

2011년 5월 1일 키워드 스피킹 방송 / 주제: 보궐선거 결과

Paul's Summary (transcribed)

The result of last Wednesday's **by-election** sent a warning to the President and the ruling party. Some **candidates from the ruling party ticket** managed to win, but, overall, the result is believed to be a **humiliating defeat** for the ruling party. **All eyes were on** who was going to be the winner in the Bundang **Constituency**, which had long been the **stronghold** of the ruling conservative party. Voters in the Bundang **electoral district** are mostly **mid- to high-income earners** whose education level is also higher than average. However, an ailing economy, rising consumer prices and skyrocketing rent **took a toll even on** the lives of the upper middle class residents in Bundang. Voters finally **turned their back on** the conservative party, which they had supported for quite some time. Instead, Sohn Hakkyu, a moderate liberal and a **presidential hopeful** from the opposition party, was chosen as the new Bundang district representative.

In the Korean political climate, the by-election is thought to be a **litmus test for the government and the ruling party**. Therefore, what the result of this election implies is that the middle class white collar workers are dissatisfied with the current government's policies and their **political sentiment is rapidly swinging toward** the values of the liberal party.

The result is also expected to **make the President more of a lame duck than he already is**, with only two years left in his term. The opposition party and its supporters, after suffering from a series of defeats in the recent elections, are reading positive signs from this victory. **Reshuffling the leadership** is unavoidable for the ruling party, and people are curious which steps Mr. Sohn is going to take with his **heightened political status**. With the presidential election only one and a half years away, Korea's game of politics is becoming increasingly interesting.

Key Words

1. 보궐선거 by-election
2. 여당측 후보 candidate from the ruling party ticket
3. 선거구 constituency, electoral district
4. 여당의 아성 stronghold of the ruling party, Bundang was a conservative district for a long time
5. 중산층 이상 계층 mid- to high-income earners
6. 보수 정당에 등을 돌리다 turn their back on the conservative party
7. 대권주자 presidential hopeful
8. 현 정부에 대한 중간평가 litmus test for the government and the ruling party, good indicator of the voter sentiment
9. 민심이 진보로 기울다 political sentiment is swinging toward the liberal party
10. 대권주자로서 입지를 다지다 gaining ground in his bid for the next Presidential election
11. 입지를 다지다 gain ground, lay the foundation, set the groundwork
12. 레임덕 현상이 가속화되다 make the President more of a lame duck than he already is
13. 지도부 개편 reshuffle the leadership
14. 높아진 정치적 위상 heightened political status

More Key Words

1. 불신임 no confidence
2. 정치적 무관심 apathy toward politics
3. 영향을 미치다 take a toll on ~
4. 투표율 voter turnout
5. 선거구민 constituent
6. (민심을) 좌지우지하다 sway