



Women's participation in public affairs in Hong Kong

Research Office
Legislative Council Secretariat

Numbers & Figures

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This issue of **Numbers and Figures** summarizes the profile of women's representation in the Legislature, the District Council, the Government, and the public sector advisory and statutory bodies. Unless otherwise specified, figures shown hereunder are up to end-March 2019.

Part A — The Legislature

Figure 1 — Female Members in the Legislative Council (1965-present)

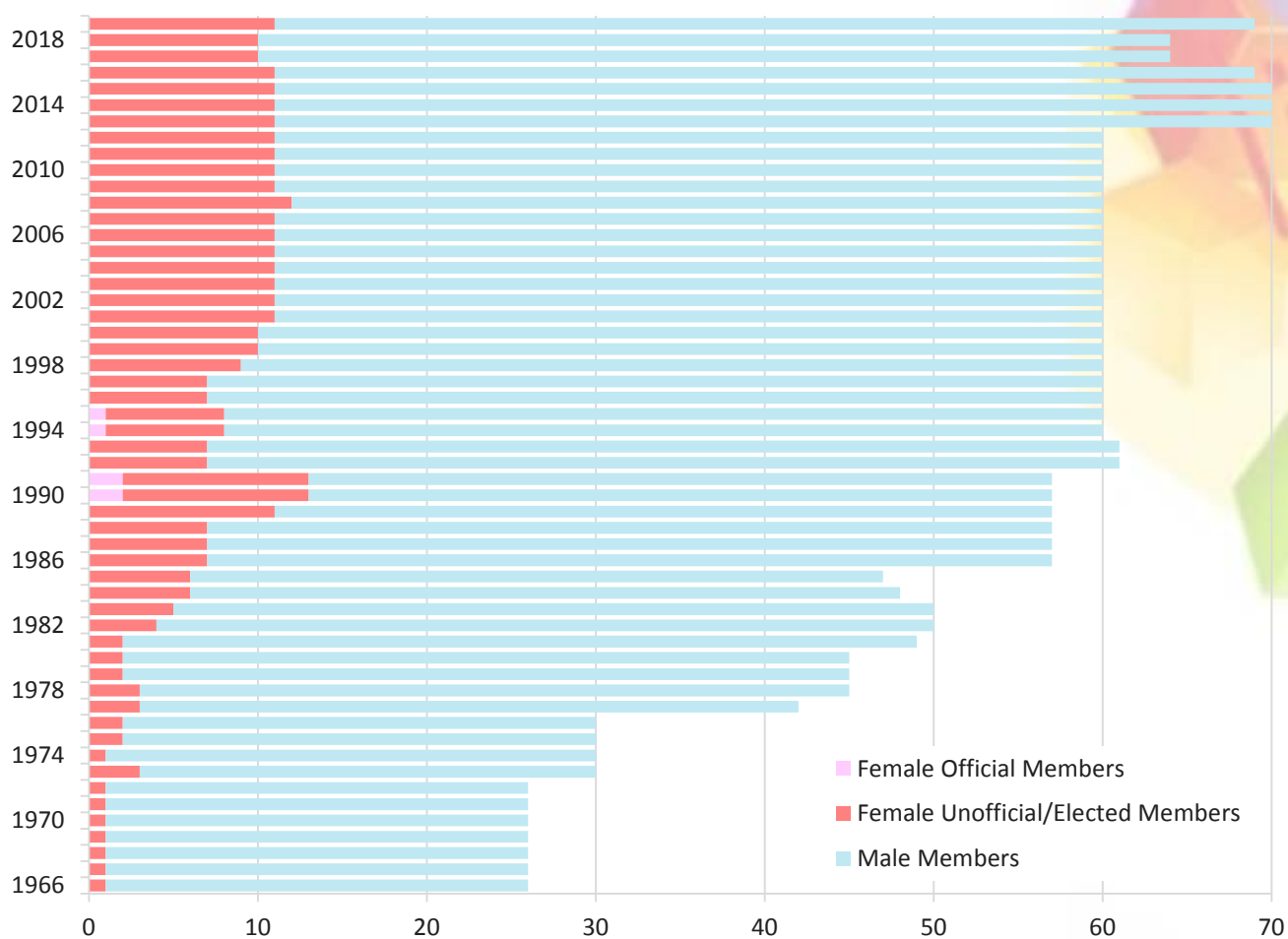
Year when female Members were first appointed/elected to the Legislature	1965 (appointed) 1988 (elected)
Number of female Members from 1965 to present	44
Appointed Members	13
Elected Members	23
Elected Members who had served as Appointed Members before	8
Age when first appointed	33 (youngest) 60 (oldest) 44 (average)
Age when first elected	34 (youngest) 75 (oldest) 50 (average)
Years of service ⁽¹⁾	one year (shortest) 27 years (longest) nine years (average)
Occupation	
Full-time Legislator (12 Members); Educator (10 Members); Lawyer (seven Members); Businessperson (four Members); Accountant (two Members); Trade Unionist (two Members); and Others (seven Members)	
Educational attainment	
Secondary and above (44 Members ⁽²⁾)	
Political affiliation of elected female Members	
Politically affiliated (24 Members)	
Independent/political affiliation undeclared (seven Members)	

Notes: (1) Any period of less than one year is counted as one year.

(2) Among them, there are 43 Members with tertiary and above educational attainment, including eight Members who hold doctorate degrees.

Sources: Hong Kong Yearbook (various years), Legislative Council Secretariat and Members' Directory (various years).

Figure 2 — Number of female Members in the Legislative Council (1966-present)⁽¹⁾



Period		Female Members		Total number of Members
		Official Members	Unofficial/Elected Members	
1960s	1966	0	1 (4%)	26
	1967	0	1 (4%)	26
	1968	0	1 (4%)	26
	1969	0	1 (4%)	26
1970s	1970	0	1 (4%)	26
	1971	0	1 (4%)	26
	1972	0	1 (4%)	26
	1973	0	3 (10%)	30
	1974	0	1 (3%)	30
	1975	0	2 (7%)	30
	1976	0	2 (7%)	30
	1977	0	3 (7%)	42
	1978	0	3 (7%)	45
	1979	0	2 (4%)	45

Note: (1) Annual figures refer to the positions as at the beginning of each year.

**Figure 2 — Number of female Members in the Legislative Council (1966-present)⁽¹⁾
(cont'd)**

Period		Female Members		Total number of Members
		Official Members	Unofficial/Elected Members	
1980s	1980	0	2 (4%)	45
	1981	0	2 (4%)	49
	1982	0	4 (8%)	50
	1983	0	5 (10%)	50
	1984	0	6 (13%)	48
	1985	0	6 (13%)	47
	1986	0	7 (12%)	57
	1987	0	7 (12%)	57
	1988	0	7 (12%)	57
	1989	0	11 (19%)	57
1990s	1990	2 (4%)	11 (19%)	57
	1991	2 (4%)	11 (19%)	57
	1992	0	7 (11%)	61
	1993	0	7 (11%)	61
	1994	1 (2%)	7 (11%)	60 ⁽²⁾
	1995	1 (2%)	7 (11%)	60
	1996	Abolition of seats for Official Members ⁽³⁾	7 (12%) ⁽³⁾	60
	1997		7 (12%) ⁽⁴⁾	60
	1998		9 (15%)	60
	1999		10 (17%)	60
2000s	2000		10 (17%)	60
	2001		11 (18%) ⁽⁵⁾	60
	2002		11 (18%)	60
	2003		11 (18%)	60
	2004		11 (18%)	60
	2005		11 (18%)	60
	2006	11 (18%)	60	
	2007	11 (18%)	60	
	2008	12 (20%) ⁽⁶⁾	60	
	2009	11 (18%)	60	

Notes: (2) The Governor in his capacity as the President had been a Member of the Legislative Council until February 1993, when the then Governor Chris Patten handed over the presidency to an Unofficial Member who was elected to that office by all Unofficial Members. As such, the total number of Members of the Legislative Council decreased from 61 to 60.

(3) The Legislative Council (Electoral Provisions) (Amendment) Bill, providing for the abolition of seats for all Official Members and Unofficial Members, was passed in June 1994. Following the passage of the Bill, all Members of the Legislative Council have been returned by elections since September 1995.

(4) One female Member resigned in June 1997. Her seat was replaced by another female Member a month later.

(5) One male Member, who was returned by geographical constituency, did not accept the office. His seat was replaced by a female Member in December 2000.

(6) One male Member, who was returned by geographical constituency, passed away in August 2007. His seat was replaced by a female Member in December 2007.

**Figure 2 — Number of female Members in the Legislative Council (1966-present)⁽¹⁾
(cont'd)**

Period		Female Members		Total number of Members
		Official Members	Unofficial/Elected Members	
2010s	2010	Abolition of seats for Official Members ⁽³⁾	11 (18%)	60
	2011		11 (18%)	60
	2012		11 (18%)	60
	2013		11 (16%)	70
	2014		11 (16%)	70
	2015		11 (16%)	70
	2016		11 (16%)	69 ⁽⁷⁾
	2017		10 (16%) ^{(8), (9)}	64 ^{(8), (9)}
	2018		10 (16%) ^{(8), (9)}	64 ^{(8), (9)}
	2019		11 (16%) ^{(8), (9), (11)}	69 ^{(8), (9), (10), (11)}

Notes: (7) One male Member resigned in September 2015. His seat was replaced by a male Member in February 2016. As such, the total number of Members of the Legislative Council on 1 January 2016 fell short from the total number of seats (70) by one.

(8) According to the Judgment of the Court of First Instance of the High Court on 15 November 2016, Sixtus LEUNG Chung-hang and YAU Wai-ching have been disqualified from assuming the office of a Member of the Legislative Council, and have vacated the same since 12 October 2016, and are not entitled to act as a Member of Legislative Council. Accordingly, the figure does not include the disqualified Members mentioned.

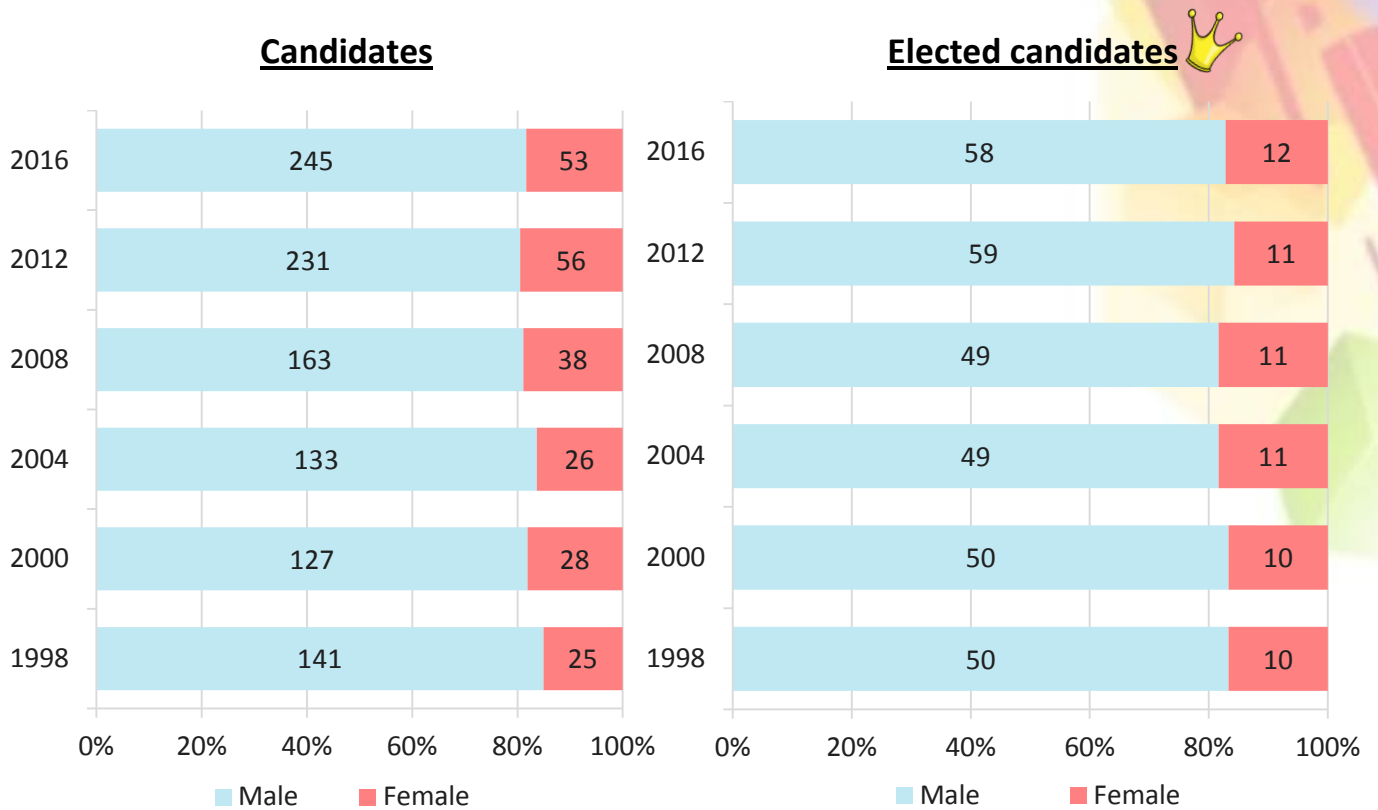
(9) According to the Judgment of the Court of First Instance of the High Court on 14 July 2017, LEUNG Kwok-hung, Nathan LAW Kwun-chung, YIU Chung-yim and LAU Siu-lai have been disqualified from assuming the office of a Member of Legislative Council, and have vacated the same since 12 October 2016, and are not entitled to act as a Member of Legislative Council. Accordingly, the figure does not include the disqualified Members mentioned.

(10) Gary FAN Kwok-wai, AU Nok-hin, Vincent CHENG Wing-shun and Tony TSE Wai-chuen were declared to be returned as Members of Legislative Council at the Legislative Council by-election held on 11 March 2018, and took the oath to assume office at the Council meeting of 21 March 2018. Accordingly, the figure includes the four Members returned from the by-election mentioned.

(11) CHAN Hoi-yan was declared to be returned as a Member of Legislative Council at the Legislative Council by-election held on 25 November 2018, and took the oath to assume office at the Council meeting of 28 November 2018. Accordingly, the figure includes the Member returned from the by-election mentioned.

Sources: Hong Kong Yearbook (various years) and Legislative Council Secretariat.

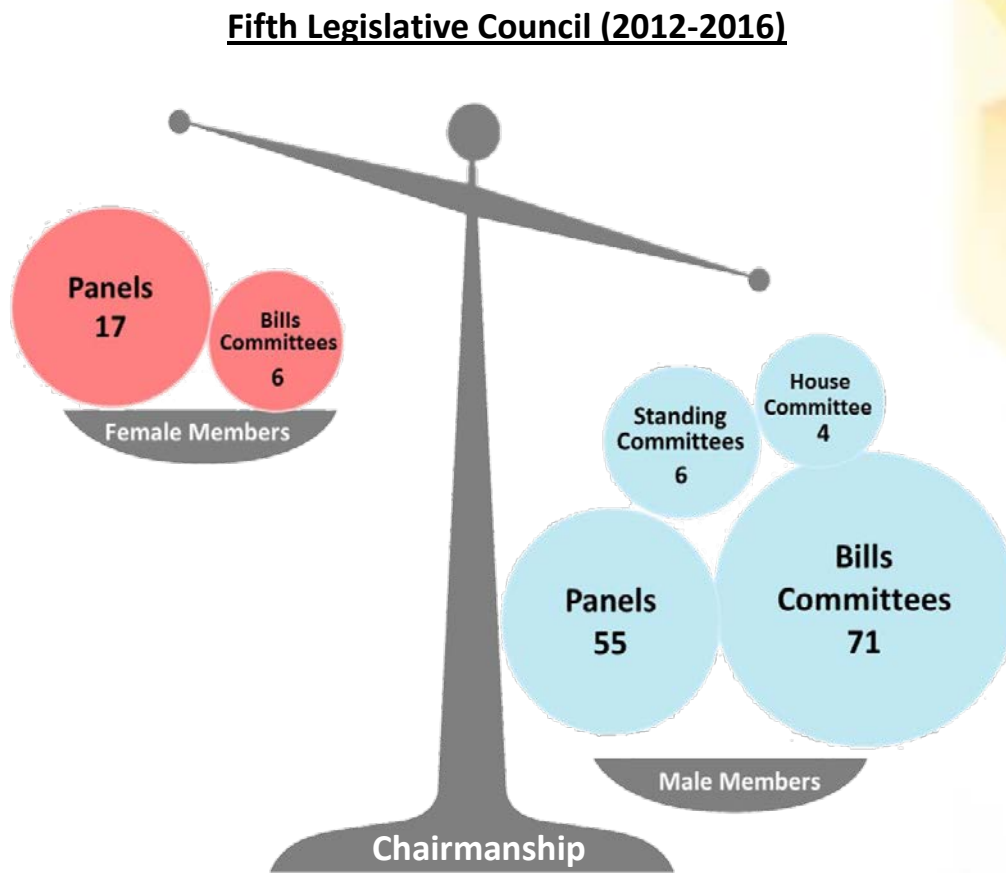
Figure 3 — Number of female and male candidates and elected candidates in Legislative Council elections (1998-2016)



	Number of candidates			Number of elected candidates		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
May 1998	141 (85%)	25 (15%)	166	50 (83%)	10 (17%)	60
September 2000	127 (82%)	28 (18%)	155	50 (83%)	10 (17%)	60
September 2004	133 (84%)	26 (16%)	159	49 (82%)	11 (18%)	60
September 2008	163 (81%)	38 (19%)	201	49 (82%)	11 (18%)	60
September 2012	231 (80%)	56 (20%)	287	59 (84%)	11 (16%)	70
September 2016	245 (82%)	53 (18%)	298	58 (83%)	12 (17%)	70

Source: Census and Statistics Department.

Figure 4 — Number of female and male Members taking up chairmanship and deputy chairmanship of Panels, committees, and subcommittees of the Legislative Council⁽¹⁾



		Fifth Legislative Council (2012-2016)		Sixth Legislative Council (2016-2017 and 2017-2018 sessions)	
		Male Members	Female Members	Male Members	Female Members
Standing Committees⁽²⁾, the Committee on Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Access to the Legislature's Documents and Records, and the House Committee	Chairman	12 (100%)	0 (0%)	6 (75%)	2 (25%)
	Deputy chairman	9 (75%)	3 (25%)	6 (75%)	2 (25%)
Subcommittees of the Finance Committee⁽³⁾	Chairman	6 (75%)	2 (25%)	2 (50%)	2 (50%)
	Deputy chairman	8 (100%)	0 (0%)	4 (100%)	0 (0%)

Notes: (1) The chairman and deputy chairman of a committee were elected to hold office for a term or until the work of the committee was completed, unless re-election took place in the interim. There were exceptions for the chairmanship and deputy chairmanship of the Finance Committee, subcommittees of the Finance Committee, the House Committee, and Panels, as their respective chairmen and deputy chairmen held office until the election of new chairmen and deputy chairmen in the next session.

(2) Standing Committees included the Finance Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, and the Committee on Members' Interests.

(3) Two subcommittees of the Finance Committee were formed during the Fifth Legislative Council, and the same number of subcommittees was formed for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 sessions of the Sixth Legislative Council taken together.

Figure 4 — Number of female and male Members taking up chairmanship and deputy chairmanship of Panels, committees, and subcommittees of the Legislative Council⁽¹⁾ (cont'd)

		Fifth Legislative Council (2012-2016)		Sixth Legislative Council (2016-2017 and 2017-2018 sessions)	
		Male Members	Female Members	Male Members	Female Members
Subcommittees of the House Committee⁽⁴⁾ [excluding subcommittees on subsidiary legislation]	Chairman	8 (73%)	3 (27%)	10 (77%)	3 (23%)
	Deputy chairman ⁽⁵⁾	5 (71%)	2 (29%)	5 (71%)	2 (29%)
Bills Committees⁽⁶⁾	Chairman	71 (92%)	6 (8%)	41 (93%)	3 (7%)
	Deputy chairman ⁽⁵⁾	11 (100%)	0 (0%)	7 (70%)	3 (30%)
Subcommittees on subsidiary legislation⁽⁷⁾	Chairman	99 (84%)	19 (16%)	58 (89%)	7 (11%)
	Deputy chairman ⁽⁵⁾	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	1 (33%)	2 (67%)
Panels⁽⁸⁾	Chairman	55 (76%)	17 (24%)	26 (72%)	10 (28%)
	Deputy chairman	62 (86%)	10 (14%)	34 (94%)	2 (6%)
Subcommittees of Panels⁽⁹⁾	Chairman	19 (86%)	3 (14%)	5 (63%)	3 (38%)
	Deputy chairman ⁽⁵⁾	14 (82%)	3 (18%)	5 (71%)	2 (29%)
Select committees⁽¹⁰⁾	Chairman	2 (100%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)
	Deputy chairman	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)
Investigation committees⁽¹¹⁾	Chairman	-	-	1 (33%)	2 (67%)
	Deputy chairman	-	-	3 (100%)	0 (0%)

Notes: (4) A total of 10 subcommittees of the House Committee (excluding subcommittees on subsidiary legislation) were formed during the Fifth Legislative Council. Among them, only one subcommittee had re-elected its chairman and deputy chairman. The corresponding figure for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 sessions of the Sixth Legislative Council taken together totalled 13 and none of the subcommittees had re-elected their chairmen or deputy chairmen.

(5) A deputy chairman was elected among members of the committee or subcommittee if considered necessary.

(6) A total of 77 Bills Committees were formed during the Fifth Legislative Council, and the corresponding number totalled 44 for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 sessions of the Sixth Legislative Council taken together.

(7) A total of 118 subcommittees on subsidiary legislation were formed during the Fifth Legislative Council and the corresponding figure totalled 65 for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 sessions of the Sixth Legislative Council taken together.

(8) A total of 18 Panels were formed during the Fifth Legislative Council, and the same number of Panels was formed for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 sessions of the Sixth Legislative Council taken together.

(9) A total of 18 subcommittees of Panels were formed during the Fifth Legislative Council. Among them, only two had re-elected their chairmen and deputy chairmen twice. A total of seven subcommittees of Panels were formed for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 sessions of the Sixth Legislative Council taken together. Among them, only one had re-elected its chairman and deputy chairman.

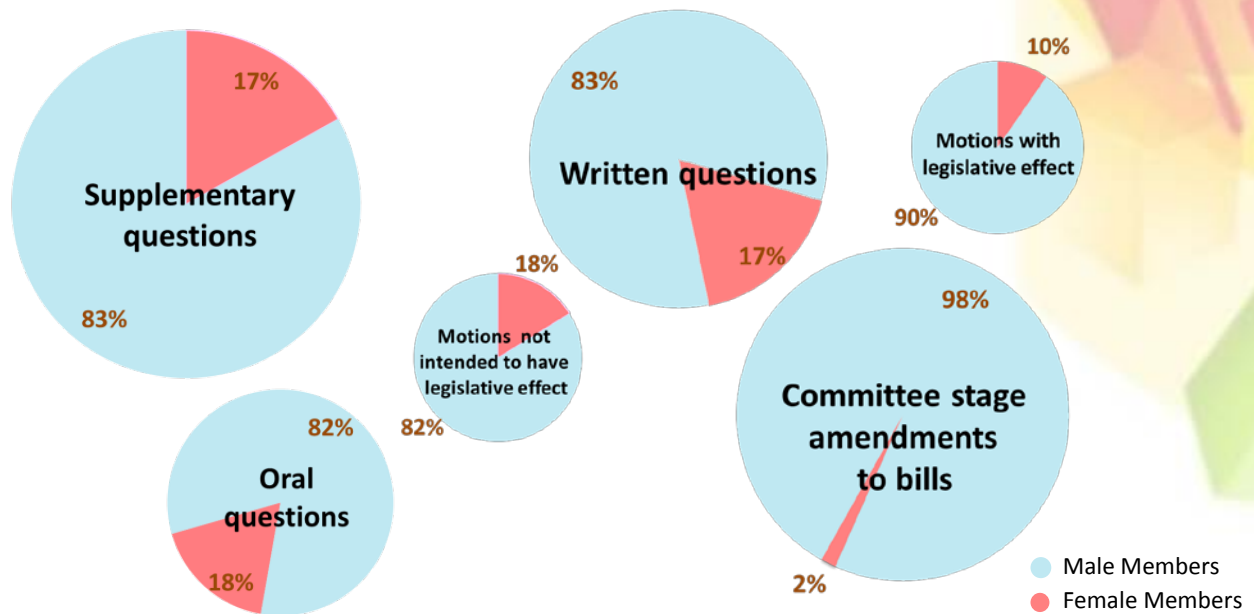
(10) Two select committees were formed during the Fifth Legislative Council, whereas one select committee was formed for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 sessions of the Sixth Legislative Council taken together.

(11) A total of three investigation committees were formed for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 sessions of the Sixth Legislative Council taken together.

Source: Legislative Council Secretariat.

Figure 5 — Proportion of questions raised, motions moved, bills introduced, and committee stage amendments to bills proposed by female and male Members

Fifth Legislative Council (2012-2016)



	Fifth Legislative Council (2012-2016)		Sixth Legislative Council (2016-2017 and 2017-2018 sessions)	
	By male Members	By female Members	By male Members	By female Members
Oral questions raised	468 (82%)	101 (18%)	211 (80%)	53 (20%)
Written questions raised	1 669 (83%)	349 (17%)	791 (84%)	156 (16%)
Supplementary questions raised ⁽¹⁾	2 699 (83%)	547 (17%)	1 089 (84%)	214 (16%)
Motions not intended to have legislative effect moved ⁽²⁾	110 (82%)	24 (18%)	39 (81%)	9 (19%)
Motions with legislative effect moved	122 (90%)	13 (10%)	31 (74%)	11 (26%)
Motions moved under the Basic Law	6 (100%)	0 (0%)	19 (90%)	2 (10%)
Motions moved under Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance	11 (69%)	5 (31%)	4 (80%)	1 (20%)
Motions relating to procedural matters moved	12 (86%)	2 (14%)	12 (71%)	5 (29%)
Members' bills introduced	2 (67%)	1 (33%)	2 (100%)	0 (0%)
Committee stage amendments to bills proposed ⁽³⁾	3 082 (98%)	68 (2%)	273 (88%)	38 (12%)

Notes: (1) For questions seeking oral replies, supplementary questions may be put by any Member when called upon by the President for the purpose of elucidating that answer.

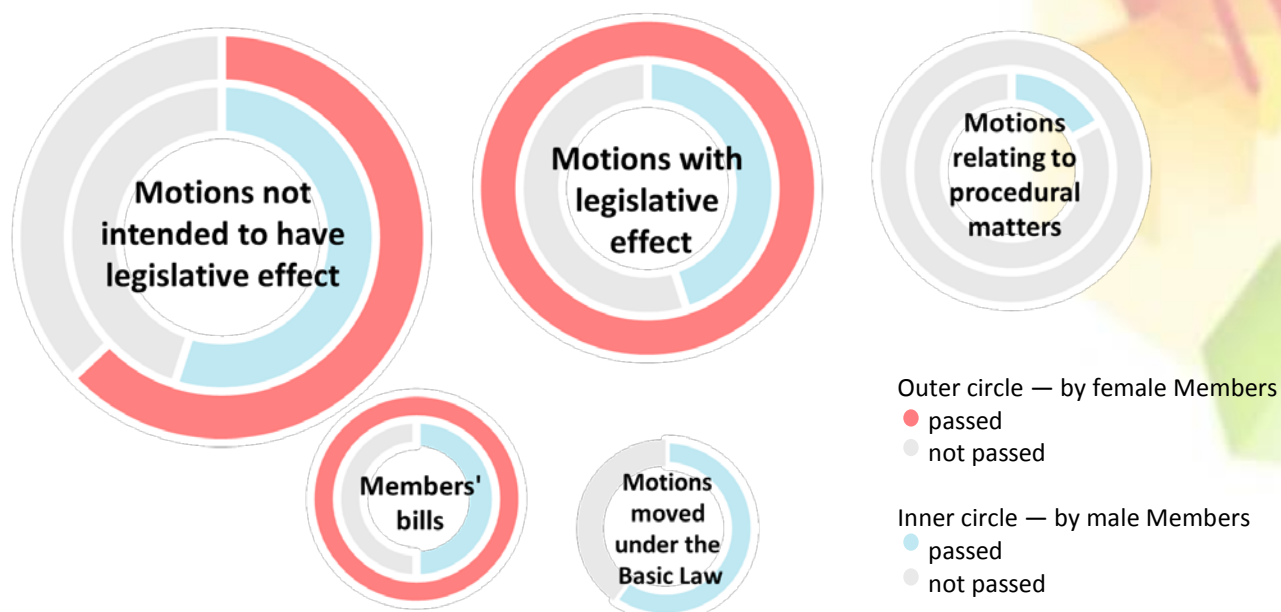
(2) Each Member may be allocated no less than three slots for moving motions not intended to have legislative effect in a term.

(3) Figures refer to committee stage amendments to bills proposed by Members, that had been approved by the President to be moved. A total of 122 436 committee stage amendments to bills were proposed by Members during the Fifth Legislative Council. The corresponding figure amounted to 1 117 for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 sessions of the Sixth Legislative Council taken together.

Source: Legislative Council Secretariat.

Figure 6 — Proportion of motions, bills, and committee stage amendments to bills passed to those being moved, introduced and proposed respectively by female and male Members

Fifth Legislative Council (2012-2016)



	Fifth Legislative Council (2012-2016)		Sixth Legislative Council (2016-2017 and 2017-2018 sessions)	
	Male Members ⁽¹⁾	Female Members ⁽²⁾	Male Members ⁽¹⁾	Female Members ⁽²⁾
Motions not intended to have legislative effect	55% (61/110)	63% (15/24)	74% (29/39)	44% (4/9)
Motions with legislative effect	45% (55/122)	100% (13/13)	68% (21/31)	91% (10/11)
Motions moved under the Basic Law	67% (4/6)	-	21% (4/19)	0% (0/2)
Motions moved under Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance	0% (0/11)	0% (0/5)	0% (0/4)	0% (0/1)
Motions relating to procedural matters	17% (2/12)	0% (0/2)	25% (3/12)	0% (0/5)
Members' bills	50% (1/2)	100% (1/1)	100% (2/2)	-
Committee stage amendments to bills	0.3% (10/3 082 ⁽³⁾)	0% (0/68 ⁽³⁾)	1.5% (4/273 ⁽³⁾)	0% (0/38 ⁽³⁾)

Notes: (1) The denominator of the ratio in the bracket refers to the number of motions moved/bills introduced/amendments proposed by **male** Members while the numerator denotes the number of those motions/bills/amendments passed by the Council.

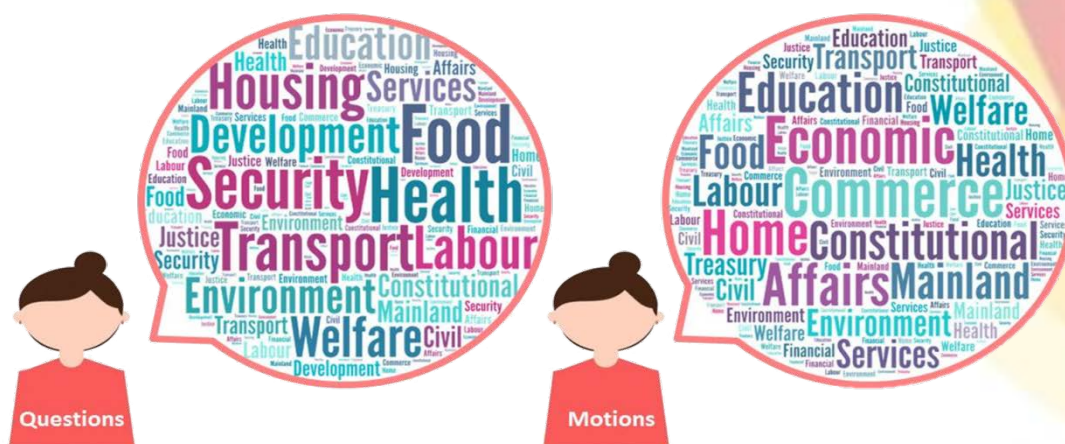
(2) The denominator of the ratio in the bracket refers to the number of motions moved/bills introduced/amendments proposed by **female** Members while the numerator denotes the number of those motions/bills/amendments passed by the Council.

(3) Figures refer to committee stage amendments to bills proposed by Members, that had been approved by the President to be moved.

Source: Legislative Council Secretariat.

Figure 7 — Contents of questions raised and motions moved by female Members

Fifth Legislative Council (2012-2016)



Policy area/subject	Number of questions ⁽¹⁾ raised by female Members on		Number of motions ⁽²⁾ moved by female Members on	
	Fifth Legislative Council (2012-2016)	Sixth Legislative Council (2016-2018)	Fifth Legislative Council (2012-2016)	Sixth Legislative Council (2016-2018)
Food and Health	84	43	4	2
Security	54	22	1	1
Transport and Housing	53	30	1	2
Labour and Welfare	46	19	3	1
Development	45	29	1	1
Environment	41	8	2	0
Education	36	8	5	0
Commerce and Economic Development ⁽³⁾	29	13	5	0
Home Affairs	28	20	5	1
Financial Services and the Treasury	17	8	1	1
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs	12	9	5	0
Civil Service	8	2	0	0
Justice	2	0	0	0
Innovation and Technology ⁽³⁾	-	1	-	0
Others (e.g. procedural matters)	12	2	16	19
Total number of questions raised/motions moved by female Members⁽⁴⁾	450	209	44	28

Notes: (1) Including oral and written questions.

(2) Including motions not intended to have legislative effect, motions with legislative effect, motions moved under the Basic Law, motions moved under Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance, and motions relating to procedural matters.

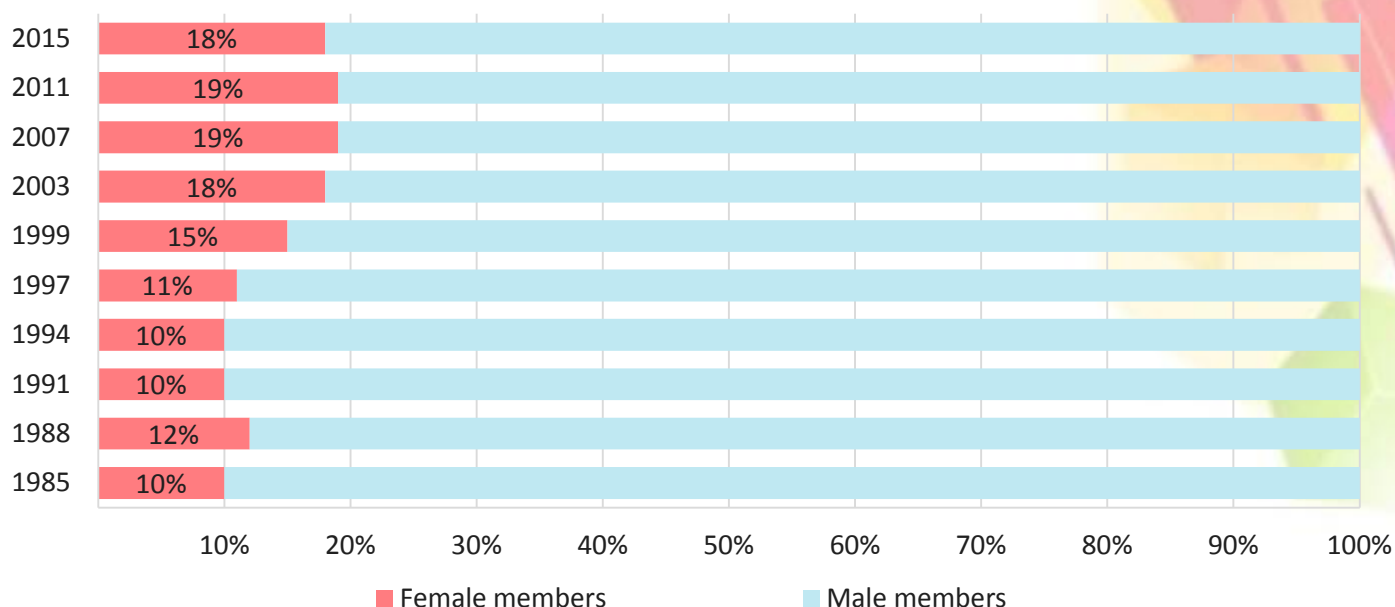
(3) Prior to the Sixth Legislative Council, questions or motions regarding "Innovation and Technology" were categorised under "Commerce and Economic Development".

(4) A question or a motion can be related to more than one policy area or subject. As such, the total number of questions raised/motions moved by female Members may be less than the summation of the questions raised/motions moved by female Members for individual policy areas or subjects.

Source: Legislative Council Secretariat.

Part B — The District Council

Figure 8 — Proportion of females and males who had served as appointed and elected members in District Boards/Councils⁽¹⁾ (1985-2015)



	Number of appointed members		Number of elected members		Number of appointed and elected members	
	Female members	Total	Female members	Total	Female members	Total
1985	21 (16%)	132	17 (7%)	237	38 (10%)	369
1988	22 (16%)	141	27 (10%)	264	49 (12%)	405
1991	17 (12%)	140	24 (9%)	274	41 (10%)	414
1994 ⁽²⁾	-	-	36 (10%)	346	36 (10%)	346
1997 ⁽³⁾	50 (11%)	469	-	-	50 (11%)	469
1999	15 (15%)	102	57 (15%)	390	72 (15%)	492
2003	19 (19%)	102	71 (18%)	400	90 (18%)	502
2007	17 (17%)	102	78 (19%)	405	95 (19%)	507
2011	10 (15%)	68	79 (19%)	412	89 (19%)	480
2015 ⁽⁴⁾	-	-	79 (18%)	431	79 (18%)	431

Notes: (1) Following the review of the structure and functions of district organizations in 1998, District Boards were renamed District Councils in January 2000 to underline their vital role in district administration.

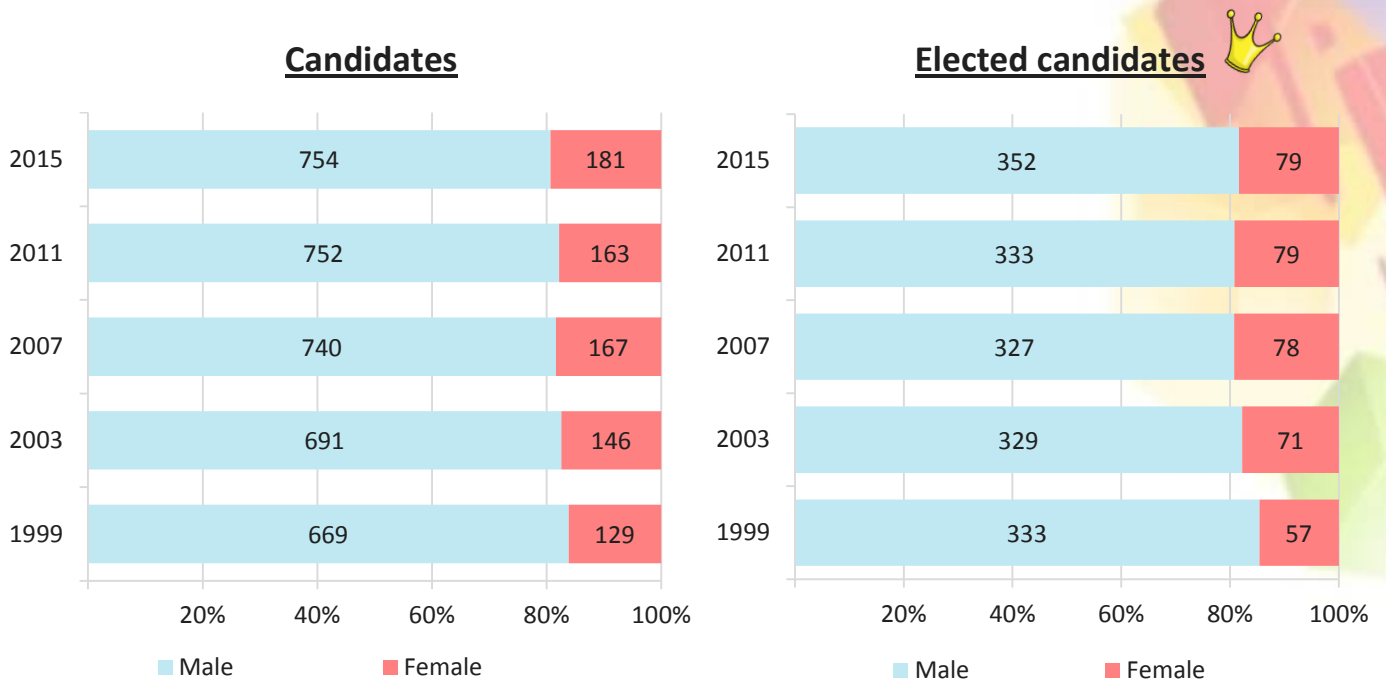
(2) The then Governor Chris Patten abolished the appointed membership of District Boards in 1994.

(3) A total of 18 Provisional District Boards were established on 1 July 1997 with members appointed by the Chief Executive to replace the former District Boards members.

(4) On 22 May 2013, the Legislative Council passed the District Council (Amendment) Bill 2013 to abolish the appointment system for the fifth-term District Councils commencing on 1 January 2016.

Sources: Census and Statistics Department, Electoral Affairs Commission, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Gazette (various years) and 《香港選舉資料匯編：1982年-1994年》(1995).

Figure 9 — Number of female and male candidates and elected candidates in District Council elections (1999-2015)

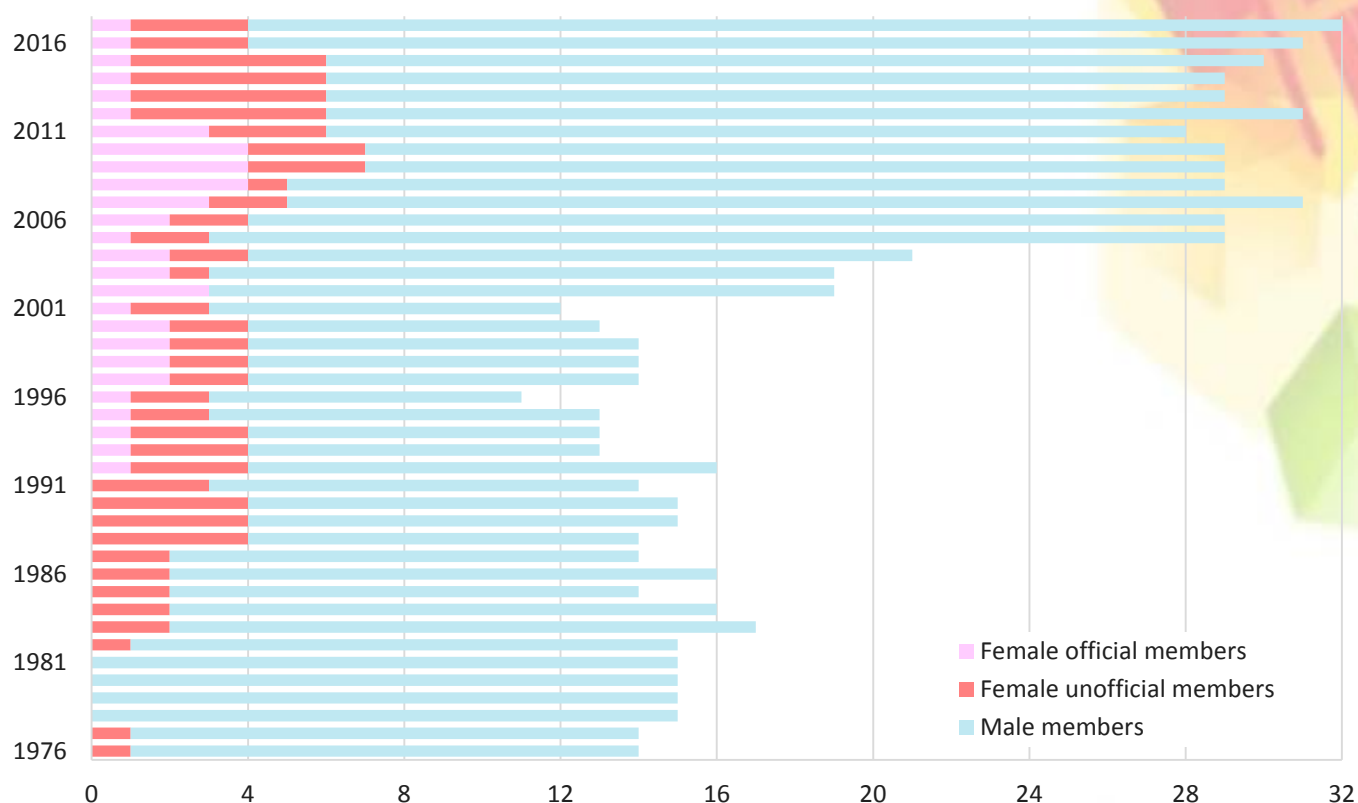


	Number of candidates			Number of elected candidates		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1999	669 (84%)	129 (16%)	798	333 (85%)	57 (15%)	390
2003	691 (83%)	146 (17%)	837	329 (82%)	71 (18%)	400
2007	740 (82%)	167 (18%)	907	327 (81%)	78 (19%)	405
2011	752 (82%)	163 (18%)	915	333 (81%)	79 (19%)	412
2015	754 (81%)	181 (19%)	935	352 (82%)	79 (18%)	431

Source: Census and Statistics Department.

Part C — The Government and the public sector advisory and statutory bodies

Figure 10 — Number of female and male members in the Executive Council (1976-2017)

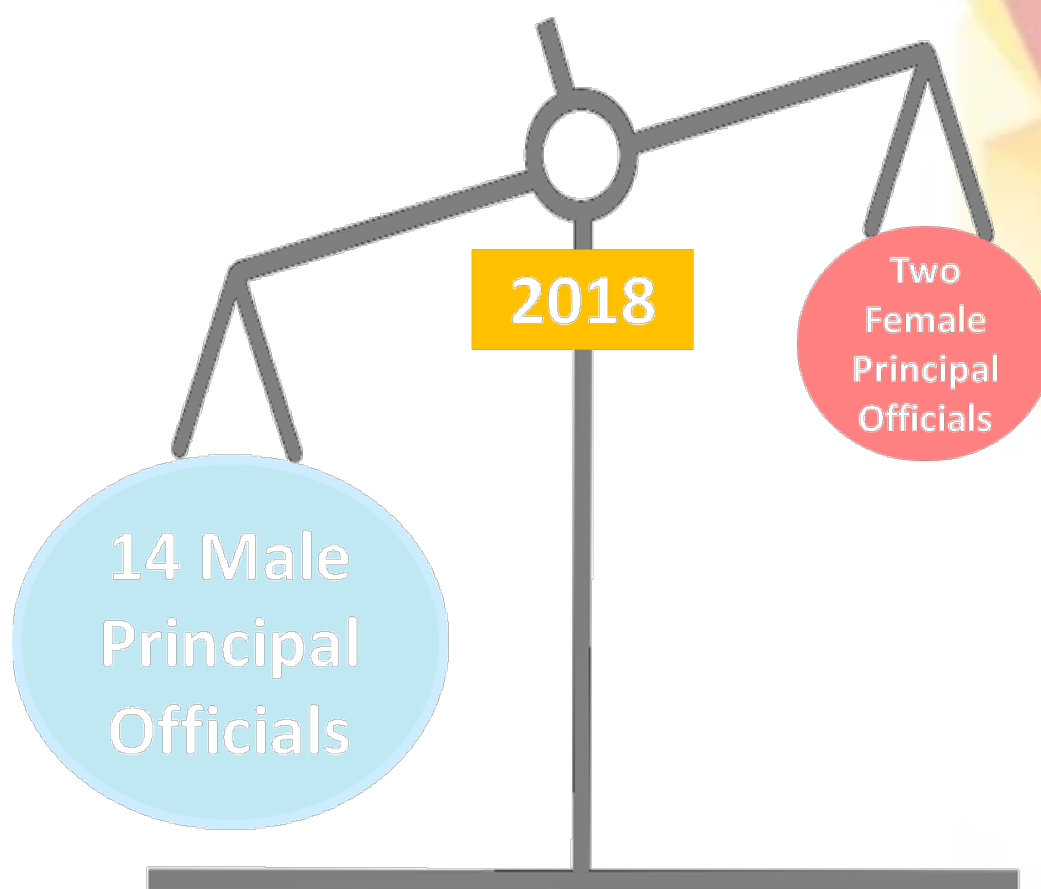


Year ⁽¹⁾	Female members		Total number of members
	Official	Unofficial	
1976	0	1 (7%)	14
1981	0	0	15
1986	0	2 (13%)	16
1991	0	3 (21%)	14
1996	1 (9%)	2 (18%)	11
2001	1 (8%)	2 (17%)	12
2006	2 (7%)	2 (7%)	29
2011	3 (11%)	3 (11%)	28
2016	1 (3%)	3 (10%)	31
2017	1 (3%)	3 (9%)	32

Note: (1) Year-end figures.

Sources: Hong Kong Yearbook (various years) and Press Releases of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (various years).

Figure 11 — Number of female and male principal officials⁽¹⁾ in the Government (2002-2018)



	Male	Female	Total
July 2002 ⁽²⁾	11 (79%)	3 (21%)	14
July 2007 ⁽²⁾	12 (80%)	3 (20%)	15
July 2012 ⁽²⁾	14 (93%)	1 (7%)	15
July 2017 ⁽²⁾	15 (94%)	1 (6%)	16
July 2018 ⁽²⁾	14 (88%) ⁽³⁾	2 (13%) ⁽³⁾	16

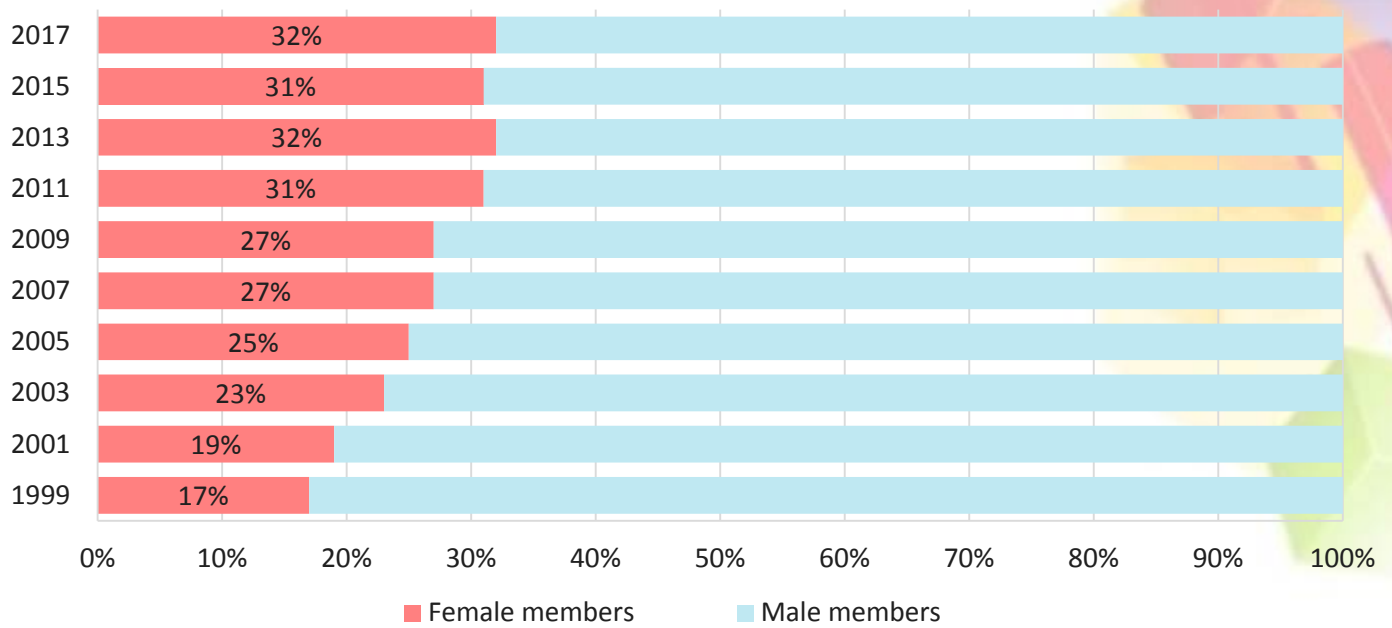
Notes: (1) Principal officials comprise the Secretaries of Departments and the Directors of Bureaux who are appointed under the Accountability System introduced on 1 July 2002, when the second term of the Government commenced.

(2) Month-end figures.

(3) Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Sources: Census and Statistics Department and Press Releases of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (various years).

Figure 12 — Proportion of female and male members in the public sector advisory and statutory bodies (1998-2017)^{(1), (2)}



	Male	Female	Total
1998	3 695 (84%)	725 (16%)	4 420
1999	3 759 (83%)	758 (17%)	4 517
2000	3 721 (83%)	789 (17%)	4 510
2001	3 770 (81%)	888 (19%)	4 658
2002	3 743 (79%)	973 (21%)	4 716
2003	3 602 (77%)	1 050 (23%)	4 652
2004	3 586 (76%)	1 144 (24%)	4 730
2005	3 660 (75%)	1 236 (25%)	4 896
2006	3 678 (74%)	1 289 (26%)	4 967
2007	3 822 (73%)	1 381 (27%)	5 203
2008	3 886 (72%)	1 484 (28%)	5 370
2009	4 168 (73%)	1 567 (27%)	5 735
2010	4 051 (71%)	1 663 (29%)	5 714
2011	3 966 (69%)	1 805 (31%)	5 771
2012	3 871 (67%)	1 866 (33%)	5 737
2013	4 038 (68%)	1 936 (32%)	5 974
2014	4 154 (68%)	1 951 (32%)	6 105
2015	4 434 (69%)	1 999 (31%)	6 433
2016	4 374 (68%)	2 033 (32%)	6 407
2017	4 497 (68%)	2 156 (32%)	6 653

Notes: (1) The public sector advisory and statutory bodies ("ASBs") 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. As at end-December 2017, there were about 490 ASBs comprising both Government officials and members of the public. The statistics in this Figure only cover members of the public who served on these bodies, and some served on more than one ASB.

(2) Figures as at end-December.

Source: Home Affairs Bureau.

References

1. *Census and Statistics Department*. (2019) Available from: <http://www.censtatd.gov.hk> [Accessed April 2019].
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