

Facilitation Measures for Voters with Special Needs

Elderly people and Voters who have difficulty in standing to queue

1. The Presiding Officer (“PRO”) will set up a special queue to give priority to the following voters for obtaining their ballot paper(s) from the ballot paper issuing desk -
 - (a) voters who are 70 years old or above;
 - (b) pregnant women; or
 - (c) persons who are unable to queue for a long time or have difficulty in queuing due to illness, injury, disability or dependence on mobility aids.

Voters with mobility difficulties

1. The Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) aims to have all polling stations set up at venues which are accessible to voters with mobility difficulties or who are wheelchair users. Where the circumstances permit, temporary ramps will be set up at polling stations for wheelchair users.
2. The telephone numbers of the polling stations will be posted near the ramps temporarily installed for the polling stations, voters with mobility difficulties can contact the polling staff for assistance.
3. The REO will indicate in the polling station location map to be sent together with the poll card to voters whether the allocated polling station is accessible to voters with mobility difficulties or who are wheelchair users.

4. Upon request, the REO will approach the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation for arrangement of Rehabuses to transport voters with mobility difficulties to and from polling stations.
5. All accessible polling stations will be equipped with enlarged voting compartments with lower polling tables for voters who are wheelchair users.
6. If necessary, voters can seek help from the PRO to mark the ballot papers on their behalf according to their choice inside a voting compartment with a polling staff serving as a witness. Where space permits, one of the voting compartments at each polling station will be separated from the remaining compartments in order to prevent voters at the adjacent compartments from overhearing the conversation between the polling staff and the voters concerned.

Voters with visual impairment

1. All the dedicated election websites have incorporated accessible designs. Most of the information or documents on the websites are compatible with screen reading software for persons with visual impairment.
2. Appeal will be made to candidates to provide a text version of their “Introduction to Candidates” for uploading onto the dedicated election website (www.elections.gov.hk) to facilitate online access of the relevant information using assistive software by persons with visual impairment.
3. Voters with visual impairment may provide/update their e-mail addresses for receiving soft copy of electoral information from the REO by completing an electronic form at the Voter Registration website (vr.gov.hk). They will be reminded through the Short Message Service to read the e-mail issued by the REO. Besides, they can check their own registered particulars at Online Voter Information Enquiry System by using assistive software.
4. The telephone number of the enquiry hotline (2891 1001) will be read out in radio and TV Announcements-in-the-Public-Interests (“APIs”)

so that persons with visual impairment may obtain information relating to electoral arrangements through the hotline.

5. A web-accessible version of the TV APIs will be available on the dedicated election website to facilitate the browsing of election-related information by voters with visual impairment.
6. A braille list of candidates with the candidate numbers, candidates' names and the names of prescribed bodies will be available at polling stations to facilitate access to the relevant information by voters with visual impairment.
7. Braille templates will be available at polling stations to facilitate the marking of ballot papers by voters with visual impairment themselves. Braille templates accommodating up to 30 candidates' numbers are available. If there are more than 30 candidates in the relevant subsector, these voters may seek help from the PRO to mark the ballot paper on their behalf according to their choices.
8. If necessary, voters can seek help from the PRO to mark the ballot papers on their behalf according to their choice inside a voting compartment with a polling staff serving as a witness. Where space permits, one of the voting compartments at each polling station will be separated from the remaining compartments in order to prevent voters at the adjacent compartments from overhearing the conversation between the polling staff and the voters concerned.
9. Voters with visual impairment may bring along their guide dogs into the polling stations.
10. Magnifying glasses will be made available in polling stations to facilitate the viewing of display of the voter's tablet of the Electronic Poll Register System at the issuing desks.

Voters with hearing impairment

1. Sign language interpretation and subtitles will be included in all election-related TV APIs.
2. An “Illustration on Guidance on Voting Procedure” (“pictorial voting aid”) is available at all polling stations to assist voters with hearing impairment in understanding the voting procedures. The Illustration on Guidance on Voting Procedure will be uploaded onto the dedicated election website for voters’ reference before the poll.

Voters of diverse race

1. Electoral information in eight languages of diverse race (Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Punjabi, Tagalog, Thai, Urdu and Vietnamese) other than English, Chinese, Japanese and Korean (in the form of an election brief) will be available on the dedicated election website.
2. Electoral information in the aforesaid eight languages will also be available on the homepage of the Home Affairs Department’s Race Relations Unit (www.had.gov.hk/rru).
3. Information on the election will be broadcast in five languages (Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Thai and Urdu) on radio.
4. Appeal will be made to candidates to provide election advertisements in English and/or languages of diverse race to facilitate understanding by voters who do not read Chinese.
5. Polling stations will be equipped with a Language Assistance Folder containing an “Illustration on Guidance on Voting Procedure” written in ten languages (including the aforesaid eight languages, Japanese and Korean) to assist voters of diverse race in casting their votes.
6. The REO will collaborate with the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (“CHEER”) to provide free interpretation service in the aforesaid eight languages of diverse race, through the REO’s dedicated telephone line, to help voters of

diverse race understand the voting procedures and to facilitate their making of enquiries on election-related matters.

7. Electoral information in the aforesaid eight languages of diverse race will be posted at 10 support service centres for ethnic minorities run by non-governmental organisations.

Other Voters with special needs

1. A pictorial voting aid explaining the voting procedures will be provided at all polling stations to assist voters in need (e.g. voters with intellectual disabilities, voters with speech or communication impairments and voters who are not familiar with Chinese or English, etc.) in understanding the voting procedures. This pictorial voting aid will be uploaded onto the dedicated election website for voters' reference before the poll.
2. Voters who are unable to cast their votes on their own can seek help from the PRO to mark the ballot papers on their behalf according to their voting choices. The whole process will be witnessed by another polling staff to ensure that the voting will be conducted in a fair manner. According to the current legislation, all polling staff (including the PRO) must sign a declaration of secrecy in the specified form and must comply with all requirements concerning voting secrecy. To further protect the privacy of the voters concerned, where space permits, one of the voting compartments at each polling station will be separated from the remaining compartments in order to prevent voters at the adjacent compartments from overhearing the conversation between the polling staff and the voters concerned.