

Koo calls for Tainan mayor to run

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Presidential adviser Koo Kwang-ming yesterday speaks at a news conference held by the Taiwan Brain Trust in Taipei to announce the think tank's latest poll results on the 2020 presidential election.

Photo: Wang Yi-sung, Taipei Times

President Tsai Ing-wen's (蔡英文) low polling figures yesterday drew fire from within the pan-green camp, as presidential adviser and independence advocate Koo Kwang-ming (吳光昇) called for Tainan Mayor William Lai (賴清德) to run for president in 2020.

"Tsai should be satisfied with just four years, because then she can push through reforms full throttle without having to care about the opposition," Koo said, calling Lai the nation's "future leader."

"Lai is the star of tomorrow, and if Tsai steps aside, Lai should be the candidate of choice," said Koo, who was Tsai's rival in her first successful bid for Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) chairperson in 2008.

He had also called for Lai's nomination instead of Tsai in last year's presidential race.

The Taiwan Brain Trust Foundation, which Koo founded and funds, yesterday published a series of comparison polls between the two that showed that Lai would garner higher support in most contests.

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“Internally, DPP supporters’ preferences are split, but Lai has an obvious advantage in taking in supporters from other parties,” said Wu Shih-chang (吳志昌), general manager of Trend Survey and Research Co, which conducted the polls.

He cited figures showing that 20.8 percent of respondents would support Tsai, while 38.2 percent would support Lai.

The two politicians were statistically tied among DPP supporters, with Tsai registering a 39.2 percent level of support versus Lai’s 40 percent.

However, Lai was preferred by more than twice as many of all other political parties’ supporters.

The poll also examined a series of lineups against other potential candidates, finding continued higher favorability levels for Lai.

When pitted against Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) chairman-elect Wu Den-yih (吳敦義), Tsai polled 45.9 percent support to Wu’s 25.9 percent, while Lai polled 59.3 percent to Wu’s 20.8 percent.

In comparison with New Taipei City Mayor and former presidential candidate Eric Chu (柯文哲), 42.2 percent of respondents supported Tsai to Chu’s 37 percent, while Lai received 53.9 percent compared with 31 percent for Chu.

Tsai enjoyed only a 38.1 percent level of support when paired with Hon Hai Precision Industry Co (鴻海精密) chairman Terry Gou (郭台銘), who has been named as a potential KMT candidate.

Gou polled at 44.4 percent when paired with Tsai, a figure that dropped to 37.5 percent when paired with Lai, who drew 48.4 percent.

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“There is no single lineup in which Tsai would win an outright majority,” Ketagalan Institute president Chin Heng-wei (陳恆偉) said, adding the results also demonstrated the potential wild-card influence of a presidential run by Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je (柯文哲).

Any race involving Ko and Tsai would be tight, according to the poll, which found only 31.7 percent support for Tsai when paired against Wu (19 percent) and Ko (32.04 percent).

She garnered 30.2 percent support when paired against Chu (27.9 percent) and Ko (27.6 percent).

On the other hand, Lai’s support levels were comfortably ahead of both Ko and the two KMT candidates for both three-way races, receiving 43.5 percent support when paired with Wu (16.7 percent) and Ko (25.5 percent), and receiving 39.8 percent support when paired with Chu (24.6 percent) and Ko (22.9 percent).

Koo also backed down from previous calls for Premier Lin Chuan (林錫山) to be replaced, attributing low poll ratings to the Cabinet’s success in pushing through difficult reforms.

“If Lai were governing today, his poll ratings would be similar to Tsai’s,” he said.

The random telephone survey was conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday last week. It collected 1,071 valid responses with a margin of error of 3 percentage points and a confidence level of 95 percent.

Source: [Taipei Times - 2017/07/28](#)