

Party Switching... Changing the Minds of the People?

Suan Dusit Poll surveyed a sample of 1,117 people (online and field survey) Between October 14-17 2025

Key Findings:



61.32%

People thought that party switching among politicians was a normal part of politics and happened quite often



58.46%

People believed that politicians changed parties to find one with similar ideology



63.47%

If an election were held, people said they would choose candidates based on the party's main policy



35.81%

People said that party switching did not affect their vote as they preferred their party



44.85%

People believed that party switching made them lose confidence in Thailand's political stability

"The trend of party switching has become more visible as the country moves closer to the election period. Although people see party switching as a normal part of politics, its negative image still remains, especially when it is viewed as being driven by personal benefits or political survival. The poll results show that party switching may not yet affect people's voting decisions, as most still choose the party they support. However, frequent switching between parties weakens public confidence in the stability of Thailand's political system. This poses a challenge for all political parties to rebuild public trust and strengthen their ideological foundation in the eyes of the people"



Dr. Pornpan Buathong
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Party Switching Is Common, but Negative Image Remains

According to the survey, most people (61.32%) thought that party switching among politicians was a normal part of politics and happened quite often. The second largest group (52.91%) said it was about buying and selling politicians or poaching MPs. As for the reasons behind party switching, 58.46% believed that politicians changed parties to find one with similar ideology, while 48.34% thought they switched because their former party might lose the next election. These results show that people have started to see party switching as a normal practice in Thai politics. However, the negative image still remains, especially regarding personal interests and weak political ideology. At the same time, some people view party switching more positively, believing that politicians may want to find a political space that matches their ideas and offers more opportunities to work effectively. Overall, the findings reflect the complexity of political behavior in today's society.

People Choose by Policy, Not by Party Switching

If an election were held, 63.47% of respondents said they would vote for candidates based on the party's main policy, while 45.84% focused on the party's concrete achievements. Regarding party switching, 35.81% said it had no effect on their decision and that they would vote for the party they liked. Another 23.19% said they would wait to see the performance of the new party before deciding. However, 44.85% of respondents believed that party switching made them lose confidence in Thailand's political stability, while 36.62% saw it as a normal political event. These results show that people care more about party policies and performance than the personal movements of politicians. Although most people think party switching does not directly affect their voting decisions, it still influences their confidence in the political system, especially in terms of stability, policy continuity, and the credibility of politicians in the eyes of the public.



The poll results show that people see party switching as a normal part of politics but still have a sense of distrust. They view it as a common political phenomenon, yet also as a kind of political trading that reduces confidence in political stability. This reflects a tension between accepting political reality and dissatisfaction with politicians' behavior. The main reasons for party switching are finding ideological alignment and fearing that their former party might lose in the next election. However, people place greater importance on key party policies and visible achievements rather than on party switching itself. This indicates that parties and candidates need to present clear policies and real performance to build public confidence. Therefore, political parties should focus on transparency, deliver clear and practical policies, and produce tangible results to reduce the perception of self-interest and restore political stability in the future.



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