

FACT SHEET

Woman participation in the Legislative Council, the District Councils, the public sector advisory and statutory bodies, the Government of Hong Kong and selected overseas legislatures

Table 1 – Facts about female Members in the Legislative Council

Year in which a female legislator was first appointed to the Legislative Council	1965
Number of female legislators appointed or elected (from 1965 to present)	37
Number of female legislators appointed	13
Number of female legislators elected	18
Number of same female legislators appointed and elected at different periods of time	6
Average age when first appointed or elected	47 years old
Average age when first appointed	43 years old
Average age when first elected	51 years old
Longest period of service	27 years

Sources: Legislative Council Secretariat (2002), Legislative Council Secretariat (2004) and *Legislative Council* (2009).

Table 2 – Number of female Members in the Legislative Council of Hong Kong (percentage in parenthesis)

	Female Official Members ⁽¹⁾	Female Non-official Members ⁽¹⁾	Total number of Members
1965	0	1 (4%)	26 (100%)
1976-1977	0	3 (7%)	42 (100%)
1982- 1983	1 (2%)	5 (10%)	50 (100%)
1985-1988	0	7 (12%)	57 (100%)
1988-1991	2 (4%)	11 (19%)	57 (100%)
1991-1995	1 (2%)	7 (12%)	61 ⁽²⁾ (100%)
1995-1997	Not applicable	7 (12%)	60 (100%)
1997-1998	Not applicable	9 (15%)	60 (100%)
1998-2000	Not applicable	10 (17%)	60 (100%)
2000-2004	Not applicable	11 (18%)	60 (100%)
2004-2008	Not applicable	12 (20%)	60 (100%)
2008-2012	Not applicable	11 (18%)	60 (100%)

Notes: (1) Figures refer to the highest number of seats taken by female Members during the specified sessions or terms.

(2) The Governor had been the President of the Legislative Council until February 1993 when the then Governor handed over the presidency to a Non-official Member elected to that office by all Non-official Members, with the total number of Members down to 60 since then.

Sources: Legislative Council Secretariat (2004) and Legislative Council Secretariat (2009).

Table 3 – Number of male and female Members holding office of chairperson and deputy chairperson in panels, committees and subcommittees of the Legislative Council in Year 2008-2009 (percentage in parenthesis)

	Number of Panels/Committees	Male Members	Female Members
Membership of the Legislative Council	Not applicable	49 (82%)	11 (18%)
Panels			
Chairperson	18	14 (78%)	4 (22%)
Deputy chairperson	18	14 (78%)	4 (22%)
Bills Committees activated			
Chairperson	21	16 (76%)	5 (24%)
Deputy chairperson	21	2 ⁽¹⁾ (100%)	0 (0%)
Other Committees⁽²⁾			
Chairperson	6	2 (33%)	4 (67%)
Deputy chairperson	6	4 (67%)	2 (33%)

Notes: (1) Only two Bills Committees had the position of deputy chairperson.

(2) Other committees comprised the Finance Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, the Committee on Members' Interests, the House Committee, the Committee on Rules of Procedures and the Select Committee to Inquire into Matters Relating to the Post-service Work of Mr LEUNG Chin-man.

Source: *Legislative Council* (2009).

Table 3 – Number of male and female Members holding office of chairperson and deputy chairperson in panels, committees and subcommittees of the Legislative Council in Year 2008-2009 (percentage in parenthesis) (cont'd)

	Number of Subcommittees	Male Members	Female Members
Subcommittees of Finance Committee⁽³⁾			
Chairperson	2	2 (100%)	0 (0%)
Deputy chairperson	2	1 (50%)	1 (50%)
Subcommittees of House Committee⁽⁴⁾			
Chairperson	6	3 (50%)	3 (50%)
Deputy chairperson	6	3 (75%)	1 ⁽⁴⁾ (25%)
Subcommittees on Subsidiary Legislation			
Chairperson	25	16 (64%)	9 (36%)

Notes: (3) Subcommittees of the Finance Committee are the Establishment Subcommittee and the Public Works Subcommittee.

(4) Subcommittees of the House Committee comprised: (a) the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee; (b) the Subcommittee to Study Issues Arising from Lehman Brothers-related Minibonds and Structured Financial Products; (c) the Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Mainland-HKSAR Families; (d) the Subcommittee on Preparatory Work for the Appointment of the Select Committee to Inquire into Matters Relating to the Post-service Employment of Mr LEUNG Chin-man; (e) the Subcommittee to Examine the Implementation in Hong Kong of Resolutions of the United Nations Security Council in relation to Sanctions; and (f) the Subcommittee on Members' Remuneration and Operating Expenses Reimbursement. Only the first four subcommittees had the position of deputy chairperson.

Table 4 – Number of male and female Members who raised questions, moved and spoke in motions not intended to have legislative effect during Council Meetings of the Legislative Council in Year 2008-2009 (percentage in parenthesis)

	No. of questions/motions not intended to have legislative effect	Male Members	Female Members
Membership of the Legislative Council	Not applicable	49 (82%)	11 (18%)
Oral questions	154	122 (79%)	32 (21%)
Written questions	443	349 (79%)	94 (21%)
Moving of motions not intended to have legislative effect ⁽¹⁾	62	49 (79%)	13 (21%)
Spoke in motions not intended to have legislative effect	62	1 006 (79%)	263 (21%)

Note: (1) Motions moved by Members for debating issues of public concern and motions moved for the adjournment of the Council for discussing issues of urgent public importance or raising any issues concerning public interest.

Source: *Legislative Council* (2009).

Table 5 – Number of appointed and elected female members in the District Councils (Boards) of Hong Kong (percentage in parenthesis)

	Appointed members		Elected members		Appointed and elected members	
	Number of female members	Total number of appointed members	Number of female members	Total number of elected members	Number of female members	Total number of appointed and elected members
1985	21 (16%)	132 (100%)	17 (7%)	237 (100%)	38 (10%)	369 (100%)
1988	22 (16%)	141 (100%)	27 (10%)	264 (100%)	49 (12%)	405 (100%)
1991	17 (13%)	133 (100%)	24 (9%)	272 (100%)	41 (10%)	405 (100%)
1994 ⁽¹⁾	0	0	37 (11%)	346 (100%)	37 (11%)	346 (100%)
1997 ⁽²⁾	50 (11%)	469 (100%)	0	0	50 (11%)	469 (100%)
1999	15 (15%)	102 (100%)	57 (15%)	390 (100%)	72 (15%)	492 (100%)
2003	19 (19%)	102 (100%)	71 (18%)	400 (100%)	90 (18%)	502 (100%)
2007	17 (17%)	102 (100%)	79 (20%)	405 (100%)	96 (19%)	507 (100%)

Notes: (1) The then Governor Chris Patten abolished the appointed membership of District Boards.

(2) Eighteen Provisional District Boards were established with members appointed by the Chief Executive to replace the former District Boards in July 1997.

Sources: Legislative Council Secretariat (2004), *District Council* (2009) and Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2007).

Table 6 – Number of appointed male and female non-official post holders in the public sector advisory and statutory bodies in Hong Kong⁽¹⁾ (percentage in parenthesis)

	Appointed male non-official post holders	Appointed female non-official post holders	Total number of appointed non-official post holders
2005 ⁽²⁾	5 873 (76%)	1 888 (24%)	7 761 (100%)
2006 ⁽³⁾	3 727 (74%)	1 294 (26%)	5 021 (100%)
2007 ⁽⁴⁾	3 844 (73%)	1 386 (27%)	5 230 (100%)
2008 ⁽⁵⁾	3 886 (72%)	1 484 (28%)	5 370 (100%)

Notes: (1) Public sector advisory and statutory bodies include advisory boards and committees, non-departmental public bodies, regulatory boards and bodies, appeal boards, advisory and management boards of trusts, funds and funding schemes, public corporations and other boards and committees such as university councils.

(2) Figures as at March 2005.

(3) Figures as at October 2006.

(4) Figures as at October 2007.

(5) Figures as at December 2008.

Sources: Home Affairs Bureau (2005), Home Affairs Bureau (2009), Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2006) and Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2008).

Table 7 – Number of male and female principal officials⁽¹⁾ in the Government of Hong Kong (percentage in parenthesis)

	Male principal officials	Female principal officials	Total number of principal officials
2002 ⁽²⁾	11 (79%)	3 (21%)	14 (100%)
2005 ⁽³⁾	12 (86%)	2 (14%)	14 (100%)
2007 ⁽⁴⁾	12 (80%)	3 (20%)	15 (100%)
2009 ⁽⁵⁾	11 (73%)	4 (27%)	15 (100%)

Notes: (1) Principal officials consist of the Secretaries of Departments and the Directors of Bureaux under the Accountability System introduced in July 2002.

(2) Figures as at July 2002.

(3) Figures as at July 2005.

(4) Figures as at July 2007.

(5) Figures as at September 2009.

Sources: Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2009a) and Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2009b).

Table 8 – Number of male and female directorate officers of post remunerated at D6 or above of the directorate pay scale, or equivalent, in the Government of Hong Kong (percentage in parenthesis)

	Male directorate officers at D6 or above	Female directorate officers at D6 or above	Total number of directorate officers at D6 or above
1985	24 (100%)	0 (0%)	24 (100%)
1988	26 (96%)	1 (4%)	27 (100%)
1991	55 (96%)	2 (4%)	57 (100%)
1994	54 (89%)	7 (11%)	61 (100%)
1997	44 (80%)	11 (20%)	55 (100%)
2000	44 (75%)	15 (25%)	59 (100%)
2003 ⁽¹⁾	37 (67%)	18 (33%)	55 (100%)
2006 ⁽²⁾	46 (70%)	20 (30%)	66 (100%)
2009 ⁽³⁾	39 (64%)	22 (36%)	61 (100%)

Notes: (1) Figures as at 15 April 2003.

(2) Figures as at 30 June 2006.

(3) Figures as at 30 June 2009.

Sources: Legislative Council Secretariat (2004) and information provided by the Civil Service Bureau.

Table 9 – Female Members in selected legislatures

Jurisdiction	Lower or single House				Upper House or Senate			
	Year of election	Total number of seats ⁽¹⁾	Seats taken by female Members ⁽¹⁾	% of female Members	Year of election	Total number of seats ⁽¹⁾	Seats taken by female Members ⁽¹⁾	% of female Members
Australia ⁽²⁾	2007	147	40	27%	2007	76	27	36%
Canada ⁽³⁾	2008	308	68	22%	Not applicable	103	35	34%
Hong Kong⁽⁴⁾	2008	60	11	18%	–	–	–	–
Japan ⁽⁵⁾	2009	480	54	11%	2007	242	42	17%
Singapore ⁽⁶⁾	2006	93	22	24%	–	–	–	–
Sweden ⁽⁷⁾	2006	349	161	46%	–	–	–	–
United Kingdom ⁽⁸⁾	2005	646	126	20%	Not applicable	737	148	20%
United States of America ⁽⁹⁾	2008	435	73	17%	2008	100	17	17%

Notes: (1) Figures correspond to the number of seats filled in the respective legislature.

(2) Figures of the House of Representatives of Australia as at 16 November 2009 and figures of the Senate of Australia as at 24 November 2009.

(3) Figures of the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada as at 24 November 2009.

(4) Figures of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong as at 31 December 2009.

(5) Figures of the House of Representatives of Japan as at 20 October 2009 and figures of the House of Councillors of Japan as at 28 October 2009.

(6) Figures of the Parliament of Singapore as at 20 July 2009.

(7) Figures of the Sveriges Riksdag (Parliament of Sweden) as at 24 November 2009.

(8) Figures of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom as at 13 November 2009 and figures of the House of Lords of the United Kingdom as at 2 November 2009.

(9) Figures of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States of America as at 24 November 2009.

Sources: House of Representatives of Australia (2009), Senate of Australia (2009), Parliament of Canada (2009), House of Representatives of Japan (2009), House of Councillors of Japan (2009), Parliament of Singapore (2009), Sveriges Riksdag (2009), United Kingdom Parliament (2009), House of Representatives of the United States (2009) and United States Senate (2009).

References

Hong Kong

1. *District Council*. (2009) Available from: http://www.districtcouncils.gov.hk/text_eng.htm [Accessed November 2009].
2. Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. (2006) *Press Releases: LCQ9: Promotion of women's participation in advisory bodies*. Available from: <http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200612/06/P200612060136.htm> [Accessed November 2009].
3. Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. (2007) *Press Releases: 102 Members Appointed to District Councils*. Available from: <http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200712/14/P200712140230.htm> [Accessed November 2009].
4. Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. (2008) *Press Releases: LCQ20: Gender mainstreaming*. Available from: http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200801/30/P200801300158_print.htm [Accessed November 2009].
5. Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. (2009a) News Archives: *Press Releases*. Available from: <http://www.isd.gov.hk/pr/eng/> [Accessed November 2009].
6. Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. (2009b) *Principal Officials of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region*. Available from: <http://www.gov.hk/en/about/govdirectory/po/index.htm> [Accessed November 2009].
7. Home Affairs Bureau. (2005) *Progress Report on the Review of Advisory and Statutory Bodies*. Paper submitted to the Panel on Home Affairs of the Legislative Council. LC Paper No. CB(2)1488/04-05(01).
8. Home Affairs Bureau. (2009) *Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10*. Reply Serial No. HAB039. Available from: http://www.hab.gov.hk/file_manager/en/documents/whats_new/HAB_budget_e.pdf [Accessed November 2009].

-
9. Legislative Council Secretariat. (2002) *Profiles of Appointed/Elected Legislative Council Members 1946-2004*. LC Paper No. IR01/02-03.
 10. Legislative Council Secretariat. (2004) *Fact Sheet on Women in the Legislative Council, the District Council, the Government of Hong Kong and other Legislatures*. LC Paper No. FS13/03-04.
 11. *Legislative Council*. (2009) Available from: <http://www.legco.gov.hk/english/index.htm> [Accessed November 2009].
 12. Legislative Council Secretariat. (2009) *Fact Sheet on Legislative Council in figures as at 30 April 2009*. LC Paper No. FS05/08-09.

Others

13. House of Councillors of Japan. (2009) *Strength of the Political Groups in the House of Councillors*. Available from: <http://www.sangiin.go.jp/eng/member/strength/index.htm> [Accessed November 2009].
14. House of Representatives of Australia. (2009) *Members*. Available from: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/members/index.htm> [Accessed November 2009].
15. House of Representatives of Japan. (2009) *Strength of Political Groups in the House of Representatives*. Available from: http://www.shugiin.go.jp/index.nsf/html/index_e_strength.htm [Accessed November 2009].
16. House of Representatives of the United States. (2009) *Historical Data: Women Representatives and Senators by Congress, 1917 – Present*. Available from: <http://womenincongress.house.gov/historical-data/representatives-senators-by-congress.html?congress=111> [Accessed November 2009].
17. Parliament of Canada. (2009) *Senators and Members*. Available from: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/SenatorsMembers.asp?Language=E> [Accessed November 2009].

-
18. Parliament of Singapore. (2009) *List of Members of Parliament*. Available from: <http://www.parliament.gov.sg/AboutUs/Org-MP-currentMP.htm> [Accessed November 2009].
 19. Senate of Australia. (2009) *Women Senators*. Available from: <http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/senators/womensen.htm> [Accessed November 2009].
 20. Sveriges Riksdag. (2009) *Members*. Available from: <http://www.riksdagen.se/Webbnav/index.aspx?nid=1810> [Accessed November 2009].
 21. United Kingdom Parliament. (2009) *MPs, Lords and Offices*. Available from: <http://www.parliament.uk/mpslordsandoffices/index.cfm> [Accessed November 2009].
 22. United States Senate. (2009) *Women in the Senate*. Available from: http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/briefing/women_senators.htm [Accessed November 2009].

Research and Library Services Division
23 February 2010
Tel: 2869 9343

Fact sheets are compiled for Members and Committees of the Legislative Council. They are not legal or other professional advice and shall not be relied on as such. Fact sheets are subject to copyright owned by the Legislative Council Commission (the Commission). The Commission permits accurate reproduction of fact sheets for non-commercial use in a manner not adversely affecting the Legislative Council, provided that acknowledgement is made stating the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat as the source and one copy of the reproduction is sent to the Legislative Council Library.
