



# Factors Influencing Voters and Political Participation in Thailand: Gender Perspective

**Dr. Thawilwadee Bureekul**  
**Ratchawadee Sangmahamad**  
**King Prajadhipok's Institute, Thailand**

# Contents

**01 Rational**

**02 Related theories**

**03 Methodology**

**04 Results**

**05 Conclusion and recommendations from the results**





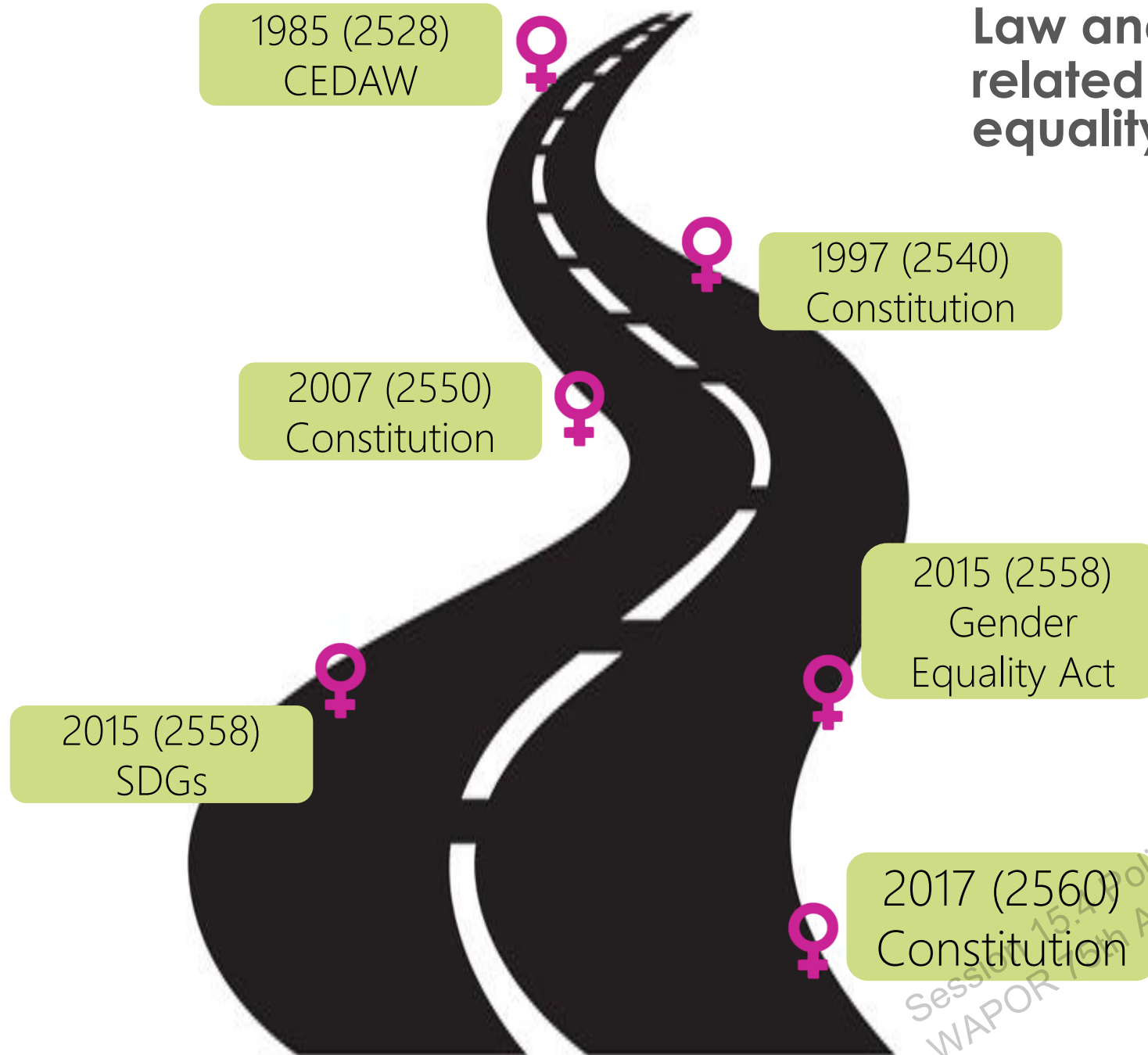
# Rational

## Situation in Thailand

- **Gender perspective**
- **National Election systems in Thailand**
- **National Election results (compare by gender)**



## Law and Regulations related to gender equality



# CONSTITUTION OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND 2017

- Section 90.
- Any political party which sends a candidate for election on a constituency basis shall have the right to send a candidate for election on a party list basis. In sending a candidate for election on a party list basis, each political party shall prepare one list of candidates, in which candidates for election of each political party shall not be the same as others' and not be the same as the names of candidates for election on a constituency basis. Such list of candidates shall be submitted to the Election Commission prior to the end of the period for application for candidacy for election of Members of the House of Representatives on a constituency basis.
- In the preparation of a list of candidates under paragraph two, the members of the political party shall be allowed to participate in the deliberations, and regard shall be had to the candidates for election from different regions and equality between men and women.

# National Election System in Thailand



## National Election

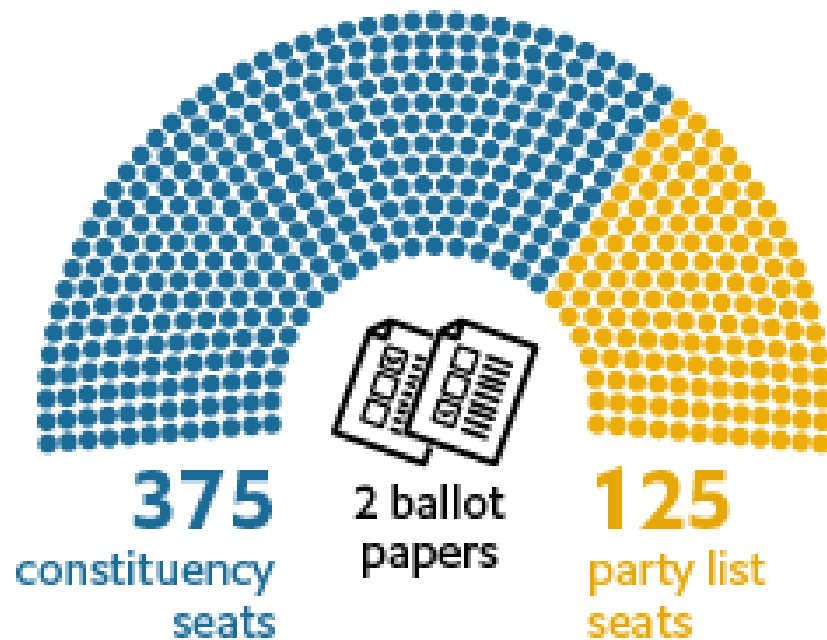
July 3, 2011

## National Election

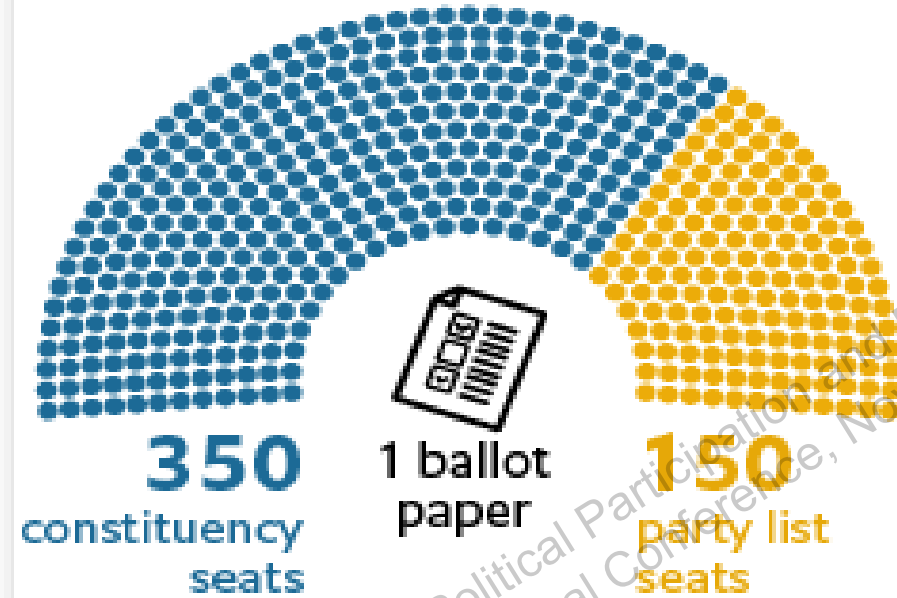
March 24, 2019

Mix-member  
apportionment  
System

2011



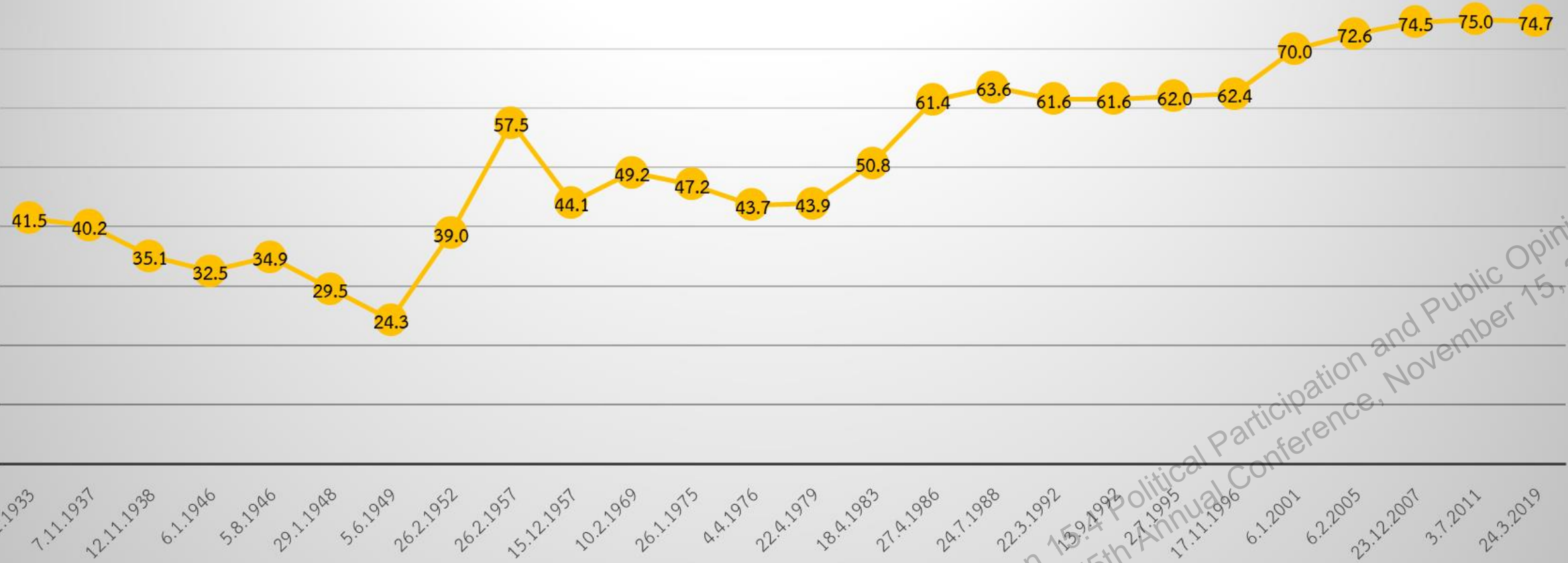
2019



# Voter Turnout in Thailand



Percentage of Voter turnout in Thailand





# Number of Voters in the 2019 election in Thailand

Gender	Number of eligible voters	Eligible Voter turnout	%Voter turnout	%Voter turnout as share of eligible voters
Male	24,748,253	18,130,919	73.26	46.78
Female	26,758,769	10,629,262	77.09	53.22
Total	51,507,022	38,760,181	75.25	100.00





# The comparison number of candidate and number of member of parliament in the National election (March 24, 2019), by gender



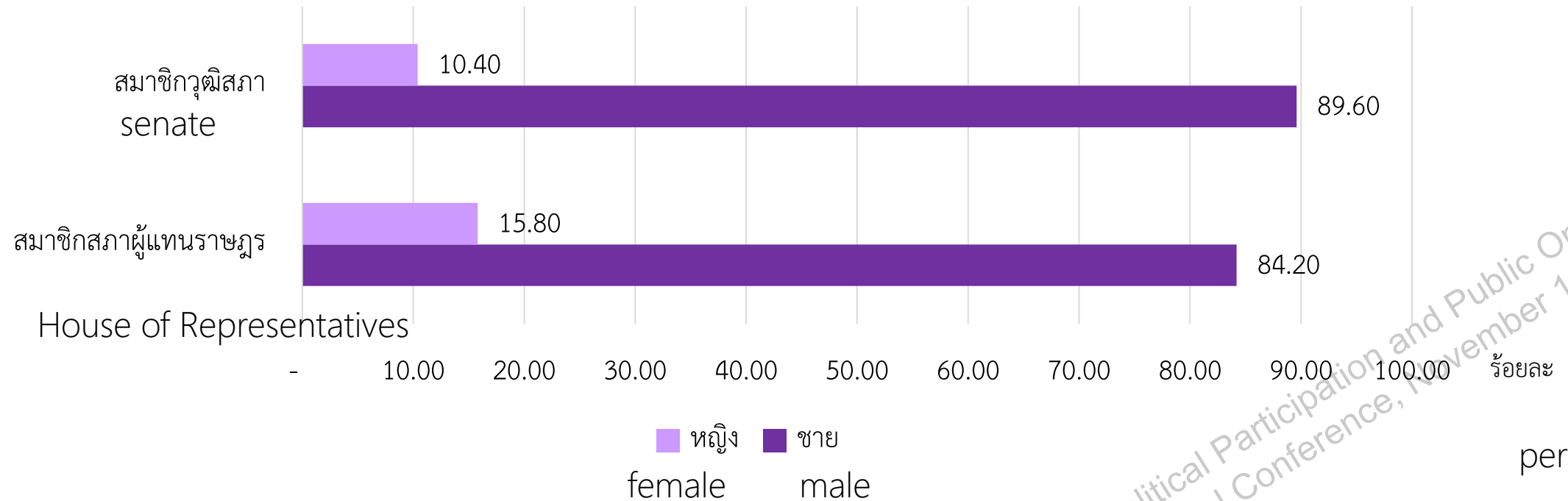
	% of total candidates	% of total MPs
Male	77.9	83.8
Female	22.1	16.2

Gender	Party-list system			Constituency system			Total		
	No. of candidates	No. of MP	%candidate	No. of candidates	No. of MP	%candidate	No. of candidates	No. of MP	%candidate
Male	2,188	123	5.62	8,246	296	3.59	10,434	419	4.02
Female	622	27	4.34	2,335	54	2.31	2,957	81	2.74
<u>Total</u>	<u>2,810</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>5.34</u>	<u>10,581</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>3.31</u>	<u>13,391</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>3.73</u>

Source: Bureekul, T., Gender Democracy: Strengthening gender equality in politics in Thailand, King Prajadhipok's Institute .2019



# จำนวนผู้บริหารของภาครัฐ จำแนกตามเพศ รัฐสภา Thai Parliament

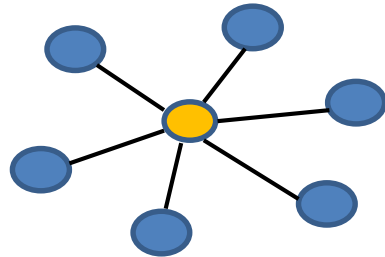




# Participation

**Every human being has the right to participate in the decision-making process that impacts themselves, both women and men.**

**(Miranda, 2005)**



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# **“Political Participation”**

**Political participation is characterized by ‘those legal activities by private citizens that are more or less directly aimed at influencing the selection of governmental personnel and or the actions they take’**

**(Verba et al., 1948, 46)**



# **“Political Participation”**

**Political participation provides the opportunity for citizens to articulate their demands, to have control and to increase public pressure on the political elite**

**(Dalton, 2000)**

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# **“Political Participation”**

- 1. Conventional political participation** (involving the election)
- 2. Unconventional political participation** (refers to the action which are not institutionalized, such as marching in protests and holding demonstrations)

**(Parry et al., 1992)**



# Gender equality

**The equal treatment and equal opportunity between women and men with the goal being equality in terms of role and duty.**

**(Haskova, 2003)**



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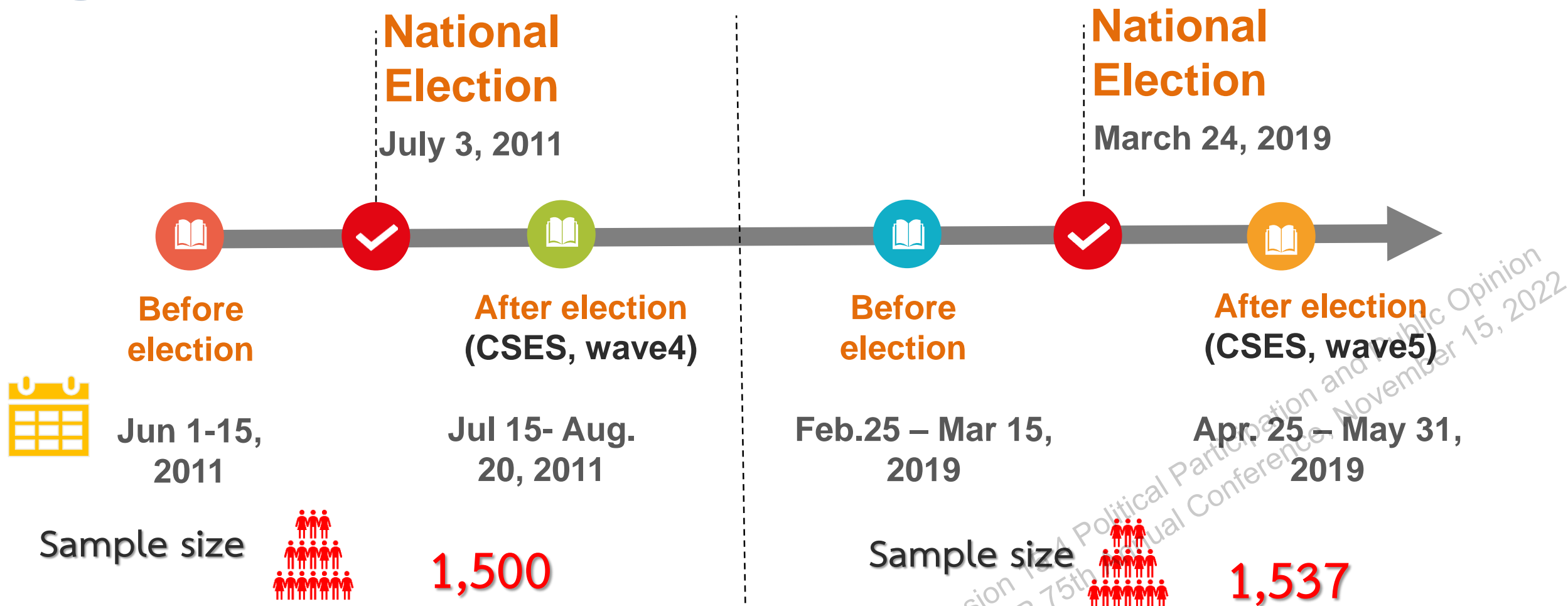
- ✓ **To explore the gender differences in political behaviors, such as voting in the national election, and political participation in Thailand.**
- ✓ **To study the important factors affecting voter's decision making and the difference perspectives between pre and post election**



# Methodology



## Public Opinion survey on “National Election in Thailand”



From multi-stage sampling from the eligible voters list in Thailand (18+ year old)



# World Value Survey (WVS)



Wave	World Value Survey	Period of data collection	Prime Minister	Sample size
1	2005-2006	June – July 2007	General Surayud Chulanont	1,534
2	2010-2012	September – November 2013	Yingluck Shinawatra	1,200
3	2017-2018	December 2017 - February 2018	General Prayuth Chan-Ocha	1,500

- Probability sampling
- Face to face interviews

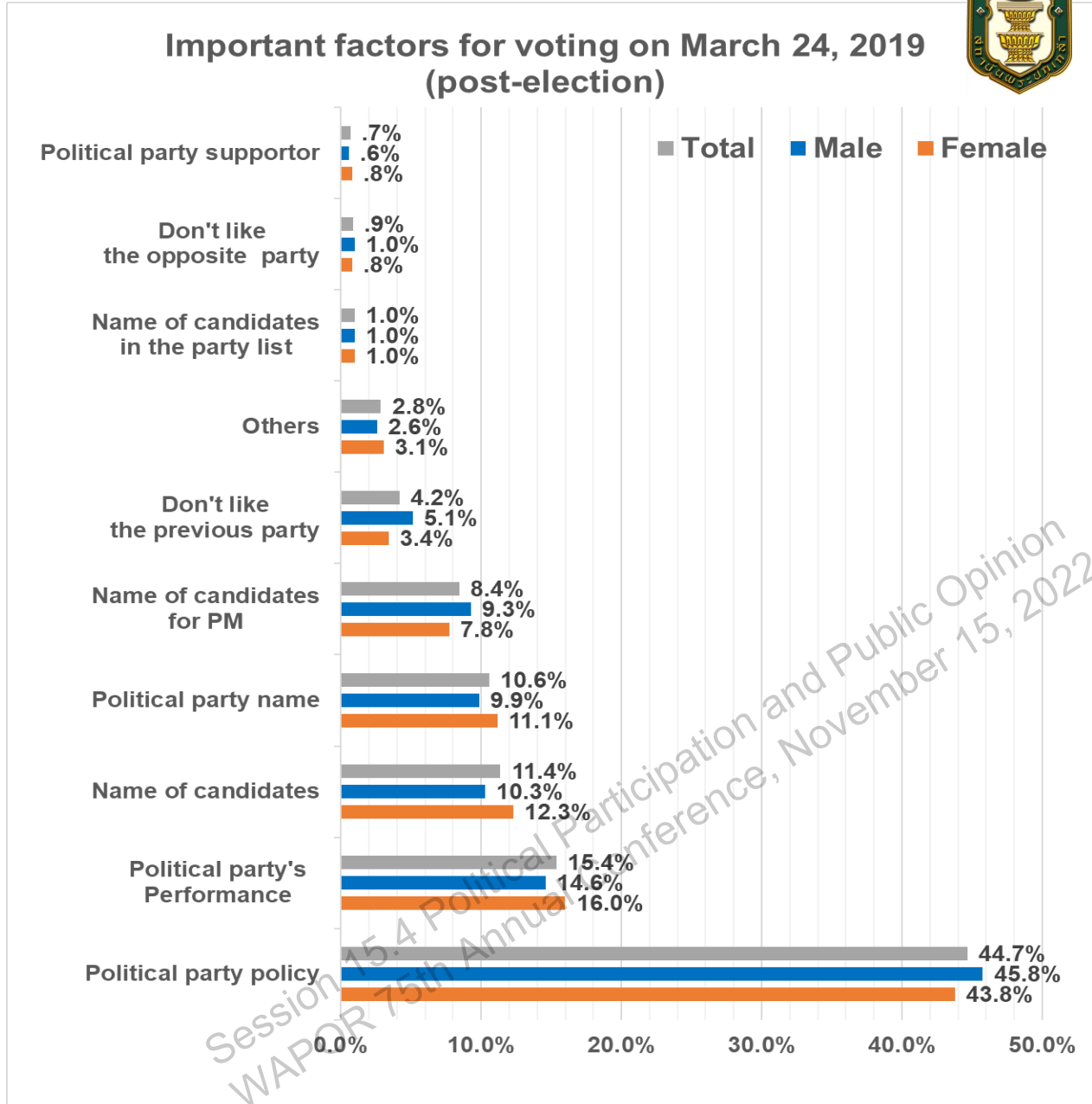
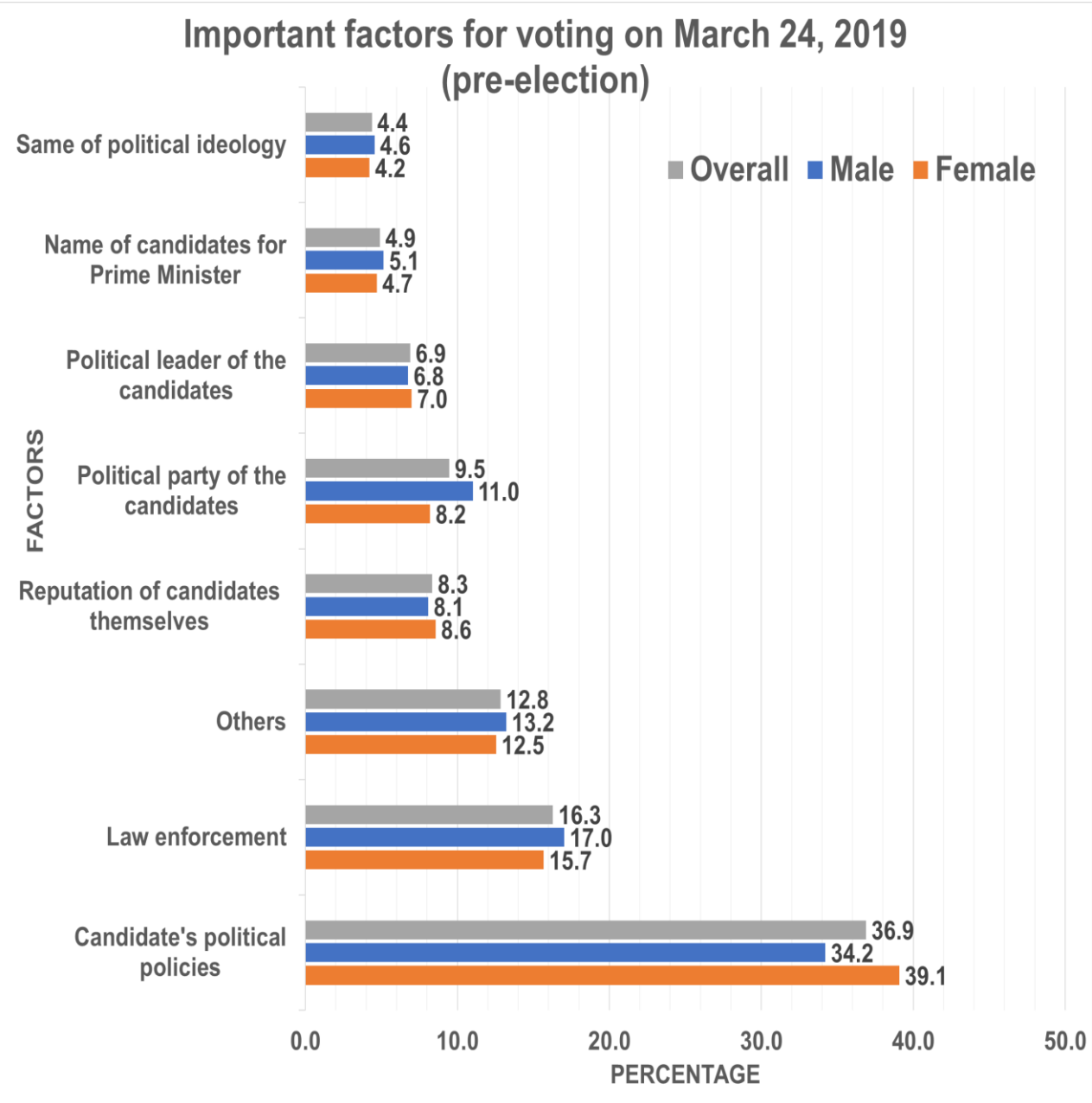




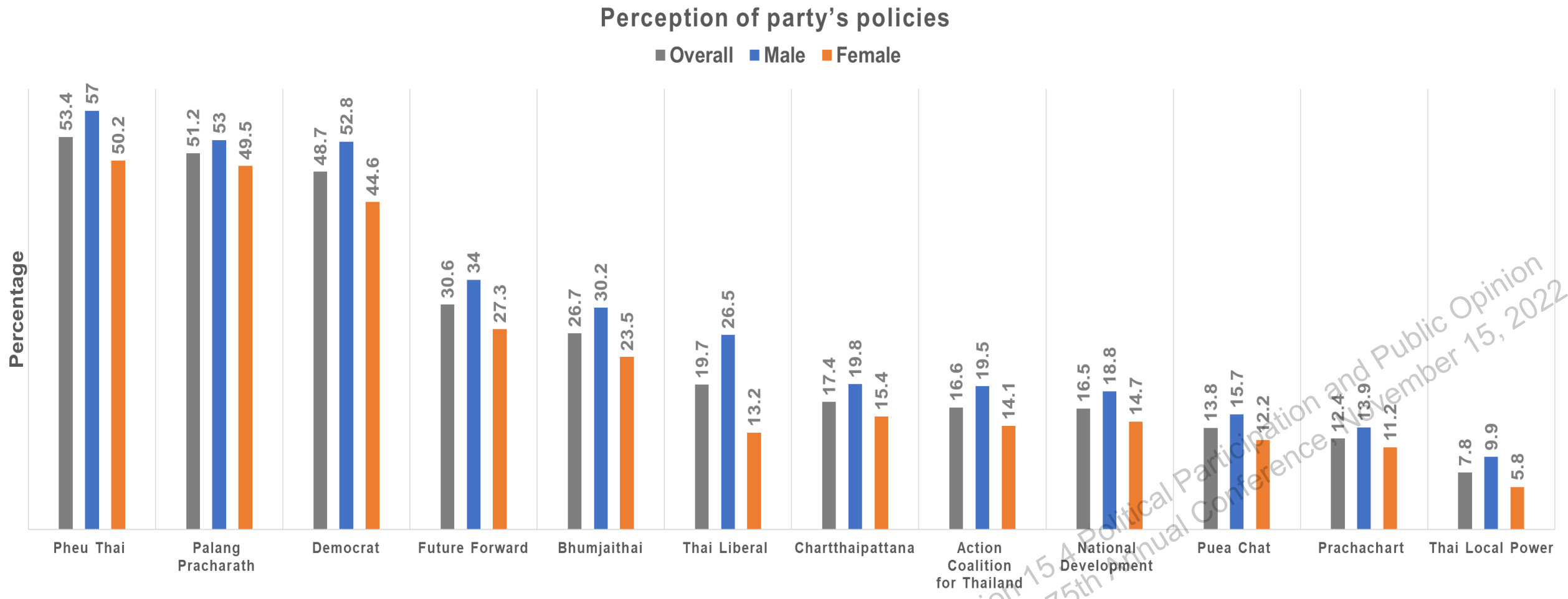
## Public Opinion survey on “National Election in Thailand”

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# The important factors influencing the voters' intension to vote, by gender



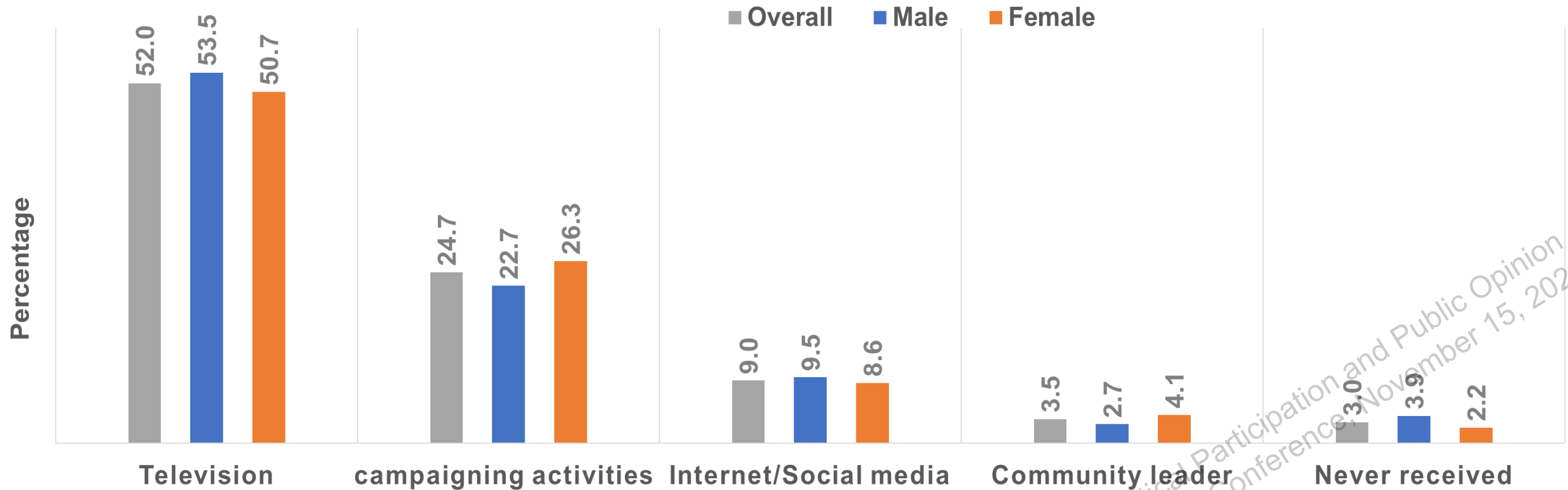
# Perception of political party's policies, by political parties and gender



# Top five sources of information about election

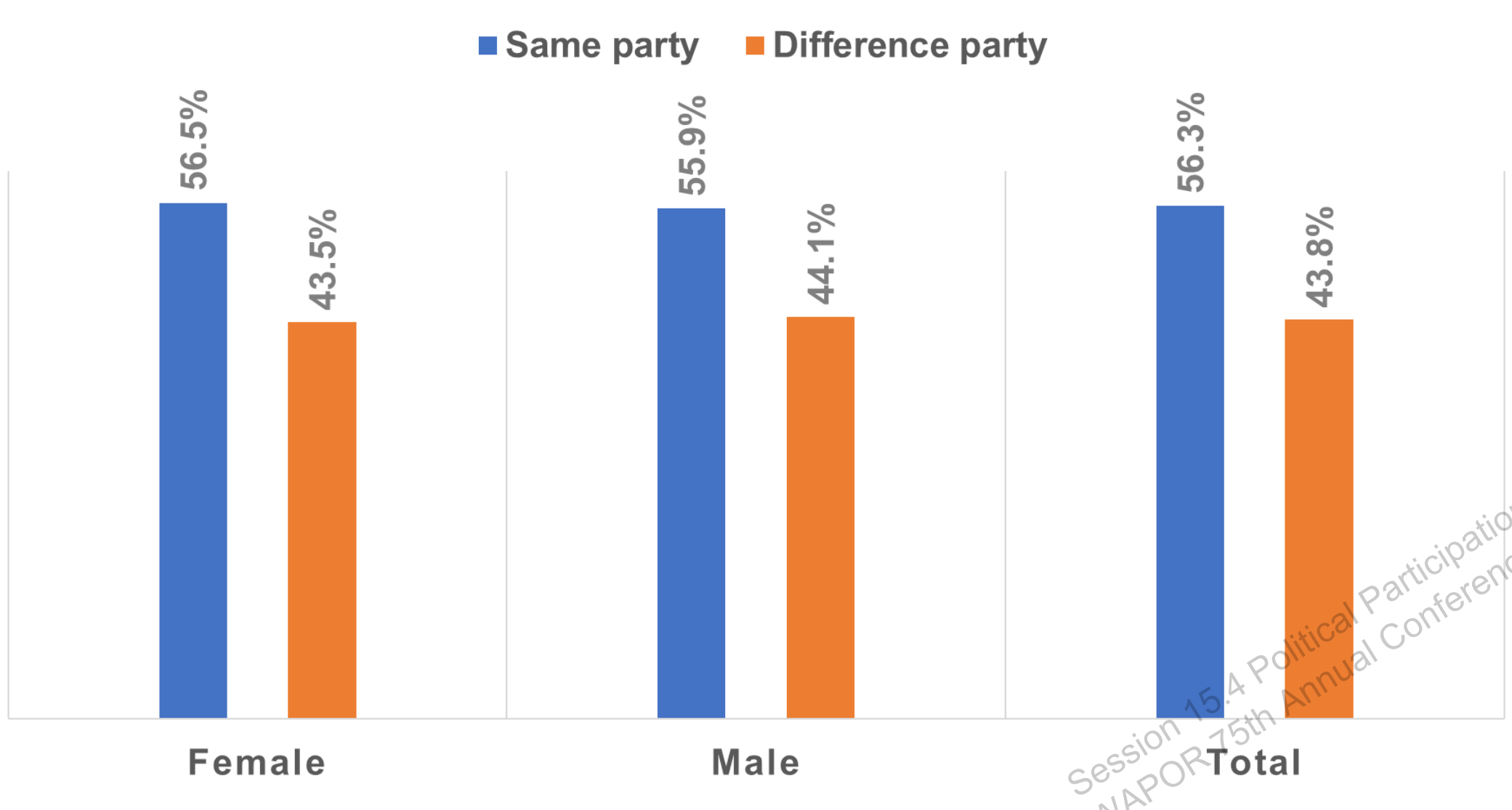


Top 5 sources of information and news about the election and candidates





# Changing in decision making to vote for the political party between **the Constituency in 2011 and the 2019 election**, by gender

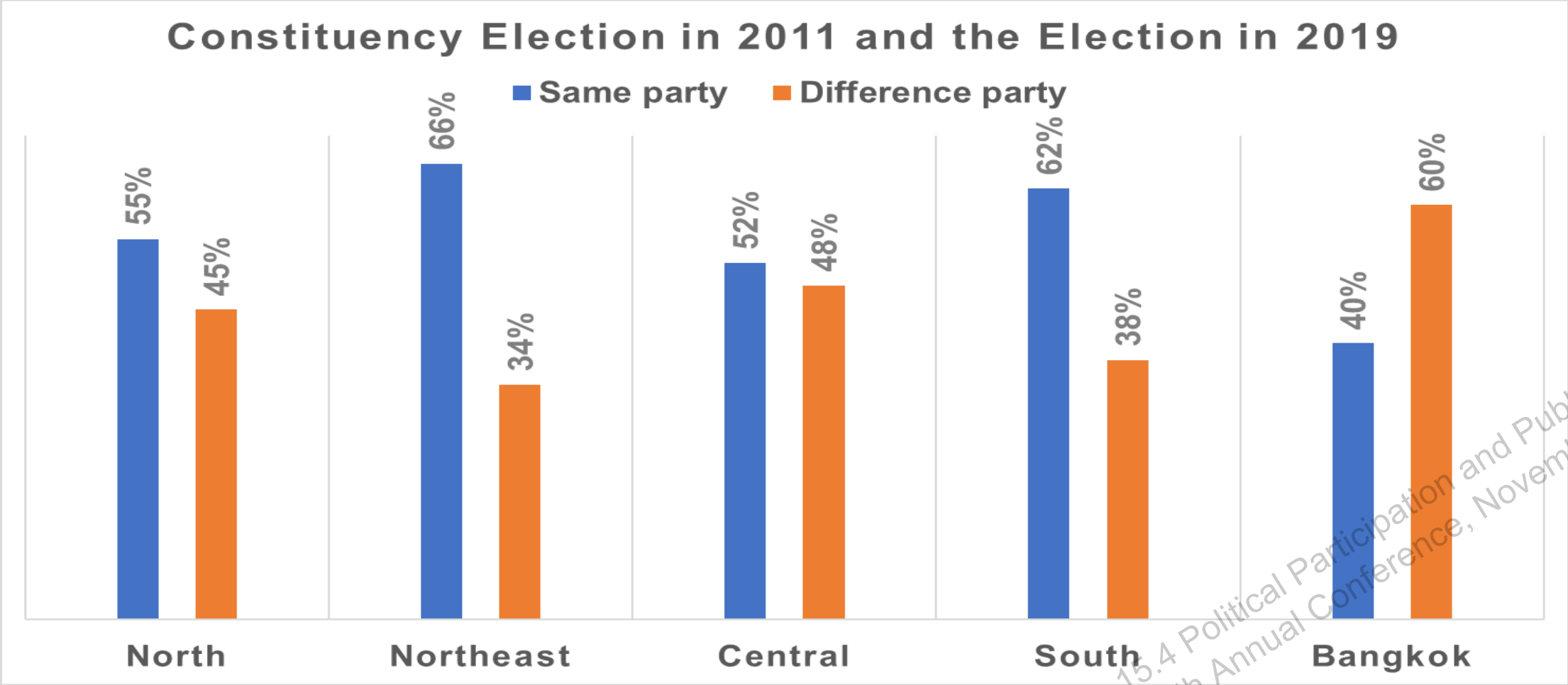


Sig = .876

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# Changing in decision making to vote for the political party between **the Constituency in 2011 and the 2019 election**, by region



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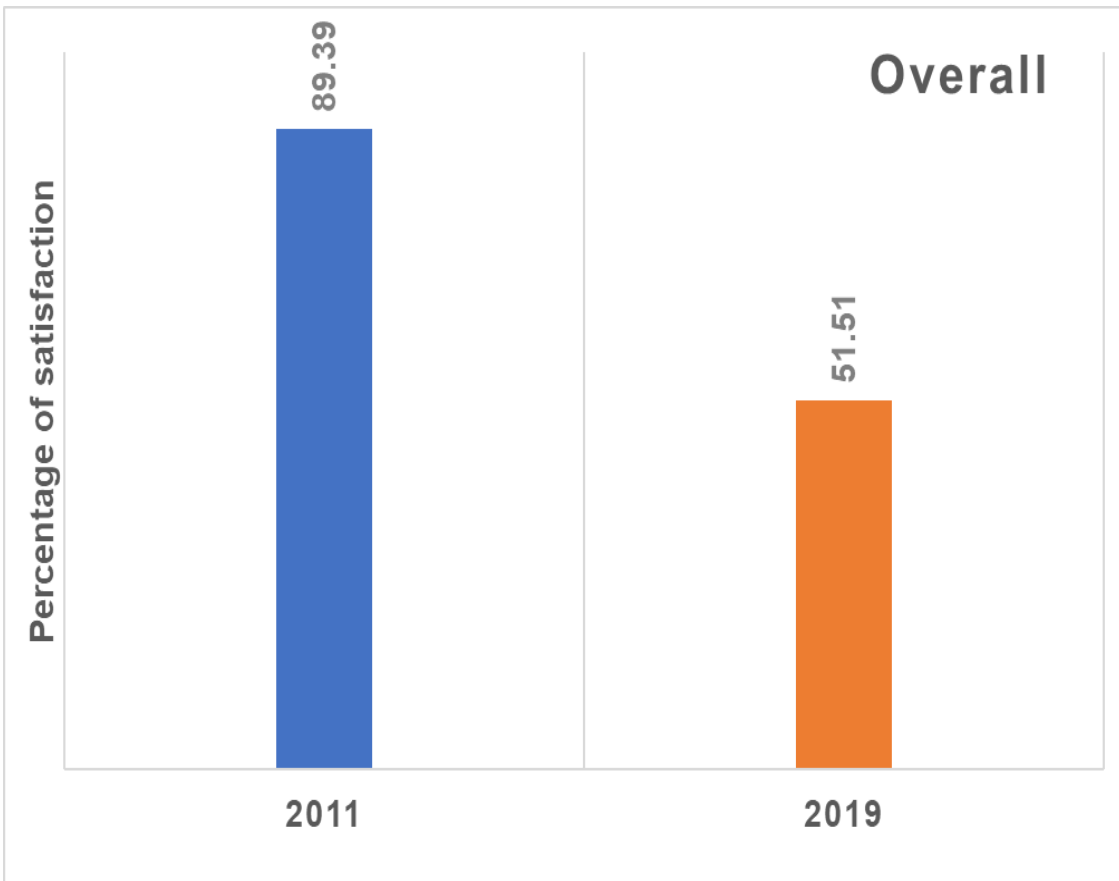
Sig = .001



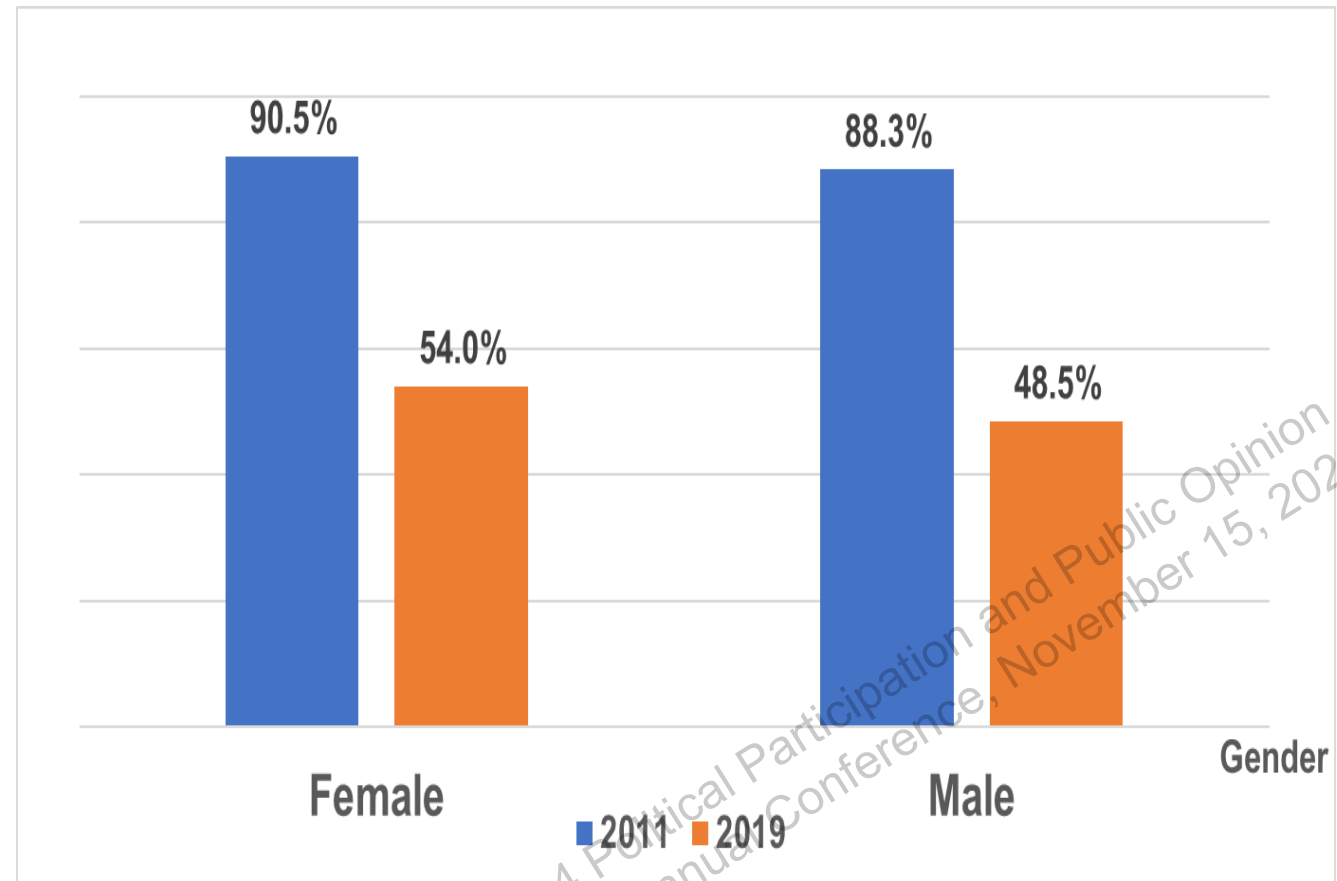
On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in Thailand?



\* Percentage of very satisfied and fairly satisfied



Overall



■ 2011 ■ 2019

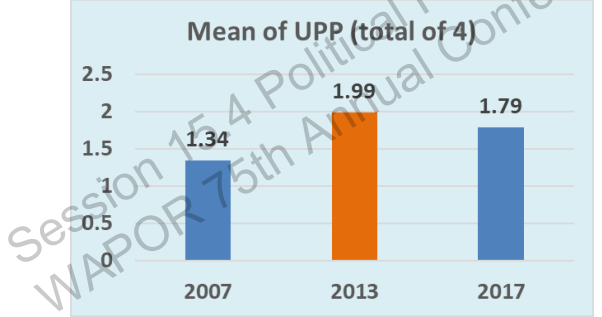
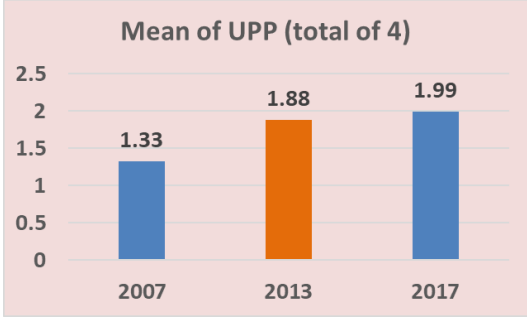
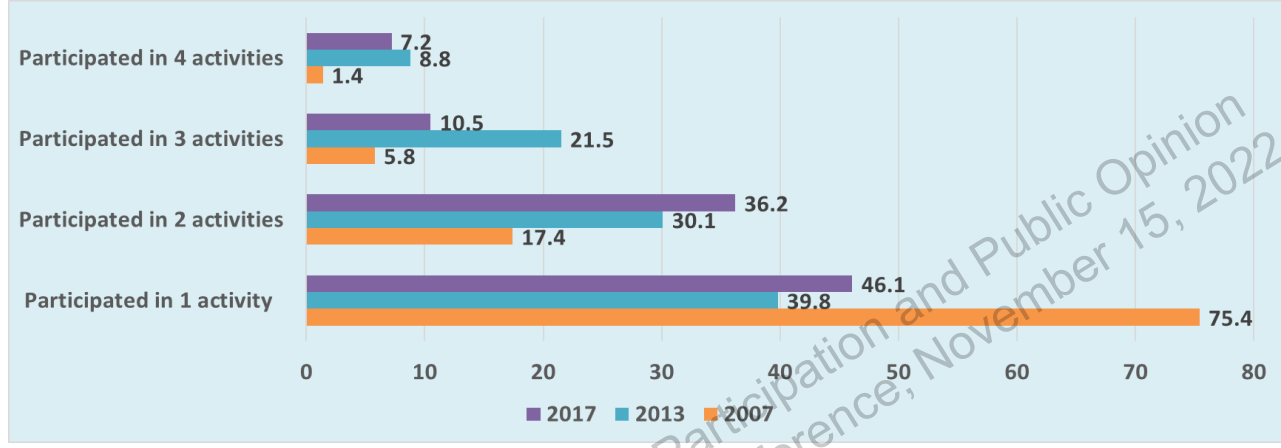
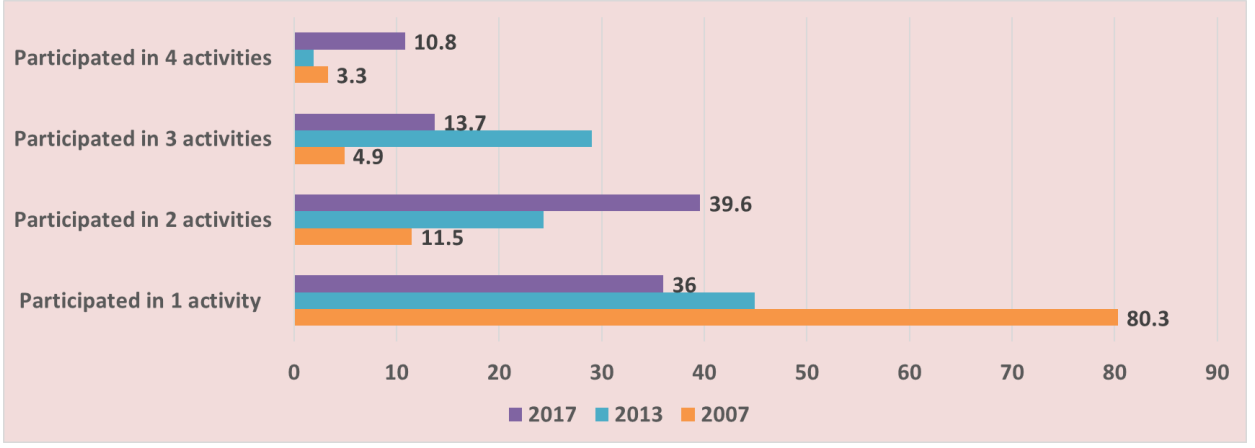
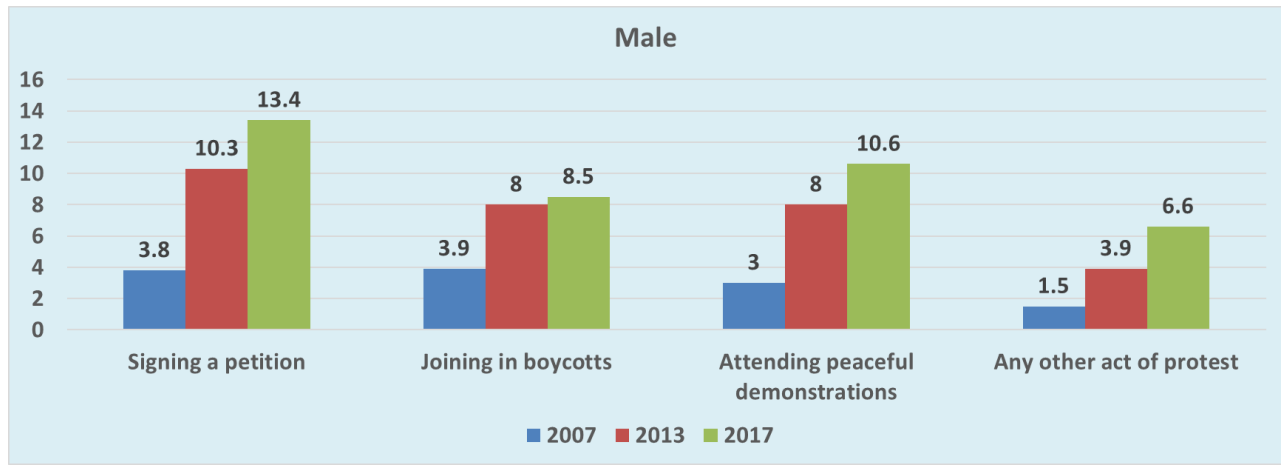
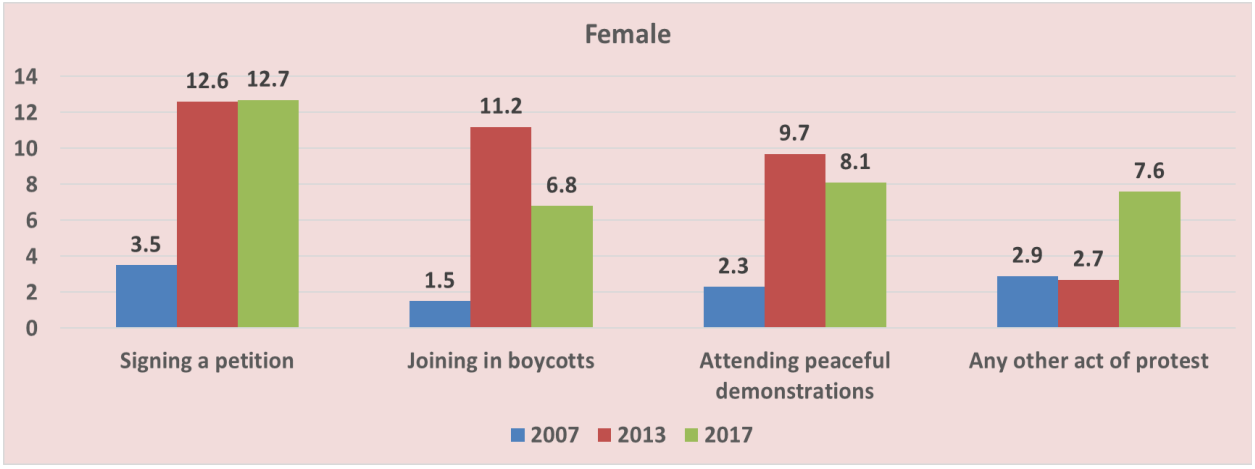
Gender

\*Sig. 2011 = .048, 2019= .036

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# Political participation

## Unconventional Political Participation



# Conceptual framework



## Dependent Variables

important to live in a country that is governed democratically

level of being democratically governed in country

political interest

independence in personal living

satisfaction of household financial situation

### Control variables

- being Bangkokians or provincial people
- household income
- educational level
- age

## Independent Variables

### Conventional Political Participation

- donating to a group or campaign
- contacting a government official
- encouraging others to take

### Unconventional Political Participation

- signing a petition
- joining in boycotts
- attending peaceful demonstration
- attending any other act of protest

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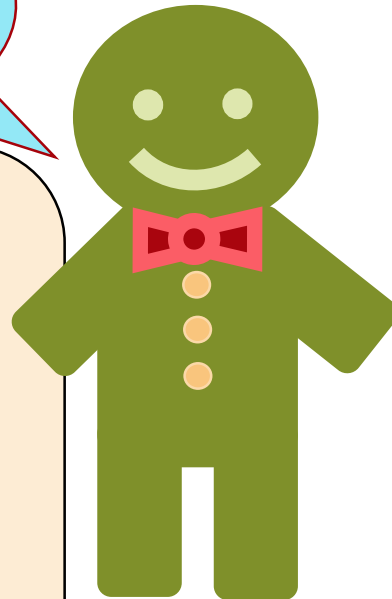
# Factor Correlation



## Factors affecting the conventional political participation (CPP) in 2017

4 significant factors affecting CPP of men

1. Life satisfaction (-)
2. Lower household income
3. Higher education level
4. Older



No significant factor affecting CPP for women



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# Factor Correlation



## Factors affecting the unconventional political participation (UPP)



2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lower education level</li><li>• Younger</li></ul>
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Political interest (+)</li><li>• Non-Bangkokians</li><li>• Higher household income</li></ul>
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Political interest (+)</li><li>• Lower education level</li></ul>



2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No alternative in life</li><li>• Life satisfaction (+)</li></ul>
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not being democratically governed in country</li><li>• Non Bangkokians</li></ul>
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No significant factor affecting UPP for women</li></ul>



# Conclusion

- **Political knowledge, political interest, and socio-economic status are the important factors affecting the unconventional and conventional political participation in both groups.**
- **After the political conflict and Thailand is under military rule, the perception and degree of participation change. For women, in 2017 survey result that conducted after almost 4 years of military government, women still play a little bit more conventional participation in politics than men. Whereas, there is no statistically different in participation in unconventional activities.**



# The barriers and difficulties faced

- Culture and Mindset
- Academic knowledge, paper, research work
- Experiences from advanced democratic countries
- Supports from policy makers
- Government officials' understanding

# Recommendations



- ✓ **Political party policies educations**
- ✓ **Communication about elections by various medias and appropriate for gender and age groups**
- ✓ **Enabling environment that appropriate for election**



# King Prajadhipok's Institute

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