

Key Findings:



63.28%

Participated in the election on February 1, 2025.



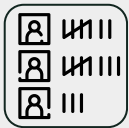
68.99%

Low voter turnout due to being busy or inconvenient travel



52.89%

Believe that local elections are different from national elections



54.91%

Citizens show new perspectives in decision-making for elections



26.98%

Are uncertain about how this election will impact local development in the long term

“The local election results reflect the complexity of trust and power in each area. The low voter turnout highlights inconvenience from holding the election on a Saturday and doubts about the Election Commission’s (EC) communication efforts, which have caused public mistrust. This election shows that people value ‘leaders connected to the community’ and ‘who understand local issues’ more than those focused on broad, general policies, differing from national politics.”



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Low Voter Turnout Due to Busy Schedules and Voting on a Saturday

A majority (63.28%) participated in the election, while 36.72% did not, citing busyness and travel inconvenience (68.99%) as key reasons. Additionally, 47.18% pointed out that the election falling on a Saturday contributed to the low turnout.

Regarding the differences between local and national elections, 52.89% believed local elections differ due to candidates being from the community and understanding local issues. Meanwhile, 47.11% thought they are similar due to comparable policies, campaigning methods, and political party support.

Candidate Quality More Important Than Popularity, But Results Require Time

The provincial administrative organization (PAO) election was not just about exercising the people's voting rights but also reflected new perspectives on local leadership selection. According to the survey, 54.91% of respondents demonstrated a fresh approach, emphasizing policy evaluation and development direction over past popularity or trends. Furthermore, 51.15% believed that addressing real local issues is more critical than superficial appeal, highlighting the importance of candidates who can genuinely solve community problems over those with striking personalities or widespread attention during the campaign period. However, 26.98% remain uncertain about the election's impact on provincial development, suggesting the need to observe long-term outcomes, while 25.32% expect moderate changes in some areas.



When analyzing the voter turnout on February 1, 2025, as an indicator of the Election Commission’s (EC) effectiveness, it becomes evident that the EC has struggled to promote political participation. Only 58% of eligible voters participated, marking a 4.86% decline compared to the 62.86% turnout in the nationwide PAO elections on December 20, 2020.

The survey revealed key reasons for the low turnout: travel inconvenience, work obligations, and the election being held on a Saturday, which particularly impacted private-sector employees. Non-voters face two-year restrictions on five political rights unless they provide valid reasons within the legally allowed timeframe.

The 900,000 spoiled ballots highlight deficiencies in communication and voter education, with the EC seemingly prioritizing administrative convenience over voter clarity. Moreover, the “no vote” option reflects public distrust in candidates, even those from major parties with appealing policies, underscoring a lack of voter confidence.



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