



Taiwan 2024: Key Political Highlights



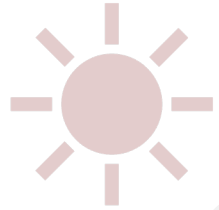


Summary

The year 2024 marked both continuity and significant shifts in Taiwanese politics. **The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) secured a historic third consecutive presidential term** in the January 13 election, with **Lai Ching-te**, the former vice president and a proponent of Taiwan's pro-US, pro-Japan, and pro-sovereignty foreign policies, assuming the presidency. This outcome also signaled the continuation of key policies such as the Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program, alongside discussions on the implications of the impending Trump administration on Taiwan's foreign policy, defense procurement, and trade relations, particularly in the semiconductor sector.

However, the **opposition alliance between the Kuomintang (KMT) and the Taiwan People's Party (TPP) gained a majority in the Legislative Yuan, leading to political standstill**. This majority sought to extend legislative oversight through a controversial Parliamentary Reform Bill, parts of which were later ruled unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court. As of December 2024, the legislative gridlock has delayed the review of the 2025 budget and the nomination of new Constitutional Court justices, casting uncertainty over the continuation of key defense projects, including follow-ups to the Indigenous Defense Submarine program. The situation remains a focal point for monitoring in the coming year.

Towards 2025



Positive Prospects

- Continuation of Foreign and Defense Policy.
- Infrastructure development program and public investment in fields like public health will be continued and potentially expanded.

Potential Drawbacks



- Reduced governance efficiency and policy outcomes due to legislative gridlock.
- New budget allocation still uncertain. May lead to cancellation of some major government procurement plan.

2024 Political Events Lookback



January - April

Jan
13

Presidential and Legislative Election. DPP's **Lai Ching-te** was elected President with 40% of the vote. KMT became largest party in Legislative Yuan (LY) with 52 seats, while ruling DPP obtained 51 seats and TPP won 8 seats.

Feb
1

Newly Elected 11th LY officially began its term.
KMT's **Han Kuo-yu** and Johnny Chiang elected President and Vice-president of the LY.

Apr
18

The KMT and TPP advanced a "Parliamentary Reform Bill" aimed to strengthen LY power.
TPP Chairman **Ko Wen-je** accused of corruption in the Living Mall Scandal (京華城弊案).

Apr
29

The negotiation of second agreement under US-Taiwan initiative on 21st Century Trade began, focusing on labor, agriculture, environment, etc.

2024 Political Events Lookback



May - August

May
20

Lai Ching-te inaugurated as President.

May
21

Civil Protest erupted outside LY against the controversial Parliamentary Reform Bill.

May
28

The third read of the Parliamentary Reform Bill passed in LY.

Jun
21

LY majority rejected motion from DPP to reconsider the bill, prompted LY DPP Caucus, Presidential Office, Executive Yuan and Control Yuan to petition the Constitutional Court for a ruling on the bill's constitutionality.

Aug
30

TPP chairman **Ko Wen-je** arrested over corruption scandal.



2024 Political Events Lookback

September - December

Sep
23

LY majority rejected 2025 government budgetary bill. 2025 Budget Issue began.

Oct
12

Former President **Tsai Ing-Wen** (DPP) visited Czech Republic, France and Belgium, attending Forum 2000 and visiting European Parliament. The first ever former President of Taiwan to visit EU institutions.

Oct
25

Constitutional Court ruled KMT/TPP Parliamentary Reform Bill mostly unconstitutional. The bill was largely out of force.

Nov
30

President Lai started his first official state visit trip to the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Palau.

Dec
6

President Lai transit through Hawaii on his trip to South Pacific Island nations, met with Governor of the Hawaii State and Mayor of Honolulu. First foreign visit of Lai being after Trump was reelected, signaled a continuation of Taiwan's Pro-US foreign policy.

STAY AHEAD WITH US.

Contact GR Taiwan today for
more expert insights and analysis

GR Taiwan - Taipei

Level 57, TAIPEI 101 Tower,
No. 7, Section 5, Xinyi Road,
Xinyi District, Taipei 110, Taiwan

