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Press Release on September 4, 2004

HKU POP SITE and Civic Exchange releases the 26th 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 29 to September 2, 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 31 to September 2) revealed that, 32% of the voters interviewed had no idea on any list in their geographical constituency, while 68% 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	26-28/8	27-29/8	28-30/8	29-31/8	30/8-1/9	31/8-2/9	<i>Latest change</i>
Sample base	1,278	1,285	1,297	1,305	1,364	1,439	--
Sub-sample base *	--	--	--	--	1,109	907	--
Overall response rate	73.1%	73.9%	73.7%	73.9%	74.6%	74.6%	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)**	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	--
Totally no idea on the list in their constituency	37%	36%	37%	35%	34%	32%	-2%
Knew at least one list in their constituency ^	63%	64%	63%	65%	66%	68%	+2%
Knew at least half of the lists in their constituency ^	26%	27%	28%	33%	35%	36%	+1%
Knew all lists in their constituency ^	3%	3%	3%	5%	5%	7%	+2%

*From 1/9 onwards, 2 split questionnaires are used in our rolling poll. As this question only appears in one split questionnaire, the sub-sample size is therefore different.

** "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 31 to September 2 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>26-28/8</u>	<u>27-29/8</u>	<u>28-30/8</u>	<u>29-31/8</u>	<u>30/8-1/9</u>	<u>31/8-2/9</u>	<i>Latest change</i>
Sample base	1,278	1,285	1,297	1,305	1,364	1,439	--
Overall response rate	73.1%	73.9%	73.7%	73.9%	74.6%	74.6%	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	--
Proportion of respondents definitely will vote	56%	59%	59%	59%	57%	59%	+2%
Propensity to vote (summation of "definitely will" and "most likely will" vote)	82%	81%	81%	83%	83%	85%	+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.

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 29 to September 2 showed that, there were around 24-32% of stray votes in each of the 5 constituencies, while the largest proportion of stray votes was found in New Territories West (32%) and the smallest in Hong Kong Island (24%). The figures are summarized as follows:

Rolling survey: Hong Kong Island							
Date of survey	<u>24-28/8</u>	<u>25-29/8</u>	<u>26-30/8</u>	<u>27-31/8</u>	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	<i>Latest change</i>
Sample base	405	398	384	393	420	437	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--
Proportion of firm voters	52%	51%	53%	53%	54%	54%	--
Proportion of stray voters	23%	25%	24%	24%	24%	24%	--
Proportion of "no-votes"	25%	24%	23%	22%	23%	22%	-1%

Rolling survey: Kowloon East							
Date of survey	<u>24-28/8</u>	<u>25-29/8</u>	<u>26-30/8</u>	<u>27-31/8</u>	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	<i>Latest change</i>
Sample base	346	354	363	364	382	397	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--
Proportion of firm voters	53%	51%	52%	53%	51%	53%	+2%
Proportion of stray voters	23%	23%	24%	25%	29%	27%	-2%
Proportion of "no-votes"	24%	27%	24%	22%	21%	20%	-1%
Rolling survey: Kowloon West							
Date of survey	<u>24-28/8</u>	<u>25-29/8</u>	<u>26-30/8</u>	<u>27-31/8</u>	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	<i>Latest change</i>
Sample base	285	294	306	317	292	300	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--
Proportion of firm voters	49%	48%	46%	48%	46%	49%	+3%
Proportion of stray voters	28%	27%	28%	25%	27%	27%	--
Proportion of "no-votes"	24%	25%	27%	27%	27%	24%	-3%
Rolling survey: New Territories East							
Date of survey	<u>24-28/8</u>	<u>25-29/8</u>	<u>26-30/8</u>	<u>27-31/8</u>	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	<i>Latest change</i>
Sample base	533	532	546	550	577	589	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	--
Proportion of firm voters	52%	50%	48%	48%	49%	49%	--
Proportion of stray voters	23%	24%	25%	25%	24%	27%	+3%
Proportion of "no-votes"	25%	26%	27%	27%	28%	25%	-3%
Rolling survey: New Territories West							
Date of survey	<u>24-28/8</u>	<u>25-29/8</u>	<u>26-30/8</u>	<u>27-31/8</u>	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	<i>Latest change</i>
Sample base	565	559	552	533	550	589	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	--
Proportion of firm voters	45%	41%	40%	39%	41%	41%	--
Proportion of stray voters	31%	33%	33%	33%	32%	32%	--
Proportion of "no-votes"	25%	26%	27%	28%	28%	27%	-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 29 to September 2, 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? (Interviewers to READ OUT all candidates' lists)	Support rating					<i>Latest change</i>	Error margin*	Candidates surpassing threshold	
Hong Kong Island Constituency (seats = 6, threshold = 17%)									
Date of survey	<u>24-28/8</u>	<u>25-29/8</u>	<u>26-30/8</u>	<u>27-31/8</u>	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	--	--	--
Sample base	405	398	384	393	420	437	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--	--	--
Audrey Eu's list	18%	18%	17%	19%	22%	23%	+1%	+/-4%	Audrey Eu
Yeung Sum's list	17%	16%	16%	16%	16%	15%	-1%	+/-3%	--
Rita Fan's list	20%	17%	19%	17%	15%	14%	-1%	+/-3%	--
Ma Lik's list	9%	10%	10%	10%	11%	11%	--	+/-3%	--
K. S. Tsang's list	1%	<1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	--	+/-1%	--
K. F. Wong's list	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	--	+/-<1%	--
Not yet decide	33%	34%	33%	33%	31%	32%	+1%	+/-4%	--
Others^	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%	+1%	+/-2%	--
Kowloon East Constituency (seats = 5, threshold = 20%)									
Date of survey	<u>24-28/8</u>	<u>25-29/8</u>	<u>26-30/8</u>	<u>27-31/8</u>	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	--	--	--
Sample base	346	354	363	364	382	397	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--	--	--
Y. H. Chan's list	22%	20%	20%	20%	17%	17%	--	+/-4%	--
Alan Leong's list	14%	15%	13%	13%	14%	14%	--	+/-3%	--
Albert Cheng's list	12%	11%	11%	14%	13%	12%	-1%	+/-3%	--
W. M. Li 's list	8%	9%	11%	10%	10%	12%	+2%	+/-3%	--
K. L. Chan's list	7%	7%	6%	5%	5%	5%	--	+/-2%	--
Not yet decide	34%	35%	35%	35%	38%	38%	--	+/-5%	--
Others^	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	-1%	+/-1%	--
Kowloon West Constituency (seats = 4, threshold = 25%)									
Date of survey	<u>24-28/8</u>	<u>25-29/8</u>	<u>26-30/8</u>	<u>27-31/8</u>	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	--	--	--
Sample base	285	294	306	317	292	300	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--	--	--
James To's list	16%	14%	15%	16%	16%	21%	+5%	+/-5%	--
Jasper Tsang's list	10%	10%	10%	12%	14%	13%	-1%	+/-4%	--
C. S. Lau's list	12%	13%	13%	14%	13%	13%	--	+/-4%	--
Frederick Fung's list	14%	14%	12%	13%	12%	11%	-1%	+/-4%	--
S. L. Liu's list	4%	3%	3%	3%	2%	1%	-1%	+/-1%	--
Y. S. Lau's list	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%	<1%	--	+/-<1%	--

Question: In the forthcoming Legislative Council direct election, in fact there are several lists as follows. Which list you tend to support? (Interviewers to READ OUT all candidates' lists)	Support rating					<u>Latest change</u>	Error margin*	Candidates surpassing threshold	
Not yet decide	40%	40%	40%	37%	38%	36%	-2%	+/-6%	--
Others^	3%	4%	5%	5%	4%	5%	+1%	+/-3%	--
New Territories East Constituency (seats = 7, threshold = 14%)									
Date of survey	<u>24-28/8</u>	<u>25-29/8</u>	<u>26-30/8</u>	<u>27-31/8</u>	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	--	--	--
Sample base	533	532	546	550	577	589	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	--	--	--
Andrew Cheng's list	27%	26%	24%	25%	27%	25%	-2%	+/-4%	Andrew Cheng
James Tien's list	13%	12%	11%	11%	10%	12%	+2%	+/-3%	--
K. W. Lau's list	12%	12%	12%	11%	11%	10%	-1%	+/-2%	--
Andrew Wong's list	7%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	-1%	+/-2%	--
K. H. Leung's list	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	--	+/-1%	--
W. W. Tsoi's list	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	--	+/-1%	--
Not yet decide	34%	36%	37%	38%	37%	39%	+2%	+/-4%	--
Others^	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	--	+/-2%	--
New Territories West Constituency (seats = 8, threshold = 13%)									
Date of survey	<u>24-28/8</u>	<u>25-29/8</u>	<u>26-30/8</u>	<u>27-31/8</u>	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	--	--	--
Sample base	565	559	552	533	550	589	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	--	--	--
Y. C. Tam's list	11%	10%	9%	10%	9%	10%	+1%	+/-2%	--
C. Y. Lee's list	8%	8%	7%	7%	8%	8%	--	+/-2%	--
Selina Chow's list	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%	8%	+2%	+/-2%	--
Y. C. Leung's list	9%	8%	9%	7%	7%	7%	--	+/-2%	--
C. Y. Ho's list	6%	7%	6%	6%	7%	7%	--	+/-2%	--
W. T. Lee's list	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%	-1%	+/-2%	--
Albert Chan's list	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	--	+/-1%	--
T. S. Yim's list	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	--	+/-1%	--
Stephen Char's list	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%	1%	1%	--	+/-1%	--
T. L. Ng's list	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	--	+/-<1%	--
H. T. Lui's list	<1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<1%	--	+/-<1%	--
P. T. Chow's list	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	--	--	--
Not yet decide	44%	46%	48%	48%	46%	45%	-1%	+/-4%	--
Others^	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	--	+/-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.

It must be stated that since many voters have not yet made their choice, while most candidates' election campaign is still in progress, the influence of these stray votes is yet to be seen. For the other rolling surveys' result, survey method, contact information, respondents' demographics and full questionnaires, please refer to the websites for detailed information.

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.