

ASAN KOREA PERSPECTIVE

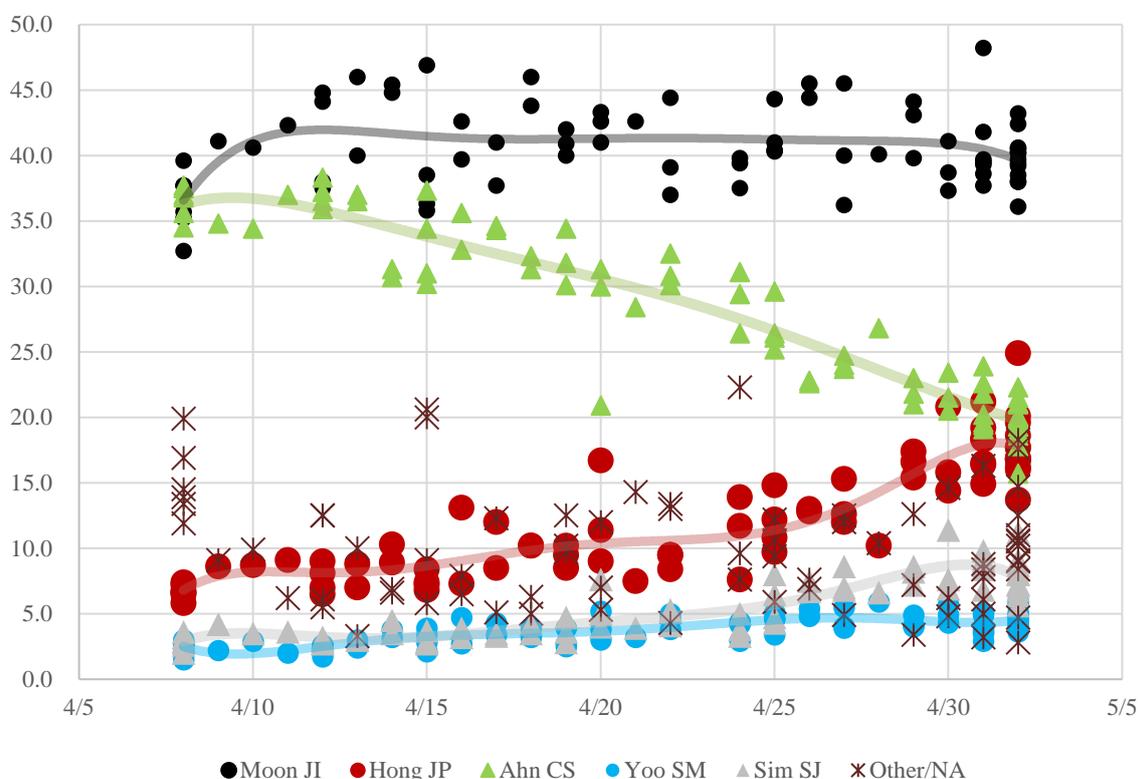
Vol 2 No 10

2017.04.24 - 2017.05.07

19th South Korean Presidential Election

With only a day to go till the South Korean presidential election, we take a look at the latest polling results collected by multiple survey outlets up to May 2. Data is posted by the National Election Survey Deliberation Commission.¹ Polling is prohibited by law during May 3~9.

Figure: Support for South Korean Presidential Candidates, April 8 ~ May 2, 2017 (in %)

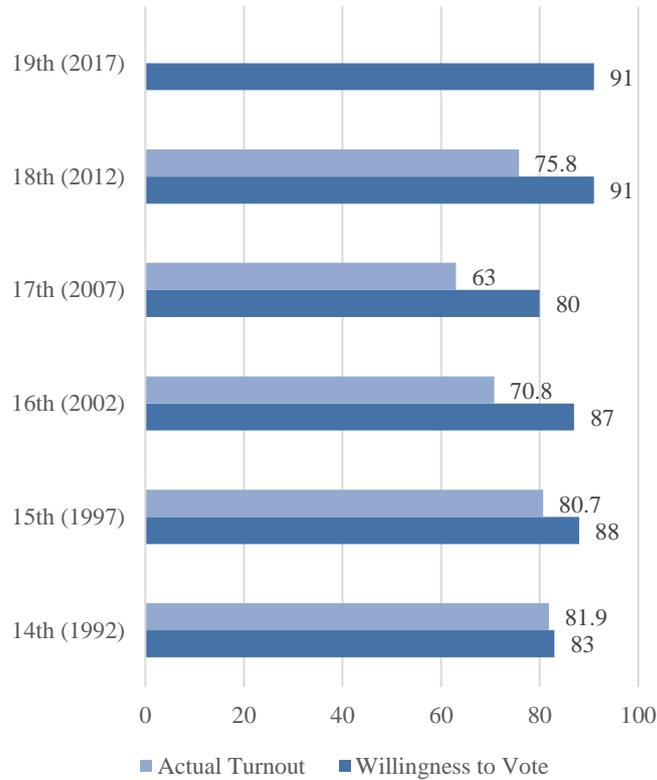


The data shows consistency in support for Moon Jae-in of the Together Democratic Party (TDP). The poll of polls average support for Moon is about 40%. Hong Jun-pyo of the Liberty Korea Party (LKP) has surpassed Ahn Chel-soo during late April and early May with average support at approximately 20%. Ahn Cheol-soo of the People's Party (PP) is close behind at about 18% but his trend is negative. Sim Sang-jung of the Justice Party (JP) is also making a late push with about 8% support but Yoo Seong-min of the Righteous Party (RP) is holding steady at about 5%. As it stands, Moon is in the clear lead by about 20%p from the nearest contender (Hong).

This year's voter turnout is expected to be high. The number of returns on overseas ballot is 221,981. The turnout was quite high (75.3%) for the Korean nationals in 116 countries turning out to vote during April 25~30.² Early voting, which took place during May 4~5 was also quite high with

11,072,310 voters turning out (26.06%) to cast their votes.³ Comparison of the data on “the willingness to vote” and actual voting suggests that voter turnout is likely to match the level of the last presidential election (75.8%).

Figure: Turnout and Willingness to Vote (in %)⁴



Dealing with North Korea

On April 29, North Korea test fired a missile into the East Sea although it only flew for a few minutes before exploding in mid-air. The missile is believed to be a medium-range ballistic missile, KN-17. The test is seen by many as a protest against the joint-military drill involving USS Carl Vinson and the South Korean navy in waters off the Korean Peninsula.⁵ This was the North’s 3rd missile test of the month, 9th of the year, and 49th since Kim Jong-un became the North’s leader.⁶

1 For more information, visit the NESDC webpage:
<http://www.nesdc.go.kr/portal/bbs/B0000005/list.do?menuNo=200467>

2 For more in depth discussion on key policy debates and implications, see J. James Kim and John J. Lee. “A Primer on the 19th South Korean Presidential Election in 2017.” Issue Brief. The Asan Institute for Policy Studies. May 5, 2017.

2 “‘저 투표했어요!’ SNS에 재외투표 인증 행렬...투표자 ‘역대 최다,’” *조선일보*, 2017년 5월 3일.

3 “19대 대선 사전투표율 26.06% 최고치 기록,” *한겨레*, 2017년 5월 5일.

4 Gallup Korea, Daily Opinion (No. 257); polls from the 14th presidential election was taken 5 weeks before election; 17th was taken 1.5 weeks before the election; 15th-16th and 18th-19th was taken one week before the election.

5 “칼빈슨호 동해 온 날, 航母 잡는 미사일 쏜 북한,” *조선일보*, 2017년 5월 1일.

6 “북한, 이달 들어 3번째 탄도미사일 발사했으나 공중폭발,” *한겨레*, 2017년 4월 29일.

The Asan Institute for Policy Studies is an independent, non-partisan think tank with the mandate to undertake policy-relevant research to foster domestic, regional, and international environments conducive to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, as well as Korean reunification

Published by The Asan Institute for Policy Studies

Address 11, Gyeonghuigung 1ga-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul 110-062, Republic of Korea

Website <http://www.asaninst.org>

Email info@asaninst.org

President/Chairman: Hahm Chaibong

Copyright © 2017

Contributing Staff (in alphabetical order by last name):

John J. Lee

Kang Chungku

Editor:

J. James Kim

