

Assignment of Questions to smartspider Axes

October 28, 2025

smartspider methodology

The smartspider graph consists of five axes each representing a specific policy issue or a political goal. Questions can be assigned to none, one or several axes.

- The code “1” means that answering a question with “yes” indicates agreement with the formulated political objective of the corresponding axis (e.g. “Open Society”). An agreement, therefore, leads to an outward shift along that axis in the graph.
- The code “-1” on the other hand, means that a negative answer “no” indicates agreement with the formulated political objective of the corresponding axis. A negative answer, therefore, leads to an outward shift of the position in the graph.
- An empty field indicates that the specific question is not assigned to an axis.

Here is an example:

The question “Do you think that speaking Tibetan is necessary to be considered Tibetan?” is assigned to the “Open Society” axis with the code -1. This means that a “yes” answer runs against the objective of the axis (Open Society) and therefore does not lead to an outward shift on the graph, whereas a “no” answer indicates agreement with the axis objective and results in an outward shift (towards 100). In contrast, the question is also assigned to the “Cultural Preservation” axis with the code 1, since a “yes” answer supports the goal of preserving Tibetan culture and language as central to Tibetan identity. For the other axes, no assignment is made, and the corresponding fields therefore remain empty.

smartvote International fulfills the transparency and quality criteria of the “Lausanne Declaration on Online Electoral Assistance”.

For more information on the methodology, please contact: smartvote@project-democracy-tibet.org

Question assignment for the 2026 Sikyong and 18th Tibetan parliamentary elections:

Categories and Questions

Culture & Language		Open Society	Democratic Reform	Cultural Preservation	Middle Way Approach	Expanded Welfare
1	Do you think the CTA should support contemporary Tibetan art alongside traditional Tibetan art? (Remember an increase in expenditures could result in a decrease for other areas)			-1		
2	Do you think parents should place more importance on their children learning Tibetan than on learning the local language?			1		
3	Do you think that speaking Tibetan is necessary to be considered Tibetan?	-1		1		
4	Do you think that all Tibetans should wear traditional clothing at Tibetan public events (e.g. Trungkar, March 10, religious ceremonies)?			1		
5	Do you think the CTA should guarantee that all official documents and parliamentary sessions are accessible in English, for example by providing translations and subtitles?			-1		
Elections & Parliament		Open Society	Democratic Reform	Cultural Preservation	Middle Way Approach	Expanded Welfare
6	Do you think the minimum age requirements for Chitue (25 years) and Sikyong (35 years) should be lowered to encourage greater youth participation?		1			
7	Monks, nuns, and Tantric practitioners (Ngakpa) cast two ballots in elections: one for their province and one for their religious school. Do you think that this system should remain in place?		-1			
8	Do you think that the parliament should change its seat distribution to account for the reality that nearly half of the Tibetan exile population now resides outside of India, Nepal, and Bhutan?		1			

9	During elections, Tibetan organizations (including provincial associations, religious institutions, and NGOs) are not allowed to promote candidates. Do you think this ban should remain in place?	-1				
10	Do you think that every Tibetan should have the right to vote regardless of Green Book contribution?	1				
Public Services, Education & Healthcare		Open Society	Democratic Reform	Cultural Preservation	Middle Way Approach	Expanded Welfare
11	Do you think the CTA should expand the Tibetan Medicare System so people with financial difficulties can access health care? (Remember an increase in expenditures could result in a decrease for other areas)					1
12	Do you think mental health should be considered equally as important as physical health in CTA policy and spending?(Remember an increase in expenditures could result in a decrease for other areas)					1
13	Do you think the CTA should provide free support services to tackle addiction in the exile community? (Remember an increase in expenditures could result in a decrease for other areas)					1
14	Do you think the CTA should provide special support programs for families with children with special needs in India and Nepal? (Remember an increase in expenditures could result in a decrease for other areas)					1
Political System		Open Society	Democratic Reform	Cultural Preservation	Middle Way Approach	Expanded Welfare
15	Do you think the CTA should invest in strengthening the community's media environment by promoting digital literacy, tackling misinformation, and supporting independent media? (Remember an increase in expenditures could result in a decrease for other areas)		1			
16	Do you think the CTA should increase the Green Book (Chatrel) contributions to become less dependent on foreign aid?					

17	Do you think the Tibetan Charter should be revised to more clearly define the separation of powers and to introduce conflict resolution mechanisms?	1				
18	Tibetans of mixed heritage are fully recognized as Tibetan citizens under the Charter. Do you think this recognition should be limited?	-1	-1			
19	Do you think the CTA should prioritize the needs and perspectives of Tibetans inside Tibet in its programs and projects?					
20	Do you think the CTA should support Tibetans in obtaining Indian citizenship (if eligible)?					
21	Do you think the CTA should make more effort for gender equity and representation in all levels of management and leadership positions within the CTA?	1				
22	Do you think the right to freedom of speech should exclude criticism against religious figures?	-1				
23	Do you think that Oracle consultation should play a role in political decisions?		-1	1		
Tibetan Society & Values		Open Society	Democratic Reform	Cultural Preservation	Middle Way Approach	Expanded Welfare
24	Do you think abortion should be discouraged to save unborn life?	-1				
25	Do you think that the problem of sexual and gender-based violence in Tibetan society should be openly addressed?	1				
26	Do you think that marriage should only be between a man and a woman?	-1				
27	Do you think disagreement with the Middle Way Approach harms unity in our society?	-1			1	
28	Do you think the CTA should allocate more resources to Tibetan communities overseas, even if this means reducing support for the traditional settlements in India, Nepal, and Bhutan?					

Tibet's Future		Open Society	Democratic Reform	Cultural Preservation	Middle Way Approach	Expanded Welfare
29	Do you think the CTA should play a more active role in planning the period following His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama?					
30	Do you support the "The Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People"?				1	
31	Do you think the CTA should refrain from criticizing China for human rights violations in order to improve the chances of dialogue?				1	
32	Do you think the CTA should issue public statements of solidarity when other peoples face severe violations of international law, such as genocide or crimes against humanity?					
33	Do you think Tibetan independence (Rangzen) should be the main goal of the CTA?				-1	
34	Do you think exile Tibetans traveling to Tibet risk undermining the freedom movement?				-1	