

Notice to Candidates
on Free Postage Arrangements
for 2016 Legislative Council General Election

‘Household’ Address Labels

For free postage of promotional letters, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) provides a candidate/a list of candidates* with a choice of ‘individual’ address labels (i.e. one address label for each elector) or ‘household’ address labels (i.e. one address label for up to five electors residing at the same address. Additional address label(s) will be used where the names of all the electors cannot be accommodated on one label.). This arrangement helps reduce the consumption of paper and other resources while allowing a candidate/a list of candidates* greater flexibility in arranging their publicity strategy. In the interest of environmental protection, a candidate/a list of candidates* is encouraged to use ‘household’ labels for sending promotional letters as this can **save about one third of the address labels and promotional letters apart from saving the effort and time of postmen in delivering the mails.**

Here is a sample of the ‘household’ address label.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------------|
| 錢小花 / 鄭有財 / 歐芷清 / 歐一心 / 劉嬌嬌 | | |
| FLAT C 17/F BLK 2 | | |
| HONG KONG BUILDING | | |
| HONG KONG ROAD | | |
| HONG KONG | | |
| LC1 | A01 C/E | H03359 00579 |

A candidate/a list of candidates* should observe the requirements on the weight and size of each letter to be sent free of postage as stipulated in section 101A(1)(c) and (d) of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure)(Legislative Council) Regulation (Cap. 541D), which are equally applicable to a letter addressed to an individual elector and a letter addressed to a household of electors. A candidate/a list of candidates* can indicate their choice of using ‘individual’ or ‘household’ address labels in the Notice for Collection of Electors’ Information (to be uploaded to the website on 16 July 2016 and enclosed in the candidates’ folder available on 16 July 2016 when nomination starts). Once a candidate/a list of candidates* has indicated his/her/their choice to send a letter to a household of electors by using the ‘household’ address label, free postage of further letters addressed to individual electors of that household (who have been addressed in the ‘household’ address label) will **not** be provided.

* This arrangement is only for geographical constituencies/District Council (second) functional constituency candidates/lists of candidates. Candidates of other functional constituencies are not included.

Joint Promotional Letters

Under section 43 of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542), a validly nominated candidate/list of candidates for a geographical constituency (GC) / functional constituency (FC) may send one election mail to each elector of the relevant constituency free of postage. To enable a candidate/a list of candidates to jointly promote themselves and as a further step to reduce paper consumption, the law also allows a candidate/a list of candidate lists to make use of this free-of-postage arrangement to send joint promotional letters in specified circumstances. Some permissible arrangements for sending joint promotional letters are depicted below:

- (a) A list of candidates which is validly nominated for a GC (LC1, LC2, LC3, LC4 or LC5) may send one joint promotional letter to each elector containing also information on any number of lists of candidates which are also validly nominated for that GC; or one single list of candidates which is validly nominated for the District Council (second) functional constituency (DS); or both.



- (b) A list of candidates which is validly nominated for the DS may send one joint promotional letter to each elector containing also information on any lists of candidates which are validly nominated for one single GC.

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|-----|
| List B in DS | + | *Any List(s) in One Single GC | = | Yes |
|-----------------|---|---|---|-----|

* List B in DS can join List D in LC1/GC, List E in LC2/GC, List F in LC3/GC, List G in LC4/GC and/or List H in LC5/GC provided that each promotional letter sent out contains only information of List B in DS and **ONE** single GC at a time. In short, there could be five different types of joint promotional letters.

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|----|
| List B in DS | + | Any List(s) in One Single GC | + | Any List(s) in Other GCs | = | No |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|----|

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|---|----|
| List B in DS | + | Any List(s) in DS | = | No |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|---|----|

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|---|----|
| List B in DS | + | Any Candidate(s) in Other FCs | = | No |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|---|----|

- (c) A candidate who is validly nominated for the Labour FC may send joint promotional letters with any other candidates who are also validly nominated for that FC.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|-----|
| Candidate C in Labour FC | + | Any Candidate(s) in Labour FC | = | Yes |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|-----|

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|----|
| Candidate C in Labour FC | + | Any List(s) in GCs | = | No |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|----|

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|----|
| Candidate C in Labour FC | + | Any List(s) / Candidate(s) in DS / Other FCs | = | No |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|----|

Saving in Paper and Other Resources

Some illustrations (with figures drawn from the 2016 Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency By-Election) are appended below for reference only.

Case A

Two lists of GC candidates in the New Territories East Constituency (i.e. LC5) originally plan to issue promotional letters separately to individual electors. In that case, they each have to send about 800,000 mails and, all together, a total of about 1,600,000 mails will need to be sent out. If they choose to send joint promotional letters, they only need to send out about 800,000 letters (reduced by half). If they also use household address labels, it will further reduce the number to about 550,000 (i.e. reduced by two third). As a result, about 1,050,000 letters can be saved.

Case B

If a list of DC (second) FC (i.e. DS) candidates chooses to send joint promotional letters with the two GC candidate lists in the New Territories East Constituency (i.e. LC5) as mentioned in Case A to electors in the New Territories East Constituency using household address labels, instead of sending out about 2,400,000 letters in total to individual electors (i.e. each list sends out about 800,000 letters separately to individual electors), they will only have to send out about 550,000 letters altogether (i.e. reduced by almost 80%). A total of about 1,850,000 letters can therefore be saved.

As illustrated in the above two cases, a considerable number of mails can be saved by using joint promotional letters and household address labels. Apart from contributing to environmental protection, the candidates can also use the election expenses thus saved for other electioneering activities.

Further Information

You may wish to refer to Chapter 8 of the “Guidelines on Election-related Activities in respect of the Legislative Council Election”, the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542) and the Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure)(Legislative Council) Regulation (Cap. 541D) for details.

For enquiries, please call REO Hotline at 2891 1001.

Registration and Electoral Office
July 2016