

Mock polling stations of 2023 District Council Ordinary Election open tomorrow

The 2023 District Council Ordinary Election will be held on December 10 (Sunday). The Registration and Electoral Office will open four mock polling stations for four days starting tomorrow (December 5) to help District Council geographical constituency (DCGC) electors familiarise themselves with voting procedures.

The four mock polling stations will be set up at North Point Community Hall, Kwun Tong Community Centre, Tai Po Community Centre and Tuen Mun Tseng Choi Street Community Hall. They will be open from 4pm to 8pm tomorrow, and from noon to 8pm from December 6 to 8.

A hotline (2967 0367) and a fax line (2834 0934) have been set up by the REO to arrange appointments for group visits to the mock polling stations on December 6 and 7.

On the polling day, there will be more than 600 DCGC ordinary polling stations, 18 District Committees constituency (DCC) polling stations and a maximum of 48 dedicated polling stations. Four near boundary polling stations will be set up at two secondary schools in the vicinity of Sheung Shui MTR Station to enable electors who reside in the Mainland or need to travel to and from the Mainland on the polling day to cast their DCGC votes. DCGC electors may register before 6pm tomorrow via the online registration system (www.reo-form.gov.hk/NBPS/en). From December 6, electors may log in to the Online Voter Information Enquiry System (www.voterinfo.gov.hk) to check the final polling station allocated.

Members of the public can view both the front and the back of mock ballot papers for the DCGCs and the DCCs on the election website (www.elections.gov.hk/dc2023/eng/pollinfo.html). There is also a description on its special features.

"Measures have been taken by the REO to enable electors with special needs to cast their vote. In this election, over 90 per cent of the polling stations are accessible to electors with mobility difficulty or those who use wheelchairs. If required and possible, the REO will install temporary ramps at polling stations to facilitate electors with mobility difficulties," the spokesman said.

The location map of the polling station enclosed with the poll card specifies clearly whether the designated polling station is accessible to electors who have mobility difficulties or are wheelchair users.

"Electors with mobility difficulties or those who use wheelchairs who

have been allocated to a polling station which is inaccessible to them may apply to the REO by tomorrow (i.e. at least five days before the polling day) through the election hotline (2891 1001), fax (2891 1180) or email (reoeng@reo.gov.hk) for reallocation to another polling station. If possible, the REO will also arrange rehab buses to take them to and from polling stations upon request," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the Electoral Affairs Commission encourages candidates to provide a text version of their Introduction to Candidates to enable electors with visual impairment to understand the content using software aids. The text versions provided by candidates have been uploaded to the election website (www.elections.gov.hk/dc2023/eng/introduction.html). Electors with visual impairment may also listen to the candidates' introductions by calling the dedicated 24-hour Interactive Voice Response System (2893 3762). Braille templates will also be provided at polling stations to assist electors with visual impairment to vote.

To help electors who are unfamiliar with Chinese and English to cast their votes, voting procedures guides in 10 other languages (Japanese, Korean, Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Punjabi, Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese and Urdu) will be available at every polling station. Information on the election in these languages has also been uploaded to the election website.

The REO has also made arrangements with the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents run by the Hong Kong Christian Service to provide a telephone simultaneous interpretation service with eight languages (Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Punjabi, Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese and Urdu) to electors concerned to assist them in consulting the REO on election matters from November 27 to December 1 and from December 4 to the polling day.

An Illustration on Guidance on Voting Procedure showing the voting procedures will also be provided at polling stations to help electors with hearing or communication problems and electors who are not familiar with Chinese and English to understand the voting procedures. The Illustration on Guidance on Voting Procedure has been uploaded to the election website (www.elections.gov.hk/dc2023/eng/pollinfo.html).

Information about the election is available on the election website (www.elections.gov.hk). For enquiries, please call the election hotline (2891 1001).

[Import of poultry meat and products](#)

from areas in Belgium and Germany suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (December 4) that in view of notifications from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in West-Vlaanderen Province in Belgium and the District of Ostprignitz-Ruppin of the State of Brandenburg in Germany, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the above-mentioned areas with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that according to the Census and Statistics Department, in the first nine months of this year, Hong Kong imported about 180 tonnes of frozen poultry meat from Germany while no poultry meat or eggs were imported into Hong Kong from Belgium.

"The CFS has contacted the Belgian and German authorities over the issues and will closely monitor information issued by the WOAH and the relevant authorities on the avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.

Secondary School Profiles 2023/2024 to be released tomorrow

The following is issued on behalf of the Committee on Home-School Co-operation:

The Committee on Home-School Co-operation (CHSC) will release the online version of the Secondary School Profiles 2023/2024 (in Chinese and English) tomorrow (December 5). Primary schools will distribute the printed version of the Profiles to parents with children studying Primary Six in the current school year.

The Profiles cover basic information on more than 400 local secondary schools including teaching staff information, class structure, school facilities, subjects offered, student support as well as learning and teaching plan, such as language policies. The information is provided and verified by individual schools, reflecting their situation as at September 2023.

The Profiles provide parents with essential school information to assist them in choosing a suitable school for their children. The Profiles also include a "Message from CHSC Chairman", which explains the key points for parents when choosing schools.

Schools can update the online version of the Profiles whenever necessary so that parents can obtain the most up-to-date school information.

The public can access the online version of the Profiles by visiting the Secondary School Profiles webpage at www.chsc.hk/secondary/en. Copies of the printed version will be available for public reference at District Offices, public libraries and Regional Education Offices of the Education Bureau (EDB).

For enquiries, please call the EDB's Regional Education Offices (Hong Kong: 2863 4646; Kowloon: 3698 4108; New Territories East: 2639 4876; and New Territories West: 2437 7272) or the CHSC Secretariat at 3698 4376.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, December 4, 2023 is 104.2 (up 0.2 against last Saturday's index).

â€‹The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, December 2, 2023 was 104 (down 0.4 against last Friday's index).

SED visits Japan to attend launch symposium on latest OECD PISA results in Asia

The Secretary for Education, Dr Choi Yuk-lin, will depart for Tokyo, Japan, tomorrow (December 5) to attend the launch symposium on the latest results of the Programme for International Student Assessment by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD PISA) in Asia. She will also attend the panel discussion session.

During the trip, Dr Choi will visit local schools and education units, and meet Hong Kong students studying in Japan.

Dr Choi will return to Hong Kong on Friday afternoon (December 8). During her absence, the Under Secretary for Education, Mr Sze Chun-fai, will be the Acting Secretary for Education.