

**TAIWAN'S 2020 PRESIDENTIAL,
VICE PRESIDENTIAL AND
LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS:
TRANSFORMATIONAL OR NOT?**

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Executive Summary

1. On 11 January 2020 voters in Taiwan went to the polls to select their president, vice president and legislators in its important national election held every four years. It was Taiwan's 15th presidential election, seventh direct election and third combination (two branches of government) election. It was a plenary election of the legislature.
2. Taiwan's two main parties competed, the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and the Nationalist Party or Kuomintang (KMT), along with minor parties and independent candidates.
3. The ruling DPP won the presidency, vice presidency and a majority in the legislature.
4. Following its loss in the 2018 "mid-term" in which the DPP did poorly it was not expected to take this election. The early polls also indicated it would not win.
5. President Tsai made a startling comeback during the campaign. So did her party.
6. An improving economy helped President Tsai and the DPP, so did the US and China 'factors' and the Hong Kong situation.
7. Taiwan's democracy and its sovereignty were also prevailing issues that abetted Tsai and the DPP wins, in tandem with the matter of independence versus unification with China.
8. Policy issues were not prominent during the campaign.

9. There were many uncertainties about Taiwan's future after the election. In spite of the statements that the Kuomintang (KMT) had been smashed and China was defeated and put in its place, observers noted that engineering a good campaign and winning at the ballot box did not mean the resolution of important policy issues or even that good governance and political stability would follow.