

2026 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections

Important Points to Note for Candidates

This notice serves to list out some common issues encountered in the past elections. Candidates must still read and strictly comply with the applicable electoral laws, “Guidelines on Election-related Activities in respect of the Election Committee Subsector Elections”, and requirements specified in the electoral documents. For any enquiries, please contact the enquiry hotline of the Registration and Electoral Office at 2891 1001.

Submission of Nomination Form

1. Candidates should:
 - (a) submit his/her nomination form **in person** at the Returning Officer’s office;
 - (b) submit his/her nomination form **as early as practicable** so that any mistakes found in his/her nomination form still can be rectified before the end of the nomination period (i.e. on or before 20 October 2026); and
 - (c) pay the election deposit **(HK\$1,000) by cash or “Faster Payment System (FPS)”** as far as possible, refrain from using cheques so as to avoid invalidation of the nomination due to dishonoured cheque.

Introduction to Candidates

2. The Registration and Electoral Office will publish the Introduction to Candidates, send them to the relevant voters and authorized representatives (hereinafter known as “voters”), as well as display them at the polling stations. The Introduction to Candidates will contain the candidate’s name, candidate number, candidate’s personal photograph, personal information and electoral message provided by the candidate. For the production of the Introduction to Candidates in full, candidates must complete and submit the Input Form for Introduction to Candidates **no later than three days after the end of the nomination period (i.e. at or before 5:00 p.m. on 23 October 2026).**

Election Expenses and Donations

3. Election expenses refer to any expenses incurred to promote or prejudice the election of candidates. It is illegal for any person other than a candidate or his/her election expense agent to incur election expenses. If needed, please authorize an election expense agent as early as possible.
4. Candidates must pay special attention to the limit of election expenses in their respective subsectors, please refer to paragraph 16.11 of the “Guidelines on Election-related Activities in respect of the Election Committee Subsector Elections”. **Regardless of the amount exceeded, it is illegal and a candidate would be held responsible** if the candidate, his/her election expense agent, and any person acting on behalf of the candidate **incur election expenses in excess of the limit of election expenses**. However, if the candidate can prove that the relevant persons concerned did not obtain his/her consent to incur the election expenses and he/she was not negligent (e.g. he/she took all practicable measures to prevent such situations), the candidate may use it as a defence.

5. Election donations received by candidates can only be used for these elections. If there are unspent or unused election donations after the elections, such a donation must be given to a charitable institution or trust of a public character.

Election Meetings

6. Any meeting held to promote or prejudice the election of a particular candidate or particular candidates is an election meeting. The expenses so incurred are regarded as election expenses. If a candidate attends an election meeting that is not organized by him/her, the related expenses should be apportioned proportionately and counted as the candidate's election expenses.
7. A candidate does not incur election expenses by attending non election-related meetings. However, if someone acts out of his/her own volition to promote the election of the candidate or prejudice the election of other candidate(s) during the meeting, the candidate should immediately make it clear that he/she has nothing to do with the acts of the person and request the organizer of the meeting to stop. If the organizer fails to do so, the candidate should immediately leave the meeting. Otherwise, the related expenses should also be counted towards the candidate's election expenses.

Election Advertisements ("EA") / Written Consent of Support

8. A person must not publish any materially false or misleading statement of fact about a candidate for the purpose of promoting or prejudicing the election of candidate(s).
9. If the name, logo or pictorial representation of a person or an organization is included in the EA of a candidate, and in such a way as to imply that the candidate has obtained the support from that person or organization:

- (a) he/she has to obtain **prior written consent of support of inclusion of the name, logo or pictorial representation** of that person or organization **in the EA before the publication of the EA, otherwise he/she commits an offence**;
- (b) the written consent of support has to be a single document expressing consent to include one's name, logo or pictorial representation in the EA;
- (c) oral consent does not comply with the statutory requirements; and
- (d) retrospective written consent of support obtained after the publication of the EA also does not comply with the statutory requirements.

Attention! Apart from the inclusion of clear indication of support of a person or an organization in the EA of a candidate, other circumstances (for example, the inclusion of a person or an organization's pictorial representation in a material coverage) may also constitute support of that candidate from that person or organization, and the requirement in paragraph 9(a) above also applies.

10. A candidate must make available a written or electronic copy of each of his/her EAs and the relevant information/documents in relation to the EAs for public inspection **within 3 working days (any day other than a general holiday and Saturday)** after the publication of the EAs (please refer to paragraph 11 below for the ways to make available a copy of the EAs), **otherwise he/she commits an offence**. The relevant information is:

- (a) if an EA is a printed EA, to provide the printing details stating the name and address of the printer, the date of printing and the number of copies printed which are borne on the printed EA;

- (b) if an EA is displayed on private land/property, the written permission or authorization of the private owner or occupier; and
- (c) all relevant written consent of support of that EA.

11. The ways to make available the EAs and the relevant information/documents are confined to:

- (a) uploading onto the Central Platform under the Registration and Electoral Office (<https://www.eapatform.gov.hk>);
- (b) uploading onto an open platform maintained by the candidate; or
- (c) submitting to the Returning Officer.

12. Candidates may request from the REO the personal information of voters (including names, addresses and email addresses) of their subsectors in order to send election mail to voters by post or email. However, candidates must take note of the following:

- (a) the aforementioned information of voters must be used solely for the purpose related to the electioneering activities for these elections. **Any use of relevant information for other purposes is an offence;**
- (b) if candidates send email to more than one voter, they should use the “bcc” function so as to prevent disclosing the email addresses of other voters to recipients;
- (c) candidates must ensure that the information of voters obtained from the REO is **kept in safe custody** and avoid disclosure of information, including preventing the electronic devices with relevant information from being hacked or used improperly; and

- (d) candidates are required to **completely destroy** all the relevant information on or before **7 December 2026** or return the electronic storage devices containing the information and the remaining mailing labels to the REO for disposal. Candidates are also required to return the completed “Reply slip on Confirmation of Destruction of “Candidate Mailing Label System” USB Flash Drives and the Relevant Voters’ Information” to the REO by the deadline.
13. Candidates should remove all their EAs displayed on government land/property **on or before 2 December 2026**. After that date, such EAs will be removed by the relevant departments and the removal costs incurred will be recovered from the candidate concerned. These expenses should constitute election expenses of the candidates which must be included in their election returns. The candidate commits an offence and should bear the responsibility if the maximum amount of election expenses is exceeded as a result of the inclusion of these costs.

Election Return

14. Candidates must submit his/her election return on or before **28 December 2026¹, otherwise he/she commits an offence.** The election return must set out the following:
- (a) all election expenses of the candidate;
 - (b) all election donations received by the candidate or person(s) on his/her behalf. If it is non-cash donation, its value should be calculated based on the market price/regular price of the donated goods or services. Election donations that have been received but not spent or used in these elections must also be declared;

¹ Based on the current plan, the REO will publish the election results in the gazette on 27 November 2026. Candidate must submit his/her election return within 30 days (i.e., on or before 28 December 2026) after this date. The REO will issue letters to candidates in late November 2026 reminding candidates of the deadline for lodging election returns but candidates are reminded that they are solely responsible for lodging the Election Return on time and should not rely on receiving any reminder.

- (c) for each election expense of HK\$500 or more, the election return must be accompanied by invoices and receipts issued by the goods or service provider. The invoices and receipts should contain the date, information and amount of the goods or services, information of the goods or service providers and information which proves that the goods or service provider has received the relevant payment in full, such as name and signature or stamp of the payee;
- (d) for election donations of more than HK\$1,000 (including multiple election donations from the same donor with a total value of more than HK\$1,000), the election return must be accompanied by a copy of the receipt issued by the candidate to the donor, specifying the name and address of the donor concerned, as well as particulars of the donations;
- (e) donations consisting of more than \$1,000 in value received from anonymous donors must not be used for meeting election expenses and must be given to a charitable institution or trust of a public character chosen by the candidate instead, the election return must be accompanied by a copy of receipt issued by that charitable organization; and
- (f) for each election donation that is not entirely used for these elections and must be given to charitable institutions or trusts of a public character, the election return must be accompanied by a copy of receipt issued by that charitable organization.

15. If an expense is partly related to the election and partly for other purposes, it should be apportioned proportionately. As a general principle, time and/or usage² are relevant factors for consideration in apportioning expenses.
16. If an election expense (such as an election advertisement) involves more than one candidate, it should be apportioned according to the principle mentioned above and included in the election returns of all relevant candidates. Even if one of the candidates considers that the relevant advertisement or expense belongs only to other candidate(s), if the relevant advertisement or expense could objectively promote the election of that candidate, he/she must still apportion the expenses proportionately.
17. Even if a candidate did not incur any election expenses or receive any election donations, he/she is still required to submit the election return within the deadline stating this point, **otherwise he/she commits an offence.**

Registration and Electoral Office

August 2026

² For example, if Candidate A and Candidate B jointly rent an office with an area of 600 square feet, with Candidate A occupying 200 square feet and Candidate B occupying 400 square feet, and the office is used for election-related purpose for 3 months. Assuming the monthly rent is HK\$12,000, the calculation for apportioning the office rental expenses is as follows: Candidate A's share is $\text{HK\$12,000} \times 3 \text{ months} \times 200/600 \text{ square feet} = \text{HK\$12,000}$, and Candidate B's share is $\text{HK\$12,000} \times 3 \text{ months} \times 400/600 \text{ square feet} = \text{HK\$24,000}$.

Attachment: Summary of Important Deadlines

Item	Date
Submit nomination form	7 to 20 October 2026
Submit Input Form for Introduction to Candidates	At or before 5:00 p.m. on 23 October 2026
Obtain written consent of support	before publication of the relevant Election Advertisements (EAs)
Make available a copy of the EAs and relevant information	within 3 working days after publication of the EAs
Remove all EAs displayed on government land/property	on or before 2 December 2026
Destroy the information of voters and authorized representatives obtained from the Registration and Electoral Office	on or before 7 December 2026
Submit election return (even if no election expenses incurred or no election donations received)	on or before 28 December 2026