



## **Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation**

### **August 2022 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt**

Released:

**August 16, 2022**

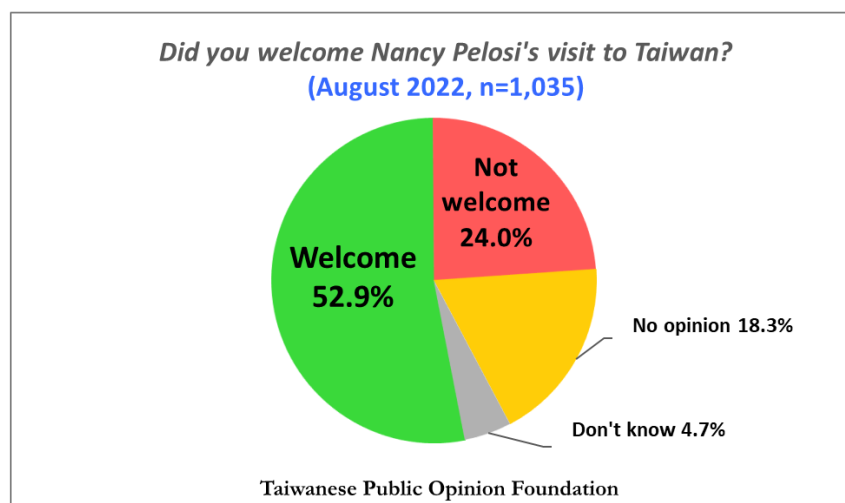
**Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation** (TPOF) today released the result of its August 2022 nation-wide poll. This marks the 72nd monthly survey conducted by the TPOF aimed at tracking the development and changes in Taiwan’s public opinion. The full release in Chinese language is available on our [official website](#).

#### **How the Survey was Conducted**

This survey was conducted on August 8-9, 2022, with a sample size of 1,035. Adults 20 years of age and older residing in Taiwan were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline numbers were drawn through random digit dialing system. The samples were demographically weighted to adjust for gender, age, education and the district of residency based on the latest statistics published by the Ministry of the Interior. Sampling error is around  $\pm 3.05$  percentage points with 95% level of confidence.

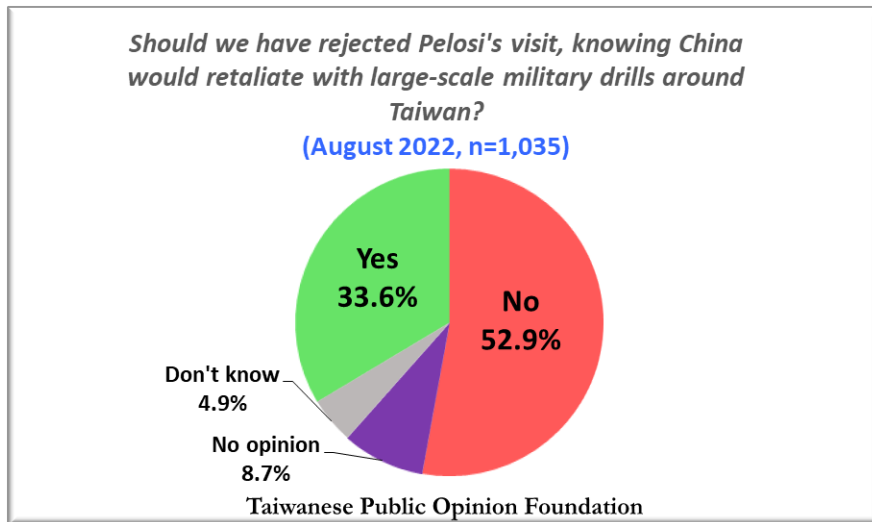
## Main Findings:

1. United States House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's recent visit to Taiwan had generated a wave of international attention. Did the people of Taiwan welcome Pelosi's visit? The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 52.9% said they welcomed her visit while 24% did not welcome her. Furthermore:
  - Majority of all age groups welcomed Pelosi's visit. Whereas in terms of social-ethnic subgroups, majority of Hoklo Taiwanese and Hakka Taiwanese welcomed her visit. Among Taiwanese mainlanders however only 37% welcomed her and a majority of 46% did not.
  - Mass majority of supporters among the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), New Power Party (NPP), Taiwan Statebuilding Party (TSP), and those who identified as independents welcomed her visit. Whereas a majority of 58% supporters of Kuomintang (KMT) did not welcome her. Supporters of Taiwan People's Party (TPP) is equally split on whether they welcome her visit.

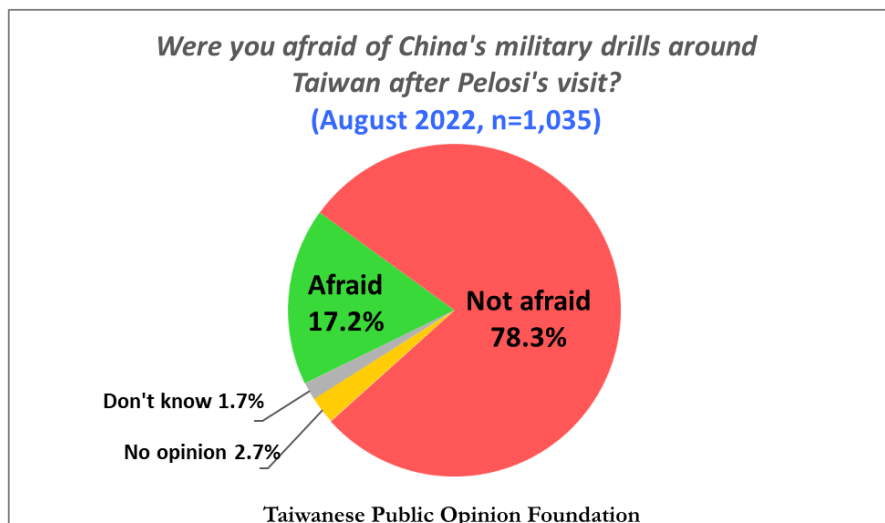


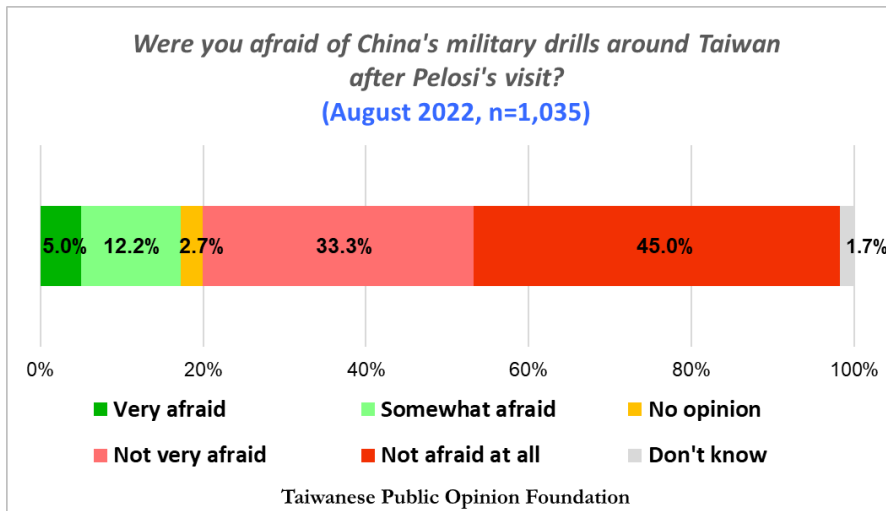
2. In response to Pelosi's visit China launched [a wave of military drills](#) around Taiwan. We asked respondents whether they think Taiwan should have rejected Pelosi's visit knowing the Chinese responses. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 52.9% remained supportive of her visit while only 33.6% said Taiwan should have rejected it. Furthermore:
  - Majority of all age groups and all education attainments are supportive of Pelosi's visit despite the Chinese responses. Majority of all social-ethnic subgroups except the Taiwanese mainlanders did not regret her visit.

- KMT and TPP are the only two major political parties of which majority of supporters thought Taiwan should have turned down Pelosi’s visit. Whereas majority of supporters of DPP, NPP, and TSP did not regret it.

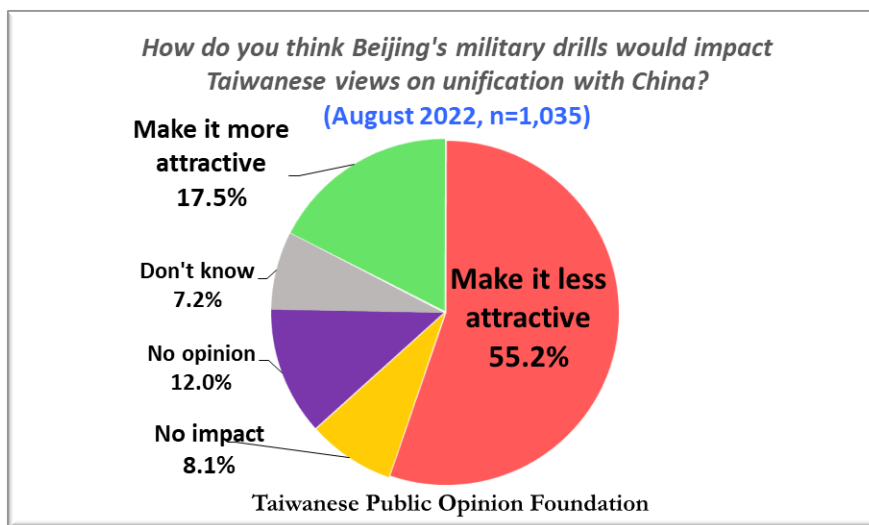


3. How did Taiwanese people feel about the large-scale military drills China conducted around Taiwan? Were people afraid because of it? The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a mass majority of 78% said they were not afraid and only 17% said they were. Despite the unprecedented scale of Chinese military drills, which saw the [firing of ballistic missiles over Taiwan](#) far exceeded the previous 1996 Taiwan Strait Crisis, a majority of Taiwanese public are clearly not as worried nor fearful about the threats as many observers were.



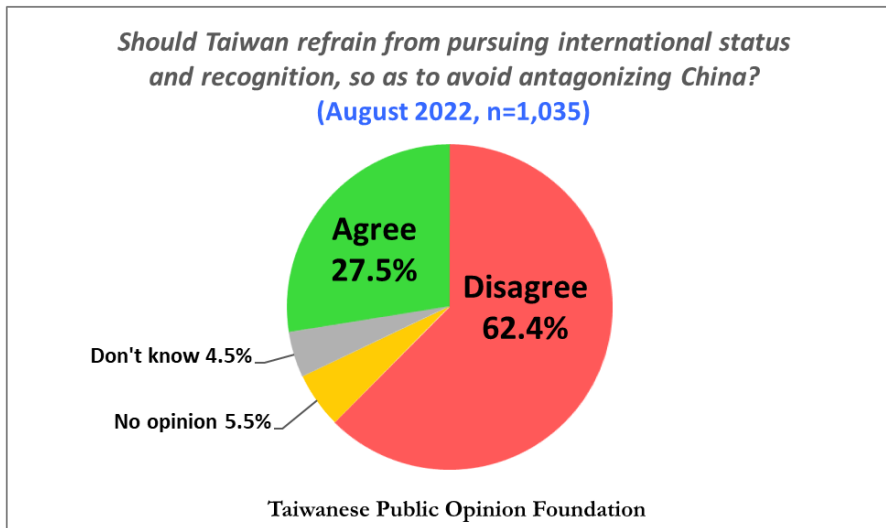


4. We asked respondents whether they think China’s military drills would make Taiwanese more or less inclined to support unification with China. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 55.2% said it would make unification even less attractive, while only 17.5% said it makes it more attractive.

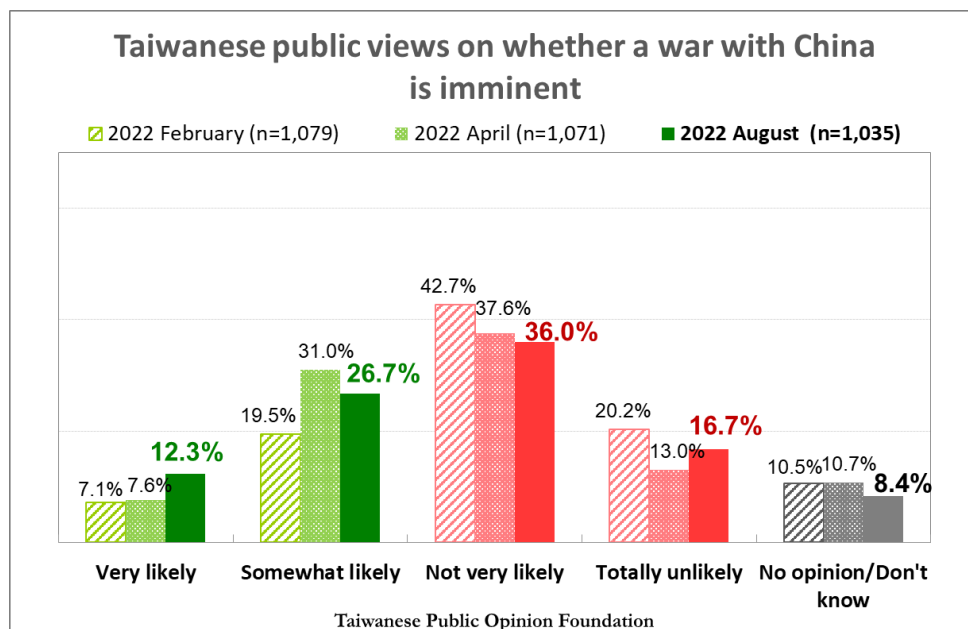


5. We asked respondents whether they support Beijing’s “One China Principle” defined as *There is only China, the People’s Republic of China is the sole legitimate government of China, and Taiwan is a part of China*. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a mass majority of 81.6% oppose Beijing’s “One China Principle” and only 8.8% support it.
6. Taiwan’s desire for greater international recognition and status as a sovereign nation has always been vehemently opposed by Beijing and even some in the West who claim such move would be unwise for Taiwan. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 62% rejected the idea that Taiwan

should refrain from pursuing international status so as not to antagonize China, while only 27% agreed with it.

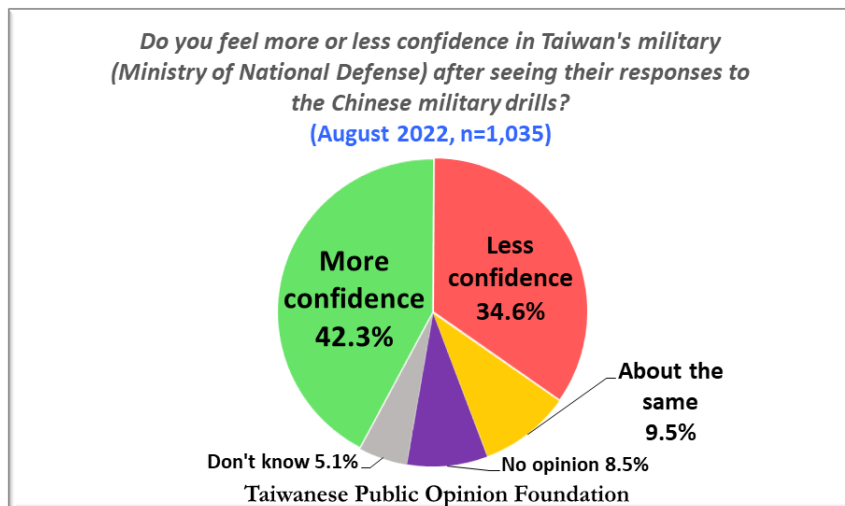


7. How likely do people of Taiwan think there will be a war with China in the imminent future? The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a minority of 39% said a war is very or somewhat likely, while a majority of 53% said it is not very likely or totally unlikely. This means that despite the unprecedented scale of recent Chinese military drills, a majority of Taiwanese still do not think a war with China is imminent.

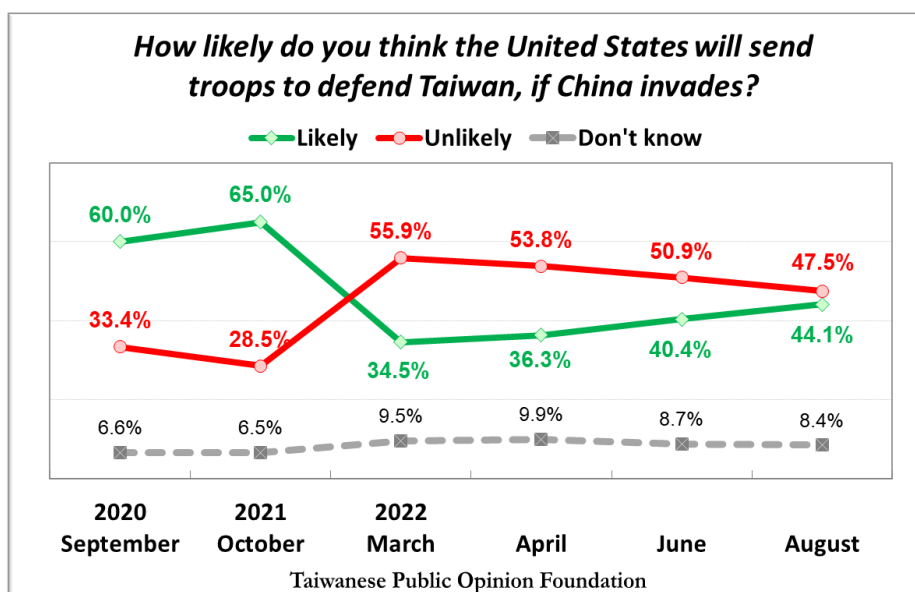


8. In the aftermath of China’s military drills around Taiwan, the poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 42% said they feel more confidence in Taiwan’s military and its Ministry of National Defense, while

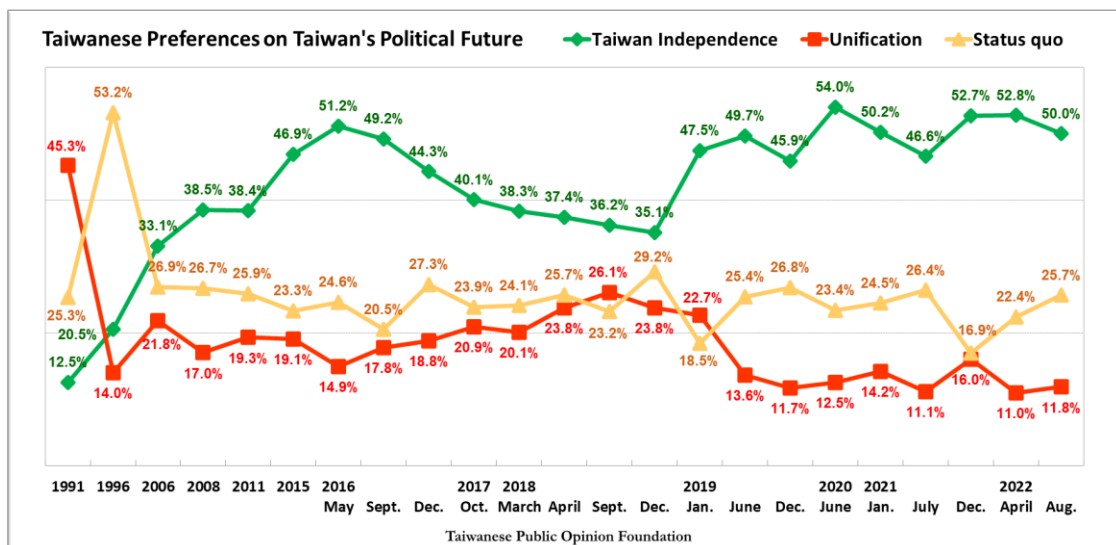
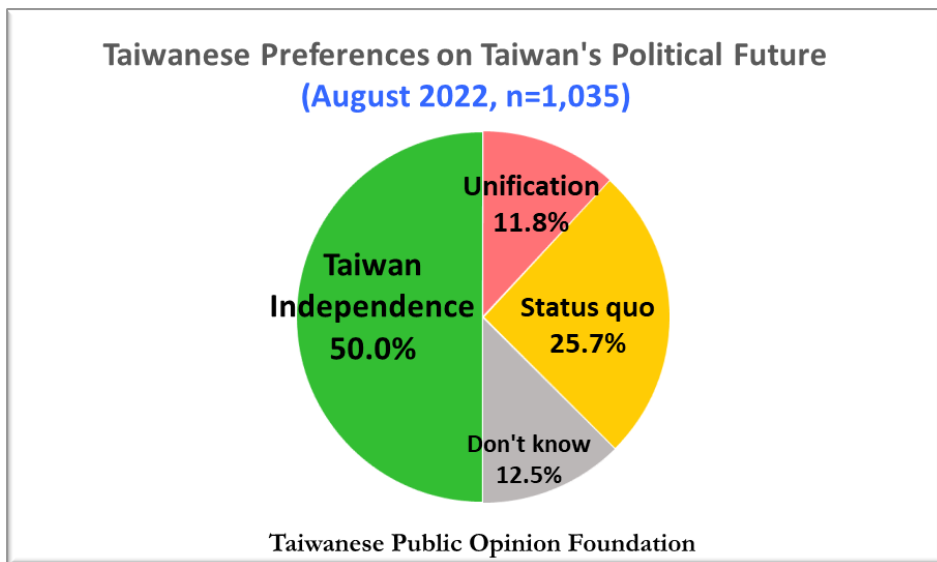
34% said they feel less confidence. This is despite the fact there was significant domestic criticism concerning the Ministry’s initial failure to inform the public about Chinese ballistic missiles flyover of Taiwan’s outer space, a fact that only became known after Japan’s Ministry of Defense publicly reported it.



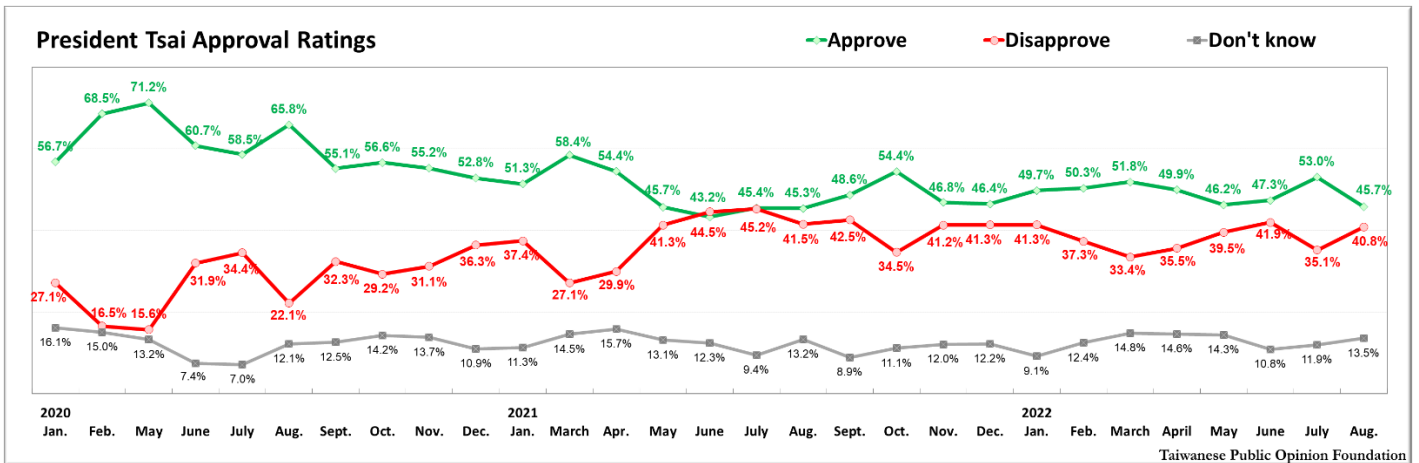
9. Do Taiwanese public believe the United States will send troops to defend Taiwan if China invades? The latest poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 47.5% do not believe so while a minority of 44.1% do. Comparing to our past several polls, Taiwanese confidence in U.S. intervention clearly suffered a massive setback following Russian-Ukraine war as they saw there was no direct U.S. military intervention in Ukraine. However, U.S. President Biden’s [widely reported statement](#) in May vowing to defend Taiwan, and recent events such as Pelosi’s visit apparently galvanized Taiwanese confidence again although a thin majority still remains non-confident.



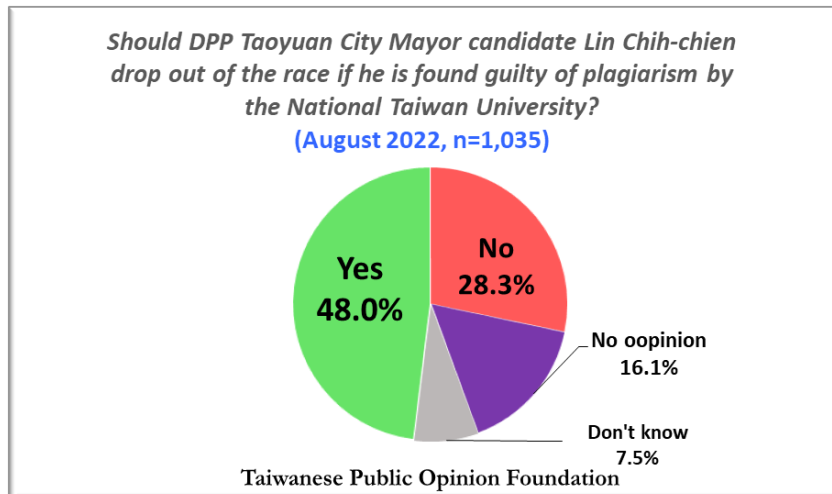
10. Concerning Taiwanese views on political future, we asked: “*There are debates regarding the future of Taiwan. Some people argue Taiwan should pursue unification with the other side of the [Taiwan] Strait, while others argue Taiwan should pursue its own independence. Do you support Taiwan independence, or unification with the other side?*” The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 50% said they support Taiwan independence, 11.8% for unification, 25.7% for maintaining status quo. This is yet another data point to support our long-established observation that the majority of the Taiwanese public, when offered the options, prefer Taiwan independence above *all other options* including “status quo”. The narrative that “a majority of Taiwanese want to maintain status quo” is simply a myth that is unfortunately embraced by the current leadership of both major political parties (DPP and KMT) which is not supported by polling data.



11. On the Presidential job approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 45.7% approved of the way Tsai Ing-wen is handling her job as the President, while a minority of 40.8% expressed disapproval. The slight decline from July is surprising given that recent external events such as Nancy Pelosi’s visit and the resulting Chinese military drills should have been extremely favorable to her due to rally-around-the-flag effect. While the cause of decline is yet to be known, it remains to be seen if this is a sign that her popularity has “peaked” at this point.



12. Lin Chih-chien, ruling party DPP’s candidate for the Taoyuan City Mayor election was embroiled in a scandal concerning his Master’s degree thesis, which was found by National Taiwan University (NTU) as having committed plagiarism. On August 13, NTU formally stripped Lin of his degree and consequently Lin [dropped out of the Taoyuan race](#). TPOF poll conducted days before NTU’s ruling found that a majority of 48% Taiwanese public thought Lin should quit the race if he is found guilty of plagiarism, while only 28% thought he should stay in the race.





13. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 30.2% said they support the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 16.5% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 13.4% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 2.1% support the New Power Party (NPP), 1.3% support the Taiwan State-building Party (TSP), and 33.9% respondents identified themselves as independents. DPP's slight decline and KMT's slight rebound likely have to do with the controversy over Lin Chih-chien's plagiarism. As Taiwan is heading into a busy local elections season scheduled for November, the strength of political parties will become increasingly important to local candidates' eventual performance on the voting date.

