



Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation

April 2025 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

April 15, 2025

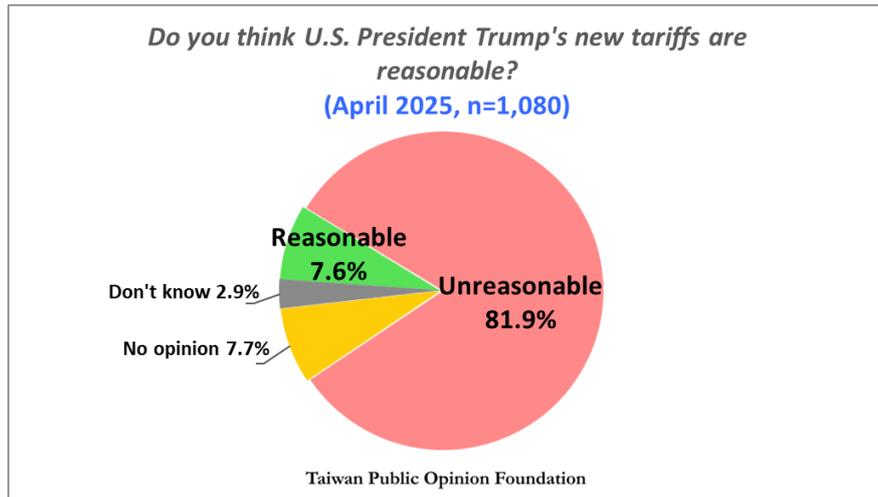
Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its April 2025 nation-wide poll. This marks the 103rd monthly survey conducted by the TPOF aimed at tracking the development and changes in Taiwan’s public opinion. The full release in Chinese language is available on our official website.

How the Survey was Conducted

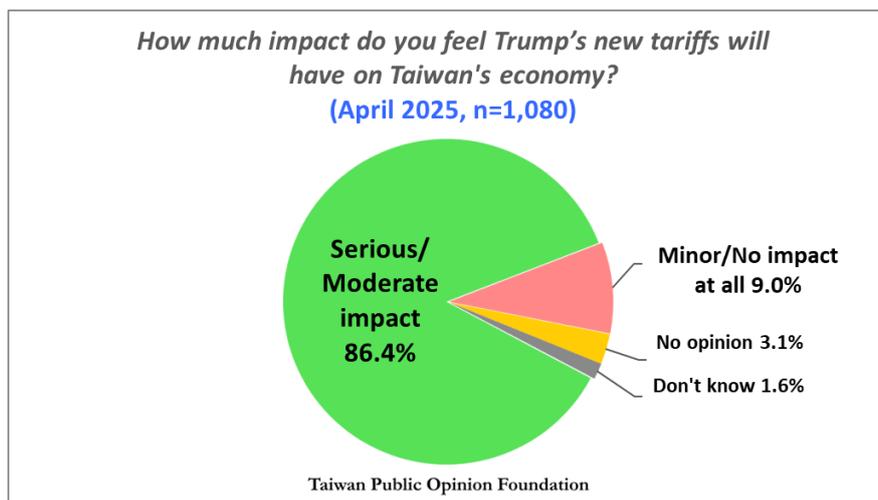
This survey was conducted on April 7-9, 2025, with a sample size of 1,080. Adults 20 years of age and older residing in Taiwan were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline and cellphone numbers were drawn through dual-frame random sampling with a proportion of 70% from landlines and 30% from cellphones. 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 ± 2.98 percentage points with 95% level of confidence.

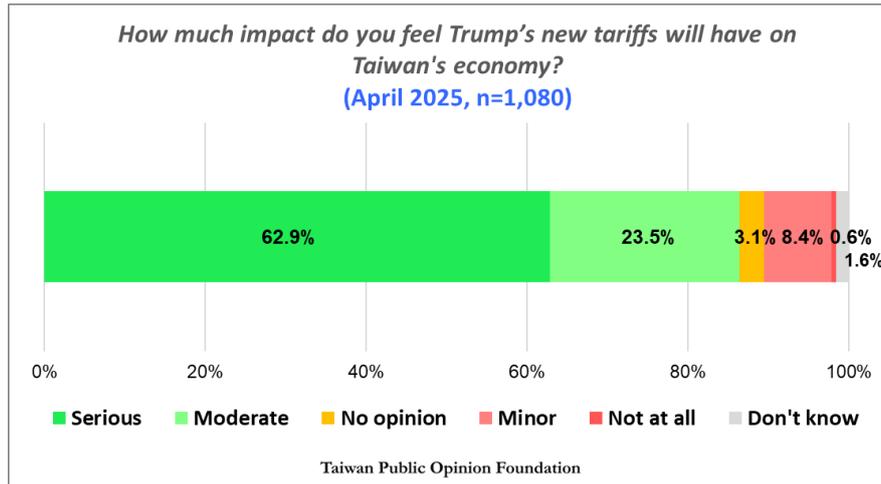
Main Findings:

1. On April 2 U.S. President Donald Trump announced a [sweeping new tariff system](#) against dozens of countries around the world which caused shock wave globally. Taiwan was slapped with a relatively high tariff rate of 32%, which came into effect on April 9. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a vast majority of 81.9% said the tariffs are unreasonable, only 7.6% thought they are reasonable.

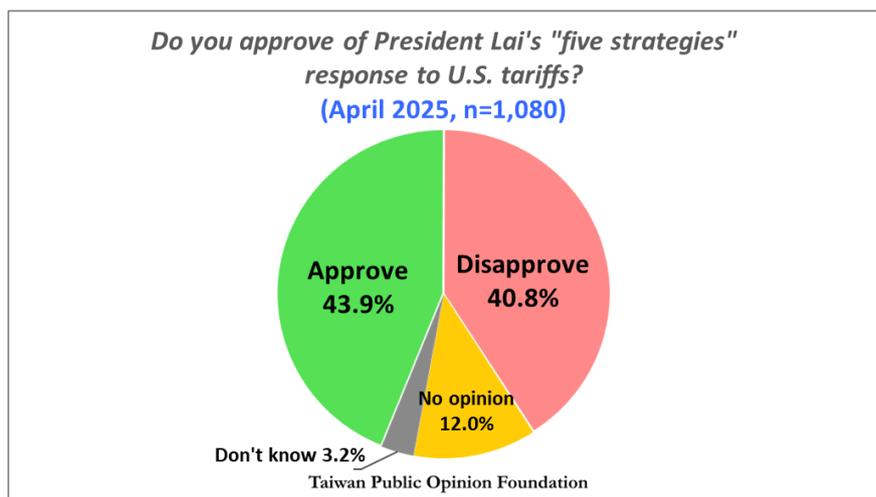


2. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, an overwhelming majority of 86.4% feel Trump's tariffs will have a serious or at least moderate impact on Taiwan's economy, only 9% feel the impact will be minor or none at all. Overall, 62.9% think the impact will be serious, while less than a percent of the people thinks there will be no impact at all. This means Trump's tariffs have caused a deep and widespread sense of crisis among the Taiwanese public.



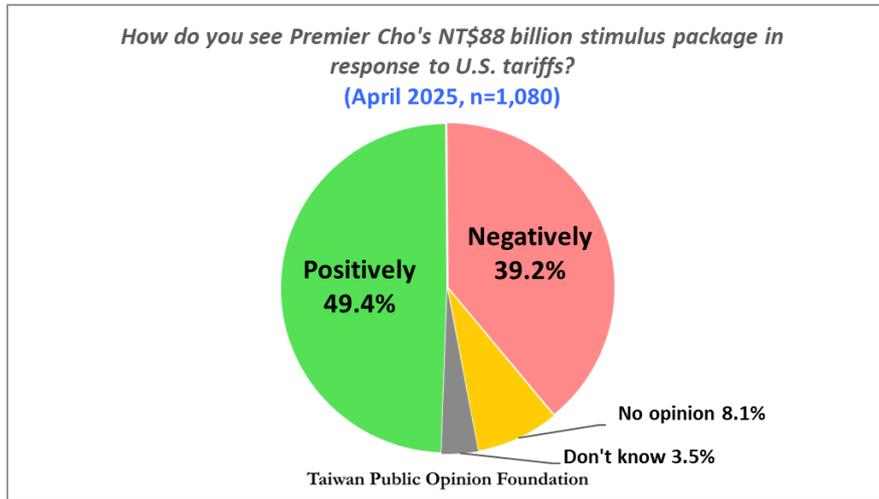


3. On April 6 President Lai Ching-te [announced](#) so-called “five strategies” in response to Trump’s tariffs and the fear it caused in the Taiwan market and among the public; that there will be no retaliatory tariff from Taiwan side, while Taiwan will continue its private enterprises’ U.S.-bound investments. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 43.9% approve of Lai’s “strategies” while 40.8% disapprove of them. This means that Lai’s response is only approved by a slim majority of the public, and the public across the board remains largely divided.

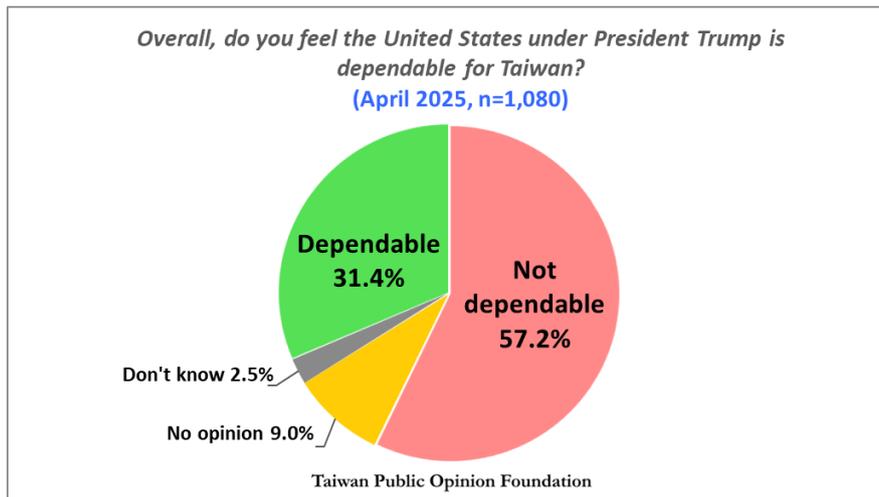


4. Alongside President Lai’s response, the head of government Premier Cho Jung-tai also released [a stimulus package](#) of NT\$88 billion to assist with Taiwan’s manufacturing and agricultural industry impacted by Trump’s tariffs. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 49.4% said they view the stimulus plan positively, while a minority of 39.2 view it negatively. This means that majority Taiwanese are positive of the stimulus package to

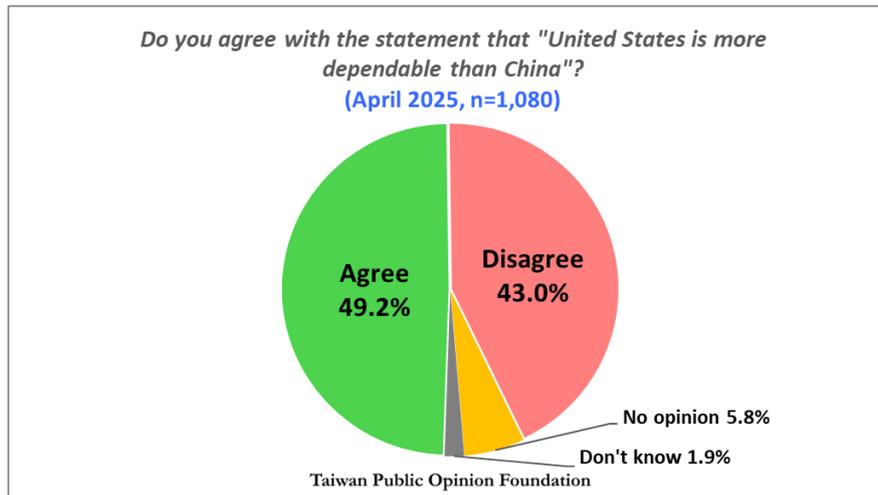
mitigate effects of U.S. tariffs, though significant pessimism persists.



- The poll asks whether the public thinks the United States under President Trump is dependable for Taiwan. Among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 57.2% feel the U.S. is no longer dependable under Trump, while a minority of 31.4% feel it is still dependable. This highlights majority Taiwanese public currently do not feel the U.S. is dependable for Taiwan anymore, a major warning sign for U.S.-Taiwan relations.

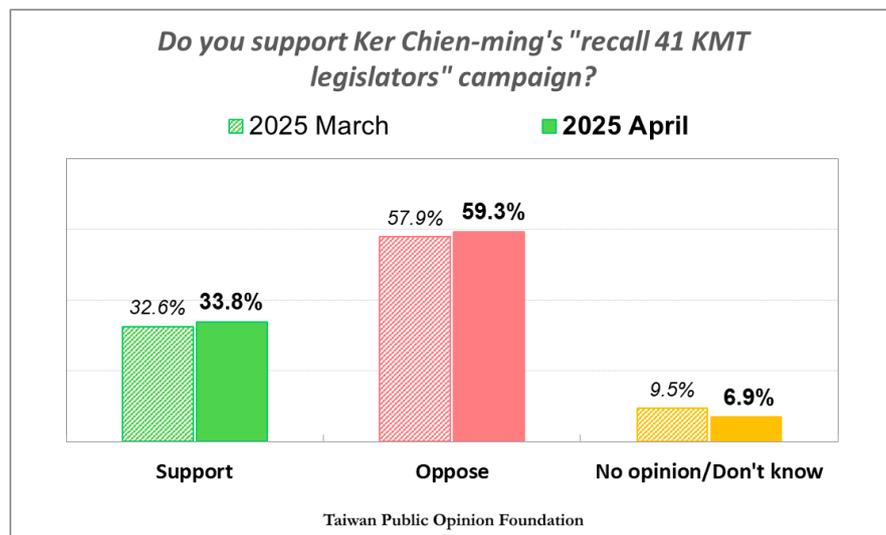
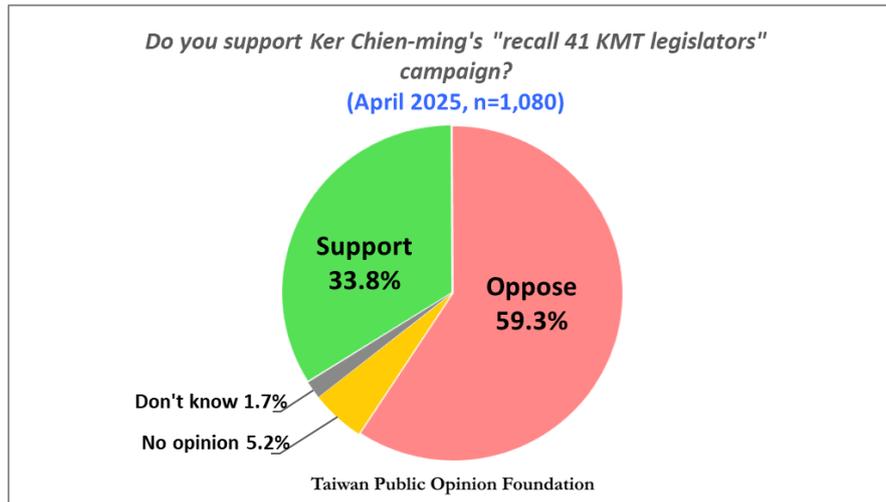


- The poll asks whether the public thinks the United States as a whole is more dependable than China. Among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 49.2% think the U.S. is more dependable than China, while a minority of 43% do not think so. This means that despite the shock from Trump tariffs, the majority of Taiwanese public still psychologically trusts the U.S. more than China.



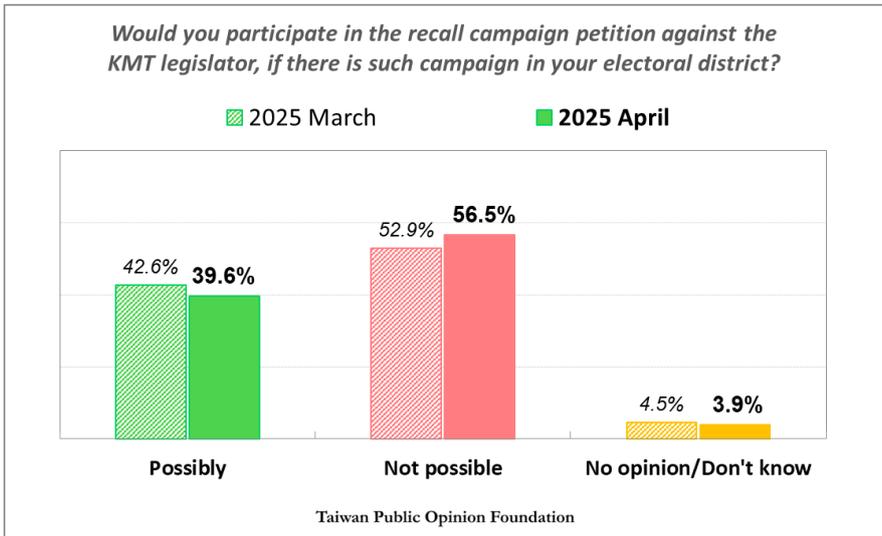
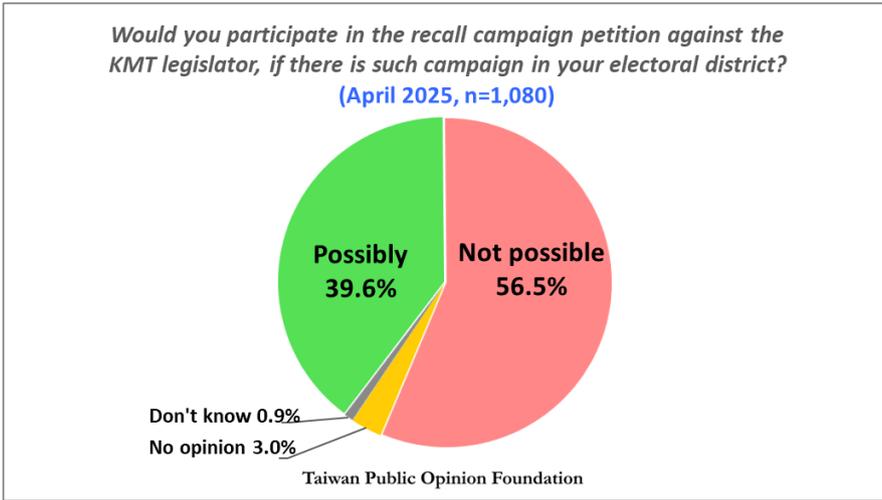
7. Earlier this year the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, led by its minority leader and political boss Ker Chien-ming, launched a nationwide recall campaign against 41 opposition legislators of the Kuomintang Party. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 59.3% oppose the DPP recall campaign, while a minority of 33.8% support it. Compared to March, there have been minimum changes to the public's overall views. The ruling DPP government has massively invested in mobilizing its supporters to sign the petitions for the recall campaign, and yet there has not been much increase in the minority that supports such recalls. Additionally:

- Supporters of the DPP recall campaign are overwhelmingly DPP supporters, of whom 72% support it. Whereas supporters of opposition KMT and TPP are overwhelmingly opposed to it. Among independents, only 17% support it while 71% oppose it.
- In terms of education attainments, the only group with majority supporting DPP recall campaign are those with only elementary school education or lower. All other higher education attainments demographic groups have majority against the recall.
- In terms of occupation groups, the only group with majority supporting DPP recall campaign are those who identified as farmers. All other occupation groups have majority against the recall.

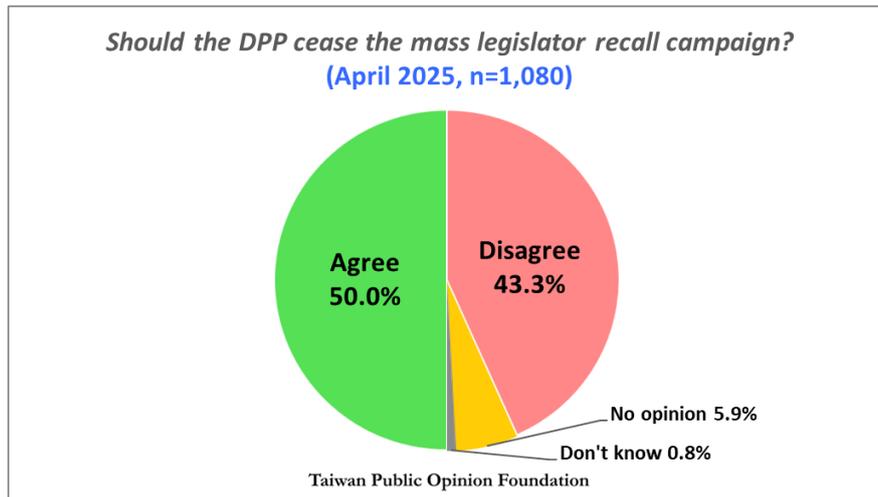


8. Per Taiwan election recall law, the second stage of a recall campaign must gather valid petitions of at least 10% of the total eligible voters in that district. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 56.5% said they will not participate in the recall petition if they are in one of the districts, while a minority of 39.6% said they will possibly sign a petition. Compared to March, the number of those willing to support the recall campaign further decreased while those unwilling to support it further increased.

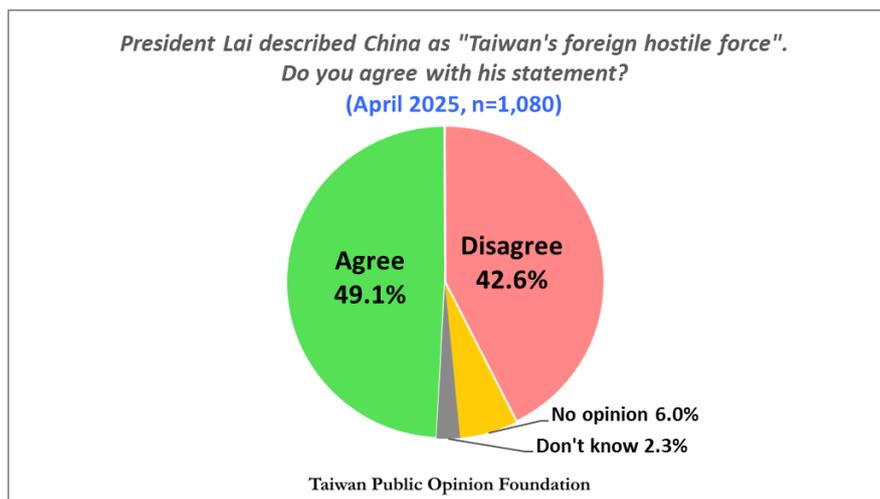
Despite this, the significant minority of those willing to participate in the petition means that many or most of the recall campaigns will pass their second stage due to the low requirement of Taiwan's election law.



9. The poll asks whether the public thinks the ruling DPP should cease the legislator recall campaign against the opposition KMT, given the U.S. tariffs and other external challenges Taiwan faces. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 50% agree the DPP should cease the recall campaign, while a minority of 43.3% disagree. Again, the majority of Taiwanese public are not supportive of the DPP's partisan recall campaign against the opposition party, though the DPP leadership seems fixated on pushing through these recalls.

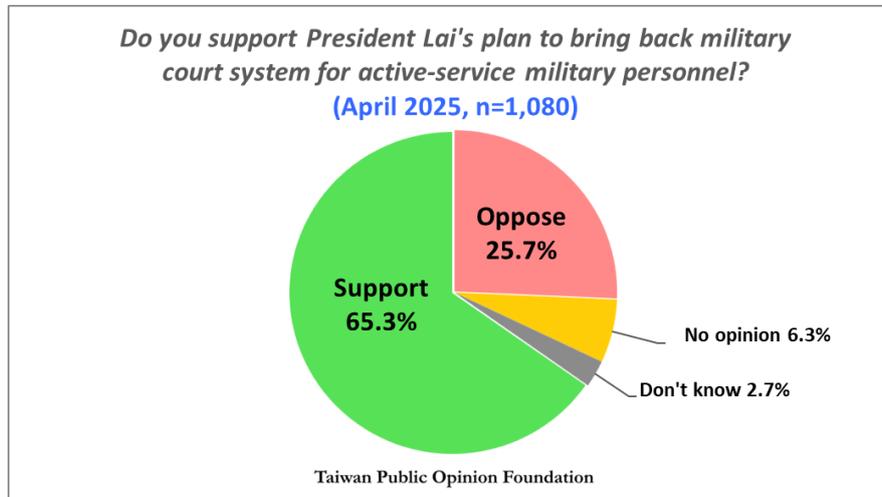


10. In March President Lai Ching-te announced so-called “17 strategies” to counter what he claims as “infiltrations and threats” from China. Lai further called China as “Taiwan’s [foreign hostile force](#)”. The statement was heavily criticized by the opposition KMT. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 49.1% agree with Lai’s statement, while a minority of 42.6% disagree. This means that majority Taiwanese accept Lai’s view on China as Taiwan’s hostile force, though significant minority also disagree with it.



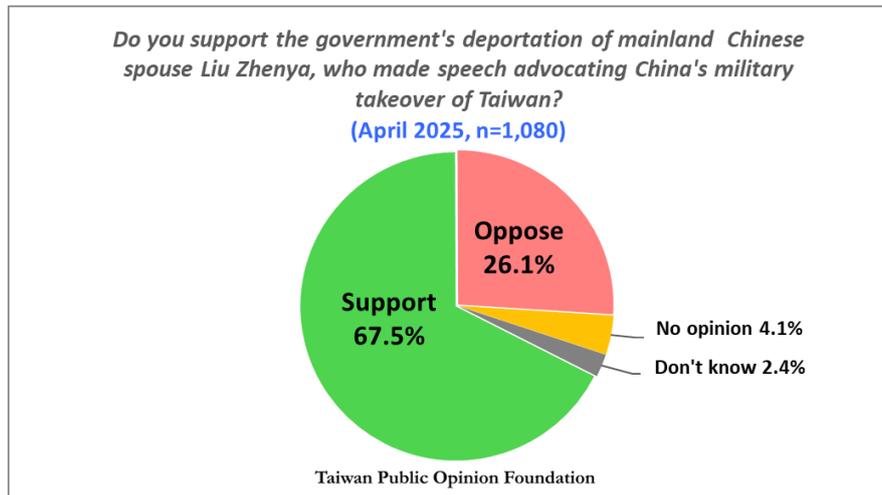
11. President Lai [said](#) that his government intends to reinstate military court system to trial active-duty military personnel. Taiwan’s military court system was made effectively non-functioning since 2013 after military detention resulted in the death of an army soldier, which then escalated into nation-wide protest movement that year which eventually led to the government’s shutdown of military court system during peace time. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 65.3% support Lai’s plan, while a minority of 25.7%

oppose it. This means that despite the opposition parties' criticism, the majority of Taiwanese public support bringing back military court system, in light of rising challenges to Taiwan's national security.



12. During March, a controversy ignited over the government's deportations of several mainland Chinese women – all spouses of Taiwanese men – who allegedly posted social media contents supporting or parroting China's "military takeover" of Taiwan. The ruling DPP government's immigration authority cancelled the women's residence permits in Taiwan and deported them back to China. The most well-known case of these is Chinese woman Liu Zhenya. The deportations were highly controversial, and there was an open letter signed by 75 scholars and intellectuals criticizing the government as trampling on rights of free speech.

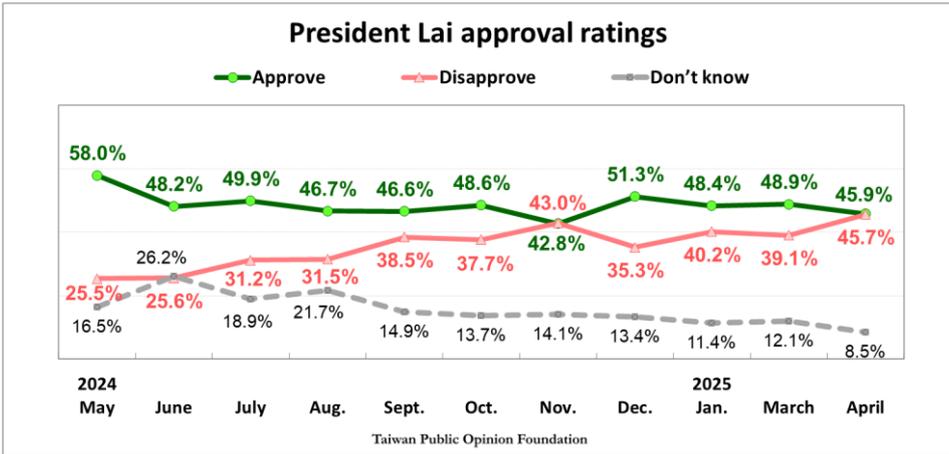
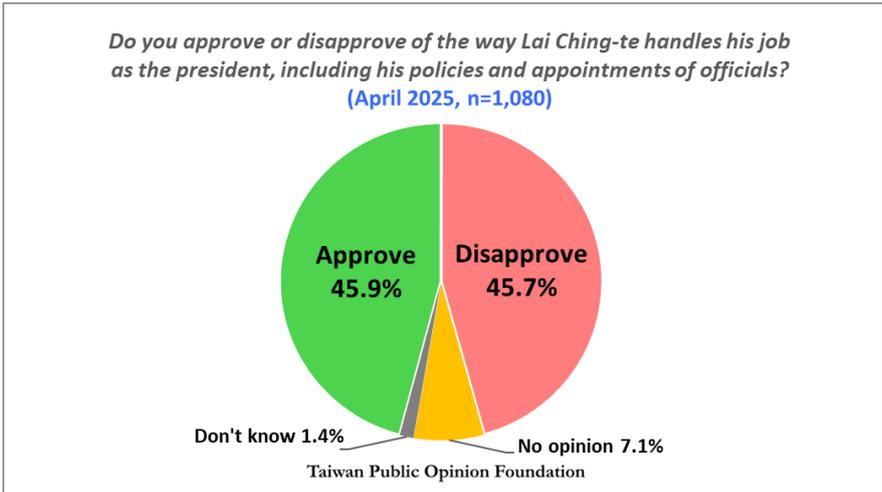
The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 67.5% support the deportation of Liu, while a minority of 26.1% oppose it. This means that Taiwanese public have clear majority support for deporting Chinese individuals making such speech in Taiwan, despite concerns regarding rights and free speech.



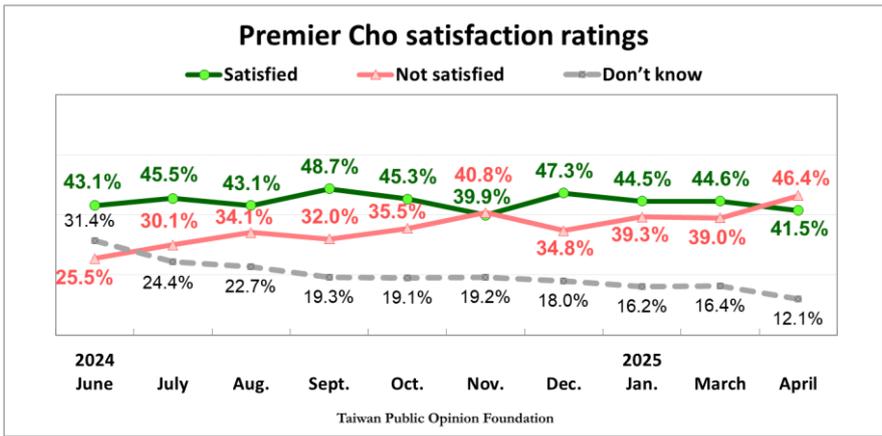
13. On President Lai Ching-te's approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 45.9% said they approve of the way Lai is handling his job as the president, while a minority of 45.7% disapprove of him. Clearly this shows Lai's presidency is facing serious challenges and doubts from the public. While gross approval rate is still in the positive by a razor-slim margin, the disapproval is the highest on record since Lai's inauguration in May 2024.

Why has disapproval notably increased over the past month? One possible explanation is of course the DPP's hyper-partisan, controversial mass recall campaign against large number of opposition legislators. For a while Lai had attempted to distant his ruling government from the DPP legislative caucus and party machine's efforts to push through recall campaigns, but in March Lai started to support the recalls more publicly using his position as DPP's chairman, the public therefore began to see Lai as being the main figure behind the controversial recall campaigns. Since the majority of Taiwanese public do not support the DPP-backed recalls, Lai's approval rating predictably suffered.

The other factor would have something to do with U.S. President Trump's tariffs against Taiwan. Since vast majority of Taiwanese public see Trump's tariffs as unreasonable and expect serious impacts to Taiwan's economy, many among the public might have perceived the ruling Lai government's responses to the tariffs as lacking and weak.

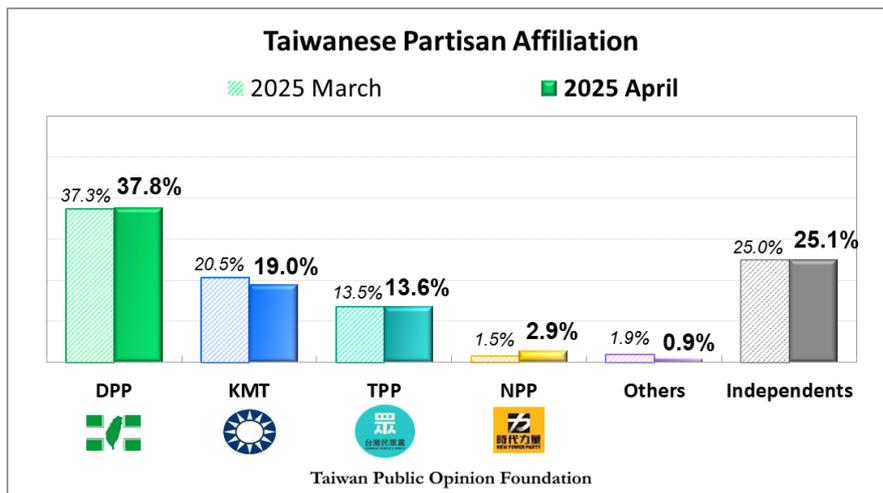
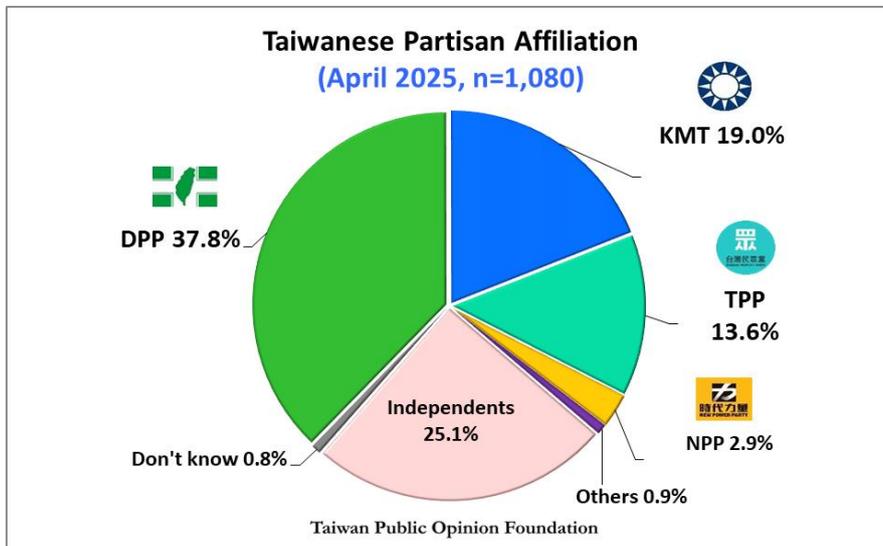


14. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 46.4% said they are not satisfied with the government cabinet under Premier Cho Jung-tai, while a minority of 41.5% are satisfied. This is the second time since the beginning of Lai’s presidency the majority are dissatisfied with Cho’s cabinet, and this time the dissatisfaction is markedly stronger. Clearly Cho’s cabinet and governance of the country can no longer satisfy most Taiwanese,



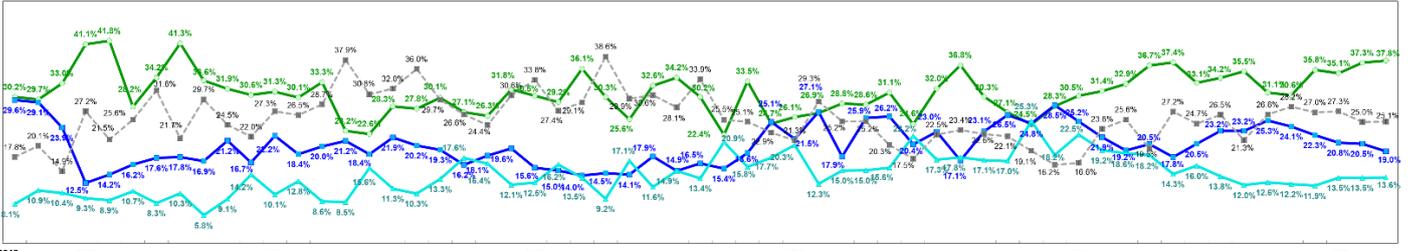
15. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 37.8% support the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 19% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 13.6% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 2.9% support the New Power Party (NPP), and 25.1% respondents identified themselves as independent. Compared to March, there has not been much change to the party affiliation level.

Despite majority public's opposition to the ruling DPP's mass recall campaigns, the DPP managed to maintain support among its core partisan supports. Even KMT and TPP combined would have fewer partisan supporters than the DPP. However, a quarter of Taiwanese identified themselves as independents, which could have a powerful impact as political issues become more publicly debated. Currently majority of independents disagree with many of DPP's stance on issues, such as its recall campaigns.



Taiwanese Partisan Affiliation 2019 - 2025

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



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