



Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation

May 2025 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

May 20, 2025

Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its May 2025 nation-wide poll. This marks the 104th 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.

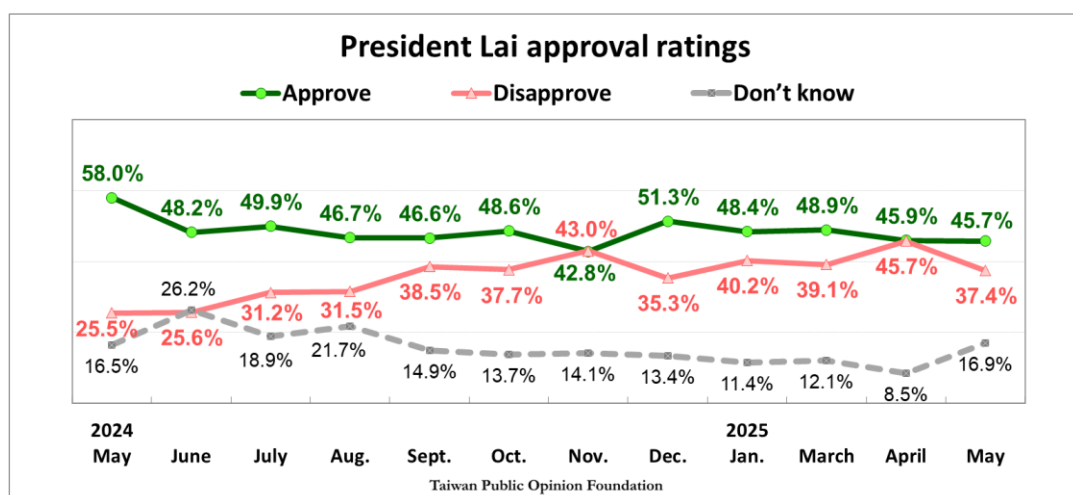
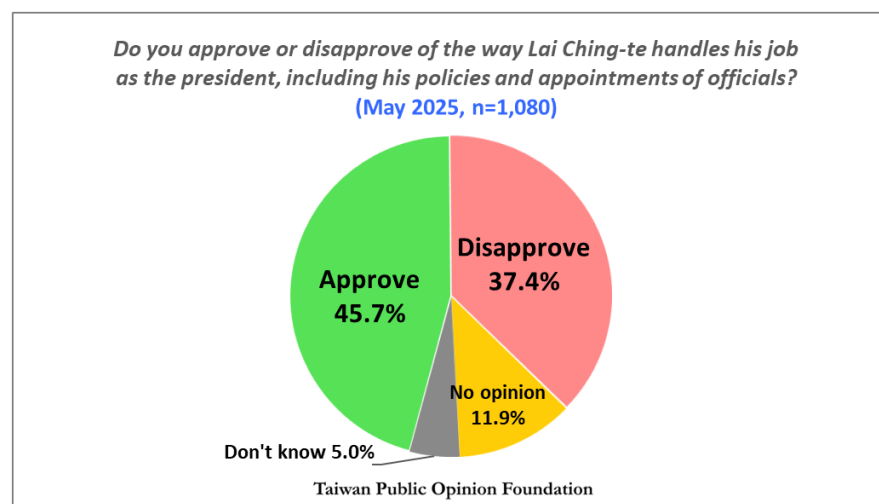
How the Survey was Conducted

This survey was conducted on May 12-14, 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:

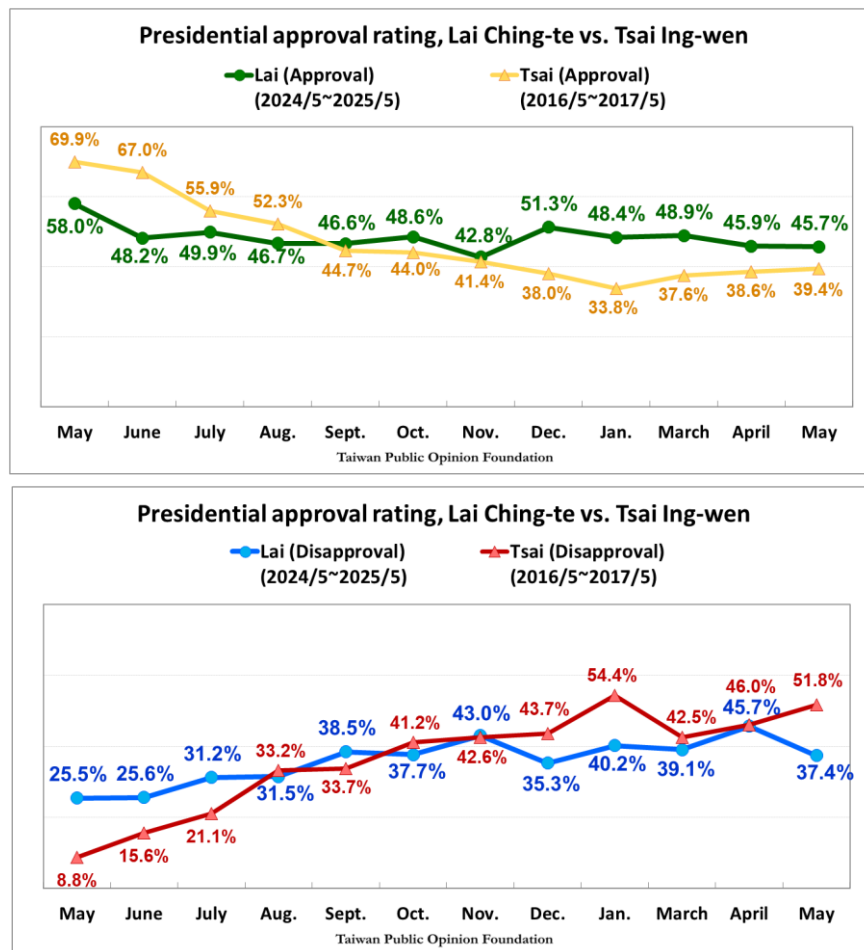
1. On President Lai Ching-te's approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 45.7% said they approve of the way Lai is handling his job as the president, while a minority of 37.4% disapprove of him. Compared to April, Lai's approval remains similar while disapproval drastically reduced by 8.7%.

One year in office, Lai is still able to maintain a positive approval rating not by increasing the number of supporters but by keeping those who oppose him at constant or lower. Looking back at the past year, Lai ratings have mostly stayed at a positive, which indicates a presidency that has thus far enjoyed stable though not overwhelming support from the majority Taiwanese public.

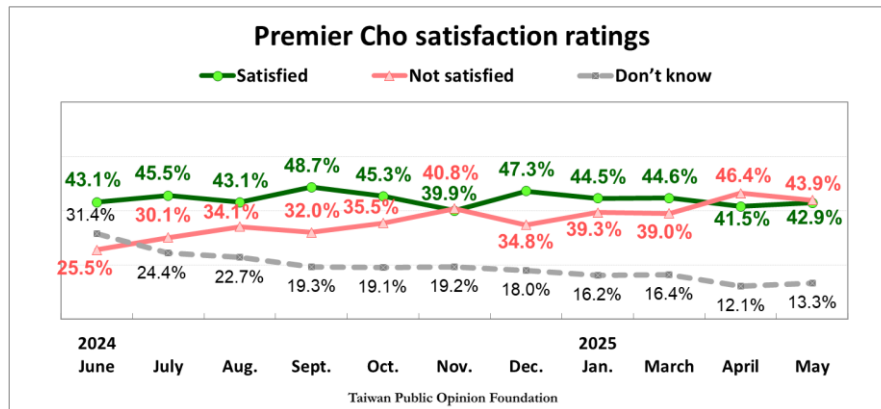


Lai's approval ratings in the first year also compared favorably to his predecessor the former DPP president Tsai Ing-wen, whose approval ratings during her first year in office was marked by aggressive decrease in popularity and increase in

disapproval. Why has Lai been able to avoid such rapid loss in support as Tsai did? One possible explanation could be the difference in Lai's leadership style and handling of the government.

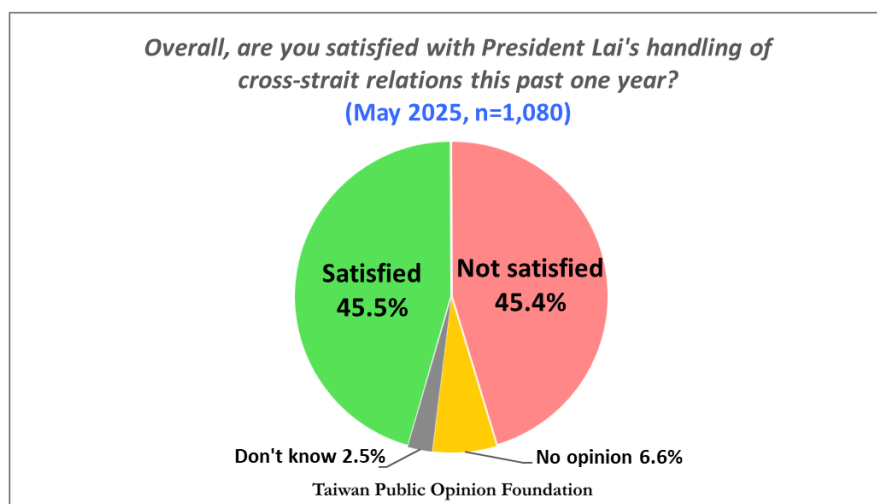


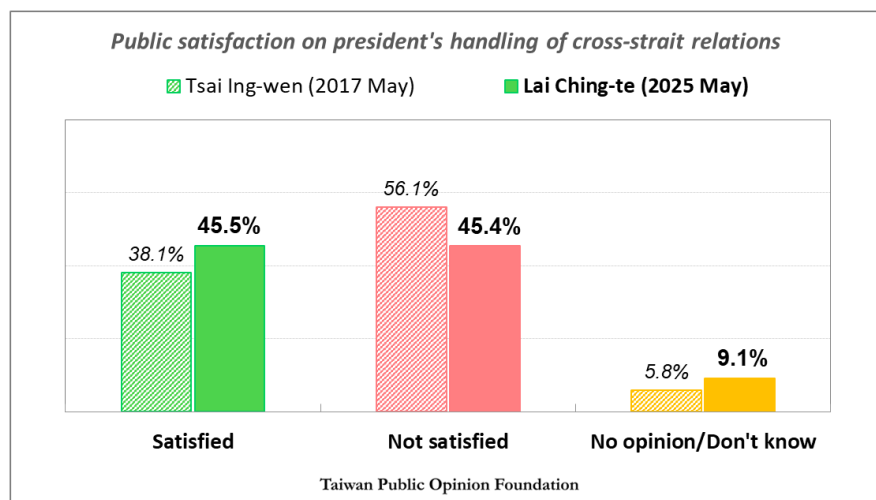
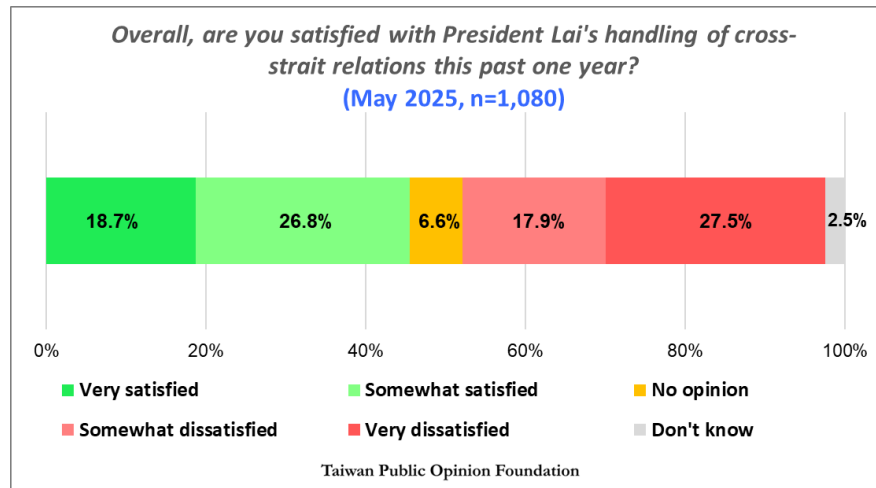
- The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 43.9% said they are not satisfied with the government cabinet under Premier Cho Jung-tai, while a minority of 42.9% are satisfied. This means that currently the Taiwanese public are almost equally divided on Cho government's performance though slightly more are not satisfied.



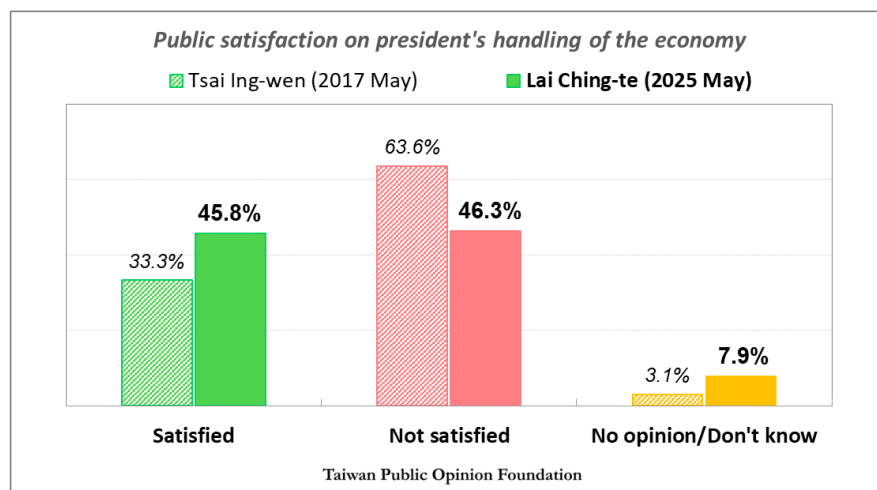
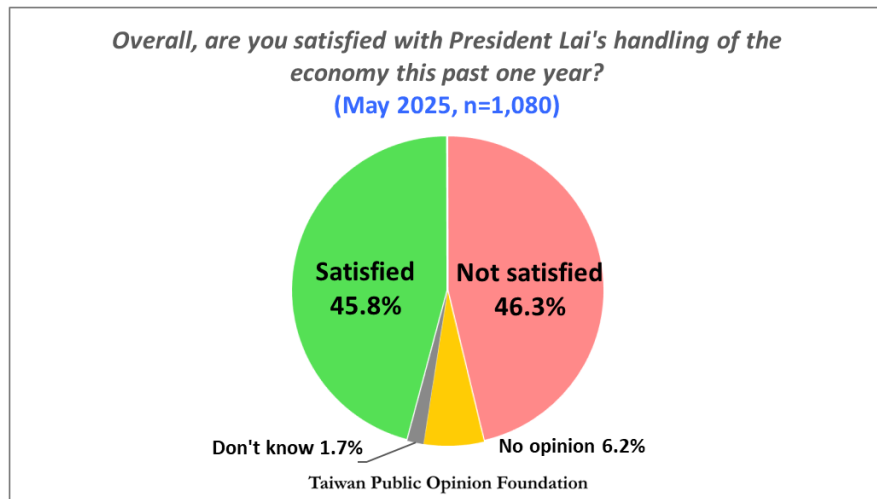
3. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 45.5% are satisfied with President Lai's handling of cross-strait relations with China this past one year, while 45.4% are not satisfied. This means Taiwanese public are equally divided as to Lai's handling of Taiwan's relations with China. A detail breakdown of the responses shows those who are "very dissatisfied" at 27.5% outnumbered those who are "very satisfied" at 18.7%, which indicates significant level of public discontents toward Lai's handling of cross-strait relations.

However compared to former President Tsai's polling record at one year into office, Lai's current level of satisfaction on cross-strait matters clearly exceeded Tsai's, with much more satisfaction and much less dissatisfaction.

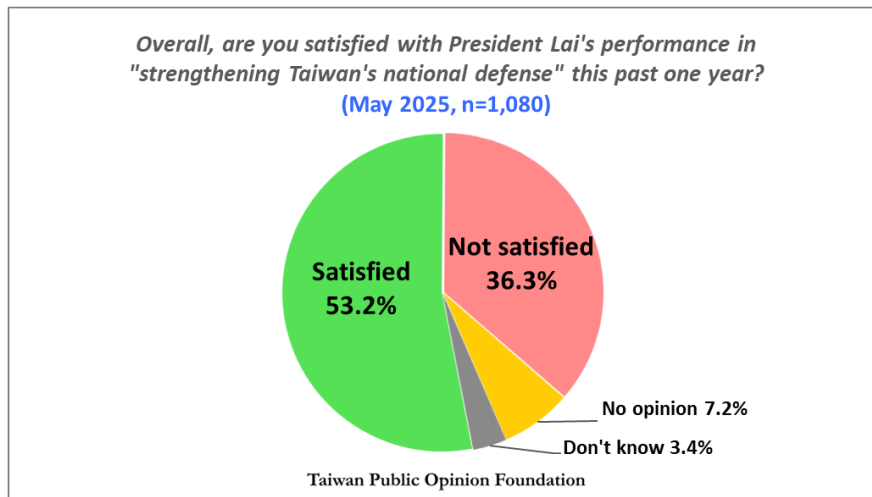




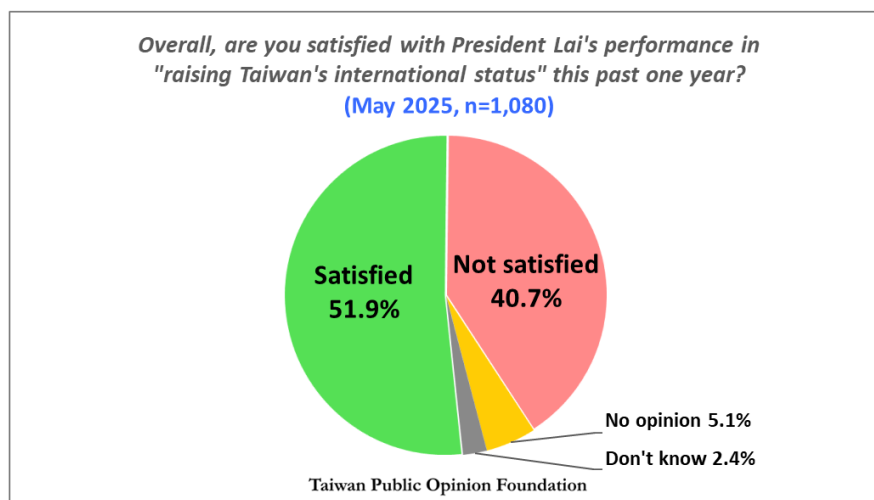
4. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 46.3% said they are not satisfied with Lai's handling of the economy this past one year, while a minority of 45.8% are satisfied. This means that Taiwanese public are almost equally divided on Lai's handling of Taiwan's economy. However, Lai's current level of economic satisfaction still far exceeds that of former President Tsai, who was deeply unpopular on economic performance at her one year into office.



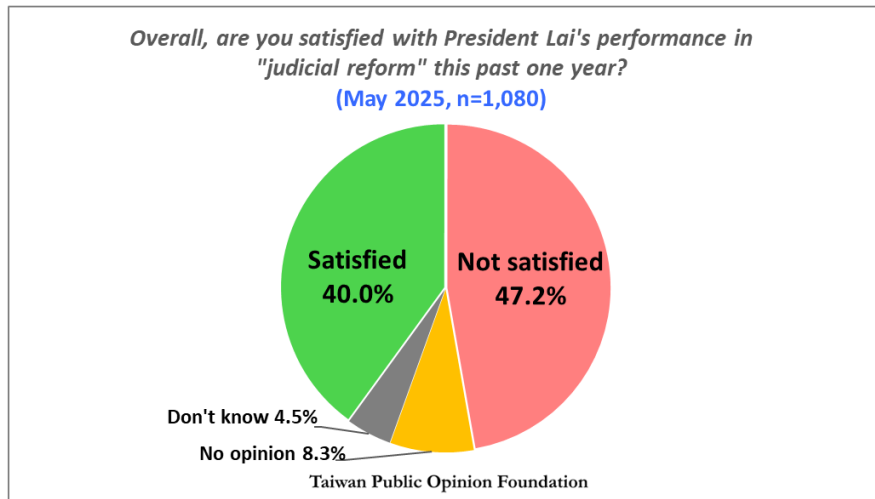
- The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 53.2% said they are satisfied with Lai's performance in strengthening Taiwan's national defense this past one year, while a minority of 36.3% are not satisfied. This means that majority of Taiwanese public approved of Lai government's performance on national defense matters, which indicates Lai government can rely on a strong public support for government's arms sales negotiation with the U.S.



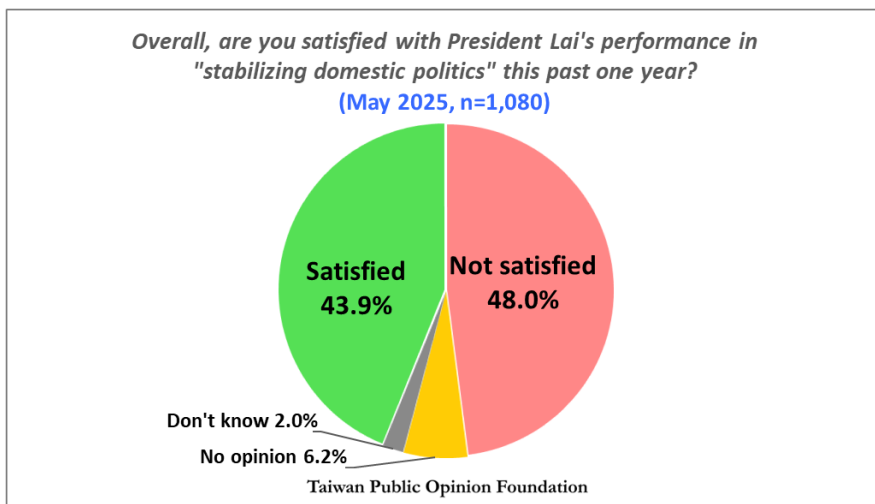
6. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 51.9% said they are satisfied with Lai's performance in raising Taiwan's international status on foreign affairs matters this past one year, while a minority of 40.7% are not satisfied.



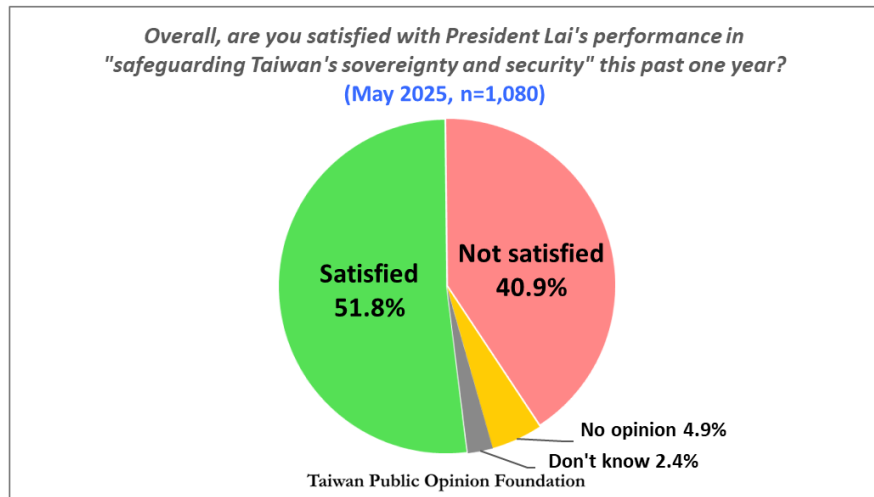
7. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 47.2% said they are not satisfied with Lai's performance in implementing judicial reform this past one year, while a minority of 40% are satisfied. This means that the majority of Taiwanese public do not feel that the Lai government has delivered the judicial reform much called-for by the public.



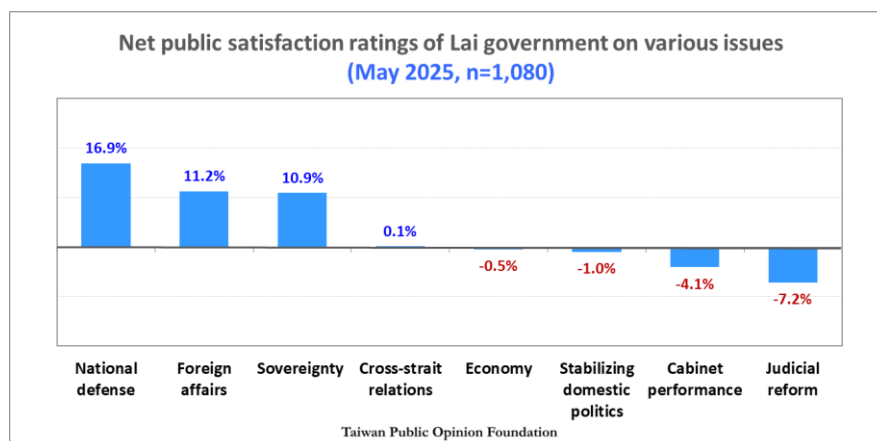
8. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 48% said they are not satisfied with Lai's performance in stabilizing domestic politics this past one year, while a minority of 43.9% are satisfied.



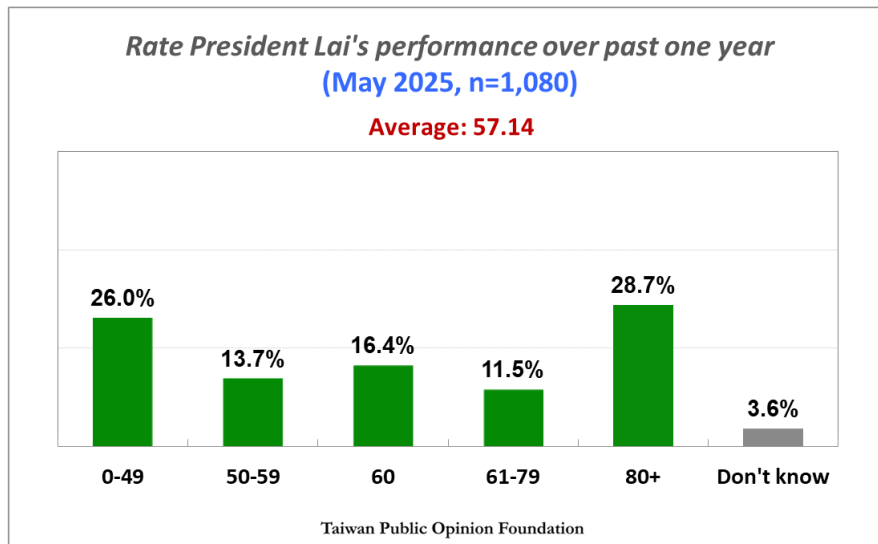
9. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 51.8% said they are satisfied with Lai's performance in "safeguarding Taiwan's sovereignty and security" this past one year, while a minority of 40.9% are not satisfied. This means that the majority of Taiwanese public approved and support the measures Lai government has taken on sovereignty and national security matters.



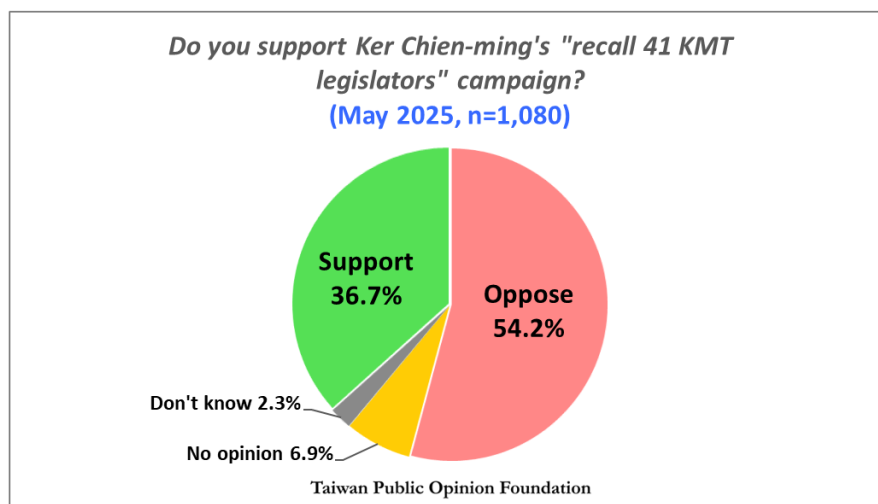
10. Overall, with just one year in office President Lai received the highest *net satisfaction* marks on national defense, foreign affairs, and safeguarding of Taiwan's sovereignty. The public are mixed on Lai's handling of the cross-strait relations and Taiwan's economy, while majority of people are not satisfied with Lai government's cabinet performance and progress of judicial reform.

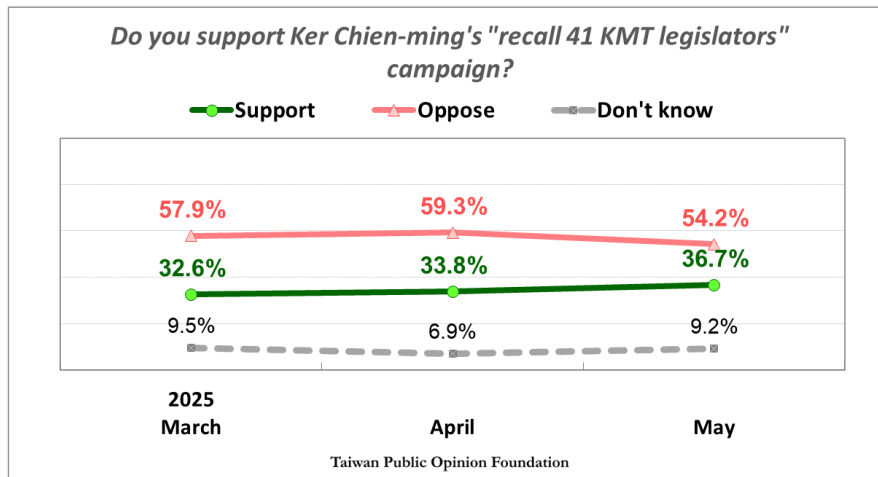


11. The poll asked respondents to rate Lai's performance as the president over past one year. Among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 26% rated Lai the lowest score of 0-49, while 28.7% rated highest score of 80 and above. Overall, Lai received an average score of 57.1. This compared favorably to former President Tsai's average score at one year presidency mark, which was just 52.4. However, Lai's current average score still falls short of the passing score of 60, indicating significant public opposition to his presidency and a sign that partisan division in Taiwan continues to undermine the president's ability to command strong public support.

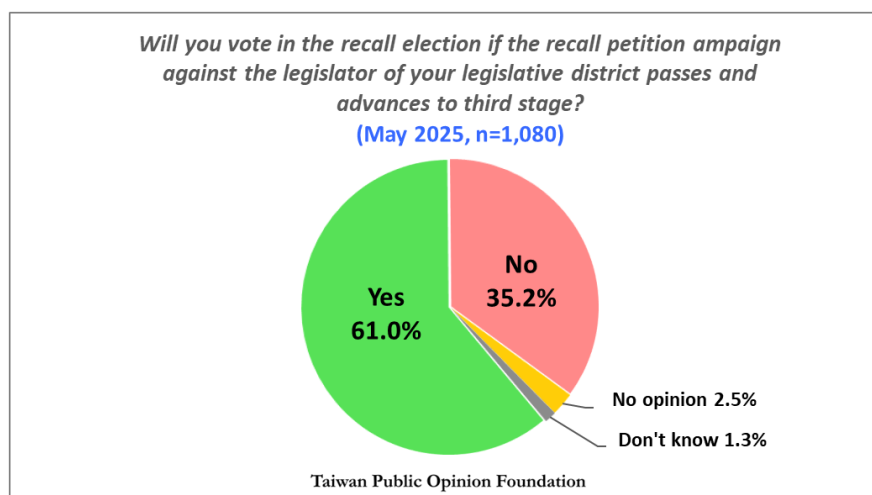


12. The ruling Democratic Progressive Party, led by its minority leader and political boss Ker Chien-ming, launched a nationwide recall campaign against 41 opposition legislators of the Kuomintang Party. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 54.2% oppose the DPP recall campaign, while a minority of 36.7% support it. Compared to April, there has been a slight increase in support for recall campaigns while opposition decreased slightly. However, the majority of the public are still firmly against the recall campaigns.



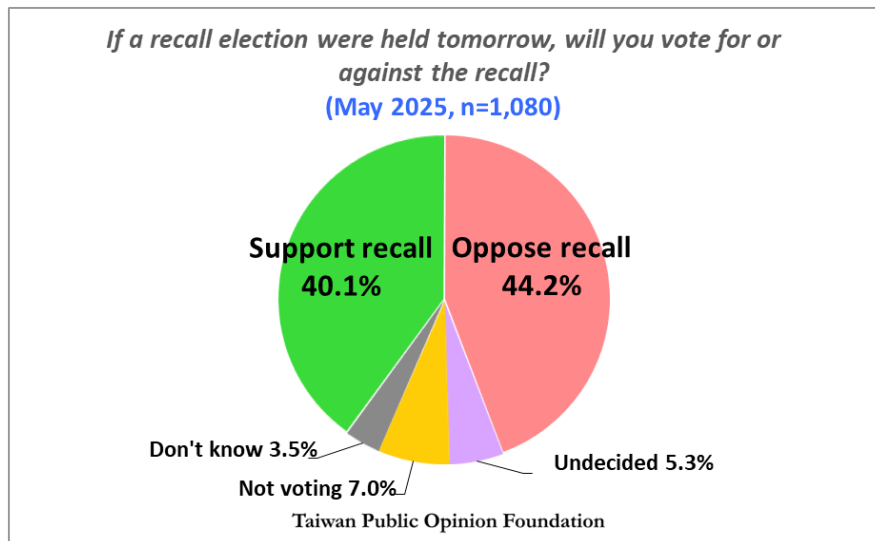


13. Per Taiwan election recall law, a recall campaign must gather valid petitions of at least 10% of the total eligible voters in that district. If a petition campaign is successful in gathering the required petitions, it will enter a third stage where a recall election will be held and a minimum of 25% recall votes out of all eligible voters are needed to successfully recall an office incumbent at this stage. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 61% said they will vote in the recall petition if the recall campaign in their district passes and advances to third stage, while a minority of 35.2% said they will not vote in recall election. This indicates a strong potential turnout in recall elections across the country, which could favor the partisan side that is organizing most of the recall campaigns, currently the ruling DPP.

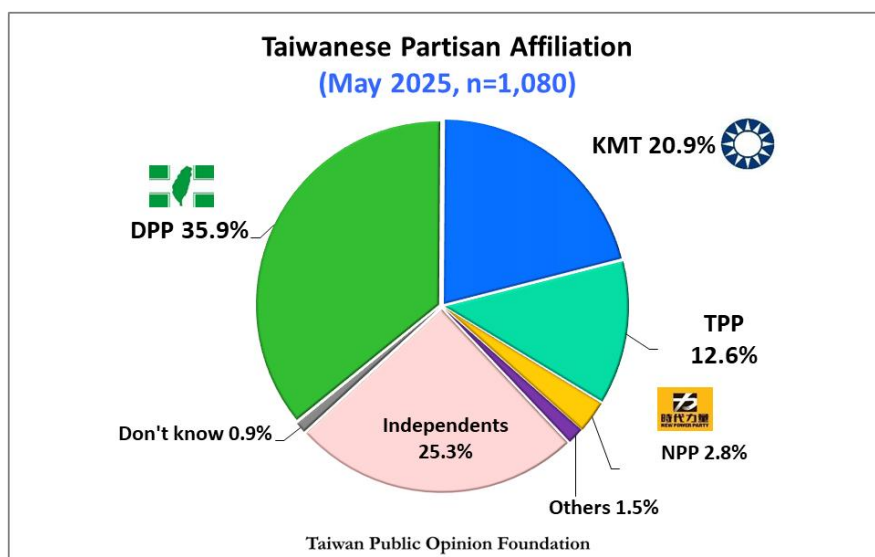


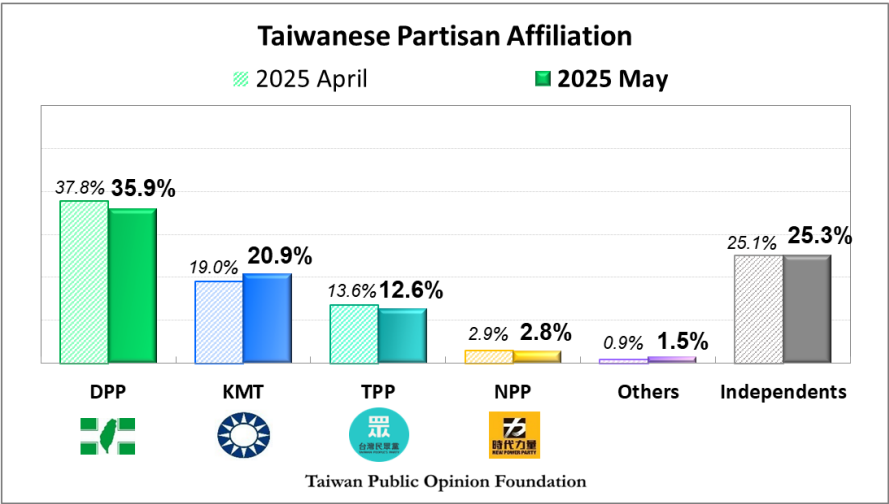
14. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 44.2% said they will vote against the recall if a recall election were held tomorrow at their district, while a minority of 40.1% support the recall. This means even though the ruling DPP currently commands most of the recall campaigns at the

second stage against KMT legislators, a slim majority of the public are against the recall if they were to vote in the election. But it is still not certain whether the opposition KMT can mobilize enough of these supporters to vote against the recall in various districts across the country.



15. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 35.9% support the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 20.9% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 12.6% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 2.8% support the New Power Party (NPP), and 25.3% respondents identified themselves as independent. Compared to April, there have been little changes though support for the ruling DPP declined slightly while opposition KMT increased slightly.





Taiwanese Partisan Affiliation 2019 - 2025

