

PKR poll: Women shunning Pakatan, Anwar
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 — Pakatan Rakyat (PR) is losing the fight for the hearts and minds of female voters, most of whom view the opposition pact and its leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim negatively.

A recent internal PKR poll of four key states in the peninsula that was sighted by The Malaysian Insider found that 56 per cent of women would vote Barisan Nasional (BN) in the next election versus 43 per cent of men.

This bias extended to Anwar (picture) too, with 53 per cent of women saying they did not approve of him compared to only 31 per cent who viewed the de facto PKR chief positively.

Malay women especially saw the former Umno number two in poor light, with 69 per cent saying they disapproved while just 24 per cent supported him.

In contrast, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak was seen positively by 50 per cent of female voters, in line with his 55 per cent approval rating with male voters.

Similarly, Anwar's wife and PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail was more popular among Malay women — 46 per cent of said they liked her while 44 per cent did not.

The survey also showed that PR was favoured by younger voters, with 54 per cent of the 21-29 and 30-39 age groups saying they would pick the opposition in the next election, versus 43 per cent in the 40 and above age group.

University graduates were much more likely to favour PR (57 per cent) while support among non-degree holders was considerably less (40 per cent).

PR also found more traction among high-income earners, with just over half of those in the RM5,001-RM10,000 and above RM10,000 wage brackets favouring the pact.

Voters who drew a salary of less than RM3,000 and RM3,001-RM5,000 per month showed less inclination to PR — support levels in those groups were found to be 43 and 49 per cent respectively.

The survey, released to PKR last month, was conducted between August 22 and September 15 and polled 1,000 voters in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Perak and Johor.

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