

2011년 9월 2일 키워드 스피킹 방송 / 주제: 서울시장 보궐선거

Paul's Summary (transcribed)

The **political landscape** of Seoul has been teeming with anticipation for the **upcoming by-elections**. This past week, the residents of Seoul were asked to **vote on a referendum** on whether to block the new policy on free lunches to all elementary and middle school students. The **voter turnout** was less than 26% despite current Seoul mayor, Oh Se-hoon, literally **betting his official position** if there wasn't at least a 33.3% voter turnout. As a result, Oh has resigned stating that he will **take responsibility for his failure to stop reckless expansion of populist policies**. Oh's early resignation has now created a new race for the mayor of Seoul in the upcoming October by-elections. Typically, the fall by-elections are used to elect new local administration chiefs and councilors. This time the mayoral election is set to dominate politics over the next two months with both parties battling to place their candidates in the running. The position of Seoul mayor is said to be the second most influential post after the president and **a litmus test** for the future presidential election. Past mayor Lee-Myung Bak went on to become President.

After Oh's resignation, the election seemed to be in favor of the opposition party. However, in a stunning turn of events, Seoul's Education Chief Kwak No Hyun is under investigation by the prosecution for a corruption scandal where he **allegedly bribed a competing candidate to resign** in the past June election for the **superintendent** of the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education. Kwak stated that he would not **step down** even though opposition voices have asked him to resign. The October by-election now seems to be **anyone's game**. Who ever said politics was boring!

Key Words

1. 복지 포퓰리즘 making empty promises about welfare, populist policies about welfare
2. 다가올 보궐선거 upcoming by-elections
3. 주민투표를 하다 vote on a referendum
4. 투표함도 못 열었다 did not even count the ballot, did not even open the ballot box
5. 투표율 voter turnout
6. 진보진영, 보수진영 liberal community, conservative community
7. 무죄추정의 원칙 innocent until proven guilty; give someone benefit of the doubt
8. 시장직을 걸다 the mayor bet his official position
9. 복지 포퓰리즘 남발을 막지 못하다 failure to stop reckless expansion of populist policies
10. 책임을 지다 take responsibility for
11. (민심의) 풍향계 역할 a litmus test
12. 전초전 preliminary fight
13. ~혐의로 allegedly
14. 후보 사퇴 대가로 돈을 주다 bribe a competing candidate to resign
15. 교육감 superintendent
16. 물러나다 step down
17. 누가 이길지 모른다 anyone's game
18. 단일화 agree to step aside for a more likely winner
19. 선의로 out of good will

More Key Words

1. 정치판 political landscape
2. 내 뜻대로 되지 않았다 did not go my way
3. 선거를 자신의 정치적 목적을 위해 이용하다 manipulate the election for his own political benefit