

2016 Post House of Councilors Election [Mail Survey]

Q1: Did you go to vote in the House of Councilors election on July 10 (Sunday)? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. I voted on the day
2. I voted using early voting or absentee ballot
3. I abstained from voting

Q1-1. Did you vote for in the single-seat constituency? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Yes, I did
2. No. I did not

Q1-2: Which party's candidate did you vote for in the single-seat constituency? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)
2. The Democratic Party
3. Clean Government Party (Komeito/CGP)
4. Japan Communist Party (JCP)
5. Initiatives from Osaka
6. Other (specify:)
7. Independent (Nonpartisan)

Q1-3: Which experiences do you have with the person you voted for? (Please circle as many items as necessary)

1. I have received a phone call, which asked me to vote for the person
2. I have talked to the person
3. I have shaken the person's hand
4. I have directly listened to the speech or greetings of the person
5. I have talked to a secretary or a person from a society in support of the person
6. I have received a postcard or notification on mail
7. I have received a postcard or notification on e-mail
8. I have received a postcard or notification on facebook

9. Other (specify:)

Q1-4: When did you finally decide the candidate you voted in the single-seat constituency? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Election day
2. Between two days before and the day before election day
3. Between the week before and the three days before election day
4. Between after the announcement and more than one week before election day
5. Before the announcement

Q1-5: When you finally decided the candidate to vote in the single-seat constituency, which one did you consider the most? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Whether a candidate supports the prime minister or party leader
2. Party I support
3. Policy of each party
4. Personality of a candidate
5. Policy of a candidate
6. Benefit for a workplace
7. Benefit for a neighborhood
8. Balance in seat share
9. I was asked to vote for a specific candidate
10. Other (specify:)

Q1-6: Did you vote for in the proportional representation constituency? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Yes, I did
2. No. I did not

Q1-7: Which party's candidate did you vote for in the proportional representation constituency? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)
2. The Democratic Party

3. Clean Government Party (Komeito/CGP)
4. Japan Communist Party (JCP)
5. Initiatives from Osaka
6. Other (specify:)
7. Independent (Nonpartisan)

Q1-8: How much did you pay attention to the lists of candidates of each party when you decided the party to vote in the proportional representation constituency? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. A lot
2. A little
3. Not so much
4. Hardly

Q1-9: When did you finally decide the party you voted in the proportional representation constituency? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Election day
2. Between two days before and the day before election day
3. Between the week before and the three days before election day
4. Between after the announcement and more than one week before election day
5. Before the announcement

Q1-10: When you finally decided the candidate to vote in the proportional representation constituency, which one did you consider the most? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Whether a candidate supports the prime minister or party leader
2. Party I support
3. Policy of each party
4. Personality of a candidate
5. Policy of a candidate
6. Benefit for a workplace
7. Benefit for a neighborhood
8. Balance in seat share
9. I was asked to vote for a specific candidate
10. Other ()

[To those who chose “1. Voted” or “2. Voted using early voting or absentee ballot” in Q1]

Q1-11: When you vote in this House of Councilors election, how much did you consider that you were going to “select the government”? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. A lot
2. A little
3. Not so much
4. Hardly

[To those who chose “3. Abstained” in Q1]

Q1-12: When did you finally decide NOT to vote in the House of Councilors election? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Election day
2. Between two days before and the day before election day
3. Between the week before and the three days before election day
4. Between after the announcement and more than one week before election day
5. Before the announcement

Q1-13: What was the reason you decided NOT to vote in the House of Councilors election? Please tell us the biggest reason. (Please circle only one choice.)

1. I did not have time to go to the poll due to work and other reasons
2. I did not have time to go to the poll due to travel and other reasons
3. I had time to go to the poll, but it was troublesome for me
4. Not candidate or party made me go to the poll
5. I saw no difference in voting different candidates or parties
6. I did not think Japanese politics would be better no matter what candidate or party I voted for
7. I forgot or did not know that July 10th was the election day
8. Other ()

Q2: Regarding the electoral outcomes of this time, what do you feel about the number of seats that each gained? (Please circle only one choice.)

- (1) Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)

- (2) The Democratic Party
- (3) Clean Government Party (Komeito) (CGP)
- (4) Japan Communist Party (JCP)
- (5) Initiatives from Osaka

- 1. It should be more
- 2. Just right
- 3. It should be less

Q3: How much are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the results of this House of Representatives election? (Please circle only one choice.)

- 1. Pretty satisfied
- 2. A little satisfied
- 3. Neither
- 4. A little dissatisfied
- 5. Pretty dissatisfied

Q4: How much were you interested in election campaign of each party during this House of Councilors election? (Please circle only one choice.)

- 1. A lot
- 2. A little
- 3. Not so much
- 4. Almost no interest

Q5: After June in this year, have you participated or been asked to participate in election campaign? If so, which party's campaign was it?

- (1) Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)
- (2) The Democratic Party
- (3) Clean Government Party (Komeito) (CGP)
- (4) Japan Communist Party (JCP)
- (5) Initiatives from Osaka

- 1. I received a postcard of election campaign

2. I received a newspaper or advertisement of election campaign
3. I had a phone call of election campaign
4. I went to a speech and street speech of the election
5. I helped election campaign
6. I belong to a support group for a candidate
7. My family member(s) belong to a support group for a candidate
8. I listened to or read manifesto (campaign promise)
9. I was asked to participate via email
10. I was asked to participate via other devices such as Facebook

Q6: The following are two major points of view about the Japanese Diet. Which idea is closer to your view? (Please circle only one choice.)

Q6-1:

A: We should maintain the bicameral system composed of the House of Representatives and Councilors because it is an effective system to prevent the rampage of political power

B: We should adopt the unicameral system because the bicameral system composed of the House of Representatives and Councilors is likely to induce the disorder of political power and prevent a realization of policies.

1. Close to A
2. A little close to A
3. A little close to B
4. Close to B

Q6-2:

A: In the same way as now, the electorate should select the members of the House of Councilors by vote in election

B: The members of the House of Councilors should be selected and recommended by the representatives of each prefecture, the economic business community, the labor community, and the intellectuals.

1. Close to A
2. A little close to A
3. A little close to B
4. Close to B

Q6-3:

A: We should prudently manage the discussion in the Diet, so the both of the House of Representatives and Councilors should approve even the same issue

B: We should effectively manage the discussion in the Diet, so each of the House of Representatives and Councilors should deal with different matters (for example, the budget-related issues are for the former and the diplomacy and national security are for the latter)

1. Close to A
2. A little close to A
3. A little close to B
4. Close to B

Q7: At present, do you think or not think that the Japanese politics is going well? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Going well
2. Going well to some extent
3. Not going so well
4. Not going well

Q8: At present, do you think or not think that the Japanese economy is going well? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Going well
2. Going well to some extent
3. Not going so well
4. Not going well

Q9: There are several opinions on politics. Do you agree or disagree with those opinions? (Please circle only one choice for each item.)

1. Voter's voice will be reflected in politics because of political party
2. Voter's voice will be reflected in politics because of election
3. Voter's voice will be reflected in politics because of the Diet

1. Agree
2. Agree, if anything
3. Disagree, if anything
4. Disagree

Q10: There are several points of view about the interaction between a people and election as well as politics. How do you feel about the ideas? (Please circle only one choice for each item.)

- (1) Many people vote in elections, so it does not matter whether I vote or not
- (2) I have no power to affect what the government does
- (3) Politics and a government are so complex that I sometimes do not understand what is going on
- (4) Roughly speaking, the members of the Diet will not think about a people after elected
- (5) Politicians do not think about us
- (6) When some bill that I find very dangerous is submitted to the Diet, I can protest in a various way not just relying on the Diet's discussion.

1. Agree
2. A little agree
3. Neither
4. A little disagree
5. Disagree

Q11: It seems that many people feel that "I lean toward XX party in the long run." Even if you possibly vote for other parties in the short run, which party do you think you "lean toward" in the long run? Please circle only one choice.

1. Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)
2. The Democratic Party
3. Clean Government Party (Komeito/CGP)
4. Japan Communist Party (JCP)
5. Initiatives from Osaka
6. Other party (specify:)
7. No such party

Q12: Please tell us everything you have experienced in these five years. (Please circle as many items as necessary)

- (1) Vote in elections
- (2) Work in residents' or neighborhood association
- (3) Contact local influential people
- (4) Contact politicians or government officials
- (5) Petition the assembly or public office
- (6) Join a meeting regarding elections or politics
- (7) Help election campaigns
- (8) Join a citizens' movement
- (9) Sign a petition
- (10) Donate money
- (11) Join a demonstration
- (12) Express an opinion on the Internet
- (13) Contact, donate, or contribute an article to the media
- (14) Join a boycott or buycott
- (15) I have not done anything above

Q13: Do you talk about politics when you are with your friends? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Frequently
2. Sometimes
3. Rarely
4. Never

Q14: When you have a strong opinion, do you persuade your friends, relatives, or coworkers to share the idea with them? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Frequently
2. Sometimes
3. Rarely
4. Never

Q15: When you talk about the problems in politics and government with others, do you feel a constraint such as a feeling that “I should not say things like this”? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. I always feel a “constraint” whomever I talk with
2. I feel a “constraint” when I talk with many people
3. I do not feel a “constraint” if I talk to several people
4. I do not feel a “constraint” whomever I talk with

Q16: To what extent do you think ordinary citizen should take participate in a decision making process in the local community? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. People should positively join the events in the local community
2. People should join the events in the local community, but negatively
3. People do not have to join the events in the local community if their individual lives are fine
4. People should not do anything in the local community
5. Other (specify:)

Q17: The following are two major points of view about others except for family and friends. If you have to choose, which idea is closer to your view? (Please circle only one choice.)

- A: No matter how hard you work on something happened to you, nobody cares what you do
- B: Almost everyone is trustworthy, and people help others more than they think about themselves

1. Close to A
2. A little close to A
3. A little close to B
4. Close to B

Q18: The following are two major points of view about the current way of government in Japan. If you have to choose, which idea is closer to your view? (Please circle only one choice.)

- A: There are few people or groups with great influential power, and the benefit of the majority of people is likely to be ignored in politics
- B: Japan is a democratic country, and the benefit of the majority of people is likely to be reflected in politics

1. Close to A
2. A little close to A
3. A little close to B
4. Close to B

Q19: The following are two major points of view about the relationship between citizen and politics.
If you have to choose, which idea is closer to your view? (Please circle only one choice.)

A: Government officials do NOT consider ordinary people

B: Government officials consider ordinary people

1. Close to A
2. A little close to A
3. A little close to B
4. Close to B

Q20: How about the following two opinions? Which idea is closer to your view? (Please circle only one choice.)

A: Ordinary people CANNOT affect the government's policy

B: Ordinary people can affect the government's policy

1. Close to A
2. A little close to A
3. A little close to B
4. Close to B

Q21: How about the following two opinions? Which idea is closer to your view? (Please circle only one choice.)

A: Politics and administration are so complex that it is difficult for ordinary citizen to comprehend

B: A: Politics and administration are not complex, and it is NOT difficult for ordinary citizen to comprehend

1. Close to A

2. A little close to A
3. A little close to B
4. Close to B

Q22: Which idea is closer to your view? (Please circle only one choice.)

A: While I think that freedom and equality are both important, if we have to choose, I think freedom is more important than equality. That is, it is more important for people to live freely without being prevented by anyone

B: While I think that freedom and equality are both important, if we have to choose, I think equality is more important than freedom. That is, it is more important that nobody receive discrimination and that socioeconomic disparity does not widen

1. Close to A
2. A little close to A
3. A little close to B
4. Close to B

Q23: Do you like or dislike the following countries? (Please circle only one choice for each item.)

- (1) The United States
- (2) China
- (3) Russia
- (4) EU and European countries
- (5) South Korea
- (6) Taiwan

1. Like a lot
2. Like a little
3. Dislike a little
4. Dislike a lot

Q24: How much do you feel the following institutions, organizations, and systems are trustworthy? (Please circle only one choice for each item)

- (1) Religious group

- (2) Self-defense force
- (3) Legal system
- (4) Newspaper and magazine
- (5) TV
- (6) Labor union
- (7) Police
- (8) Government
- (9) Political party
- (10) National Diet
- (11) Administration
- (12) Court and judicial system
- (13) Large corporation
- (14) Pro-environment group
- (15) Charity and volunteer group
- (16) Women's movement
- (17) The United Nations
- (18) The United States
- (19) China
- (20) Russia
- (21) EU and European countries
- (22) South Korea
- (23) Taiwan

- 1. A lot
- 2. A little
- 3. No so much
- 4. Almost no trust

Q25-1: If you had to choose, which one do you think is *the most important*? (Please circle only one choice.)

- 1. Maintaining domestic order
- 2. Giving people more chances to speak on important governmental decisions
- 3. Suppressing prices
- 4. Securing freedom of speech

[To those who chose between 1 and 4 in Q25-1]

Q25-2: How about the *second one*? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Maintaining domestic order
2. Giving people more chances to speak on important governmental decisions
3. Suppressing prices
4. Securing freedom of speech
5. I have no second choice

Q26: How do you feel about the following systems, institutions, and groups? Please score your feelings as “1” stands for not trustworthy and “11” stands for trustworthy. (Please circle only one choice for each item.)

- (1) National politics
- (2) The governor of the prefecture you live in
- (3) The assembly of the prefecture you live in
- (4) The public office of the prefecture you live in
- (5) Electoral system
- (6) Indirect representative system
- (7) Political party
- (8) National Diet
- (9) Court
- (10) Central government agencies
- (11) The head of the municipality you live in
- (12) The assembly of the municipality you live in
- (13) The public office of the municipality you live in

0. Not Trustworthy

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. Middle
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

- 9.
10. Trustworthy

Q27: Generally speaking, do you think that our nation is “governed by the few big interest-seeking groups” or “governed for the benefit of every people”? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Governed by the few big interest-seeking groups
2. Governed for the benefit of every people

Q28: If current Japanese society is categorized into the following socioeconomic levels, which do you think you are classified as? Please choose from below. (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Top
2. Higher middle
3. Lower middle
4. Higher low
5. Bottom

Q29: Where did you get information about this House of Councilors election? Please select as many items as necessary. Also, please choose the one that was the most helpful to decide your voting behavior.

1. Newspaper
2. Magazines
3. TV
4. Radio
5. The Internet
6. Family
7. Friends and Acquaintances
8. Other (specify:)
9. No such media

Q30: There was a movement for the opposing parties to elect a joint candidate in this House of Councilors election. How do you evaluate this movement?

1. It was very relevant

2. It was to some extent relevant
3. It had no big meaning
4. It had no meaning
5. Neither

Q31: Please tell us your opinion about the following propositions. Do you agree or disagree with the ideas? (Please circle only one choice for each item.)

- (1) Japan should strengthen its security power
- (2) Despite the financial hardship, we should enhance social welfare such as pension and elder care as much as possible
- (3) Small government with low cost is better even if the quality of government services goes down
- (4) Japan must not have nuclear weapons
- (5) We should strengthen the Japan-US security arrangements
- (6) We should increase the number of female politician
- (7) Except for the elderly and people with disadvantages, every person should live without counting on social welfare
- (8) Japan should have a closer relationship with Russia even if it gives the Northern Territories up to the country.
- (9) Livelihood protection has not been provided for those who originally need the support
- (10) Japan should strongly assert the rights of possession of the Senkaku Islands toward the international society

1. Agree
2. Agree, if anything
3. Neither
4. Disagree, if anything
5. Disagree

Q32: If the important missions for the government are to “maintain the order of society” and to “respect the freedom of individuals,” which one do you think the government should choose? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Maintain the order of society
2. Respect the freedom of individuals

Q33: How do you feel about the following ideas? Which one is closer to your view? (Please circle only one choice for each item.)

- (1) Almost everyone is trustworthy
- (2) Most people trust other people when the other trusts them
- (3) I have confidence in recognizing those who can be trusted and those who cannot
- (4) If somebody helps me, I will also help somebody else
- (5) Even if I cannot expect for direct appreciation or gratitude, I am kind to others
- (6) I think that if I am kind to others finally there will be something good for me

- 1. Agree
- 2. Agree, if anything
- 3. Neither
- 4. Disagree, if anything
- 5. Disagree

Q34: How do you feel about the following ideas? (Please circle only one choice for each item.)

- (1) Generally speaking, Japan is better country than other countries
- (2) I want to be proud of Japan, but there are times when I cannot be so
- (3) We should review the post-war education and teach children more about patriotism and people's obligation
- (4) Foreigners who are legally living in Japan should have the same rights as the ones of Japanese
- (5) I am proud of Japanese democracy
- (6) People should support their own country even when the country is wrong
- (7) Every people in Japan receive fair and equal treatment
- (8) Hate speech must be regulated

- 1. Agree
- 2. Agree, if anything
- 3. Neither
- 4. Disagree, if anything
- 5. Disagree

Q35: How much did you pay attention to the behavior of politicians who were elected in your districts?

1. A lot
2. A little
3. Not so much
4. Hardly

Q36: Considering the electoral platform that a politician had when elected, how much do you think his or her behavior matches the promise?

1. Match well
2. Match to some extent
3. Not match so much
4. Almost no match

Q37: Whether or not there is an election, some people always pay attention to politics while others do not. How much do you pay attention to political issues? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. A lot
2. A little
3. No so much
4. Hardly

Q38: To what extent, have you involved in political parties and politicians? (Please circle as many items as necessary)

1. I have been a member of a political party
2. I have helped a politician's election campaign
3. I have been a member of the support group for a politician
4. I have been to listened to a politician's speech

Q39: Have you ever participated or involved in citizens' movement? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. I have participated in it for the last one year
2. Although I have not participated in it for the last one year, I have done before

3. I have not participated in it, but I suggested people around me to do so
4. I have neither participated nor suggested people around me to do so

Q40: There were demonstration activities around the country after the security-related bills was passed the Diet. Have you participated or involved in those demonstrations? (Please circle only one choice.)

1. I participated a lot
2. I participated one or two times
3. I did not participate but suggested people around me to do so
4. I did neither participate nor suggest people around me to do so

Q41: After seeing the demonstrations against the security-related bills, did you change your opinion compared to before?

1. I changed my mind
2. I did not change my mind
3. I had no opinion on that before, but I came to have one

Face sheet

F1. GENDER

1. Male
2. Female

F2. Age: When were you born? And what is your age?

F3. Living Year

Have you continued to live in this area (within a 30-minute walk around this town, village and apartment block) since your birth? Or did you move here from somewhere else? If you have temporarily moved anywhere else after you were born around here, please choose "Lived here since birth." (Please circle only one choice.)

1. Live here since birth
2. Moved from somewhere else

[To those who answered “2. Moved from somewhere else” in F3]

F3-1: How long have you lived in this area (within a 30-minute walk around this town, village and apartment block)? If you have temporarily moved to somewhere else, please choose the answer that is the closest to the total years of your residence around here.

1. Less than 3
2. 4 to 9
3. 10 to 14
4. More than 15

Thank you for your cooperation.