

Survey on Taiwanese people's trust in the U.S President, cross-strait leaders and major political parties and Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou's approval rating

A. The level of trust of Taiwanese people in various leaders: 46.1 percent of Taiwanese say they trust Barack Obama, 38.6 percent say they trust Ma Ying-jeou, 35.4 percent say they trust Tsai Ing-wen, and 17.5 percent say they trust Hu Jintao.

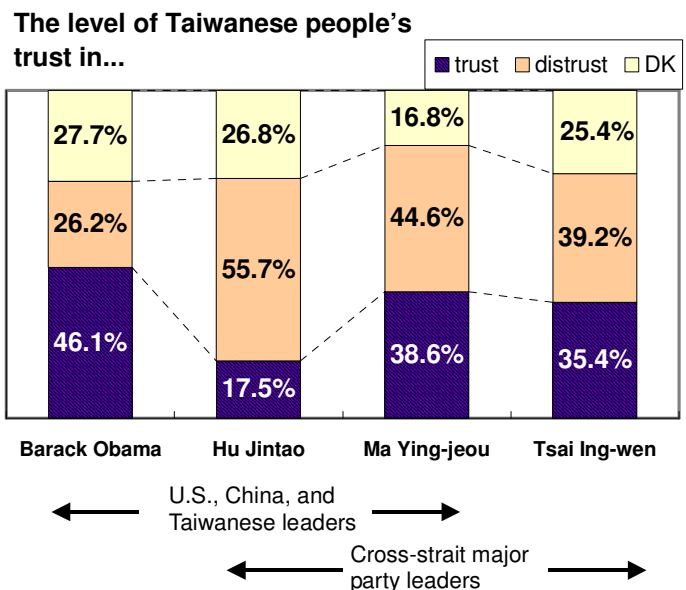
U.S. President Barack Obama recently began his first trip to Asia since taking office. When he gave a speech in Tokyo, his first stop in Asia, he repeatedly said the U.S. has always been a Pacific nation and it is strongly committed to helping with the security of its Asian partners. He further sought to recover and bolster the U.S. leadership in the Asia-Pacific region.

This GVSRC survey shows among three U.S. and cross-strait leaders, Obama has the highest level of Taiwanese people's trust with 46.1 percent of Taiwanese saying they trust him. Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou lags behind with 38.6 percent, while only 17.5 percent of Taiwanese say they trust Chinese President Hu Jintao. Hu also faces the highest level of Taiwanese people's distrust 55.7 percent.

A cross analysis shows that most Taiwanese people trust Obama and distrust Hu no matter which party they support. On the other hand, pan-blue and pan-green supporters are split on their views of Ma.

Among major Chinese and Taiwanese party leaders, Ma as ruling KMT chairperson has the highest level of Taiwanese people's trust with 38.6 percent of Taiwanese saying they trust him. His level of trust is slightly higher than main opposition DPP Chairperson Tsai's 35.4 percent. Hu as Chinese Communist Party chief again is the least trusted leader among the three only 17.5 percent of Taiwanese says they trust him.

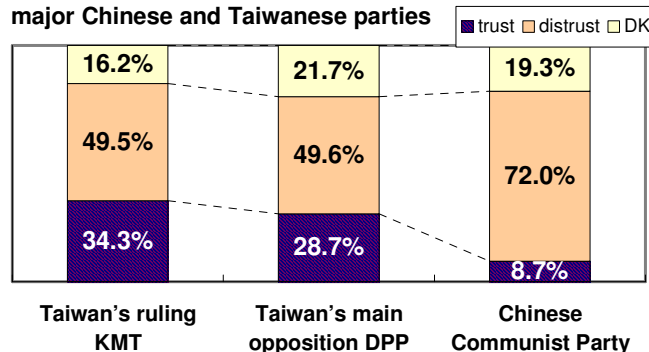
B. The level of Taiwanese people's trust in major Chinese and Taiwanese parties: 34.3 percent say they trust KMT, 28.7 percent say they trust DPP, and 8.7 percent say they trust CCP.



Among all cross-strait three main parties, KMT is 115-year-old, CCP 78, and DPP 23. They have had great impact over cross-strait relations, and they will continue to play key roles in shaping bilateral ties.

This GVSRC survey shows KMT has the highest level of Taiwanese people's trust with 34.3 percent saying they trust the party. DPP follows behind with 28.7 percent saying they trust the party. Only 8.7 percent of Taiwanese say they trust CCP. Even 69.7 percent of pan-blue supporters say they do not trust CCP.

The level of Taiwanese people's trust in major Chinese and Taiwanese parties



In general, Taiwanese people trust Chinese and Taiwanese party leaders better than their parties. At the same time, although Ma has turned a new page on cross-strait exchanges since taking office 18 months and his cross-strait policy has been widely approved by the international community, CCP and its leader Hu have still failed to win most Taiwanese people's trust. Their failure to win Taiwanese people's trust will remain the biggest obstacle for future improvement in cross-strait relations, and they will further hurt Ma's cross-strait policy and indirectly damage Ma's image and political standing and lessen the degree of Taiwanese people's trust in him.

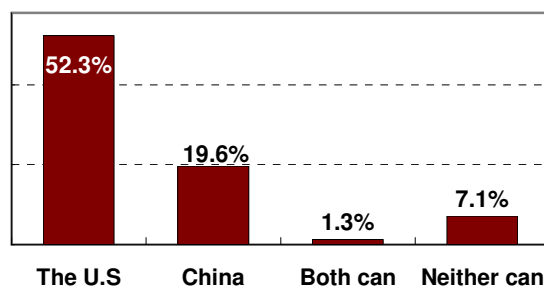
C. 52.9 percent of Taiwanese say Obama is friendly toward Taiwan, and 52.3 percent say the U.S. can help maintain Taiwan's interests better than China.

The Taiwanese government's recent move to allow import of U.S. bone-in beef has stirred up public uproar. It has also brought Taiwanese to question whether Taiwan officials made too many concessions in the beef negotiations in exchange for initiating talks on other issues with Washington, including the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). TIFA negotiations have been suspended for two years.

This GVSRC survey shows 52.9 percent of Taiwanese say Obama has been friendly toward Taiwan since taking office, while 17.7 percent say he has been unfriendly. A cross analysis shows most Taiwanese think Obama is friendly toward Taiwan no matter which party they support.

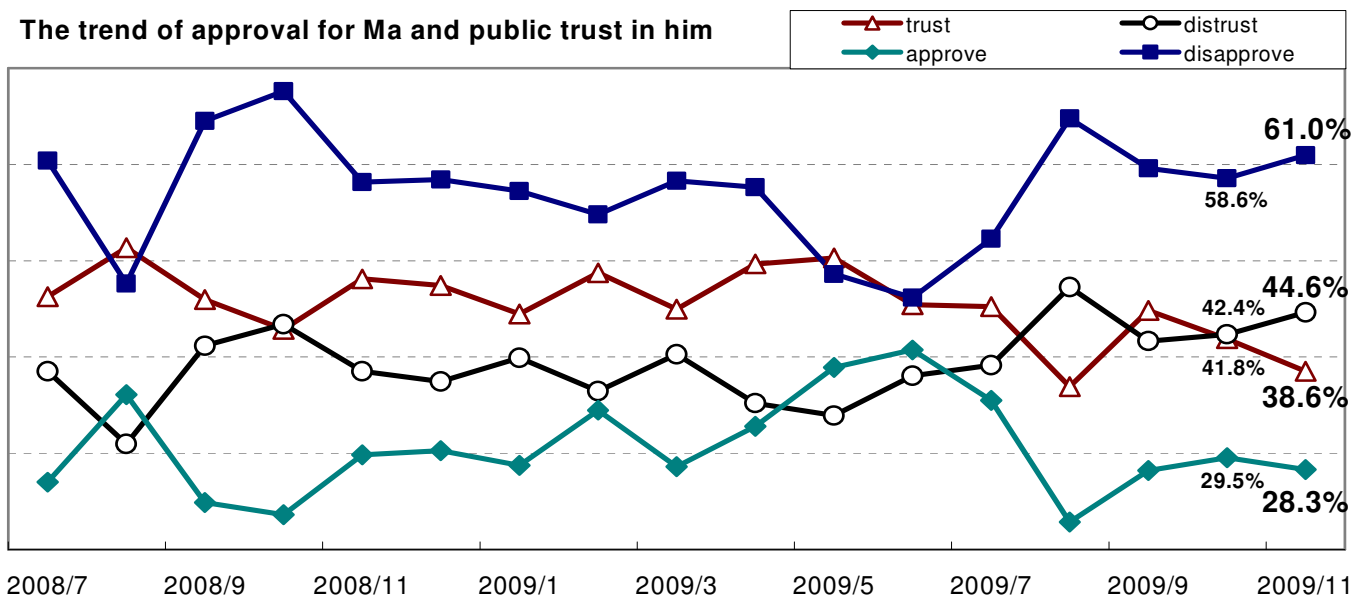
This survey also asks Taiwanese whether the U.S. or China can better help Taiwan maintain its interests. 52.3 percent say the U.S. can better help Taiwan maintain its interests, while 19.6 percent say China can. 7.1 percent say neither country can help guard Taiwan's interests, and 1.3 percent say both can. This shows that Taiwanese people still have high expectations of the U.S. government's role in keeping Taiwan's interests.

Who can better maintain Taiwan's interests?



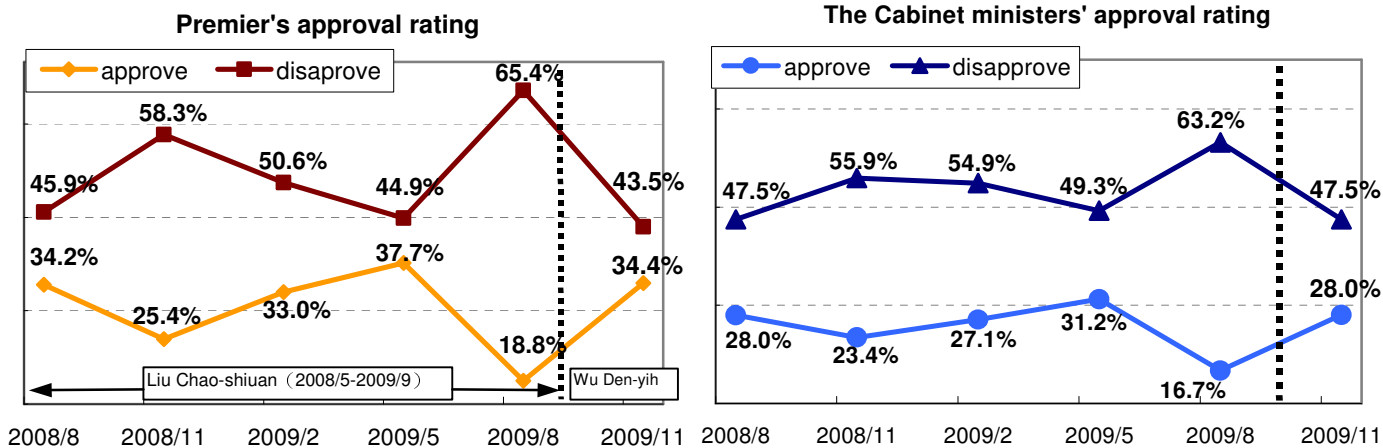
D. President Ma Ying-jeou's approval rating this month: His approval rating is 28.3 percent and disapproval rating is 61.0 percent. 38.5 percent say they trust Ma, while 44.6 percent say they don't.

This GVSRC survey shows 28.3 percent of Taiwanese are satisfied with Ma's performance this month, while 61.0 percent are not. Compared with last month, Ma's approval rating falls 1.2 percentage points, and his disapproval rating rises 2.4 percentage points. 38.5 percent of Taiwanese say they trust Ma, while 44.6 percent say they don't trust him. Compared with last month, the level of public trust in Ma drops 3.4 percentage points, and the level of public distrust in him rises 2.2 percentage points. The changes fall within the range of the margin of error. Over the past three months, Ma's approval ratings have remained stable, while the level of public trust in him has been dropping close to where it was right after Typhoon Morakot wrecked havoc in Taiwan. This shows that Taiwanese people are quite split on their views of Ma. As the yearend mayoral and magisterial elections approach, whether changes in the level of public trust in Ma will have any impact on the poll outcome remain to be seen.



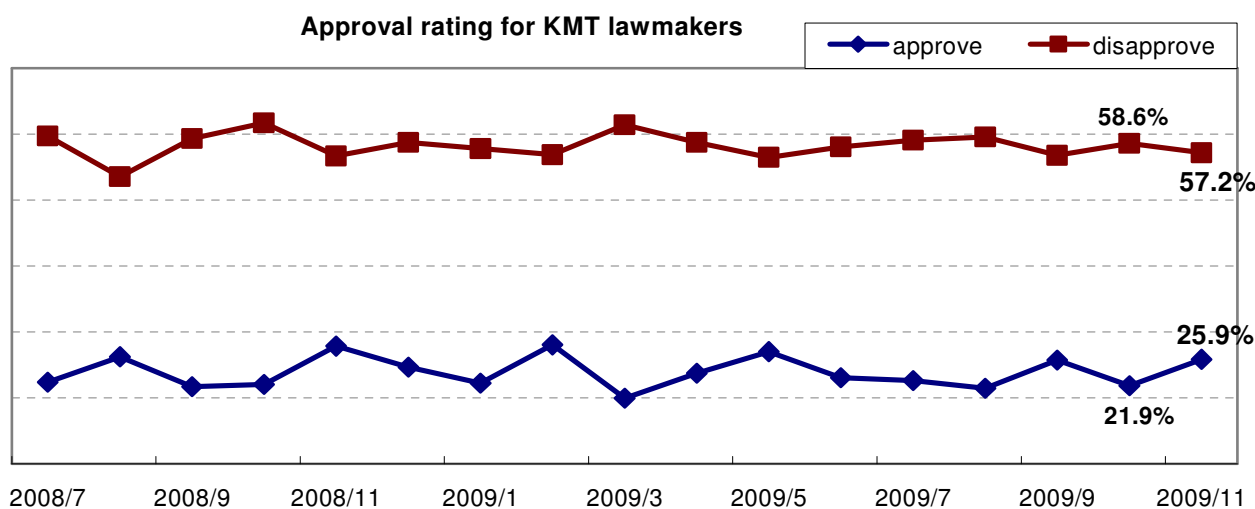
E. Premier Wu Den-yih's approval rating is 34.4 percent and disapproval rating is 43.5 percent. The Cabinet ministers' approval rating is 28.0 percent and disapproval rating is 47.5 percent.

GVSRC surveys Taiwanese on the premier's and Cabinet ministers' approval ratings once every quarter, and this month's survey is the first such survey since Premier Wu Den-yih took office in early September. It shows 34.4 percent of Taiwanese are satisfied with his performance, while 43.5 percent are not. Wu's approval rating is almost the same as his predecessor Liu Chao Shiuans' when Liu just took office. 28.0 percent of Taiwanese say they are satisfied with the Cabinet ministers' performance, while 47.5 percent say they are dissatisfied. The numbers match exactly with those from the time when the last Cabinet just took office.



F. The KMT lawmakers' approval rating is 25.9 percent and disapproval rating is 57.2.

KMT still controls almost 70 percent of all legislative seats although some party lawmakers have resigned their seats to become Cabinet ministers or mayoral and magisterial candidates or they have been convicted of vote-buying. This GVSRC survey shows 57.2 percent of Taiwanese are not satisfied with the KMT lawmaker's performance as a whole, much higher than the 25.9 percent who say they are satisfied with the lawmakers' performance. Compared with last month, the KMT lawmakers' approval rating gains 4.0 percentage points, and their disapproval rating falls 1.4 percentage points. The changes fall within the margin of the sampling error.



This survey was conducted by GVSRC from 6.20 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. from Nov. 15-17, 2009. It was conducted with random-digit-dial sampling and computer-assisted telephone interviewing methods. 1004 Taiwanese people who are 20 or older completed the interview. One can say with 95% confidence level that the theoretical margin of sampling error is $\pm 3.1\%$. Gender, living areas, ages, educational level and other features of the interviewees have undergone weighting procedure and test of the sample's representativeness in the survey results.