

Application Guidelines for Conduct of Exit Poll in the 2023 District Council Ordinary Election

Any person ^(Note 1) or organisation intending to conduct an exit poll on the polling day of the 2023 District Council Ordinary Election must complete the prescribed Application Form for Conduct of Exit Poll and submit it to the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) before the deadline.

Application Procedures

Information to be provided in the Application Form

- (a) the name and address of the person or organisation intending to conduct an exit poll on the polling day;
- (b) the identity document ^(Note 2) number (alphabet and the first 3 digits) and name of the person responsible for the exit poll together with his/her telephone number(s) for contact, especially during the polling hours; and
- (c) a list showing the number of persons who will be deployed for the conduct of the exit poll at each polling station (please state the code and name of the polling station) on the polling day together with the identity document ^(Note 2) number (alphabet and the first 3 digits) and name of each of all the persons who will be so deployed (not more than 15 interviewers will be allowed to be deployed for the conduct of an exit poll in each polling station. If an applicant / applicant organisation submits more than 15 interviewers for any one of the polling stations, the REO will only consider the information of the first 15 persons).

Declaration

A person or organisation applying for the conduct of exit poll on the polling day of the 2023 District Council Ordinary Election must make a statutory declaration by virtue of the Oaths and Declarations Ordinance (Cap. 11) as required in PART I of the Application Form. The statutory declaration must be made before a Commissioner for Oaths, a Justice of the Peace or a solicitor with a practising certificate. Before making the statutory declaration, the declarant should read its contents carefully.

(Note 1) Individual applicants must reach the age of 18.

(Note 2) According to section 2 of the District Council Ordinance (Cap. 547), “identity document” means -

(a) an identity card issued to a person under the Registration of Persons Ordinance (Cap. 177); or

(b) a document issued by the Commissioner (within the meaning of section 1A(1) of the Registration of Persons Ordinance (Cap. 177)) to a person certifying that the person is exempt, under regulation 25 of the Registration of Persons Regulations (Cap. 177 sub. leg. A), from being required to register under that Ordinance; or

(c) any other document issued to a person that is acceptable to the Electoral Registration Officer as proof of the person’s identity.

When an applicant organisation decides who is to make the statutory declaration, it should consider whether such a person satisfies the requirements stated in PART I of the Application Form.

Submission of Application

The **original** of the completed Application Form with the statutory declaration must be submitted in person or by post to the REO **not later than 10 days before the polling day (i.e. on or before 6:00 p.m. on 30 November 2023)** (Address: Room 1375, 13th Floor, Kowloonbay International Trade & Exhibition Centre, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon (Attention: Special Support Team of Elections Division). Please state on the envelope “Application Form for Conduct of Exit Poll”). If applicants / applicant organisations fail to provide accurate data as requested in this Application Form 10 days before the polling day, or applicants / applicant organisations fail to provide the additional information as requested by the REO (if any) by the specified date, their applications to conduct an exit poll **will not be processed**.

Notification of Application Result

Applicants / Applicant organisations will be notified of the result of their applications before the polling day. If no reply is received from the REO 7 days after the submission of the application, please call 2891 1001 to check the progress of the application.

Publication of Approved Applications

A notice showing the names of persons and organisations approved to conduct exit polls together with their contact telephone numbers will be released prior to the polling day for reference by the public and candidates. The notice will also be displayed at each of the relevant polling stations on the polling day.

Requirements and Guidelines for Conduct of Exit Poll

The REO will notify the persons and organisations approved to conduct exit polls to collect identification devices bearing the name of the relevant applicant / applicant organisation and the names of the respective interviewers. Each interviewer **must** display prominently the identification device during the conduct of an exit poll. He / She must also adopt the “Standard Script for Interviewers Conducting Exit Poll” at the **Annex** at the start of the interview in order to make known to the electors the name of the person or organisation conducting the exit poll, the exit poll is not commissioned by the Government and any response is entirely voluntary.

Any person not displaying prominently the identification device will **not** be allowed to conduct an exit poll outside any polling station.

Unless the conduct of exit poll is on a pedestrian pavement that is not under any private management in the No Canvassing Zone, applicants / applicant organisations must also separately seek the **prior** approval from the owners / managers concerned **by themselves** before the exit poll can be conducted. Interviewers should also keep a reasonable distance from the exit of the polling station(s) and ensure that electors entering the polling station(s) will not be affected when the said exit polls are being conducted.

Applicants / Applicant organisations and the persons who will be deployed for the conduct of exit polls at the polling stations must comply with all the requirements and guidelines for the conduct of exit polls promulgated by the Electoral Affairs Commission and the REO.

Enquiries

For enquiries relating to applications for the conduct of exit polls, please call the Election Hotline of the REO at 2891 1001 during office hours, or email to reoeng@reo.gov.hk.

Registration and Electoral Office
November 2023