

**TAIWAN'S 2016 PRESIDENTIAL AND
LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS**

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Executive Summary

1. On 16 January 2016, Taiwan's main opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) chairwoman Tsai Ing-wen (蔡英文) won the presidential election with 56.1% of the votes. Eric Chu (朱立伦), chairman of the incumbent party Kuomintang (KMT), and James Soong (宋楚瑜), chairman of the People First Party (PFP), received 31% and 12.8% of the votes, respectively.
2. The KMT was also defeated badly by the DPP and the newly established New Power Party in the legislative election, securing only 35 seats, down from the 64 held previously. DPP legislative seats significantly increased from 40 to 68.
3. Taiwan's economic slowdown and various livelihood difficulties were the major contributors to the KMT's unprecedented defeat in both elections. Youth unemployment, wage stagnation and rising housing price are the public's major complaints against the KMT administration.
4. The rise of youth social resistance contributed to the emergence of third force parties, such as the New Power Party, which joined the DPP in campaigning against the KMT and achieved good electoral results.
5. The lack of unity in the KMT greatly diminished its mobilisation power and alienated the party's traditional supporters.
6. The KMT's China policy, the largest contributor to Ma's achievement on cross-strait relations and therefore his re-election in 2012, has become the public's major concern partly because it has not successfully promoted Taiwan's economy as promised.
7. The challenge of economic slowdown will be more severe to the Tsai administration due in part to mainland China's continued economic slowdown. How to maintain and develop peaceful cross-strait relations will become a major challenge to the governments on both sides of the strait.