

**Administration's Responses to Points raised on 24 April 2001  
by Members of the Bills Committee  
on the Chief Executive Election Bill**

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*(for submission to the Bills Committee meeting to be held on 2 May 2001)*

**Polling date**

**Q1: Whether the polling date of the CE election should fall on a Thursday or on a Sunday?**

A1: We originally propose that the polling date of the CE election should be the first Thursday at least 90 days before the office of the CE becomes vacant under normal expiry of his term. In fact, we had considered the option of fixing it on the first Sunday. However, if we do that, there is a possibility for the polling day to fall on the Easter Sunday. This is what will happen in the 2002 CE election, and it could be so in subsequent elections.

Counting 90 days backwards from 1 July 2002 when the office of the CE will fall vacant gives 2 April 2002 (Tuesday) and the Sunday immediately preceding it is 31 March 2002 which is the Easter Sunday. As many Hong Kong residents might be out of town during Easter holidays, and if we are to hold the CE election on Easter Sunday, there is a likelihood that the voter turnout rate would be affected. Our original proposal that the CE election be held on the first Thursday (i.e. 28 March 2002) was made with a view to avoiding the Easter holidays.

Nevertheless, in the light of Members' view that the CE election should be held on a Sunday, we propose to slightly revise our formula so that the polling date of the CE election will fall on the first Sunday immediately preceding the date 95 days before the office of the CE becomes vacant. This will give 24 March 2002 (Sunday) as the polling date. If Members accept our revised proposal, we will proceed to drafting the Administration's amendments.

Constitutional Affairs Bureau  
28 April 2001