



# The Weekly Observer

June 17-21

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

## **Diet Session Ends with Passage of Fundraising Reform Bill**

On Friday, the 213<sup>th</sup> ordinary Diet session effectively came to an end, with the GOJ successfully passing/enacting **sixty-one of the sixty-two bills** it submitted.

**Prime Minister Kishida Fumio** said in a press conference that the **LDP's proposed revision** to the Political Funds Control Act was a "challenging task" of balancing transparency and preventive measures with securing political funds, a part of the democratic process.

**The bill was enacted on Wednesday**, tightening restrictions on Diet members and creating new disclosure rules to secure transparency of funding.

The bill was passed **without the Japan Innovation Party's (Ishin) support**, after it reversed its vote in favor in the Lower House to against in the Upper House, citing **Kishida's "betrayal"** to not follow through on a promise to reform "correspondence fees." Kishida

defended the decision, stating that a **specific deadline could not be included** given time constraints.

During the leaders' debate, Kishida rejected **CDP leader Izumi Kenta's demand for an early election** to ask voters about the reform bill.

In response to this admission, the **CDP submitted a no-confidence motion against the Cabinet** on Thursday, which was soundly defeated by the LDP and Komeito.

## **Koike and Renho to Square Off in Tokyo Governor Race**

On Thursday, the campaign period for the **Tokyo gubernatorial race** slated for July 7 began. The field is concentrated, as a record number of **fifty-six candidates** are running for the top job in the nation's capital.

**Incumbent Governor Koike Yuriko** will lock horns with now-former **CDP Upper House member Renho**, in what will be a **de facto ruling versus opposition party battle**. **Koike is leading in most polls**, as she has the LDP, Komeito, DPFP, and RENGO in her corner, albeit to varying degrees.

## **Cabinet Approval**



**21%** (-3 pts.)

**60%** (+5 pts.)

[Sankei Shimbun/FNN](#) (June 17)

## **State of the Economy**

### **Trade Balance (May):**

¥1.22 trillion deficit  
11.6% smaller deficit than May 2023

### **Consumer Price Index (May):**

107.5 (+2.5%)  
Electricity prices rose 14.7% and led the way

### **Machinery Orders (April):**

¥886.3 billion (-2.9%)  
First decline in 3 months

### **Inbound Tourism (FY 2023):**

+31% compared to pre-pandemic levels  
Fast recovery since FY 2022