

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG 香港大學
PUBLIC OPINION PROGRAMME 民意研究計劃

Tel 電話 : (852) 2859 2988 Fax 傳真 : (852) 2517 6951 Website 網址 : <http://hkupop.hku.hk>
 Address: Room 804, Meng Wah Complex, the University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong
 地址 : 香港 薄扶林道 香港大學 明華綜合大樓 804 室



Press Release on August 16, 2004

HKU POP SITE and Civic Exchange releases the 7th 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 10 to 14, previous findings dating back to August 4 are available in the websites mentioned.

Feature questions

Regarding the voters' considerations in casting their votes, the territory-wide rolling surveys on the latest 3 days (i.e. August 12 to 14) showed that, 84% of the voters interviewed claimed they would consider the livelihood policies proposed by candidates important. Besides, 75% and 65% said economy-related policies and political policies proposed by candidates were important to their voting decision respectively. The corresponding figures for candidates' health conditions, experiences in the Council, relations with the Central Government and fame were 58%, 53%, 44% and 37% in respective order. Figures obtained in the most recent tracking survey and 3 rolling surveys are summarized as follows:

Territory-wide rolling surveys					
Date of survey	<u>21-24/6</u>	<u>10-12/8</u>	<u>11-13/8</u>	<u>12-14/8</u>	<i>Latest change</i>
Sample base	1,023	1,098	1,088	904[^]	--
Number of registered voters	795	1,098	1,088	904[^]	--
Overall response rate	63.9%	74.2%	73.0%	72.9%	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 4%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	--
Regarded candidates' livelihood policies important**	86%	85%	84%	84%	--
Regarded candidates' livelihood policies not important**	3%	4%	5%	4%	+ 1%

Territory-wide rolling surveys					
Date of survey	<u>21-24/6</u>	<u>10-12/8</u>	<u>11-13/8</u>	<u>12-14/8</u>	<i>Latest change</i>
Sample base	1,023	1,098	1,088	904[^]	--
Number of registered voters	795	1,098	1,088	904[^]	--
Overall response rate	63.9%	74.2%	73.0%	72.9%	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 4%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	--
Regarded candidates' economic policies important**	81%	74%	76%	75%	-1%
Regarded candidates' economic policies not important**	4%	6%	6%	7%	+1%
Regarded candidates' political policies important**	58%	65%	65%	65%	--
Regarded candidates' political policies not important**	16%	11%	11%	13%	+2%
Regarded candidates' health conditions important**	--	58%	58%	58%	--
Regarded candidates' health conditions not important**	--	20%	19%	20%	+1%
Regarded candidates' experiences important**	--	56%	55%	53%	-2%
Regarded candidates' experiences not important**	--	19%	20%	22%	+2%
Regarded candidates' relations with the CPG important**	68%	46%	46%	44%	-2%
Regarded candidates' relations with the CPG not important**	8%	22%	23%	24%	+1%
Regarded candidates' fame important**	--	34%	36%	37%	+1%
Regarded candidates' fame not important**	--	35%	35%	35%	--

* "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.

** Collapsed from a 5-point scale.

[^]Since this series of feature questions was asked on an ad-hoc basis and thus did not appear in all interviews, the valid sample size was smaller than other territory-wide rolling questions.

Regarding the voters' considerations in casting their votes in individual constituencies, the relevant rolling results from August 10 to 14 revealed that, out of the 7 items we put to test, the livelihood policies proposed by candidates was the most important consideration factor while their fame was the least. The figures in each constituency are summarized as follows:

Rolling surveys in individual constituencies					
	<u>HK</u>	<u>KlnE</u>	<u>KlnW</u>	<u>NTE</u>	<u>NTW</u>
Date of survey			<u>10-14/8</u>		
Sample base	278-289	282-284	226-228	414-420	401-410
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 7%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%
Regarded candidates' livelihood policies important**	86%	84%	80%	85%	87%
Regarded candidates' livelihood policies not important**	2%	4%	5%	6%	3%
Regarded candidates' economic policies important**	75%	73%	74%	74%	76%
Regarded candidates' economic policies not important**	7%	6%	7%	7%	5%
Regarded candidates' political policies important**	71%	61%	66%	64%	63%
Regarded candidates' political policies not important**	7%	11%	15%	12%	13%
Regarded candidates' health conditions important**	56%	58%	57%	58%	58%

Regarded candidates' health conditions not important**	25%	16%	17%	20%	21%
Regarded candidates' experiences important**	53%	49%	57%	55%	60%
Regarded candidates' experiences not important**	23%	21%	18%	19%	17%
Regarded candidates' relations with the CPG important**	48%	39%	50%	46%	43%
Regarded candidates' relations with the CPG not important**	22%	25%	19%	22%	26%
Regarded candidates' fame important**	39%	37%	31%	34%	35%
Regarded candidates' fame not important**	33%	33%	37%	36%	34%

* "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.

** Collapsed from a 5-point scale.

^ Since this series of feature questions was asked on an ad-hoc basis and thus did not appear in all interviews, the valid sample size was smaller than other territory-wide rolling questions.

Knowledge of the election

The latest territory-wide rolling surveys (i.e. August 12 to 14) revealed that, 47% of the voters interviewed had no idea on any list in their geographical constituency, while 53% 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>7-9/8</u>	<u>8-10/8</u>	<u>9-11/8</u>	<u>10-12/8</u>	<u>11-13/8</u>	<u>12-14/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	1,064	1,069	1,099	1,098	1,088	1,086	--
Overall response rate	73.9%	74.4%	75.0%	74.2%	73.0%	72.9%	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	--
Totally no idea on the list in their constituency	52%	51%	49%	49%	49%	47%	-2%
Knew at least one list in their constituency ^	48%	49%	52%	51%	52%	53%	+1%
Knew at least half of the lists in their constituency ^	16%	17%	18%	19%	19%	19%	--
Knew all lists in their constituency ^	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	--

* "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 12 to 14 revealed that, the registered voters' propensity to vote was 84%. 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>7-9/8</u>	<u>8-10/8</u>	<u>9-11/8</u>	<u>10-12/8</u>	<u>11-13/8</u>	<u>12-14/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	1,064	1,069	1,099	1,098	1,088	1,086	--
Overall response rate	73.9%	74.4%	75.0%	74.2%	73.0%	72.9%	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	--
Proportion of respondents definitely will vote	58%	59%	59%	60%	58%	58%	--
Propensity to vote (summation of “definitely will” and “most likely will” vote)	85%	85%	84%	86%	84%	84%	-

* "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 10 to 14 showed that, there were around 19% - 35% of stray votes in each of the 5 constituencies, while the largest proportion of stray votes was found in Kowloon East (35%) and the smallest in Kowloon West (19%). The figures are summarized as follows:

Rolling survey: Hong Kong Island							
Date of survey	<u>5-9/8</u>	<u>6-10/8</u>	<u>7-11/8</u>	<u>8-12/8</u>	<u>9-13/8</u>	<u>10-14/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	339	350	406	341	352	323	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 6%^	--
Proportion of firm voters	54%	55%	55%	55%	56%	56%	--
Proportion of stray voters	25%	27%	26%	26%	24%	26%	+ 2%
Proportion of “no-votes”	21%	18%	18%	19%	19%	18%	-1%
Rolling survey: Kowloon East							
Date of survey	<u>5-9/8</u>	<u>6-10/8</u>	<u>7-11/8</u>	<u>8-12/8</u>	<u>9-13/8</u>	<u>10-14/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	300	294	366	302	309	310	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 5%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--
Proportion of firm voters	49%	47%	48%	50%	49%	49%	--
Proportion of stray voters	32%	33%	34%	34%	33%	35%	+ 2%
Proportion of “no-votes”	20%	20%	18%	16%	18%	16%	-2%
Rolling survey: Kowloon West							
Date of survey	<u>5-9/8</u>	<u>6-10/8</u>	<u>7-11/8</u>	<u>8-12/8</u>	<u>9-13/8</u>	<u>10-14/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>

Sample base	277	261	303	251	261	259	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--
Proportion of firm voters	50%	51%	54%	54%	56%	55%	-1%
Proportion of stray voters	28%	28%	27%	24%	19%	19%	--
Proportion of "no-votes"	22%	21%	20%	22%	25%	26%	+1%
Rolling survey: New Territories East							
Date of survey	<u>5-9/8</u>	<u>6-10/8</u>	<u>7-11/8</u>	<u>8-12/8</u>	<u>9-13/8</u>	<u>10-14/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	448	463	563	473	457	477	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 4%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--
Proportion of firm voters	57%	60%	59%	56%	56%	55%	-1%
Proportion of stray voters	23%	23%	24%	26%	27%	28%	+1%
Proportion of "no-votes"	20%	18%	18%	19%	18%	18%	--
Rolling survey: New Territories West							
Date of survey	<u>5-9/8</u>	<u>6-10/8</u>	<u>7-11/8</u>	<u>8-12/8</u>	<u>9-13/8</u>	<u>10-14/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	447	438	532	432	443	447	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 4%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--
Proportion of firm voters	49%	51%	51%	50%	48%	50%	+2%
Proportion of stray voters	27%	27%	27%	30%	31%	32%	+1%
Proportion of "no-votes"	24%	23%	22%	20%	21%	19%	-2%

*Calculated at "95% confidence level" which means 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.

^ Amended while "+/- 5%" was printed in the original press release.

Candidate strength

Concerning the rolling surveys in individual constituencies from August 10 to 14, 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>
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>	<u>7-11/8</u>	<u>8-12/8</u>	<u>9-13/8</u>	<u>10-14/8</u>	--	--
Sample base	329	339	350	406	341	352	323	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--	--
Audrey Eu's list	25%	25%	25%	24%	26%	25%	22%	Audrey Eu	-3%
Yeung Sum's list	15%	16%	18%	18%	18%	20%	22%	Yeung Sum	+2%
Rita Fan's list	19%	19%	16%	16%	14%	13%	13%	--	--

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>
Ma Lik's list	4%	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	6%	--	-1%
K. S. Tsang's list	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	1%	--	--
K. F. Wong's list	0%	0%	0%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	--	--
Not yet decide	34%	31%	32%	32%	32%	31%	32%	--	+1%
Others^	3%	3%	3%	3%	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>	<u>7-11/8</u>	<u>8-12/8</u>	<u>9-13/8</u>	<u>10-14/8</u>	--	--
Sample base	305	300	294	366	302	309	310	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 5%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--	--
Y. H. Chan's list	26%	23%	21%	21%	22%	20%	19%	--	-1%
W. M. Li 's list	16%	15%	17%	16%	15%	17%	18%	--	+1%
Albert Cheng's list	7%	8%	8%	9%	10%	11%	9%	--	-2%
Alan Leong's list	7%	7%	6%	5%	5%	5%	6%	--	+1%
K. L. Chan's list	4%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	--	--
Not yet decide	37%	40%	41%	41%	40%	42%	42%	--	--
Others^	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	--	+1%
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>	<u>7-11/8</u>	<u>8-12/8</u>	<u>9-13/8</u>	<u>10-14/8</u>	--	--
Sample base	278	277	261	303	251	261	259	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--	--
James To's list	19%	20%	22%	23%	26%	26%	28%	James To	+2%
Jasper Tsang's list	15%	17%	16%	15%	17%	16%	13%	--	-3%
Frederick Fung's list	14%	11%	10%	11%	9%	12%	12%	--	--
C. S. Lau's list	12%	11%	10%	11%	10%	9%	10%	--	+1%
S. L. Liu's list	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	--	--
Y. S. Lau's list	<1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	--	--
Not yet decide	35%	35%	34%	33%	30%	29%	31%	--	+2%
Others^	4%	4%	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%	--	-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>	<u>7-11/8</u>	<u>8-12/8</u>	<u>9-13/8</u>	<u>10-14/8</u>	--	--
Sample base	454	448	463	563	473	457	477	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 4%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--	--
Andrew Cheng's list	33%	34%	35%	34%	33%	32%	32%	Andrew Cheng	--

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>
								Emily Lau	
K. W. Lau's list	12%	11%	12%	12%	10%	11%	11%	--	--
James Tien's list	12%	12%	12%	12%	11%	10%	10%	--	--
Andrew Wong's list	6%	6%	6%	5%	6%	5%	4%	--	-1%
W. W. Tsoi's list	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	--	--
K. H. Leung's list	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	--	--
Not yet decide	29%	29%	28%	29%	32%	34%	35%	--	+1%
Others^	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	--	--
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>	<u>7-11/8</u>	<u>8-12/8</u>	<u>9-13/8</u>	<u>10-14/8</u>	--	--
Sample base	450	447	438	532	432	443	447	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 4%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--	--
Y. C. Tam's list	12%	13%	12%	12%	12%	11%	10%	--	-1%
C. Y. Ho's list	11%	10%	11%	11%	10%	8%	10%	--	+2%
Selina Chow's list	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	--	--
Y. C. Leung's list	10%	10%	10%	10%	8%	8%	8%	--	--
W. T. Lee's list	7%	6%	7%	7%	7%	6%	7%	--	+1%
C. Y. Lee's list	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%	7%	6%	--	-1%
Albert Chan's list	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	--	--
T. S. Yim's list	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	--	--
Stephen Char's list	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	--	--
H. T. Lui's list	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	--	--
T. L. Ng's list	0%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	--	--
P. T. Chow's list	1%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	0%	--	--
Not yet decide	32%	34%	34%	34%	38%	41%	40%	--	-1%
Others^	5%	4%	4%	3%	2%	2%	3%	--	+1%

*Calculated at "95% confidence level" which means 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.

^Included responses of "Won't vote" and "Won't support any political parties or candidates".

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. Please refer to the websites for the exact phrasing and wordings adopted.

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.

Commentary

Regarding the figures mentioned, Robert Ting-Yiu Chung, Director of Public Opinion Programme, observed: “Compared to the figures of late June, although voters still consider candidates’ livelihood and economic platforms to be most important, they are placing more weight on candidates’ political demands. The figure rose from 58% to 65%. On the other hand, the importance placed on candidates’ handling of Mainland-HK relationship dropped from 68% to 44%, now lower than those of candidates’ health and council experience, but higher than that of mere popularity. There is no significant difference in the importance of the health factor geographically, meaning that recent self-disclosure of a candidate’s health problem does not seem to have any effect. Apart from these, our rolling poll shows that voters’ knowledge of the election has continued to grow. Our latest finding shows that 53% of all voters could clearly identify at least one candidate list in their constituency. Voters’ propensity to vote, however, has not changed much in the week past.”

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.