



Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation

September 2025 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

September 16, 2025

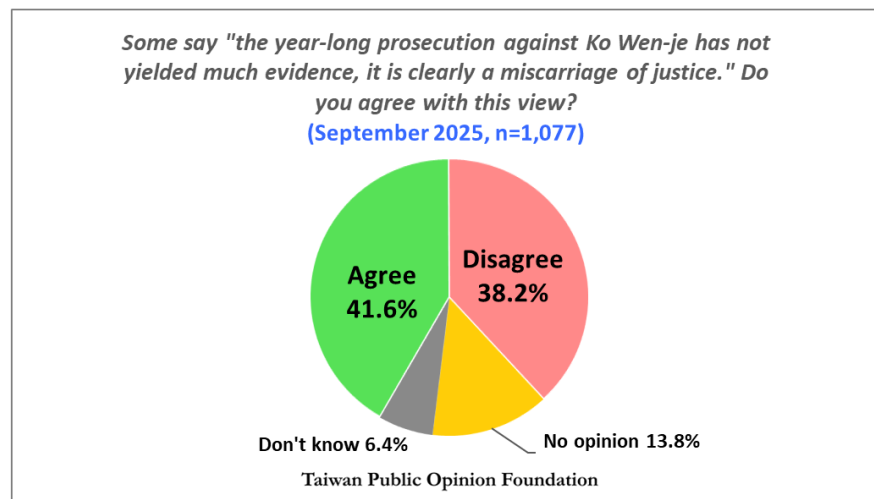
Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its September 2025 nation-wide poll. This marks the 108th monthly survey conducted by the TPOF aimed at tracking the development and changes in Taiwan's public opinion. The full release in Chinese language is available on our official website.

How the Survey was Conducted

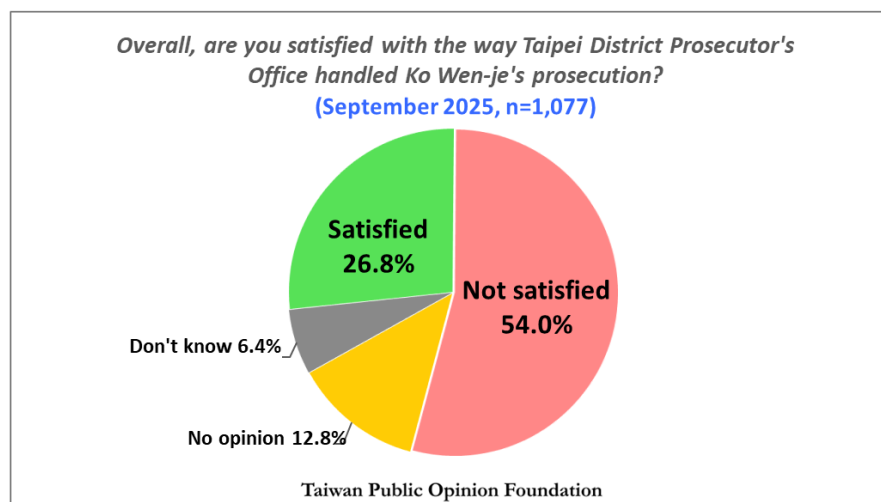
This survey was conducted on September 8-10, 2025, with a sample size of 1,077. Adults 20 years of age and older residing in Taiwan were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline and cellphone numbers were drawn through dual-frame random sampling with a proportion of 70% from landlines 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 ± 2.99 percentage points with 95% level of confidence.

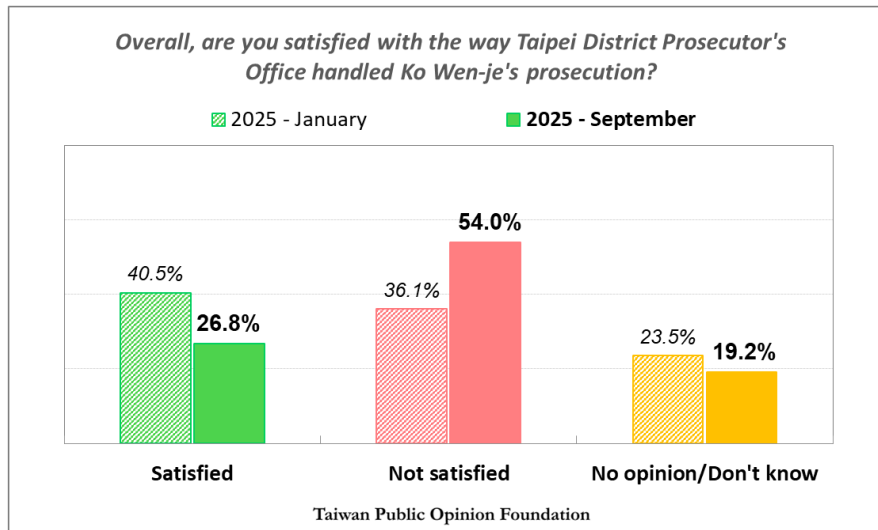
Main Findings:

1. Former Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je was put in detention for a year over his alleged role in the Jinghua City corruption case. On September 9 the Taipei District Court approved Ko's bail at NT\$70 million (US\$2.3 million), ending the year-long detention. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 41.6% say they agree with the statement that the prosecution against Ko has been a miscarriage of justice, while a minority of 38.2% disagree. This means that Taiwanese public have mixed views on Ko's case, but slightly more people think Ko's prosecution and treatments are unjustified.

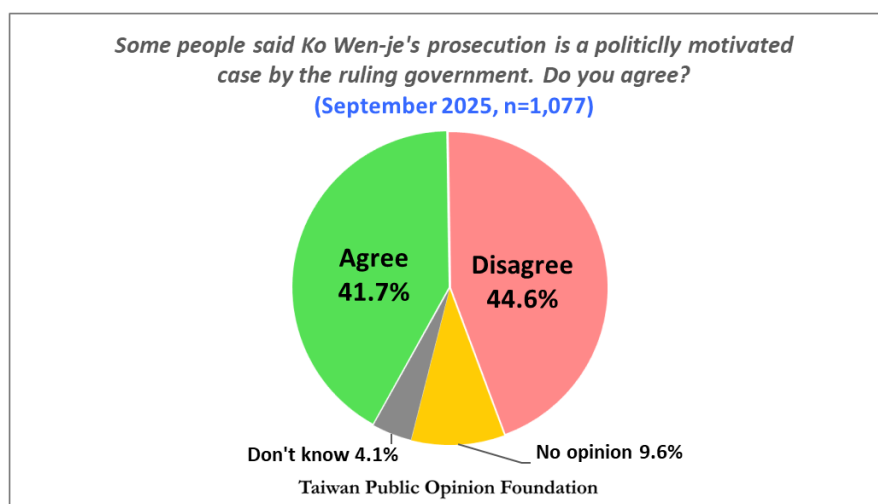


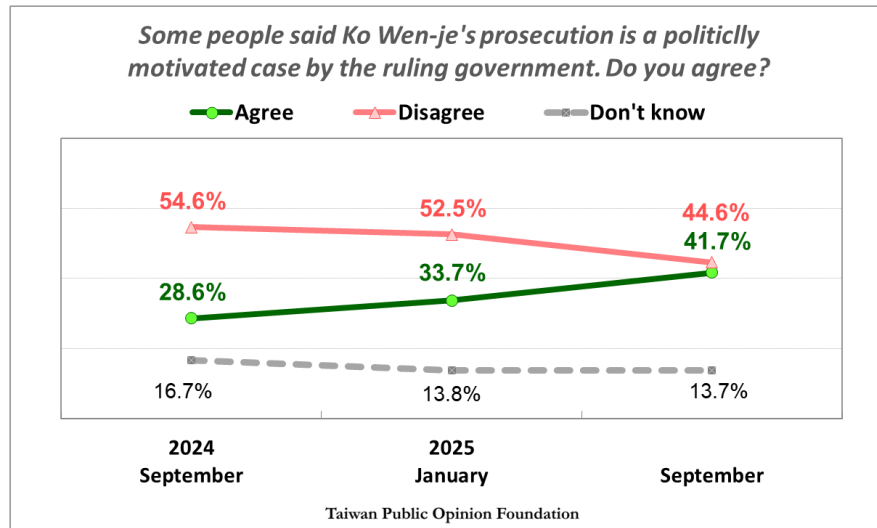
2. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 54% said they are not satisfied with Taipei District Prosecutor's office's handling of the case, while a minority of 26.8% are satisfied. Compared to poll result from January, Taiwanese public's perception of the prosecution has shifted dramatically to the negative over the last eight months.



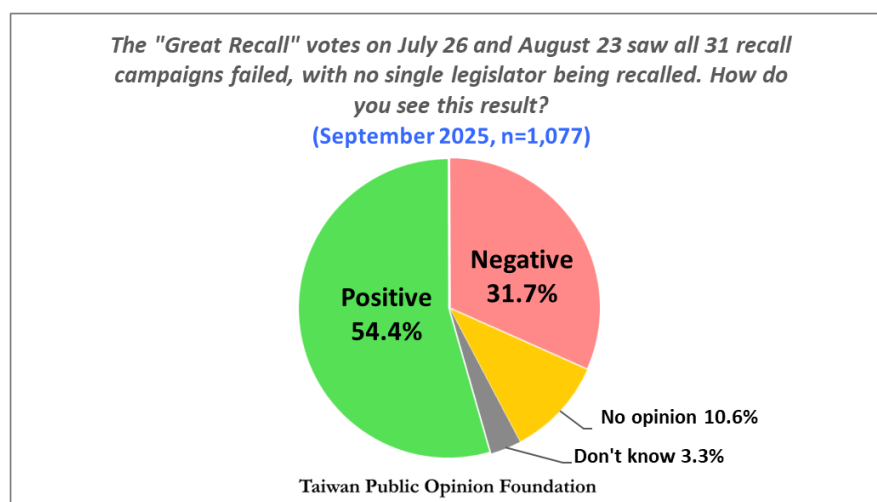


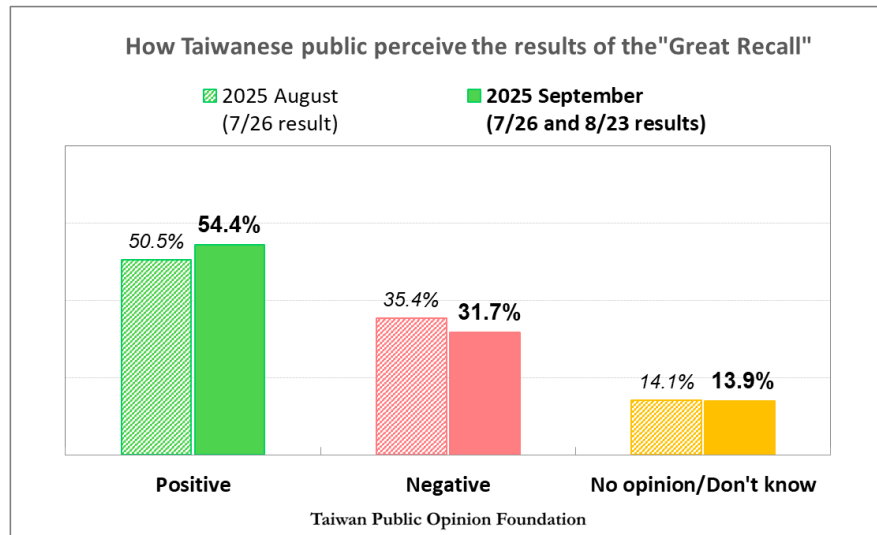
3. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 44.6% disagree with the statement that Ko's prosecution is politically motivated by the ruling government, while a minority of 41.7% agree with it. Compared to past two polls from January 2025 and September 2024, the number of those who view it as political prosecution has steadily increased. At the beginning of Ko's detention, the majority public expressed confidence in the independence of Taiwan's judiciary in prosecuting Ko, however a year passed that confidence has severely eroded, and now almost half of the public sees the case as politically motivated.



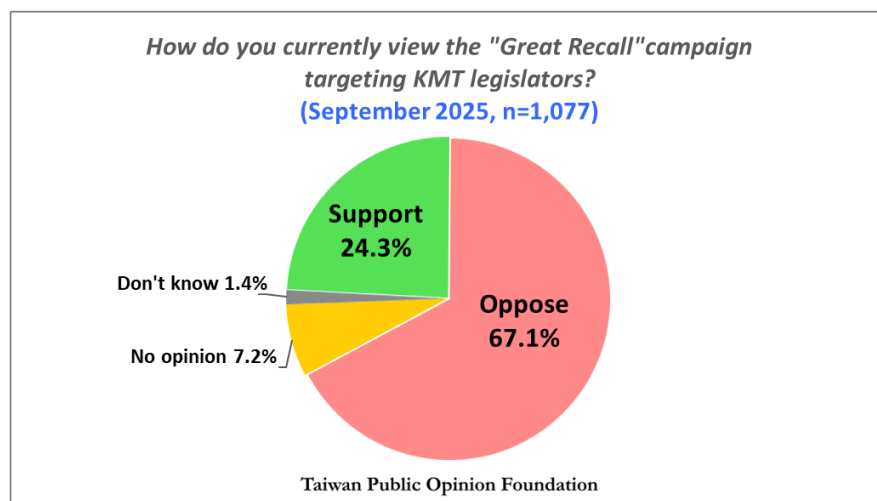


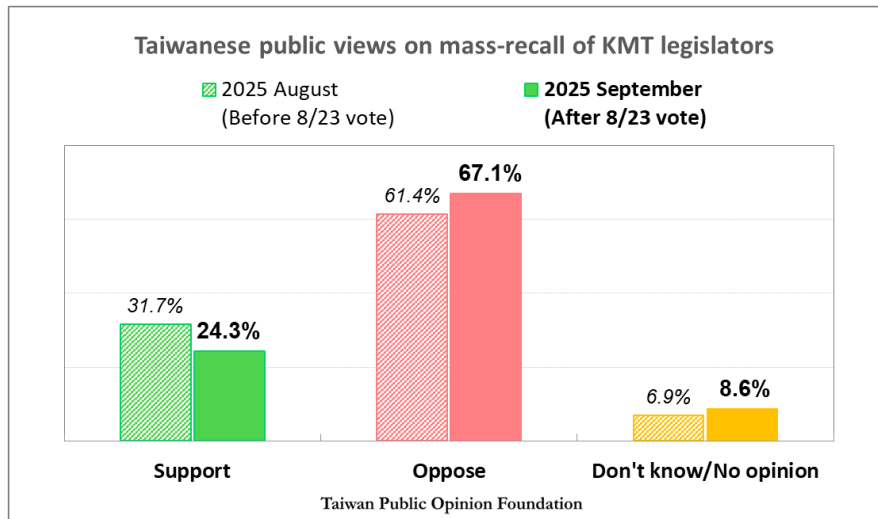
4. The July 26 “Great Recall” against opposition legislators saw all 24 campaigns failed with no single legislator being recalled, while the second round of voting on August 23 further 8 recalls failed. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 54.4% view the result positively, while a minority of 31.7% view it negatively. This confirms again the majority of Taiwanese were and are still opposed to the ruling party’s mass recall campaigns against opposition legislators. Furthermore, the poll finds the percentage of those who view the results positively increased slightly from August, while the percentage of those dissatisfied with the results decreased.



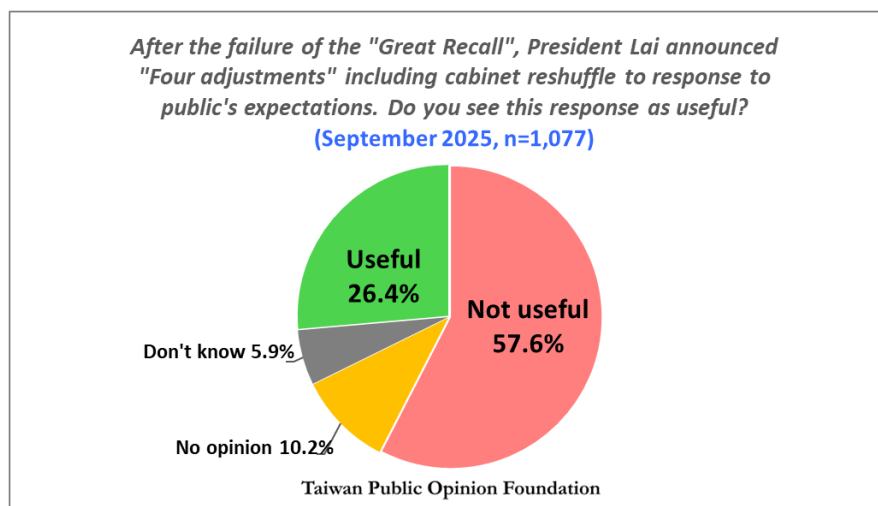


- The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 67.1% oppose the great recall campaign against KMT legislators, while a minority of 24.3% support it. While the recall votes have been cast and the results are past history, this month's poll saw support for the recalls declined further while opposition increased further. Not only were majority Taiwanese public opposed to the recalls a month or two ago, but they are also even more against it now.

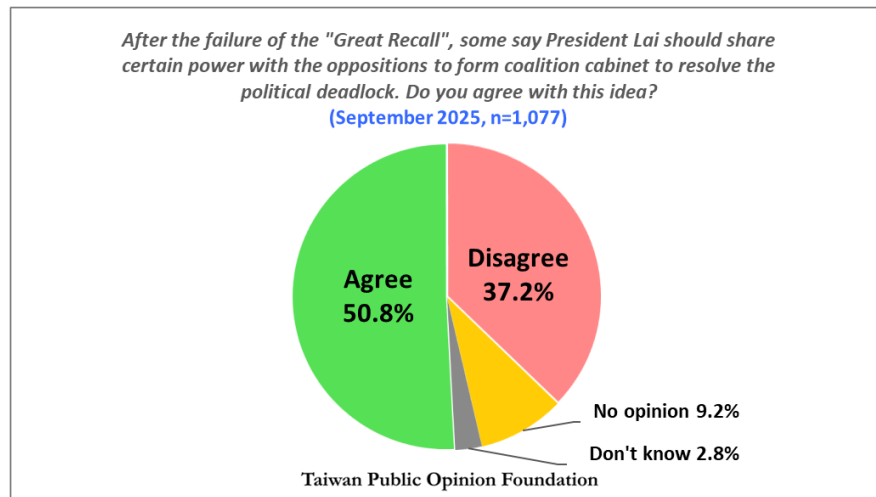




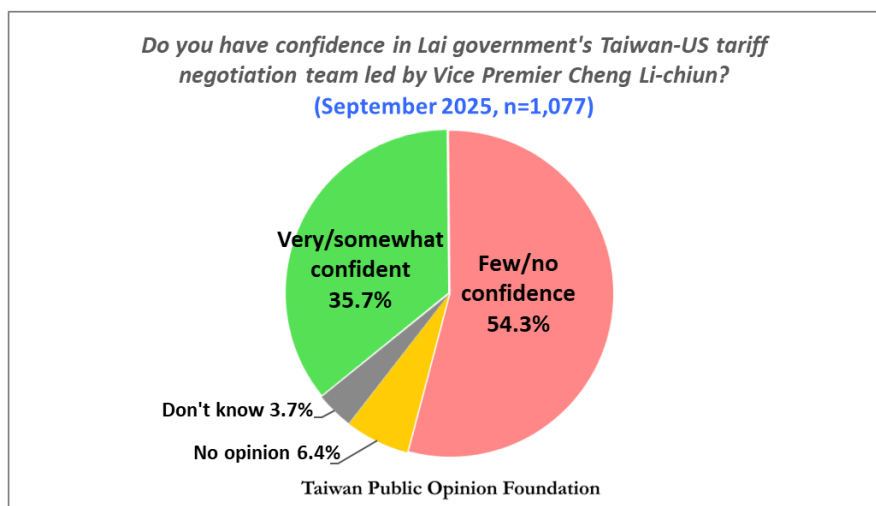
6. President Lai Ching-te announced that his administration would make “four adjustments”, including a Cabinet reshuffle, to meet the public’s expectations in the aftermath of the defeats of the “Great Recall”. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 57.6% find the response as not useful, while a minority of 26.4% find it useful.



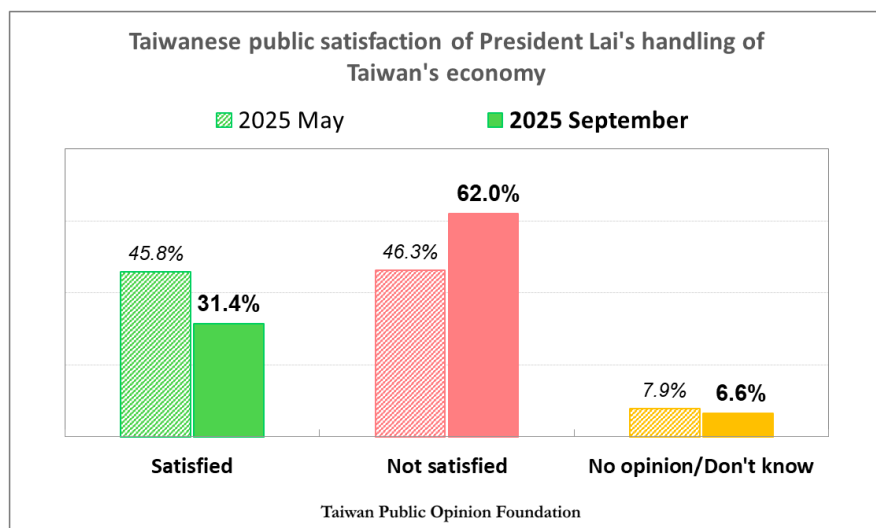
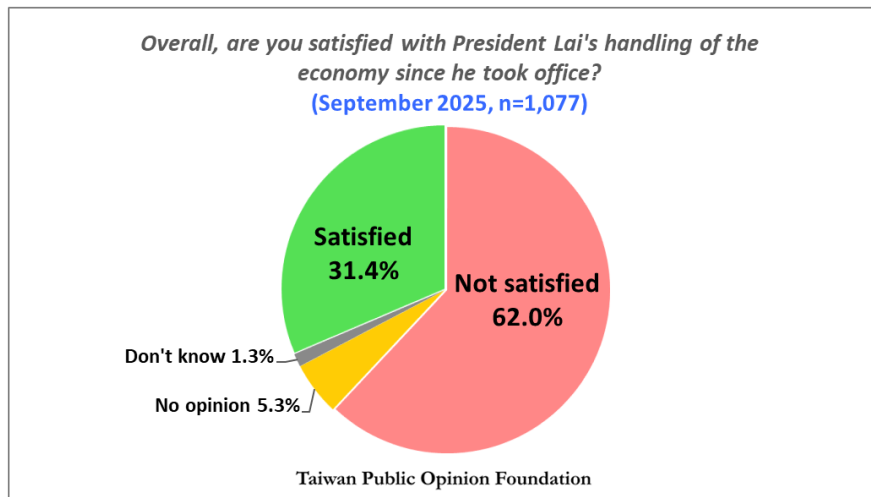
7. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 50.8% agree with the suggestion that President Lai should share certain power with the oppositions in the form of coalition cabinet, while a minority of 37.2% disagree with it. This means that majority of Taiwanese are now open to the idea of ruling Lai government forming coalition cabinet at central government level with the opposition.



8. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 54.3% say they have few or no confidence in Lai government's Taiwan-U.S. trade negotiation team led Vice Premier Cheng Li-chiun, while a minority of 35.7% are confident. While the U.S. tariff on Taiwan is now lowered to 20% from the original 32% high since April 2, majority Taiwanese public are still not confident in the government's ability to obtain favorable terms for Taiwan in trade negotiate with the United States.

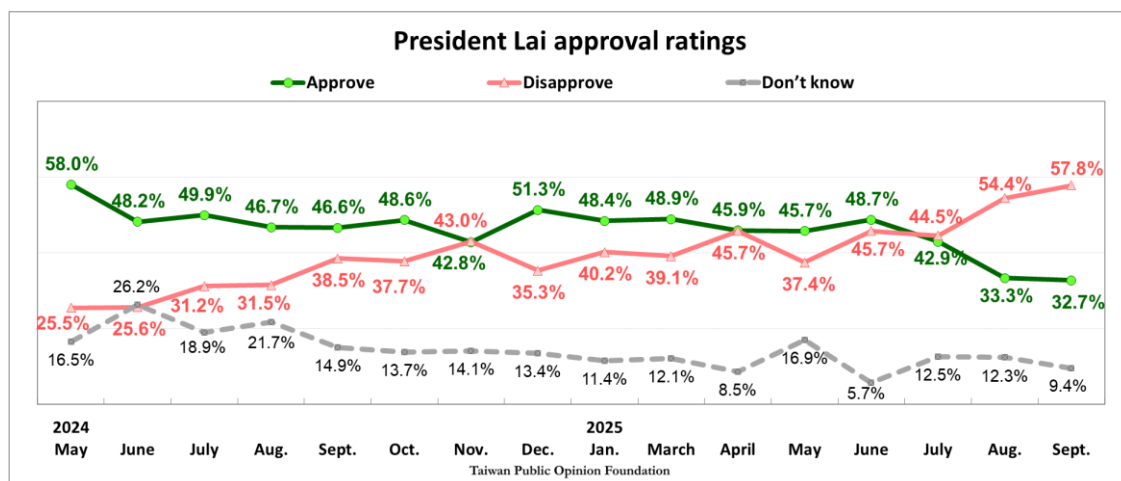
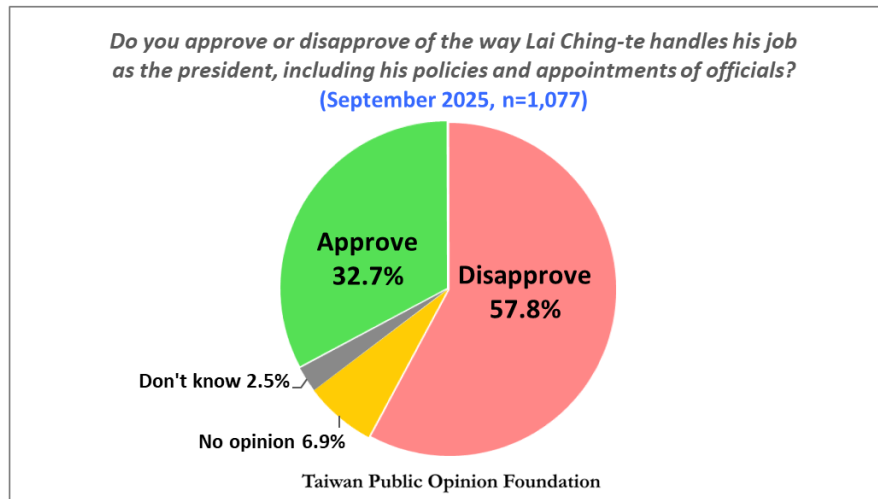


9. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 62% said they are not satisfied with Lai's handling of the economy since he took office, while a minority of 31.4% are satisfied. Compared to poll from May 2025, satisfaction on economic performance has declined sharply while dissatisfaction increased.

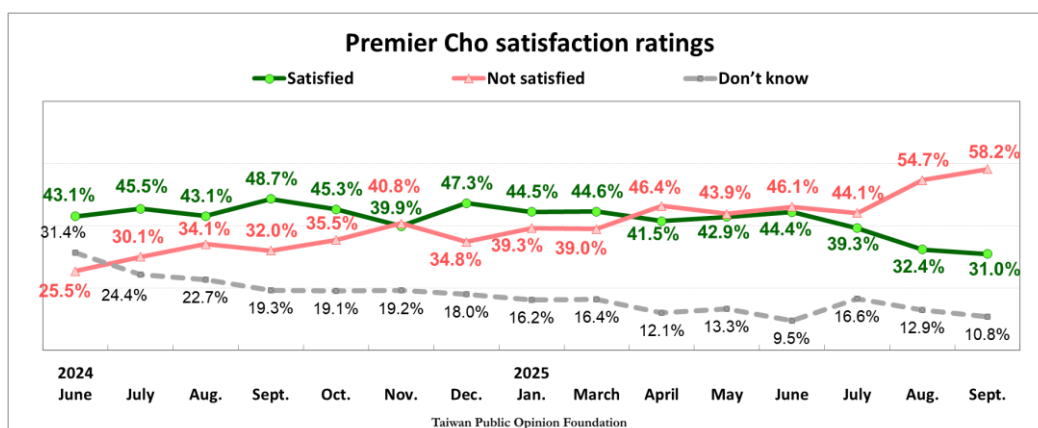


10. On President Lai Ching-te's approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 57.8% said they disapprove of the way Lai is handling his job as the president, while a minority of 32.7% approve of him. Compared to August, disapproval of Lai increased even further and set another new high. Clearly Lai's "Four adjustments" after the Great Recall failed to appease Taiwanese public, and public dissatisfaction of Lai continues to increase.

The complete defeat of the first and second rounds of "Great Recall" no doubt contributed to Lai's current unpopularity, since Lai sided with and supported the recall campaigns. Other likely factors are the lack of confidence in government's negotiation of U.S. tariff on Taiwan, the controversies surrounding Ko Wen-je's prosecution and treatments, the perceived mishandling of the disaster relief following Typhoon Danas, and public dissatisfaction over Cabinet Cho's government.

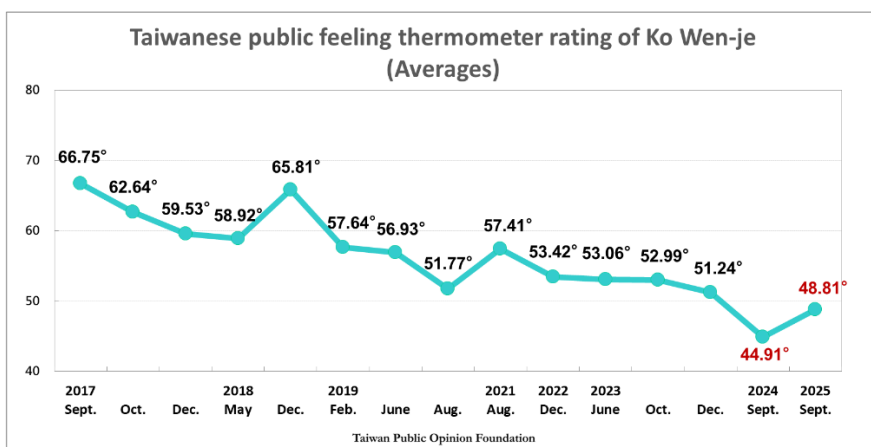
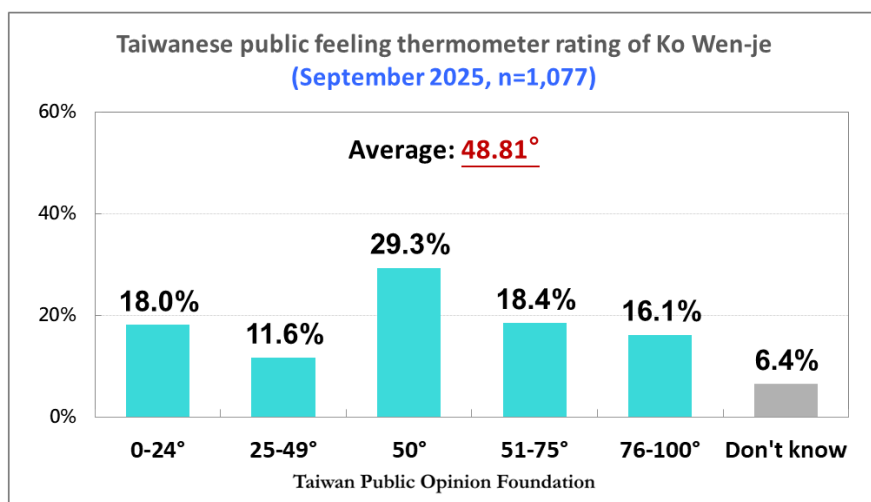


11. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 58.2% said they are not satisfied with the government cabinet under Premier Cho Jung-tai, while a minority of 31% are satisfied. Compared to August, Cho Cabinet's satisfaction saw further decline, while the minor cabinet reshuffle on August 27 clearly did little to reassure the Taiwanese public.

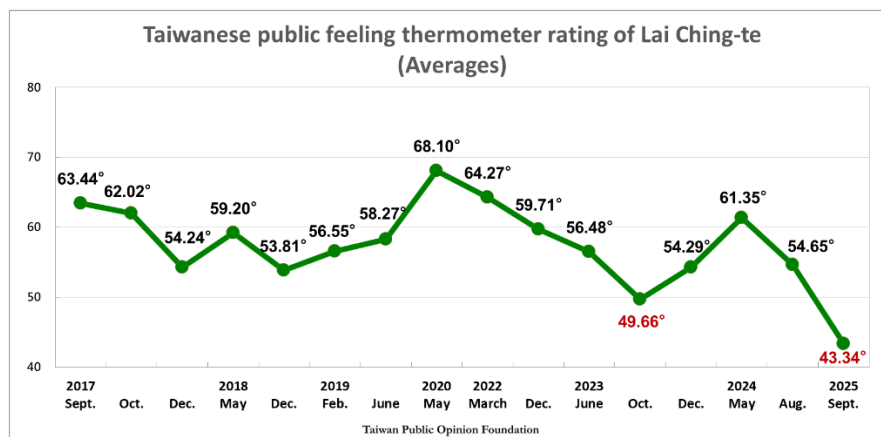
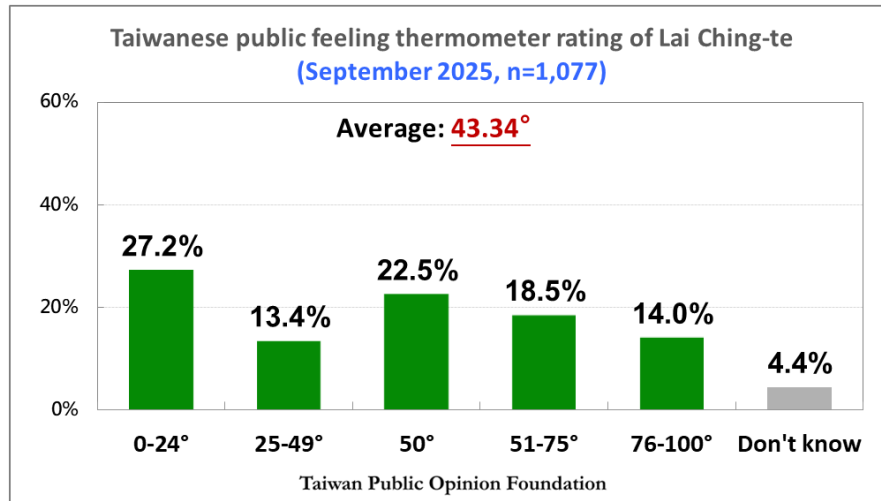


12. The poll asked respondents, Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, to rate Ko

Wen-je on a feeling thermometer between 0 and 100 – whereas 0 is the most negative and 100 is the most positive. Ko received an average temperature of 48.8° which indicates a cold public feeling toward him. However, it also indicates a slight recovery from September 2024 when Ko was first put into detention over corruption allegation. While the general feeling toward Ko remains cold, the worst of time might be over for Ko and further recovery could be expected especially if his corruption charges get cleared by the court.



- The poll asked respondents, Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, to rate President Lai Ching-te on a feeling thermometer between 0 and 100 – whereas 0 is the most negative and 100 is the most positive. Lai received an average temperature of 43.3° which indicates a very cold public feeling toward him. Not only is this the largest slide in Lai's thermometer record, but it is also the coldest ever and noticeably colder than the previous low which was in October 2023. In the past Lai has shown himself to be capable of climbing back to warm public feeling over time, it remains to be seen how long will he be able to regain the previous warm feeling this time.



14. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 30.9% support the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 25.2% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 14.4% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 1.9% support the New Power Party (NPP), and 26.1% respondents identified themselves as independent. Compared to August, the ruling DPP's support increased slightly, but KMT's support increased by an even greater 5%. If we combine the support for opposition KMT and TPP it would be almost 40%, which far exceeds the support for DPP.

