

The result of Street Poll
“Which party will you vote for in the next national election?”
“Do you agree or disagree with the single-seat constituency system?”

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(1) Purpose and Summary of the Survey

Objective: To objectively understand the preference for political parties as vote choice in the next national election and pros and cons for the single-seat constituency system.

Period: From November 1, 2015 through to February 6, 2016

Location: 21 places in Tokyo

Total number of times: 25 times

Method: Street interview using seal voting

Respondents to the question "Which party will you vote for in the next national election ?": 1090

Respondents to the question “Do you agree or disagree with the single-seat constituency system?": 1060

Respondents to both questions: 1034

(2) Summary of the Survey Result

Liberal Democratic Party’s share of votes has become top with 33.0 %, followed by Japanese Communist Party (JCP) with 20.2 %, Democratic Party of Japan with 12.8 %, and “Unified Opposition-Party Candidate involved with JCP” with 10.6 %. These percentages are based on all data including non-party vote choices such as “Have no idea”.

44.1 % of those who voted for LDP disagreed with the single-seat system, whereas 34.6 % of these voters agreed with the system. 68.0 % of those who voted for DPJ disagreed with the system, whereas 14.1 % of these voters agreed with the system. Within overall voters, 63.5 % disagreed with the system, whereas 20.5 % agreed with the system. These percentages are based on the data from 1034 Respondents to both questions.

(3) Nature of the Survey

The question about the party preference did not designate the constituency category, so the survey seems to be a kind of asking an intermediate between the party to support and the party to vote. The numbers of votes in the survey therefore seem to have an implication of votes for the proportional-representation constituency rather than those for the single-seat constituency. As a result, except for the “Unified Opposition-Party Candidate involved with Japanese Communist Party (Unified Opposition Candidate, UOC)”, we regarded the numbers of votes and their corrected numbers in the survey as those for the proportional-representation constituency.

Street poll is likely to be able to reflect the consciousness of young people than the survey using fixed telephone.

This survey is unique in the aspect of asking preference for parties as vote choice, together with opinion about the single seat system and would be most relevant in recent political landscape jeopardizing constitutionalism through the present election system that should intrinsically ensure popular sovereignty as the foundation of constitutionalism.

(4) Correction of the numbers of votes polled (Tokyo, Proportional-Representation Constituency)

We corrected the numbers of votes in three manners:

- a) Komeito: The votes of 36 for Komeito are apparently lower than reality, so we corrected their votes so that their share of the corrected votes is equal to the real share of the proportional-representation constituency for Tokyo district in the 2014 House of Representatives election. The votes of the other parties are not changed.
- b) Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Komeito: We corrected the respective votes of LDP and Komeito in the same manner as above.

c) LDP, Komeito, Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), Japan Innovation Party (JIP) and Initiatives from Osaka (IFO, Osaka Ishin): We corrected the respective votes of LDP and Komeito in the same manner as above, and the respective votes of DPJ, JIP and IFO in the manner of correction coefficient = (corrected votes of LDP ÷ polled votes of LDP) = (corrected respective votes of DPJ, JIP or IFO ÷ polled respective votes of DPJ, JIP or IFO).

The share of corrected votes of 33.2 % for LDP, which is derived from the correction case a), is already almost equal to the actual values, 33.1 % of the overall districts and 32.1 % of Tokyo district for the proportional-representation constituency in 2014 election (see Table 2), and the correction coefficient is 0.9 in the correction case of c). There is therefore no significant difference between the polled and corrected values except Komeito in any correction case.

(5) Simulation 1 (Table 4) : Tokyo, Single-Seat Constituency - Estimating the share of votes of “Unified Opposition-Party Candidate involved with Japanese Communist Party (JCP) (Unified Opposition Candidate, UOC)” and “LDP Candidate who gains pro Opposition-Party voters who disfavor the Unified Opposition Candidate” (Inflated LDP Candidate)

We set the vote choice of “Unified Opposition-Party Candidate involved with Japanese Communist Party (JCP) (Unified Opposition Candidate, UOC)”. We regarded a certain portion of the polled votes of 5 opposition parties (DPJ, JCP, SDP, JIP and People’s Life Party) as votes in the next single-seat election in Tokyo and allocated the corrected shares of votes of these 5 parties to the share of votes of the Unified Opposition Candidate and the real share of votes of LDP for Tokyo district in 2014 election (45.1 %).

According to the result of poll published in the October 10, 2015 issue of The Mainichi Newspapers, 60 % of voters who favor DPJ and 90 % of voters who favor JCP agree with the opinion that “Opposition parties including JCP should cooperate in the election”. We therefore adopted the allocation rates of 6:4 for DPJ and JIP, and 9:1 for JCP, SDP and People’s Life Party.

As a result, the total share of votes of the Unified Opposition Candidate consists of the original share of votes of the Unified Opposition Candidate, 60 % of corrected shares of DPJ and JIP, and 90 % of corrected shares of JCP, SDP and People’s Life Party, and the

total share of votes of the Inflated LDP Candidate consists of the real share of votes of LDP for Tokyo district in 2014 election (45.1 %), 40 % of corrected shares of DPJ and JIP, and 10 % of corrected shares of JCP, SDP and People's Life Party.

Although “Share of Votes of LDP” ÷ “Share of Votes of DPJ” for Tokyo district in 2014 election is 2.0, “Share of Votes of Inflated LDP Candidate” ÷ “Share of Votes of Unified Opposition Candidate” estimated through the survey is 1.3 in all of the correction cases, or is 1.4 or 1.5 even when the Inflated LDP Candidate gains the votes of Osaka Ishin.

(6) Simulation 2 (Table 5) : Nationwide, Single-Seat Constituency - Estimating the nationwide shares of votes of the proportional-representation constituency from the corrected shares for Tokyo district and then Estimating “Inflated LDP Candidate” ÷ “Unified Opposition Candidate” for the overall districts like Section 4

As for JCP, People's Life Party and The Party for Japanese Kokoro (former “The Party for Future Generations”), their nationwide shares of votes for the proportional-representation constituency are lower than those of Tokyo, whereas the other parties are in an opposite way. The nationwide shares can be estimated by combining the above corrected shares of Tokyo and the results of 2014 election. As for New Renaissance Party and The Assembly to Energize Japan, we substituted the corrected shares of Tokyo for the estimated nationwide shares.

We employed two ways to estimate the nationwide shares from Tokyo shares. The one was followed by 1) the nationwide shares of JCP, People's Life Party and The Party for Japanese Kokoro were estimated by multiplying respective corrected shares of Tokyo by respective “nationwide shares ÷ Tokyo shares” of 2014 election, and then 2) “Tokyo shares - estimated nationwide shares” of these 3 parties were allocated to the remaining parties in the proportions of respective “nationwide shares - Tokyo shares” of 2014 election. The other one was to just multiply respective corrected shares of Tokyo by respective “nationwide shares ÷ Tokyo shares” of 2014 election.

Although “Share of Votes of LDP” ÷ “Share of Votes of DPJ” for the overall districts in 2014 election is 2.1, “Share of Votes of Inflated LDP Candidate” ÷ “Share of Votes of Unified Opposition Candidate” estimated through the survey is 1.6 or 1.7 in any of the correction cases, or is 1.8 or 1.9 when the Inflated LDP Candidate gains the votes of Osaka Ishin.

(7) Analysis and Recommendation

It is not surprising that JCP has become the leading opposition party because JCP's share of votes of the proportional-representative constituency for Tokyo district in 2014 election was already almost same with DPJ.

Even when the severe condition above is applied to the opposite parties, and given that some of the pro opposition-party voters disfavor the Unified Opposition Candidate and switch into LDP, UPC would have merit, compared to the case when the opposition parties field their own candidates.

Considering that those who voted for LDP and DPJ in the survey are more likely to oppose the single-seat constituency system, which is advantageous to LDP or DPJ, than to agree with the system, and that more than half of the overall respondents are against it, all parties should urgently rethink the system.

Table 1
Survey Result

All data and calculation process can be found in Excel file :
http://kaze.fm/documents/Street_Poll_Report_20160222.xlsx

Respondents to the question about the party to vote for :1090

Respondents to the question about the single-seat system :1060

Respondents to both questions :1034

Share 2 is based on the data excluding "others" and below.				Votes / Share		
Vote Choice	Votes	Share 1	Share 2	Agree with single-seat system	Disagree with single-seat system	Have no idea with single-seat system
Liberal Democratic	360	33.0	36.5	120 / 34.6	153 / 44.1	74 / 21.3
Democratic	140	12.8	14.2	18 / 14.1	87 / 68.0	23 / 18.0
Japan Innovation	6	0.6	0.6	1 / 16.7	3 / 50.0	2 / 33.3
Osaka Ishin	66	6.1	6.7	20 / 31.3	32 / 50.0	12 / 18.8
Komeito	36	3.3	3.6	10 / 30.3	14 / 42.4	9 / 27.3
Japanese Communist Party (JCP)	220	20.2	22.3	14 / 6.7	184 / 88.5	10 / 4.8
Unified Opposition-Party Candidate involved with JCP	115	10.6	11.7	4 / 3.6	100 / 90.1	7 / 6.3
Social Democratic	15	1.4	1.5	1 / 6.7	13 / 86.7	1 / 6.7
People's Life Party	20	1.8	2.0	7 / 36.8	10 / 52.6	2 / 10.5
Energize Japan	2	0.2	0.2	1 / 50.0	1 / 50.0	0 / 0.0
New Renaissance Party	0	0.0	0.0	0 / 0.0	0 / 0.0	0 / 0.0
Japanese Kokoro	7	0.6	0.7	3 / 50.0	2 / 33.3	1 / 16.7
Others	22	2.0		6 / 28.6	13 / 61.9	2 / 9.5
Have no idea	73	6.7		7 / 10.6	37 / 56.1	22 / 33.3
Have no party to vote for	6	0.6		0 / 0	6 / 100	0 / 0
Do not vote	1	0.1		0 / 0	1 / 100	0 / 0
Independent candidate	1	0.1		0 / 0	1 / 100	0 / 0
Total	1090	100	100	20.5	63.5	16.0

Table 2**Shares of votes for overall proportional-representative constituencies in 2014 election**

	Nationwide	Tokyo
Liberal Democratic	33.1	32.1
Democratic	18.3	16.3
Japan Innovation	15.7	14.2
Komeito	13.7	12.1
Japanese Communist Party	11.4	15.4
Social Democratic	2.5	2.3
People's Life Party	1.9	2.7
Japanese Kokoro	2.7	4.4
Other Parties	0.7	0.6
Total	100	100

Table 3**Ratios of votes for single-seat constituencies in 2014 election**

	Nationwide	Tokyo
Liberal Democratic	25,461,449	2,561,263
Democratic	11,916,849	1,304,239
Liberal Democratic ÷ Democratic	2.1	2.0

Table 4**Simulation 1 of the Next Election in Correction Case a) (Tokyo, Single-Seat Constituency)**

45.1 is the real share of votes of Liberal Democratic for Tokyo district in 2014 election.

	Polled Votes	Polled Share of Votes 2	Corrected Votes	Corrected Share of Votes	Unified Opposition Candidate	Inflated LDP Candidate 1	Inflated LDP Candidate 2
Liberal Democratic	360	36.5	360	33.2		45.1	45.1
Democratic	140	14.2	140	12.9	7.8	5.2	5.2
Japan Innovation	6	0.6	6	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2
Osaka Ishin	66	6.7	66	6.1			6.1
Komeito	36	3.6	132	12.2			
Japanese Communist Party (JCP)	220	22.3	220	20.3	18.3	2.0	2.0
Unified Opposition Candidate involved with JCP	115	11.7	115	10.6	10.6		
Social Democratic	15	1.5	15	1.4	1.2	0.1	0.1
People's Life Party	20	2.0	20	1.8	1.7	0.2	0.2
Energize Japan	2	0.2	2	0.2			
New Renaissance Party	0	0.0	0	0.0			
Japanese Kokoro	7	0.7	7	0.6			
Total	987	100	1083	100	39.9	52.8	58.9
Inflated LDP ÷ UOC						1.3	1.5

Table 5**Simulation 2 of the Next Election in Correction Case a) (Nationwide, Single-Seat Constituency)**

48.1 is the real share of votes of Liberal Democratic for the overall districts in 2014 election.

	Tokyo Corrected Share	Nationwide Estimated Share 1	Nationwide Estimated Share 2	Unified Opposition Candidate 1	Inflated LDP Candidate 1	Unified Opposition Candidate 2	Inflated LDP Candidate 2
Liberal Democratic	33.2	34.7	34.3		48.1		48.1
Democratic	12.9	15.7	14.5	9.4	6.3	8.7	5.8
Japan Innovation	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2
Osaka Ishin	6.1	8.1	6.8				
Komeito	12.2	14.4	13.8				
Japanese Communist Party	20.3	15.0	15.0	13.5	1.5	13.5	1.5
UOC	10.6	7.9	7.9	7.9		7.9	
Social Democratic	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.5	0.2	1.4	0.2
People's Life Party	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.1	1.2	0.1
Energize Japan	0.2	0.2	0.2				
New Renaissance	0.0	0.0	0.0				
Japanese Kokoro	0.6	0.4	0.4				
Total	100	100	96	33.9	56.5	33.0	55.9
Inflated LDP ÷ UOC					1.7		1.7
Osaka Ishin					8.1		6.8
Total share				33.9	64.5	33.0	62.7
(Inflated LDP + Osaka Ishin) ÷ UOC					1.9		1.9