% prefer Terry Gou.



12. On Presidential job approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 44% approved of the way Tsai Ing-wen is handling her job as the President, while a minority of 42.8% expressed approval. Comparing to result from March, President Tsai's approval rate recovered to majority approval for the first time since DPP's landslide defeat in the November local elections, but the percentage of disapproval remains significant. The small popularity boosts likely came from the disbursement of \$6000NTD cash handouts and the recent Tsai-McCarthy meetings but were not enough to make a full recovery to pre-local elections level of support.



13. Premier Chen Chien-jen has been in office for two months since President Tsai appointed him to the position. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 46.6% were satisfied with this Chen cabinet's performance so far, while 30.5% were not satisfied. Compared to the March poll Chen's satisfaction rating declined by 3% while those who are dissatisfied increased by 4.5%.



14. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 28.6% said they support the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 25.9% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 15% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 1.9% support the Taiwan State-building Party (TSP), 1.8% support the New Power Party (NPP), and 25.2% respondents identified themselves as independents. Compared to our March poll, KMT noticeably saw a major recovery that again put it near parity with the DPP, whereas support for DPP and TPP remained essentially unchanged. The boost KMT received possibly came from the publicity of former President Ma's trip to China, or the fact that potential candidates for 2024 presidential election like Hou and Gou both declared their interests publicly. But would the KMT be able to maintain this support and take

over the DPP in the critical months to come? That remains to be seen.

