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PUBLIC OPINION PROGRAMME 民意研究計劃

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HKU POP SITE and Civic Exchange releases the 3rd Legislative Council election rolling survey result

Preamble

This year, the Public Opinion Programme (POP) at the University of Hong Kong and the Civic Exchange are jointly conducting a series of rolling surveys on the 2004 Legislative Council direct elections starting from August 4. While the background and the methodology have been discussed before, please refer to the websites of POP and Civic Exchange at <http://hkupop.hku.hk> and <http://www.civic-exchange.org> respectively for the details. This press release mainly highlights the key findings in the rolling surveys conducted from August 6 to 10.

Knowledge of the election

The latest territory-wide rolling surveys (i.e. August 8 to 10) revealed that, 51% had no idea on any list in their geographical constituency, while 49% knew at least one list. For the scenarios in individual constituencies, please refer to the websites for details.

Territory-wide rolling surveys						
Date of survey	<u>4-6/8</u>	<u>5-7/8</u>	<u>6-8/8</u>	<u>7-9/8</u>	<u>8-10/8</u>	<i>Latest change</i>
Sample base	1,120	1,108	1,072	1,064	1,069	--
Overall response rate	72.7%	73.9%	74.5%	73.9%	74.4%	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	--
Totally no idea on the list in their constituency	59%	55%	55%	52%	51%	-1%
Knew at least one list in their constituency ^	41%	45%	45%	48%	49%	+1%
Knew at least half of the lists in their constituency ^	11%	13%	14%	16%	17%	+1%
Knew all lists in their constituency ^	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	--

* "95% confidence level" means that if we were to repeat a certain survey 100 times, using the same questions each time but with different random samples, we would expect 95 times getting a figure within the error margins specified.

^ Since overlapping exists among these 3 answers, the total would add up to over 100%.

Propensity to vote

The territory-wide rolling surveys from August 8 to 10 revealed that, the registered voters' propensity to vote was 85%. Nevertheless, this percentage should never be taken as a projection of the actual turnout rate because many people who claimed they would vote at this stage would eventually not vote. For the scenarios in individual constituencies, please refer to the websites for details.

Territory-wide rolling surveys						
Date of survey	<u>4-6/8</u>	<u>5-7/8</u>	<u>6-8/8</u>	<u>7-9/8</u>	<u>8-10/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	1,120	1,108	1,072	1,064	1,069	--
Overall response rate	72.7%	73.9%	74.5%	73.9%	74.4%	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	--
Proportion of respondents definitely will vote	55%	56%	57%	58%	59%	+1%
Propensity to vote (summation of "definitely will" and "most likely will" vote)	80%	83%	86%	85%	85%	--

* "95% confidence level" means that if we were to repeat a certain survey 100 times, using the same questions each time but with different random samples, we would expect 95 times getting a figure within the error margins specified.

Stray voters

Since many voters still had not decided how to cast their vote, while stray voters would always have significant influence on the election result, the POP Team therefore further look into the distribution of these votes in 5 constituencies. Firm voters are defined as those who said they would definitely and most likely vote, and have also decided to vote for which list, while stray voters are defined as those who said they would definitely and most likely vote, but have not decided to vote for which list. The rolling surveys in individual constituencies from August 6 to 10 showed that, there were around 23% - 33% of stray votes in each of the 5 constituencies, while the largest proportion of stray votes was found in Kowloon East (33%) and the smallest in New Territories East (23%). The figures are summarized as follows:

Rolling survey: Hong Kong Island				
Date of survey	<u>4-8/8</u>	<u>5-9/8</u>	<u>6-10/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	329	339	350	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 6%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--
Proportion of firm voters	53%	54%	55%	+1%
Proportion of stray voters	26%	25%	27%	+2%
Proportion of "no-votes"	21%	21%	18%	-3%

Rolling survey: Kowloon East				
Date of survey	<u>4-8/8</u>	<u>5-9/8</u>	<u>6-10/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	305	300	294	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--
Proportion of firm voters	49%	49%	47%	-2%
Proportion of stray voters	30%	32%	33%	+1%
Proportion of "no-votes"	21%	20%	20%	--
Rolling survey: Kowloon West				
Date of survey	<u>4-8/8</u>	<u>5-9/8</u>	<u>6-10/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	278	277	261	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--
Proportion of firm voters	49%	50%	51%	+1%
Proportion of stray voters	28%	28%	28%	--
Proportion of "no-votes"	23%	22%	21%	-1%
Rolling survey: New Territories East				
Date of survey	<u>4-8/8</u>	<u>5-9/8</u>	<u>6-10/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	454	448	463	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--
Proportion of firm voters	56%	57%	60%	+3%
Proportion of stray voters	22%	23%	23%	--
Proportion of "no-votes"	22%	20%	18%	-2%
Rolling survey: New Territories West				
Date of survey	<u>4-8/8</u>	<u>5-9/8</u>	<u>6-10/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	450	447	438	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--
Proportion of firm voters	51%	49%	51%	+2%
Proportion of stray voters	27%	27%	27%	--
Proportion of "no-votes"	22%	24%	23%	-1%

* "95% confidence level" means that if we were to repeat a certain survey 100 times, using the same questions each time but with different random samples, we would expect 95 times getting a figure within the error margins specified.

Candidate strength

Concerning the rolling surveys in individual constituencies from August 6 to 10, the support ratings of various lists are summarized as follows:

Question: In the forthcoming Legislative Council direct election, in fact there are several lists as follows. Which list you tend to support?	Support rating	Candidates surpassing threshold	<u>Latest change</u>

Question: In the forthcoming Legislative Council direct election, in fact there are several lists as follows. Which list you tend to support?	Support rating			Candidates surpassing threshold	<u>Latest change</u>
Hong Kong Island Constituency (seats = 6, threshold = 17%)					
Date of survey	<u>4-8/8</u>	<u>5-9/8</u>	<u>6-10/8</u>	--	--
Sample base	329	339	350	--	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 6%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--	--
Eu Yuet Mee Audrey, Ho Sau Lan Cyd of pro-democracy camp	25%	25%	25%	Audrey Eu	--
Yeung Sum, Lee Chu Ming Martin, Lai Chi Keong of DP	15%	16%	18%	Yeung Sum	+2%
Independent Hsu Lai Tai Rita	19%	19%	16%	--	-3%
Ma Lik, Choy So Yuk, Chung Shu Kun Christopher, Yeung Wai Foon, Lee Yuen Kwong, Cheung Kwok Kwan of DAB	4%	6%	6%	--	--
Independent Tsang Kin Shing, Chung Chung Fai, Tang Chui Chung	0%	0%	<1%	--	--
Independent Wong Kam Fai	0%	0%	0%	--	--
Not yet decide/Don't know/Hard to say	34%	31%	32%	--	+1%
Won't vote/Won't support any political parties or candidates	3%	3%	3%	--	--
Kowloon East Constituency (seats = 5, threshold = 20%)					
Date of survey	<u>4-8/8</u>	<u>5-9/8</u>	<u>6-10/8</u>	--	--
Sample base	305	300	294	--	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--	--
Chan Yuen Han, Lam Man Fai, Tang Ka Piu of FTU and DAB	26%	23%	21%	Y.H.Chan	-2%
Li Wah Ming, Wu Chi Wai, Ho Wai To of DP	16%	15%	17%	--	+2%
Independent Cheng Albert Jing Han and To Kwan Hang Andrew of Frontier	7%	8%	8%	--	--
Independent Leong Kah Kit Alan	7%	7%	6%	--	-1%
Chan Kam Lam, Choi Chun Wa, Chan Tak Ming of DAB and FTU	4%	5%	5%	--	--
Not yet decide/Don't know/Hard to say	37%	40%	41%	--	+1%
Won't vote/Won't support any political parties or candidates	3%	3%	3%	--	--
Kowloon West Constituency (seats = 4, threshold = 25%)					
Date of survey	<u>4-8/8</u>	<u>5-9/8</u>	<u>6-10/8</u>	--	--
Sample base	278	277	261	--	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--	--
To Kun Sun James, Chan Ka Wai, Lam Ho Yeung, Ma Kee of DP	19%	20%	22%	--	+2%
Tsang Yok Sing Jasper, Chung Kong Mo, Lee Wai King Starry of DAB	15%	17%	16%	--	-1%
Fung Kin Kee Frederick of ADPL	14%	11%	10%	--	-1%

Question: In the forthcoming Legislative Council direct election, in fact there are several lists as follows. Which list you tend to support?	Support rating			Candidates surpassing threshold	<u>Latest change</u>
Independent Lau Chin Shek	12%	11%	10%	--	-1%
Liu Sing Lee of ADPL	2%	2%	3%	--	+1%
Independent Lau Yuk Shing, Leung Suet Fong, Lau Po Kwan	<1%	0%	0%	--	--
Not yet decide/Don't know/Hard to say	35%	35%	34%	--	-1%
Won't vote/Won't support any political parties or candidates	4%	4%	5%	--	+1%
New Territories East Constituency (seats = 7, threshold = 14%)					
Date of survey	<u>4-8/8</u>	<u>5-9/8</u>	<u>6-10/8</u>	--	--
Sample base	454	448	463	--	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--	--
Cheng Kar Foo Andrew, Lau Wai Hing Emily, Tong Ka Wah, Wong Sing Chi, Tsoi Yiu Cheong, etc. of pro-democracy camp	33%	34%	35%	Andrew Cheng, Emily Lau	+1%
Tien Pei Chun James of LP	12%	12%	12%	--	--
Lau Kong Wah, Li Kwok Ying, Mok Kam Kwai, Chan Kwok Kai, So Sai Chi, etc. of DAB	12%	11%	12%	--	+1%
Independent Wong Wang Fat Andrew	6%	6%	6%	--	--
Tso Wung Wai of HKPA	3%	3%	2%	--	-1%
Leung Kwok Hung of AFA	2%	2%	2%	--	--
Not yet decide/Don't know/Hard to say	29%	29%	28%	--	-1%
Won't vote/Won't support any political parties or candidates	4%	4%	4%	--	--
New Territories West Constituency (seats = 8, threshold = 13%)					
Date of survey	<u>4-8/8</u>	<u>5-9/8</u>	<u>6-10/8</u>	--	--
Sample base	450	447	438	--	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--	--
Tam Yiu Chung, Cheung Hok Ming, Leung Che Cheung, etc. of DAB	12%	13%	12%	--	-1%
Ho Chun Yan, Cheung Yin Tung of DP	11%	10%	11%	--	+1%
Leung Yiu Chung, Wan Siu Kin Andrew of NWS	10%	10%	10%	--	--
Chow Liang Shuk Yee Selina, Ting Woo Shou Kenneth of LP	9%	9%	9%	--	--
Lee Wing Tat, Chan Yuen Sum of DP	7%	6%	7%	--	+1%
Independent Chan Wai Yip Albert	6%	6%	5%	--	-1%
Lee Cheuk Yan, Ip Ngok Fung of HKCTU	6%	6%	7%	--	+1%
Yim Tin Sang, Kong Fung Yi, Tai Yin Chiu, etc. of ADPL	3%	3%	2%	--	-1%
Independent Chow Ping Tim	1%	1%	1%	--	--

Question: In the forthcoming Legislative Council direct election, in fact there are several lists as follows. Which list you tend to support?	Support rating			Candidates surpassing threshold	<i>Latest change</i>
Independent Char Shik Ngor Stephen	0%	<1%	<1%	--	--
Lui Hau Tuen, Siu Shing Choi, Chan Choi Hi of NCF	0%	0%	<1%	--	--
Independent Ng Tak Leung	0%	0%	0%	--	--
Not yet decide/Don't know/Hard to say	32%	34%	34%	--	--
Won't vote/Won't support any political parties or candidates	5%	4%	4%	--	--

* "95% confidence level" means that if we were to repeat a certain survey 100 times, using the same questions each time but with different random samples, we would expect 95 times getting a figure within the error margins specified.

The support ratings shown above have not excluded those who had not decided and claimed not to vote. Readers may exclude this group of uncertain voters (assuming that they would not vote at all), reallocate the vote share according to the new base. The number of seats obtained by each list can then be deduced based on the Largest Remainder Formula. Yet, one must take note of the sampling errors.

It must be stated that since many voters have not yet made their choice, while most candidates have not started their full-scale election campaign, the influence of these stray votes is yet to be seen. For the results of other rolling surveys, please refer to the websites for detailed figures and updates.

Other points to note

POP will release the latest results of the rolling surveys every day at 2 pm via our POP Site. Shall anyone have any question regarding the research design of the surveys published in the POP Site, members of the POP Team will be happy to answer them, but we will not further comment on the findings. Shall any person or journalist have any other questions, please email them to us at <pop.network@hkupop.hku.hk>. Please note that everything carried in the POP Site does not represent the stand of the University of Hong Kong. Dr Robert Ting-Yiu Chung, Director of Public Opinion Programme, is responsible for everything posted herewith, except for column articles which represent the stand of their authors.

**This is a translation of the Chinese press release; should there be any discrepancy or ambiguity, please refer to the Chinese version.