Press Release on August 23, 2004

HKU POP SITE and Civic Exchange releases the 14th 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 17 to 21, 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 19 to 21) 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	14-16/8	15-17/8	16-18/8	17-19/8	18-20/8	*19-21/8*	*Latest change*
Sample base	1,109	1,131	1,151	1,132	1,113	*1,099*	--
Overall response rate	74.7%	73.6%	73.4%	73.0%	73.6%	*73.6%*	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	*+/- 3%*	--
Totally no idea on the list in their constituency	44%	44%	42%	43%	45%	*43%*	*-2%*
Knew at least one list in their constituency ^	56%	56%	58%	58%	56%	*58%*	*+2%*
Knew at least half of the lists in their constituency ^	21%	24%	26%	26%	24%	*25%*	*+1%*
Knew all lists in their constituency ^	2%	2%	3%	3%	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 19 to 21 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							
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Sample base	1,109	1,131	1,151	1,132	1,113	*1,099*	--
Overall response rate	74.7%	73.6%	73.4%	73.0%	73.6%	*73.6%*	--
Sampling error of percentages (at 95% conf. level)*	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	*+/- 3%*	--
Proportion of respondents definitely will vote	57%	56%	55%	54%	54%	*55%*	*+1%*
Propensity to vote (summation of "definitely will" and "most likely will" vote)	83%	82%	83%	84%	84%	*85%*	*+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 17 to 21 showed that, the differences of the proportion of stray votes among the 5 constituencies had narrowed down to 25% - 26%. The figures are summarized as follows:

Rolling survey: Hong Kong Island							
Date of survey	12-16/8	13-17/8	14-18/8	15-19/8	16-20/8	*17-21/8*	*Latest change*
Sample base	328	337	344	353	363	*371*	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	*+/- 5%*	--
Proportion of firm voters	58%	61%	62%	58%	57%	*53%*	*-4%*
Proportion of stray voters	23%	19%	18%	23%	25%	*26%*	*+1%*
Proportion of "no-votes"	19%	19%	20%	19%	19%	*21%*	*+2%*

Rolling survey: Kowloon East						
Date of survey	12-16/8	13-17/8	14-18/8	15-19/8	16-20/8	17-21/8	Latest change
Sample base	322	328	326	321	317	290	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--
Proportion of firm voters	49%	51%	54%	56%	53%	54%	+1%
Proportion of stray voters	30%	27%	26%	24%	25%	25%	--
Proportion of "no-votes"	21%	22%	21%	21%	22%	21%	-1%

Rolling survey: Kowloon West						
Date of survey	12-16/8	13-17/8	14-18/8	15-19/8	16-20/8	17-21/8	Latest change
Sample base	266	284	283	280	289	282	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	--
Proportion of firm voters	52%	53%	52%	55%	52%	53%	+1%
Proportion of stray voters	23%	23%	25%	25%	27%	26%	-1%
Proportion of "no-votes"	25%	24%	23%	20%	21%	22%	+1%

Rolling survey: New Territories East						
Date of survey	12-16/8	13-17/8	14-18/8	15-19/8	16-20/8	17-21/8	Latest change
Sample base	439	445	456	456	459	472	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--
Proportion of firm voters	54%	54%	54%	52%	51%	50%	-1%
Proportion of stray voters	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	--
Proportion of "no-votes"	20%	20%	21%	22%	23%	24%	+1%

Rolling survey: New Territories West						
Date of survey	12-16/8	13-17/8	14-18/8	15-19/8	16-20/8	17-21/8	Latest change
Sample base	478	457	460	468	459	445	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	--
Proportion of firm voters	49%	50%	50%	50%	51%	52%	+1%
Proportion of stray voters	30%	29%	27%	26%	27%	26%	-1%
Proportion of "no-votes"	21%	22%	23%	24%	23%	22%	-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 17 to 21, 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	12-16/8	13-17/8	14-18/8	15-19/8	16-20/8	*17-21/8*	--	--	--
Sample base	328	337	344	353	363	*371*	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	*+/- 5%*	--	--	--
Audrey Eu's list	20%	23%	21%	23%	23%	*24%*	*+1%*	*+/-4%*	Andrey Eu
Yeung Sum's list	20%	21%	20%	18%	16%	*18%*	*+2%*	*+/-4%*	Yeung Sum
Rita Fan's list	16%	16%	15%	14%	15%	*12%*	*-3%*	*+/-3%*	--
Ma Lik's list	9%	10%	9%	10%	9%	*7%*	*-2%*	*+/-3%*	--
K. S. Tsang's list	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	*1%*	*--*	*+/-1%*	--
K. F. Wong's list	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	*< 1%*	*--*	*+/-<1%*	--
Not yet decide	30%	26%	28%	30%	32%	*34%*	*+2%*	*+/-5%*	--
Others^	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	*4%*	*--*	*+/-2%*	--
Kowloon East Constituency seats 5, threshold 20%									
Date of survey	12-16/8	13-17/8	14-18/8	15-19/8	16-20/8	*17-21/8*	--	--	--
Sample base	322	328	326	321	317	*290*	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	*+/- 6%*	--	--	--
Y. H. Chan's list	17%	18%	19%	18%	19%	*19%*	*--*	*+/-5%*	--
Alan Leong's list	8%	11%	12%	13%	13%	*14%*	*+1%*	*+/-4%*	--
Albert Cheng's list	14%	13%	13%	14%	14%	*13%*	*-1%*	*+/-4%*	--
W. M. Li 's list	14%	13%	12%	11%	10%	*9%*	*-1%*	*+/-3%*	--
K. L. Chan's list	5%	8%	8%	9%	7%	*8%*	*+1%*	*+/-3%*	--
Not yet decide	37%	35%	34%	32%	34%	*33%*	*-1%*	*+/-6%*	--
Others^	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	*4%*	*+1%*	*+/-2%*	--
Kowloon West Constituency seats 4, threshold 25%									
Date of survey	12-16/8	13-17/8	14-18/8	15-19/8	16-20/8	*17-21/8*	--	--	--
Sample base	266	284	283	280	289	*282*	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%	*+/- 6%*	--	--	--
James To's list	23%	22%	22%	21%	19%	*19%*	*--*	*+/-5%*	--
Jasper Tsang's list	14%	14%	14%	15%	15%	*15%*	*--*	*+/-4%*	--
Frederick Fung's list	11%	12%	11%	12%	10%	*13%*	*+3%*	*+/-4%*	--
C. S. Lau's list	10%	12%	12%	12%	13%	*12%*	*-1%*	*+/-4%*	--
S. L. Liu's list	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	*2%*	*-1%*	*+/-2%*	--
Y. S. Lau's list	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	*0%*	*--*	*--*	--
Not yet decide	34%	34%	36%	34%	37%	*35%*	*-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
Others^	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	*4%*	--	*+/-2%*	--

New Territories East Constituency   seats   7, threshold   14%

							Latest change	Error margin*	Candidates surpassing threshold
Date of survey	12-16/8	13-17/8	14-18/8	15-19/8	16-20/8	*17-21/8*	--	--	--
Sample base	439	445	456	456	459	*472*	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	*+/- 5%*	--	--	--
Andrew Cheng's list	32%	32%	30%	27%	24%	*25%*	*+1%*	*+/-4%*	Andrew Cheng
James Tien's list	11%	12%	13%	13%	14%	*13%*	*-1%*	*+/-3%*	--
K. W. Lau's list	10%	8%	9%	10%	12%	*12%*	--	*+/-3%*	--
Andrew Wong's list	5%	4%	5%	5%	5%	*5%*	--	*+/-2%*	--
K. H. Leung's list	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	*3%*	--	*+/-2%*	--
W. W. Tsoi's list	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	*2%*	--	*+/-1%*	--
Not yet decide	33%	34%	33%	34%	34%	*35%*	*+1%*	*+/-4%*	--
Others^	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	*6%*	*+1%*	*+/-2%*	--

New Territories West Constituency   seats   8, threshold   13%

							Latest change	Error margin*	Candidates surpassing threshold
Date of survey	12-16/8	13-17/8	14-18/8	15-19/8	16-20/8	*17-21/8*	--	--	--
Sample base	478	457	460	468	459	*445*	--	--	--
Sampling error of percentages*	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	+/- 5%	*+/- 5%*	--	--	--
Y. C. Tam's list	10%	9%	8%	10%	11%	*11%*	--	*+/-3%*	--
C. Y. Ho's list	10%	11%	12%	11%	11%	*11%*	--	*+/-3%*	--
Selina Chow's list	9%	8%	9%	9%	9%	*9%*	--	*+/-3%*	--
W. T. Lee's list	7%	7%	8%	9%	9%	*9%*	--	*+/-3%*	--
Y. C. Leung's list	8%	9%	8%	8%	8%	*7%*	*-1%*	*+/-2%*	--
C. Y. Lee's list	7%	7%	6%	6%	5%	*7%*	*+2%*	*+/-2%*	--
Albert Chan's list	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	*3%*	--	*+/-2%*	--
T. S. Yim's list	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	*2%*	--	*+/-1%*	--
P. T. Chow's list	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	*< 1%*	--	*+/-<1%*	--
Stephen Char's list	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	*< 1%*	--	*+/-<1%*	--
T. L. Ng's list	0%	0%	0%	0%	<1%	*< 1%*	--	*+/-<1%*	--
H. T. Lui's list	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	*0%*	--	--	--
Not yet decide	41%	41%	40%	39%	39%	*37%*	*-2%*	*+/-5%*	--
Others^	2%	3%	4%	3%	4%	*5%*	*+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.