

Surveys on FOUR Geographical Constituencies
Hong Kong People's Views on the 2004 Legislative Council Election

Civic Exchange's Analysis on Polling Results

21 July 2004

Civic Exchange and Public Opinion Programme (POP) at the University of Hong Kong released four sets of survey results today on the 2004 Legislative Council (LegCo) election. The four surveys separately looked at how people in different geographical constituencies (GCs) view the 2004 LegCo election at this time:

- a) **Kowloon East** (conducted between 9 and 11 July 2004)
- b) **Kowloon West** (conducted between 24 and 27 June 2004)
- c) **New Territories East** (conducted between 24 and 27 June 2004)
- d) **New Territories West** (conducted between 9 and 11 July 2004)

Civic Exchange would like to highlight the following areas:

A. How many voters will likely turnout on 12 September?

1. The surveys on the four different GCs showed that voters' propensity to vote was high: 77% of voters in Kowloon East and Kowloon West indicated they would definitely or most likely to vote; 78% of voters in New Territories East and New Territories West stated they would definitely or most like to vote.¹ Such findings are consistent with previous CE-POP and CE-Wirthlin surveys released in May, June and early July 2004.²
2. Voters aged between 18 and 29 had the highest intention to vote on 12 September 2004 (percentage ranged from 86% to 90%) in Kowloon East, Kowloon West and New Territories West.³
3. The actual turnout rate will be much lower. Respondents tend to overstate their intention to vote probably because it is the socially correct response. The highest turnout rate for LegCo election is 53% (1998 LegCo election, the first LegCo election after the handover).
4. Previous CE-POP surveys showed that there had been a constant percentage of voters who claimed they had not yet decided whether they would vote or not. The findings from the surveys on the four GCs echoed previous survey results. 14% - 18% of the voters in the four GCs said they had not yet made up their minds.

¹ Hong Kong Island voters' propensity to vote was the highest, which was 82% according to the CE-POP survey on HKI residents released on 8 July 2004. See HKUPOP. *2004 Legislative Council Direct Election: Survey on Individual Constituency (Hong Kong Island)*. July 2004. <http://www.civic-exchange.org/publications/2004/LC04HKI%20-%20E.pdf>

² See HKUPOP. *2004 Legislative Council Election: 1st Survey*. May 2004. <http://www.civic-exchange.org/publications/2004/LC04S1%20-%20E.pdf>; Wirthlin Worldwide Asia. *Survey on Hong Kong People's Views on SCNPC Decision*. June 2004. <http://www.civic-exchange.org/publications/2004/SCNPC%20survey%20-E.doc>; HKUPOP. *2004 Legislative Council Direct Election: Survey on Individual Constituency (Hong Kong Island)*. July 2004. <http://www.civic-exchange.org/publications/2004/LC04HKI%20-%20E.pdf>; HKUPOP. *2004 Legislative Council Direct Election: 2nd Survey*. July 2004. <http://www.civic-exchange.org/publications/2004/LC04S2%20-%20E.pdf>

³ The CE-Wirthlin survey released on 26 June 2004 showed that people aged 18-24 had a much lower propensity to vote (79%). See Wirthlin Worldwide Asia. *Survey on Hong Kong People's Views on SCNPC Decision*. June 2004. <http://www.civic-exchange.org/publications/2004/SCNPC%20survey%20-E.doc>

5. All the GC surveys (including the one on Hong Kong Island released on 8 July 2004) showed that the propensity for male voters to vote was higher than female voters. Besides, more female voters indicated that they had not yet made up their mind whether to vote or not.
6. Candidates/parties need to work harder on getting voters to turnout on election day. Specific messages aimed at various age groups and for female voters need to be created in order to connect to them. Women's groups may also play a role in getting women to turnout to vote.

B. Will a common "list" strategy work?

1. Similar to the CE-POP survey results on Hong Kong Island residents released on 8 July 2004, the surveys on Kowloon West, New Territories East and New Territories West showed that respondents in these GCs would more likely vote for the 'camp' they support if they also approved of the candidates on the 'list'. 54% of Kowloon West respondents, 52% of New Territories East respondents and 60% of the New Territories West respondents said that the identity of the candidates on the list was important to them, not just their party or "camp" affiliations.
2. However, over half of the respondents in Kowloon East stated they would vote for the 'camp' they support irrespective of which candidates would be on the lists.
3. In the CE-POP surveys released in May and July 2004, the respondents indicated that they preferred independent candidates to party candidates (67% and 55% respectively). The new survey results for Kowloon West, New Territories East and New Territories West are consistent with the previous surveys.
4. About 4% - 6% of respondents in the four GCs had not yet decided whether they would vote for the 'camp' they support with/without taking into the account the candidates on the lists.
5. All GC surveys showed that female respondents would less likely vote for the 'camp' they support without considering who would be on the lists.

C. Will people abide by voting advice form candidates?

1. Following on the CE-POP survey on Hong Kong Island residents, respondents in other geographical constituencies also tended to be reluctant to follow voting advice. At least 85% of the respondents who are aged between 18 and 29 in the four GCs stated that they would not follow such instructions from candidates (91% of the respondents aged between 18 and 29 in New Territories West claimed this view). The same assessment applies to this case as well: respondents, the younger respondents in particular, would like to demonstrate that they are independent-minded and will make their own decisions on how to vote.
2. However, it is interesting to note that at least 1/5 of the respondents aged 60 or above in the four GCs said that they had not yet decided/did not know/it's hard to say whether they would follow advice from candidates. 44% of the respondents aged 60 or above in Kowloon East had not yet made up their mind. (This is a contrast to the low percentage demonstrated by the responses given by people aged between 18 and 29.) The four surveys showed that the older the respondents, the lower the tendency they would say "No" to advice from candidates.

3. All GC surveys showed that female respondents were less likely to follow candidates' voting advice compared to male respondents. 71% of Kowloon East female respondents, 74% of Hong Kong Island female respondents, 80% of New Territories West female respondents, 82% of New Territories East female respondents and 84% of Kowloon West female respondents shared this view.⁴ This may imply that female respondents are more eager to show their independence.
4. Candidates/parties thus need to find the right approaches to introduce their advice to their voters.

⁴ Male respondents who stated they would not follow candidates' voting advice: 70% (Kowloon East), 67% (Hong Kong Island), 66% (New Territories West), 70% (New Territories East) and 68% (Kowloon West).