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HKU POP SITE and Civic Exchange releases the 12th 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 15 to 19, previous findings dating back to August 4 are available in the websites mentioned.

Knowledge of the election

The latest territory-wide rolling surveys (i.e. August 17 to 19) revealed that, 43% of the voters interviewed had no idea on any list in their geographical constituency, while 58% 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>12-14/8</u>	<u>13-15/8</u>	<u>14-16/8</u>	<u>15-17/8</u>	<u>16-18/8</u>	<u>17-19/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	1,086	1,076	1,109	1,131	1,151	1,132	--
Overall response rate	72.9%	73.8%	74.7%	73.6%	73.4%	73.0%	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	--
Totally no idea on the list in their constituency	47%	47%	44%	44%	42%	43%	+1%
Knew at least one list in their constituency ^	53%	53%	56%	56%	58%	58%	--
Knew at least half of the lists in their constituency ^	19%	20%	21%	24%	26%	26%	--
Knew all lists in their constituency ^	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	3%	--

* "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 17 to 19 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>12-14/8</u>	<u>13-15/8</u>	<u>14-16/8</u>	<u>15-17/8</u>	<u>16-18/8</u>	<u>17-19/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	1,086	1,076	1,109	1,131	1,151	1,132	--
Overall response rate	72.9%	73.8%	74.7%	73.6%	73.4%	73.0%	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	--
Proportion of respondents definitely will vote	58%	57%	57%	56%	55%	54%	-1%
Propensity to vote (summation of "definitely will" and "most likely will" vote)	84%	82%	83%	82%	83%	84%	+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.

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 15 to 19 showed that, the differences of the proportion of stray votes among the 5 constituencies had narrowed down to 23% - 26%, while the largest proportion of stray votes was found in New Territories East and New Territories West (26%) and the smallest in Hong Kong Island (23%). The figures are summarized as follows:

Rolling survey: Hong Kong Island							
Date of survey	<u>10-14/8</u>	<u>11-15/8</u>	<u>12-16/8</u>	<u>13-17/8</u>	<u>14-18/8</u>	<u>15-19/8</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	323	316	328	337	344	353	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--
Proportion of firm voters	56%	56%	58%	61%	62%	58%	-4%
Proportion of stray voters	26%	24%	23%	19%	18%	23%	+5%
Proportion of "no-votes"	18%	20%	19%	19%	20%	19%	-1%

Rolling survey: Kowloon East							
Date of survey	<u>10-14/8</u>	<u>11-15/8</u>	<u>12-16/8</u>	<u>13-17/8</u>	<u>14-18/8</u>	<u>15-19/8</u>	<i>Latest change</i>
Sample base	310	317	322	328	326	321	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--
Proportion of firm voters	49%	51%	49%	51%	54%	56%	+2%
Proportion of stray voters	35%	32%	30%	27%	26%	24%	-2%
Proportion of "no-votes"	16%	17%	21%	22%	21%	21%	--
Rolling survey: Kowloon West							
Date of survey	<u>10-14/8</u>	<u>11-15/8</u>	<u>12-16/8</u>	<u>13-17/8</u>	<u>14-18/8</u>	<u>15-19/8</u>	<i>Latest change</i>
Sample base	259	252	266	284	283	280	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--
Proportion of firm voters	55%	57%	52%	53%	52%	55%	+3%
Proportion of stray voters	19%	20%	23%	23%	25%	25%	--
Proportion of "no-votes"	26%	24%	25%	24%	23%	20%	-3%
Rolling survey: New Territories East							
Date of survey	<u>10-14/8</u>	<u>11-15/8</u>	<u>12-16/8</u>	<u>13-17/8</u>	<u>14-18/8</u>	<u>15-19/8</u>	<i>Latest change</i>
Sample base	477	460	439	445	456	456	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--
Proportion of firm voters	55%	53%	54%	54%	54%	52%	-2%
Proportion of stray voters	28%	27%	26%	26%	26%	26%	--
Proportion of "no-votes"	18%	20%	20%	20%	21%	22%	+1%
Rolling survey: New Territories West							
Date of survey	<u>10-14/8</u>	<u>11-15/8</u>	<u>12-16/8</u>	<u>13-17/8</u>	<u>14-18/8</u>	<u>15-19/8</u>	<i>Latest change</i>
Sample base	447	461	478	457	460	468	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--
Proportion of firm voters	50%	49%	49%	50%	50%	50%	--
Proportion of stray voters	32%	31%	30%	29%	27%	26%	-1%
Proportion of "no-votes"	19%	20%	21%	22%	23%	24%	+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.

Candidate strength

Concerning the rolling surveys in individual constituencies from August 15 to 19, 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					Latest change	Error margin*	Candidates surpassing threshold	
Hong Kong Island Constituency (seats = 6, threshold = 17%)									
Date of survey	<u>10-14/8</u>	<u>11-15/8</u>	<u>12-16/8</u>	<u>13-17/8</u>	<u>14-18/8</u>	<u>15-19/8</u>	--	--	--
Sample base	323	316	328	337	344	353	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--	--	--
Audrey Eu's list	22%	21%	20%	23%	21%	23%	+2%	+/-4%	Audrey Eu
Yeung Sum's list	22%	21%	20%	21%	20%	18%	-2%	+/-4%	Yeung Sum
Rita Fan's list	13%	15%	16%	16%	15%	14%	-1%	+/-4%	--
Ma Lik's list	6%	7%	9%	10%	9%	10%	+1%	+/-3%	--
K. S. Tsang's list	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	--	+/-1%	--
K. F. Wong's list	1%	1%	<1%	0%	<1%	< 1%	--	+/-<1%	--
Not yet decide	32%	31%	30%	26%	28%	30%	+2%	+/-5%	--
Others^	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	--	+/-2%	--
Kowloon East Constituency (seats = 5, threshold = 20%)									
Date of survey	<u>10-14/8</u>	<u>11-15/8</u>	<u>12-16/8</u>	<u>13-17/8</u>	<u>14-18/8</u>	<u>15-19/8</u>	--	--	--
Sample base	310	317	322	328	326	321	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--	--	--
Y. H. Chan's list	19%	19%	17%	18%	19%	18%	-1%	+/-4%	--
Albert Cheng's list	9%	13%	14%	13%	13%	14%	+1%	+/-4%	--
Alan Leong's list	6%	7%	8%	11%	12%	13%	+1%	+/-4%	--
W. M. Li 's list	18%	15%	14%	13%	12%	11%	-1%	+/-3%	--
K. L. Chan's list	4%	6%	5%	8%	8%	9%	+1%	+/-3%	--
Not yet decide	42%	38%	37%	35%	34%	32%	-2%	+/-5%	--
Others^	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	--	+/-2%	--
Kowloon West Constituency (seats = 4, threshold = 25%)									
Date of survey	<u>10-14/8</u>	<u>11-15/8</u>	<u>12-16/8</u>	<u>13-17/8</u>	<u>14-18/8</u>	<u>15-19/8</u>	--	--	--
Sample base	259	252	266	284	283	280	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--	--	--
James To's list	28%	27%	23%	22%	22%	21%	-1%	+/-5%	--
Jasper Tsang's list	13%	15%	14%	14%	14%	15%	+1%	+/-4%	--
Frederick Fung's list	12%	13%	11%	12%	11%	12%	+1%	+/-4%	--
C. S. Lau's list	10%	9%	10%	12%	12%	12%	--	+/-4%	--
S. L. Liu's list	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	3%	+1%	+/-2%	--
Y. S. Lau's list	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	--	--	--
Not yet decide	31%	30%	34%	34%	36%	34%	-2%	+/-6%	--

Question: In the forthcoming Legislative Council direct election, in fact there are several lists as follows. Which list you tend to support?	Support rating						Latest change	Error margin*	Candidates surpassing threshold
	10-14/8	11-15/8	12-16/8	13-17/8	14-18/8	15-19/8			
Others^	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%	4%	--	+/-2%	--
New Territories East Constituency (seats = 7, threshold = 14%)									
Date of survey	10-14/8	11-15/8	12-16/8	13-17/8	14-18/8	15-19/8	--	--	--
Sample base	477	460	439	445	456	456	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--	--	--
Andrew Cheng's list	32%	32%	32%	32%	30%	27%	-3%	+/-4%	Andrew Cheng
James Tien's list	10%	9%	11%	12%	13%	13%	--	+/-3%	--
K. W. Lau's list	11%	9%	10%	8%	9%	10%	+1%	+/-3%	--
Andrew Wong's list	4%	4%	5%	4%	5%	5%	--	+/-2%	--
W. W. Tsoi's list	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	--	+/-2%	--
K. H. Leung's list	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	--	+/-2%	--
Not yet decide	35%	35%	33%	34%	33%	34%	+1%	+/-4%	--
Others^	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	--	+/-2%	--
New Territories West Constituency (seats = 8, threshold = 13%)									
Date of survey	10-14/8	11-15/8	12-16/8	13-17/8	14-18/8	15-19/8	--	--	--
Sample base	447	461	478	457	460	468	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--	--	--
C. Y. Ho's list	10%	9%	10%	11%	12%	11%	-1%	+/-3%	--
Y. C. Tam's list	10%	10%	10%	9%	8%	10%	+2%	+/-3%	--
Selina Chow's list	9%	8%	9%	8%	9%	9%	--	+/-3%	--
W. T. Lee's list	7%	8%	7%	7%	8%	9%	+1%	+/-3%	--
Y. C. Leung's list	8%	8%	8%	9%	8%	8%	--	+/-3%	--
C. Y. Lee's list	6%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%	--	+/-2%	--
Albert Chan's list	5%	5%	4%	4%	3%	3%	--	+/-2%	--
T. S. Yim's list	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	--	+/-1%	--
Stephen Char's list	1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	< 1%	--	+/-<1%	--
P. T. Chow's list	0%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	< 1%	--	+/-<1%	--
H. T. Lui's list	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	--	--	--
T. L. Ng's list	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	--	--	--
Not yet decide	40%	41%	41%	41%	40%	39%	-1%	+/-5%	--
Others^	3%	2%	2%	3%	4%	3%	-1%	+/-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.

^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.

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.