

**TAIPEI MAYOR CHIANG WAN-AN:
A TAIWAN PRESIDENT IN
THE MAKING?**

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EAI Background Brief No. 1711

Date of Publication: 31 May 2023

Executive Summary

1. The new Taipei mayor Wayne Chiang Wan-an is the Kuomintang's (KMT) rising white hope, not only because he is the youngest Taipei mayor in history, but also because three of the four successive presidents since the introduction of popular presidential election in Taiwan in 1996 were former Taipei mayors.
2. He is the only one in the fourth generation of the Chiang Kai-shek family to join politics. This family background is an asset within the KMT, but mostly a liability outside the party when facing a wider range of voters.
3. Cross-strait relations are another major challenge to him amid rising anti-Beijing sentiment in Taiwan. His great-grandfather and grandfather were staunch Chinese nationalists who were firmly anti-Taiwan independence and pro-unification with mainland China.
4. Unlike the ruling Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) stance, Chiang accepted the 1992 Consensus of "one China" as the political foundation for cross-strait relations. However, he also supported President Tsai's "four musts" as the guiding principles for cross-strait relations, suggesting his attempt to keep a balance between the Blue and Green Camps as Tsai does not accept the 1992 Consensus.
5. As one of the KMT's legislators, he also worked hard to build up a new personal image as opposed to the KMT's conventional one by selectively supporting DPP's bills and aligning with popular public views, especially those of the younger voters.
6. As Taipei mayor, he enjoys public attention island-wide. This advantage might easily turn into disadvantage if he does not perform well, especially in the highly critical eyes of Taipei residents. After being in office for three months, Taipei residents' satisfaction rate with the Taipei government was the lowest among the six special municipalities.

7. China is hopeful of this KMT's rising star, but also understands he will not interact with China from the same stance as the older generation of KMT politicians. A daunting challenge for Chiang if he were to run for the presidency is the intensifying competition between the United States and China, which is pushing Taiwan into an increasingly dangerous situation.