

## **2016 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections Facilitation Measures for Voters with Special Needs**

### **(A) Voters with mobility difficulties**

1. All polling stations are accessible to voters with mobility difficulties or who are wheelchair users.
2. Telephone number of the polling station is posted near the ramp leading to the station. If necessary, voters with mobility difficulties can contact the polling staff for assistance.
3. Where circumstances permit, the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) will upon request try to arrange, through the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation, Rehabus service to transport voters with mobility difficulties to and from polling stations.
4. All polling stations are equipped with enlarged voting compartments with lower polling tables.
5. If necessary, voters can seek help from the Presiding Officer to mark the ballot paper on their behalf according to their choice inside a voting compartment with a polling officer serving as a witness.

### **(B) Voters with visual impairment**

1. All the election websites (i.e. [www.eac.gov.hk](http://www.eac.gov.hk), [www.reo.gov.hk](http://www.reo.gov.hk), [www.elections.gov.hk](http://www.elections.gov.hk) and [www.voterregistration.gov.hk](http://www.voterregistration.gov.hk)) have incorporated accessible designs. Most of the information or documents on the websites are convenient for browsing by persons with visual impairment with the aid of screen reading software.
2. Encourage candidates to provide a text version of their Introduction to Candidates for uploading onto the dedicated election website ([www.elections.gov.hk](http://www.elections.gov.hk)) to facilitate persons with visual impairment to read the relevant information online using assistive software.
3. Voters with visual impairment may provide/update their email addresses for receiving soft copy of electoral information from the REO by completing an electronic form at the Voter Registration website ([www.voterregistration.gov.hk](http://www.voterregistration.gov.hk)).
4. The number of the enquiry hotline (2891 1001) is read out in radio Announcements in the Public Interest (“APIs”) and TV APIs to facilitate persons with visual impairment to obtain information relating to electoral arrangements.

5. A web accessible version of the TV APIs is available on the dedicated election website to facilitate voters.
6. Voters with visual impairment can call the dedicated telephone line 2893 3762 provided for them by the REO. The operator would read the information on the Introduction to Candidates to them and provide other electoral information.
7. A Braille list of candidates with the candidate numbers and candidates' names is available at polling stations to facilitate reading by voters with visual impairment of the relevant information.
8. Braille templates are available at polling stations to facilitate voters with visual impairment to mark the ballot papers themselves. A Braille template contains 30 candidates' numbers at most. If there are more than 30 candidates in the relevant subsector/sub-subsector, the voters with visual impairment can seek help from the Presiding Officer to mark the ballot paper on their behalf.
9. If necessary, voters can seek help from the Presiding Officer to mark the ballot paper on their behalf according to their choice inside a voting compartment with a polling officer serving as a witness.
10. Voters with visual impairment may bring along their guide dogs into the polling stations.

**(C) Voters with hearing impairment**

1. Sign language interpretation and subtitles are included in all election-related TV APIs.
2. All polling stations provide a "Illustration on Guidance to Voters on the Voting Procedure" to assist voters with hearing impairment to understand the voting procedures. The aid is uploaded onto the dedicated election website for voters' reference before the poll.

**(D) Ethnic minority voters**

1. Electoral information in 6 ethnic minority languages (Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, Thai, Hindi, Tagalog and Urdu) is available on the dedicated election website and the homepage of the Home Affairs Department's Race Relations Unit ([www.had.gov.hk/rru](http://www.had.gov.hk/rru)).
2. Electoral information in Punjabi is also available on the dedicated election website.
3. Information on the election is broadcast in ethnic minority languages on radio.
4. Polling stations are equipped with a Language Assistance Folder.

5. Collaborate with the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (commonly known as “CHEER”) to provide free interpretation service in the aforesaid 7 ethnic minority languages, through the REO’s dedicated telephone line, to help voters of ethnic minorities understand the voting procedures and to facilitate their making of enquiries on election-related matters during the two weeks prior to and leading up to the polling day.
6. Posters on nomination period and polling day as well as electoral information in the aforesaid 7 ethnic minority languages are posted in 8 support centres for the ethnic minorities.

**(E) Other voters with special needs**

1. An “Illustration on Guidance to Voters on the Voting Procedure” (“pictorial guide”) explaining the voting procedures is provided at all polling stations to assist voters in need (e.g. voters with speech or communication impairment, voters who are not familiar with Chinese and English, etc.) to understand the voting procedure. The pictorial guide is uploaded onto the dedicated election website for voters’ reference before the poll.
2. Voters can visit a mock polling station to familiarise themselves with the polling station set up and voting procedure through participating in mock voting.
3. Voters who are unable to cast their votes on their own can seek help from the Presiding Officer to mark the ballot paper on their behalf according to their voting choice. The whole process is witnessed by a polling officer to ensure that the voting is conducted in a fair manner. According to current legislation, all polling staff (including the Presiding Officer) must sign a declaration of secrecy in the specified form and must comply with various requirements concerning voting secrecy in order to maintain the secrecy of the ballot.