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PUBLIC OPINION PROGRAMME 民意研究計劃

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Press Release on September 8, 2004

HKU POP SITE and Civic Exchange releases the 30th and 2nd summary of Legislative Council election rolling survey result

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 September 2 to 6, as well as presenting the 2nd summary based on the figures from 13,964 registered voters being interviewed so far. Previous findings dating back to August 4 are available in the websites mentioned.

Knowledge of the election

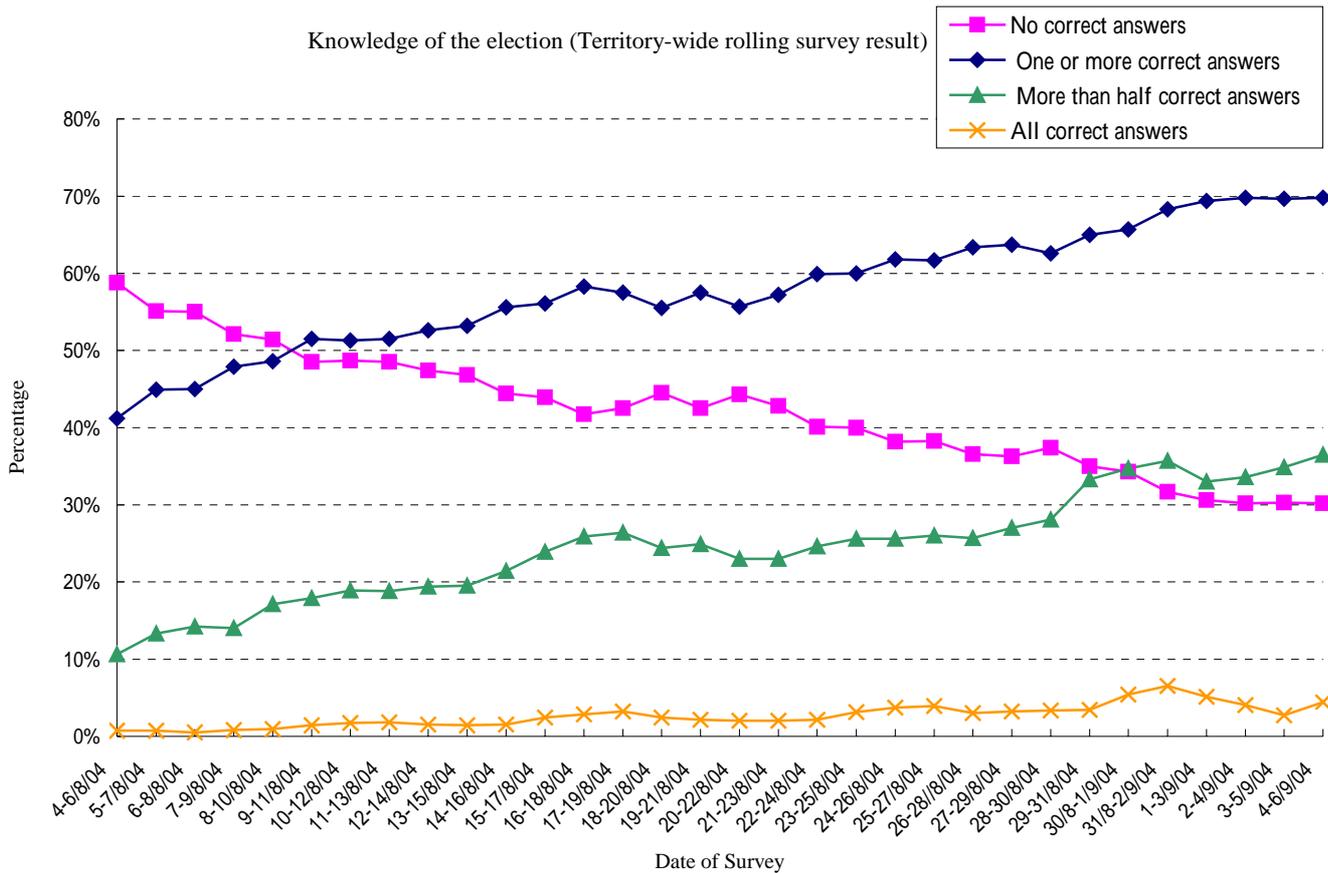
The latest territory-wide rolling surveys (i.e. September 4 to 6) revealed that, 30% of the voters interviewed had no idea on any list in their geographical constituency, while 70% knew at least one list. For the scenarios in individual constituencies, please refer to the websites for details.

Territory-wide rolling surveys							
Date of survey	<u>30/8-1/9</u>	<u>31/8-2/9</u>	<u>1-3/9</u>	<u>2-4/9</u>	<u>3-5/9</u>	<u>4-6/9</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	1,364	1,439	1,559	1,669	1,784	1,902	--
Sub-sample base*	1,109	907	712	703	639	579	--
Overall response rate	74.6%	74.6%	74.6%	74.5%	75.1%	75.8%	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)**	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	--
Totally no idea on the list in their constituency	34%	32%	31%	30%	30%	30%	--
Knew at least one list in their constituency ^	66%	68%	69%	70%	70%	70%	--
Knew at least half of the lists in their constituency ^	35%	36%	33%	34%	35%	37%	+2%
Knew all lists in their constituency ^	5%	7%	5%	4%	3%	4%	+1%

*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%.



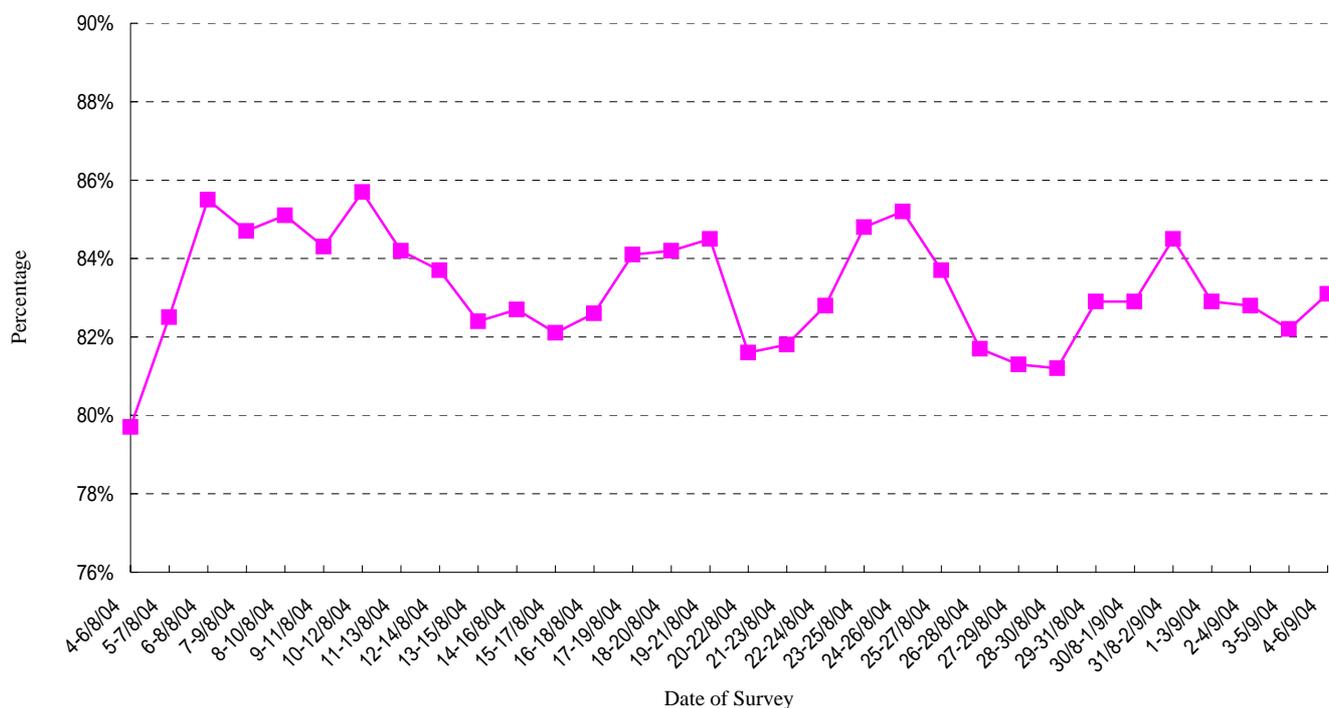
Propensity to vote

The territory-wide rolling surveys from September 4 to 6 revealed that, the registered voters’ propensity to vote was 83%. 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>30/8-1/9</u>	<u>31/8-2/9</u>	<u>1-3/9</u>	<u>2-4/9</u>	<u>3-5/9</u>	<u>4-6/9</u>	<i><u>Latest change</u></i>
Sample base	1,364	1,439	1,559	1,669	1,784	1,902	--
Overall response rate	74.6%	74.6%	74.6%	74.5%	75.1%	75.8%	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	--
Proportion of respondents definitely will vote	57%	59%	59%	59%	59%	60%	+1%
Propensity to vote (summation of “definitely will” and “most likely will” vote)	83%	85%	83%	83%	82%	83%	+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.

Propensity to vote (Territory-wide rolling survey result)



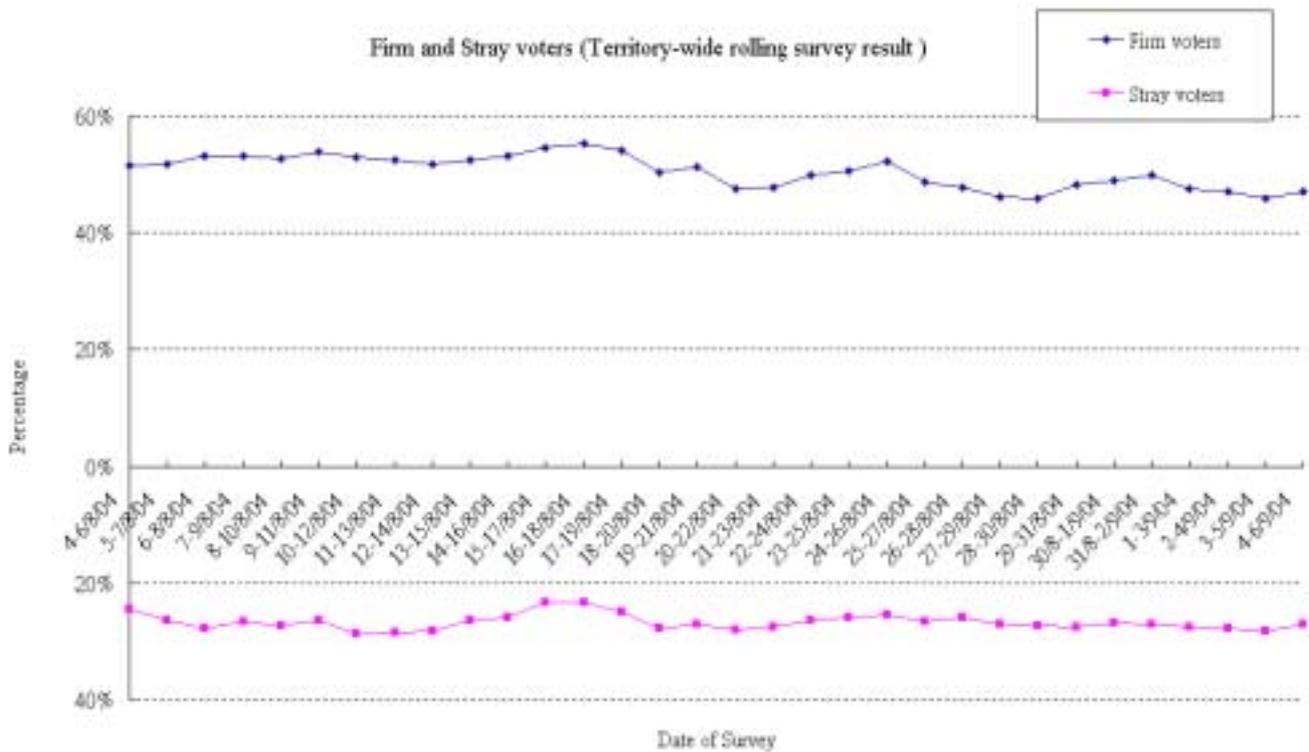
Stray voters

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 September 2 to 6 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 Kowloon West (24%). The figures are summarized as follows:

Rolling survey: Hong Kong Island							
Date of survey	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	<u>30/8-3/9</u>	<u>31/8-4/9</u>	<u>1-5/9</u>	<u>2-6/9</u>	<i>Latest change</i>
Sample base	420	437	461	511	543	574	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	--
Proportion of firm voters	54%	54%	53%	51%	49%	49%	--
Proportion of stray voters	24%	24%	23%	24%	25%	27%	+2%
Proportion of "no-votes"	23%	22%	24%	25%	25%	24%	-1%

Rolling survey: Kowloon East							
Date of survey	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	<u>30/8-3/9</u>	<u>31/8-4/9</u>	<u>1-5/9</u>	<u>2-6/9</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	382	397	418	436	468	488	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--
Proportion of firm voters	51%	53%	48%	47%	46%	45%	-1%
Proportion of stray voters	29%	27%	30%	30%	29%	28%	-1%
Proportion of "no-votes"	21%	20%	22%	24%	26%	28%	+2%
Rolling survey: Kowloon West							
Date of survey	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	<u>30/8-3/9</u>	<u>31/8-4/9</u>	<u>1-5/9</u>	<u>2-6/9</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	292	300	305	318	327	366	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 5%	--
Proportion of firm voters	46%	49%	48%	50%	50%	53%	+3%
Proportion of stray voters	27%	27%	28%	26%	27%	24%	-3%
Proportion of "no-votes"	27%	24%	24%	24%	23%	24%	+1%
Rolling survey: New Territories East							
Date of survey	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	<u>30/8-3/9</u>	<u>31/8-4/9</u>	<u>1-5/9</u>	<u>2-6/9</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	577	589	621	650	716	747	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	--
Proportion of firm voters	49%	49%	50%	51%	51%	51%	--
Proportion of stray voters	24%	27%	25%	26%	26%	25%	-1%
Proportion of "no-votes"	28%	25%	24%	23%	23%	24%	+1%
Rolling survey: New Territories West							
Date of survey	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	<u>30/8-3/9</u>	<u>31/8-4/9</u>	<u>1-5/9</u>	<u>2-6/9</u>	<u>Latest change</u>
Sample base	550	589	626	678	737	794	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	--
Proportion of firm voters	41%	41%	43%	43%	42%	41%	-1%
Proportion of stray voters	32%	32%	30%	31%	32%	32%	--
Proportion of "no-votes"	28%	27%	27%	26%	27%	27%	--

*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 September 2 to 6, the support ratings and the proportions of firm votes 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					<u>Latest change</u>	Error margin*	Candidates surpassing threshold	Proportion of firm votes ^{^A}	
Hong Kong Island Constituency (seats = 6, threshold = 17%)										
Date of survey	28/8-1/9	29/8-2/9	30/8-3/9	31/8-4/9	1-5/9	2-6/9	--	--	--	--
Sample base	420	437	461	511	543	574	--	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	--	--	--	--
Audrey Eu's list	22%	23%	23%	22%	23%	20%	-3%	+/-3%	Audrey Eu	73%
Yeung Sum's list	16%	15%	15%	16%	15%	15%	--	+/-3%	--	84%
Rita Fan's list	15%	14%	13%	12%	12%	14%	+2%	+/-3%	--	62%
Ma Lik's list	11%	11%	10%	10%	10%	9%	-1%	+/-2%	--	83%
K. S. Tsang's list	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	--	+/-1%	--	**
K. F. Wong's list	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<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? (Interviewers to READ OUT all candidates' lists)	Support rating					Latest change	Error margin*	Candidates surpassing threshold	Proportion of firm votes [^]	
Not yet decide	31%	32%	33%	34%	35%	37%	+2%	+/-4%	--	--
Others [^]	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	--	+/-2%	--	--
Kowloon East Constituency (seats = 5, threshold = 20%)										
Date of survey	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	<u>30/8-3/9</u>	<u>31/8-4/9</u>	<u>1-5/9</u>	<u>2-6/9</u>	--	--	--	--
Sample base	382	397	418	436	468	488	--	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--	--	--	--
Y. H. Chan's list	17%	17%	16%	19%	18%	19%	+1%	+/-4%	--	52%
Alan Leong's list	14%	14%	11%	11%	13%	11%	-2%	+/-3%	--	72%
W. M. Li's list	10%	12%	10%	9%	9%	10%	+1%	+/-3%	--	73%
Albert Cheng's list	13%	12%	12%	12%	11%	10%	-1%	+/-3%	--	74%
K. L. Chan's list	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	--	+/-2%	--	56%
Not yet decide	38%	38%	43%	42%	40%	39%	-1%	+/-4%	--	--
Others [^]	3%	2%	2%	3%	4%	5%	+1%	+/-2%	--	--
Kowloon West Constituency (seats = 4, threshold = 25%)										
Date of survey	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	<u>30/8-3/9</u>	<u>31/8-4/9</u>	<u>1-5/9</u>	<u>2-6/9</u>	--	--	--	--
Sample base	292	300	305	318	327	366	--	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 5%	--	--	--	--
James To's list	16%	21%	21%	18%	17%	16%	-1%	+/-4%	--	77%
Frederick Fung's list	12%	11%	10%	12%	14%	15%	+1%	+/-4%	--	65%
C. S. Lau's list	13%	13%	10%	12%	12%	14%	+2%	+/-4%	--	79%
Jasper Tsang's list	14%	13%	15%	15%	13%	13%	--	+/-4%	--	67%
S. L. Liu's list	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	3%	+1%	+/-2%	--	**
Y. S. Lau's list	0%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	--	+/-1%	--	**
Not yet decide	38%	36%	36%	35%	36%	34%	-2%	+/-5%	--	--
Others [^]	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	-1%	+/-2%	--	--
New Territories East Constituency (seats = 7, threshold = 14%)										
Date of survey	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	<u>30/8-3/9</u>	<u>31/8-4/9</u>	<u>1-5/9</u>	<u>2-6/9</u>	--	--	--	--
Sample base	577	589	621	650	716	747	--	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	--	--	--	--
Andrew Cheng's list	27%	25%	25%	27%	27%	26%	-1%	+/-3%	Andrew Cheng	74%
James Tien's list	10%	12%	14%	13%	13%	14%	+1%	+/-3%	James Tien	58%

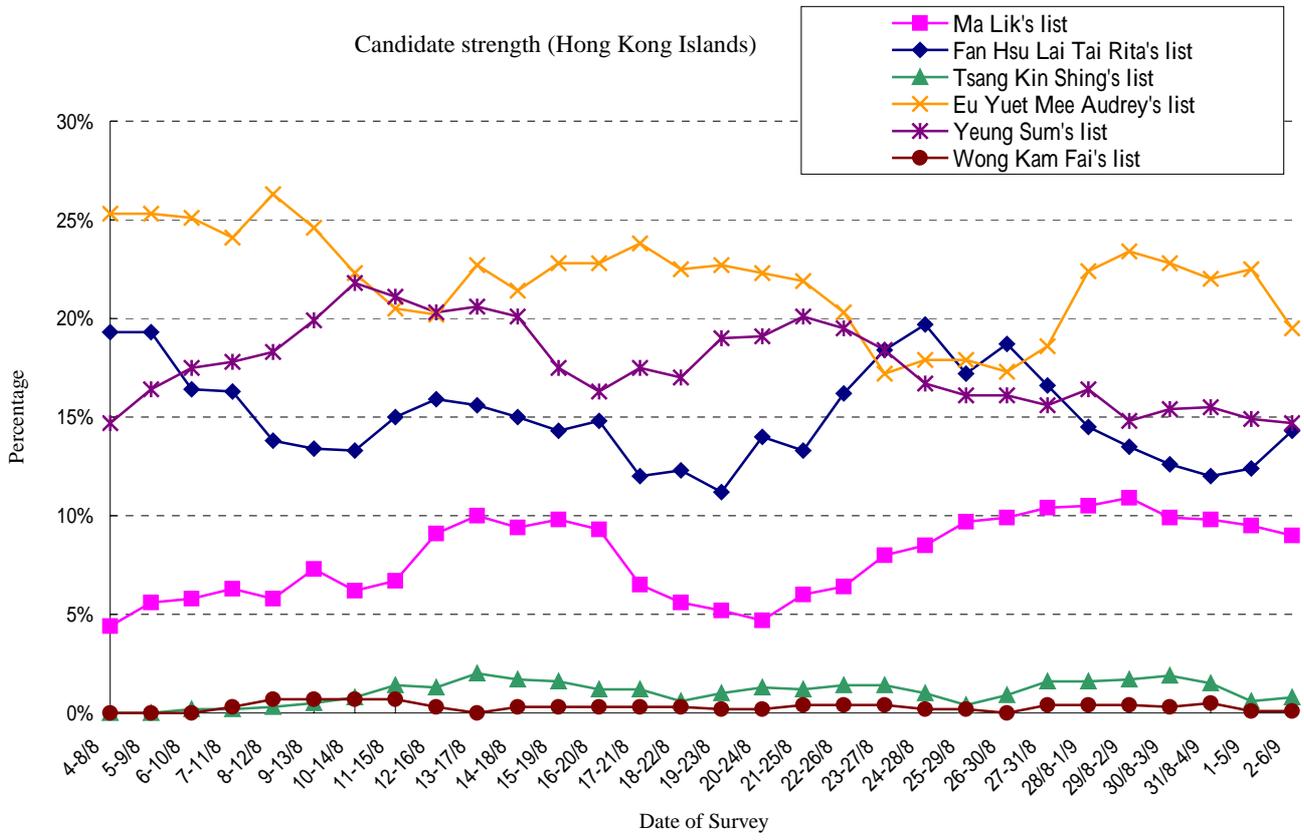
Question: In the forthcoming Legislative Council direct election, in fact there are several lists as follows. Which list you tend to support? (Interviewers to READ OUT all candidates' lists)	Support rating						Latest change	Error margin*	Candidates surpassing threshold	Proportion of firm votes ^{^^}
K. W. Lau's list	11%	10%	10%	9%	9%	9%	--	+/-2%	--	63%
Andrew Wong's list	5%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	--	+/-2%	--	51%
K. H. Leung's list	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	--	+/-1%	--	**
W. W. Tsoi's list	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	--	+/-1%	--	**
Not yet decide	37%	39%	37%	37%	37%	36%	-1%	+/-4%	--	--
Others [^]	5%	5%	4%	3%	3%	3%	--	+/-1%	--	--
New Territories West Constituency (seats = 8, threshold = 13%)										
Date of survey	<u>28/8-1/9</u>	<u>29/8-2/9</u>	<u>30/8-3/9</u>	<u>31/8-4/9</u>	<u>1-5/9</u>	<u>2-6/9</u>	--	--	--	--
Sample base	550	589	626	678	737	794	--	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	--	--	--	--
Y. C. Tam's list	9%	10%	10%	9%	9%	10%	+1%	+/-2%	--	60%
Selina Chow's list	6%	8%	7%	8%	8%	9%	+1%	+/-2%	--	57%
Y. C. Leung's list	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%	8%	--	+/-2%	--	61%
C. Y. Lee's list	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%	--	+/-2%	--	63%
W. T. Lee's list	6%	5%	6%	6%	5%	6%	+1%	+/-2%	--	78%
C. Y. Ho's list	7%	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%	--	+/-2%	--	81%
Albert Chan's list	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%	--	+/-1%	--	**
Stephen Char's list	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	--	+/-1%	--	**
T. S. Yim's list	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	--	+/-1%	--	**
H. T. Lui's list	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	--	+/-<1%	--	**
T. L. Ng's list	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	--	+/-<1%	--	**
P. T. Chow's list	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	--	--	--	**
Not yet decide	46%	45%	44%	44%	47%	45%	-2%	+/-4%	--	--
Others [^]	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	--	+/-1%	--	--

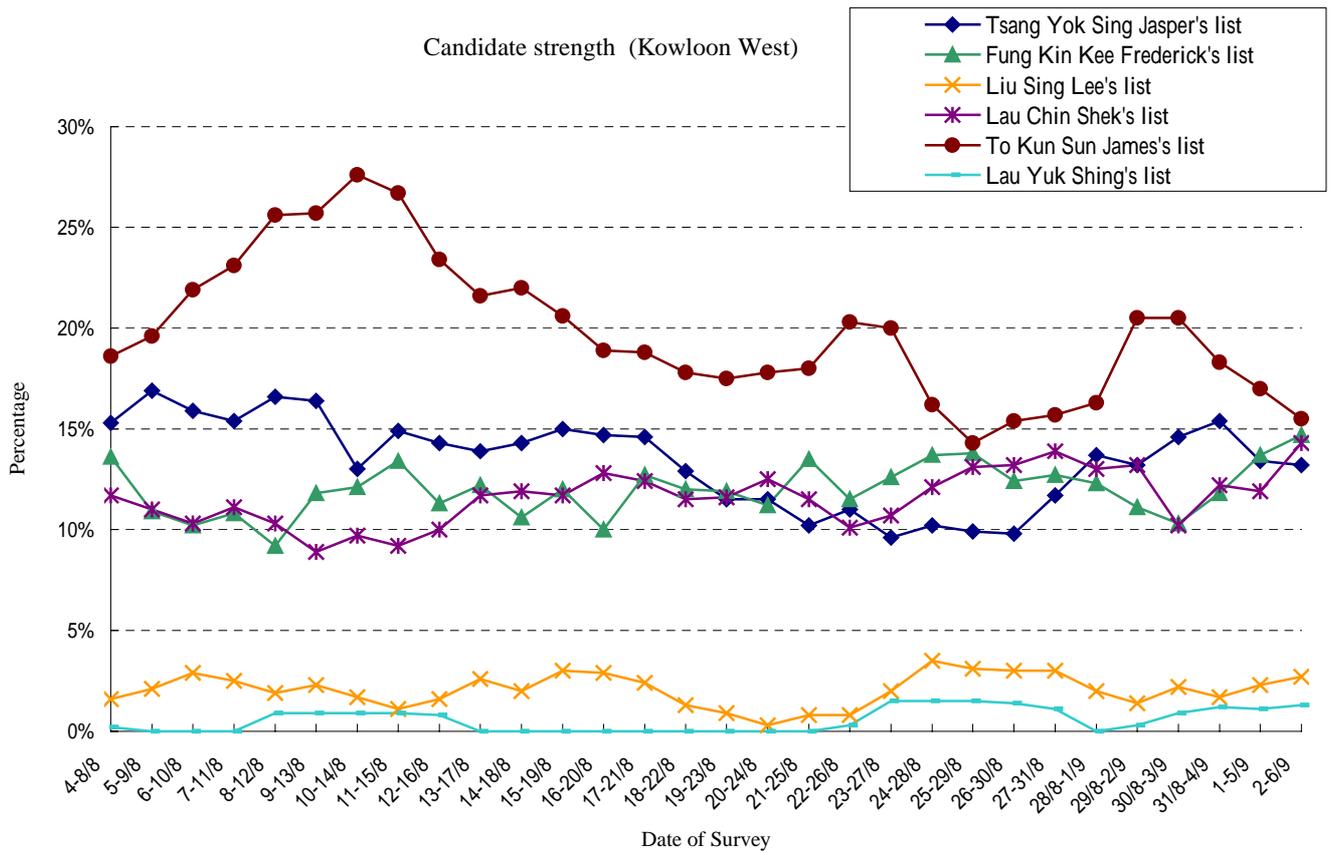
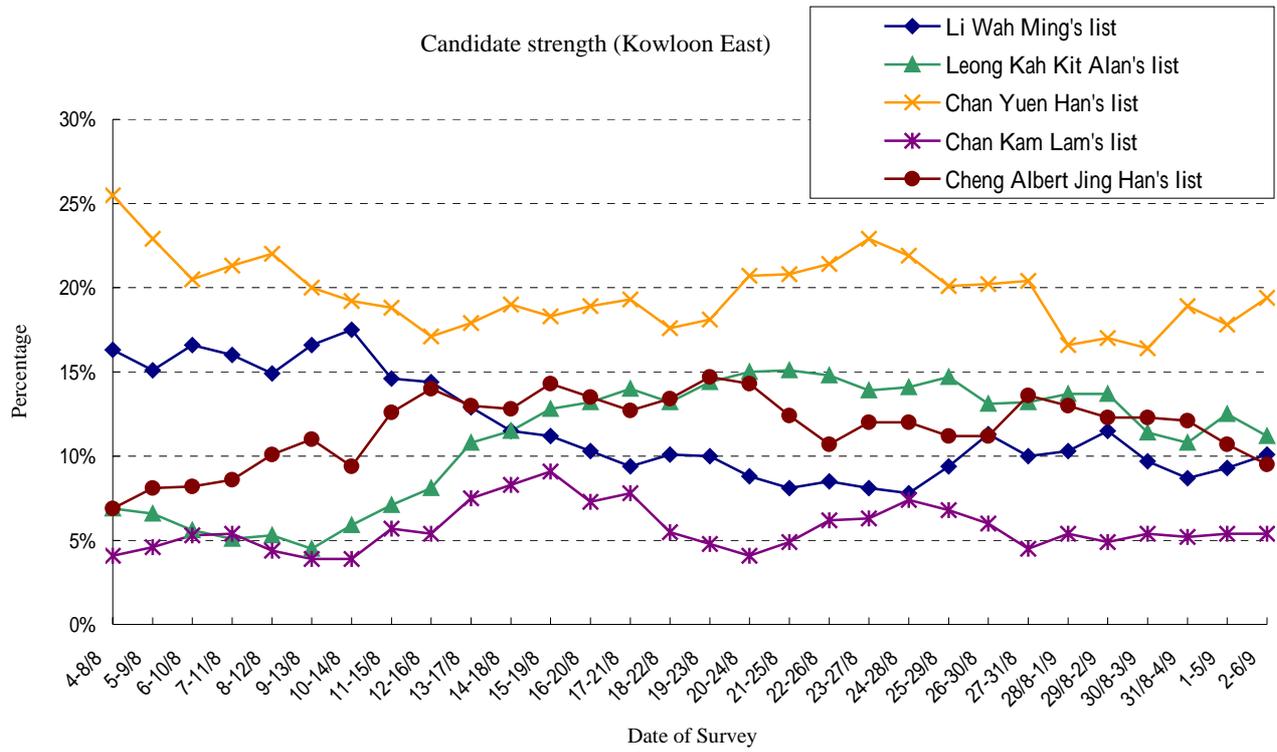
*Calculated at "95% confidence level" which means if we were to repeat a certain survey 100 times, using the same questions each time but with different random samples, we would expect 95 times getting a figure within the error margins specified.

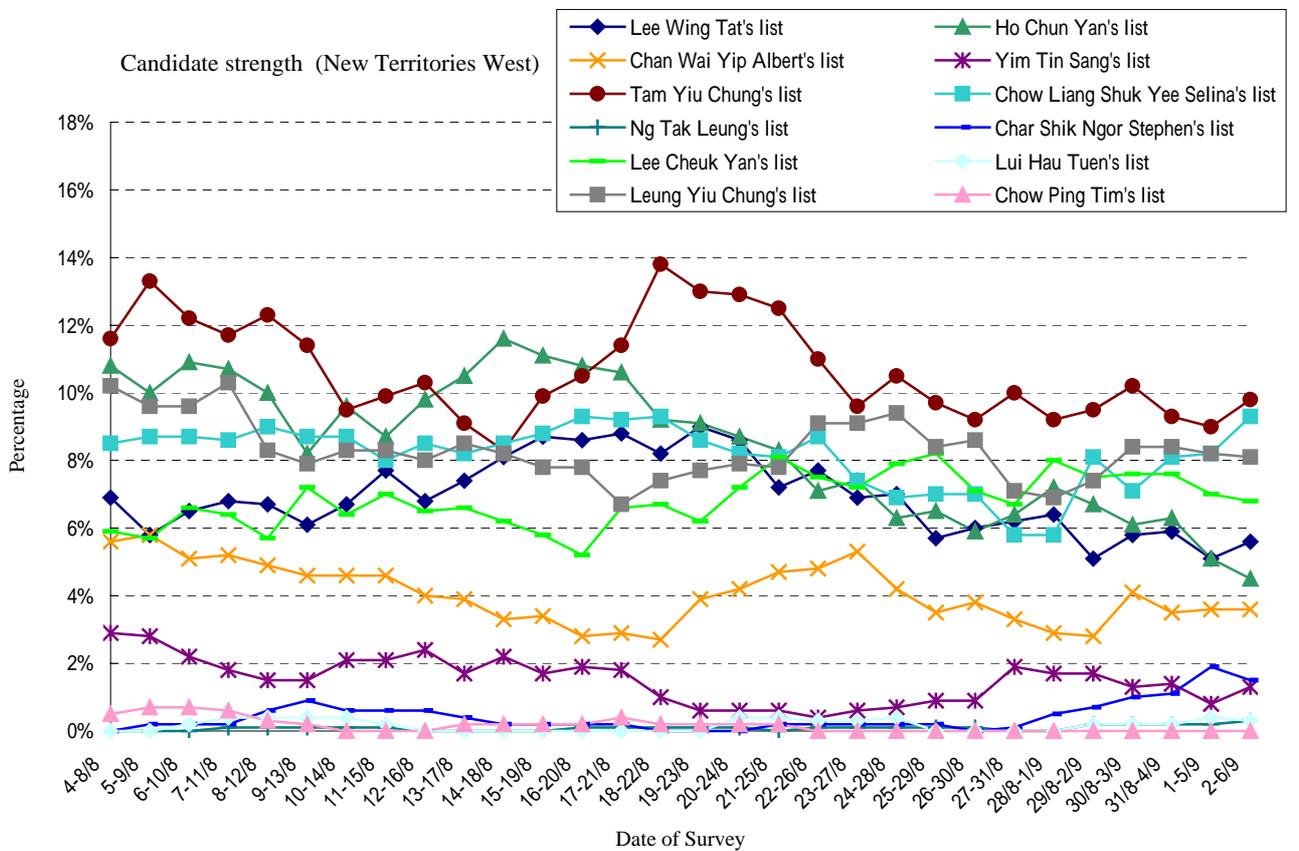
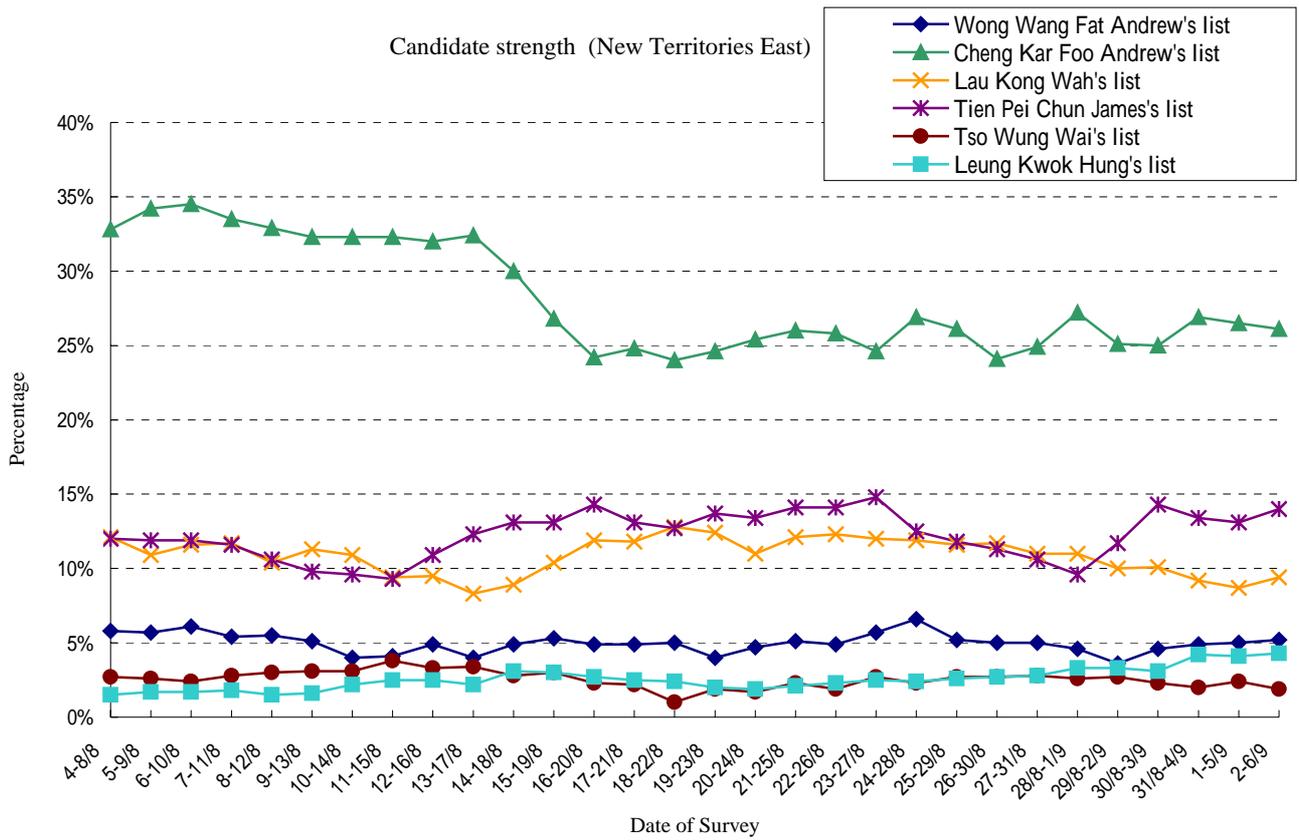
** Since the support rating was less than 5%, the proportion of firm votes was not listed here due to the small base.

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

^{^^} The proportion of respondents who said they "would definitely vote" among all supporters of that particular list.







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.

Commentary

Regarding the rolling poll results, Robert Ting-Yiu Chung, Director of Public Opinion Programme, has the following analyses:

According to our accumulated rolling sample of almost 14,000 registered voters, general speaking, male voters, those with higher education, executives and professionals, those voted before, and those who participated in the July 1 rallies, are more knowledgeable voters. They are more determined to vote, and more of them have made up their mind how to vote. Elderly voters, and those who have registered before the last election, also have higher propensity to vote.

Regarding voters' overall propensity to vote, our latest figure stands at 83%, which is the highest among all years, but not as high as in the early period of the campaign. Compared to 1998, the last propensity figure then was 77%, and it converted to 53% actual turnout which was record high. However, among the 53%, about 5 percentage points was probably due to the effect of the souvenir card. It would therefore be somewhat difficult for this year's turnout to surpass that figure, based on the current figure. Nevertheless, it should be comfortably higher than the 44% actual turnout registered in 2000.

The development of voters' propensity to vote in the final stage, together with that of the stray voters, would be of critical importance to a number of candidates. The effect would be more noticeable for candidates' lists which comprise of less firm voters, or more stray voters, as reported in our tables above.

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.