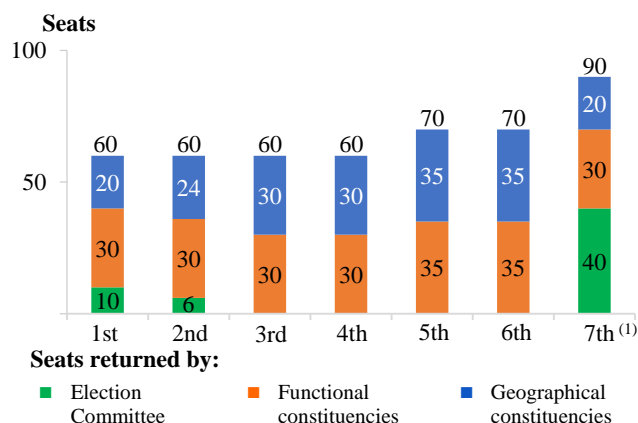




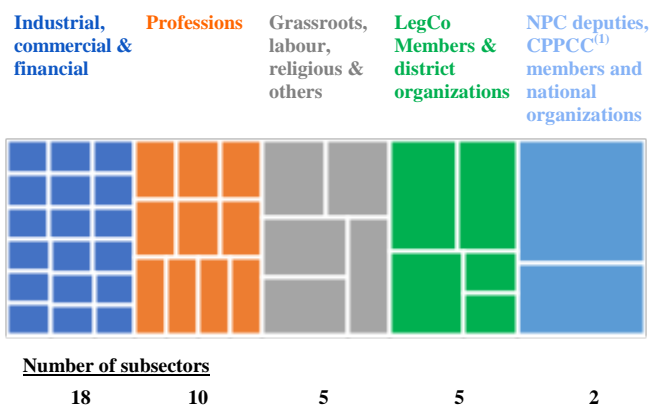
2021 Legislative Council Election

Figure 1 – Number of seats in the Legislative Council by major constituency



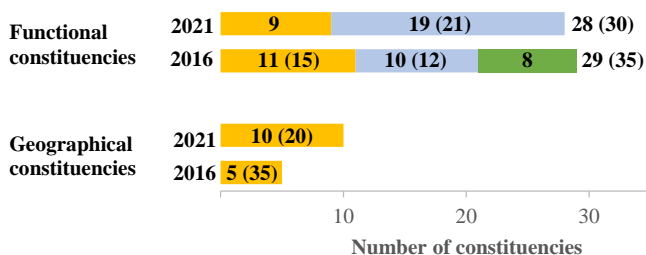
Note: (1) Current term.

Figure 2 – Expanded composition of the Election Committee in 2021



Note: (1) Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Figure 3 – Major changes to functional and geographical constituencies⁽¹⁾



Composition of electorates:

■ Individuals ■ Bodies ■ Both individuals and bodies

Note: (1) Figures in parenthesis denote the total number of seats in the constituencies concerned if they return more than one Member. In FCs, the Labour constituency returned three seats in both 2016 and 2021, while the District Council (second) constituency returned five seats in 2016.

Highlights

- Pursuant to the amendments to Annexes I and II of the Basic Law by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress ("NPC") in March, the Legislative Council ("LegCo") passed the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021 in May 2021, ushering in a number of new features in the local electoral system. First and foremost for the LegCo, its membership is expanded to 90 as from the seventh term, with 40 seats (44%) returned from the Election Committee ("EC"), 30 seats (33%) from functional constituencies ("FCs") and 20 seats (22%) from geographical constituencies ("GCs") (**Figure 1**).
- For EC, it is entrusted with a greater role in the electoral system, underpinned by the principle of "expanding balanced and orderly political participation" in Hong Kong. With a view to achieving "broader representation in the Hong Kong society", EC membership expanded by 25% to 1 500, with 300 members returned from each of the five major sectors (**Figure 2**). There are 40 subsectors under these five major sectors, up from 38 subsectors in four major sectors in the 2016 EC Subsector Election. Small and medium-sized enterprises, grassroots associations and district organizations are newly added subsectors.
- A solid linkage between EC and LegCo can be observed as well. EC not only elects the largest proportion of LegCo Members among constituencies, all LegCo candidates (regardless of constituencies) need to be nominated by EC members from each of the five major sectors. Eligibility of the nominated candidates will be further validated by a newly established Candidate Eligibility Review Committee ("CERC") chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration to ensure patriots administering Hong Kong.
- There are also significant changes in the electoral arrangements for both FCs and GCs. For FCs, there are newly introduced constituencies and consolidation of existing ones, in addition to compositional changes of electorates in some constituencies. For GCs, the number of constituencies expands from 5 to 10, with an amended voting method where the top two candidates with most votes in each constituency shall be returned in the election (**Figure 3**).

2021 Legislative Council Election (cont'd)

Figure 4 – Key statistics on 2021 LegCo election

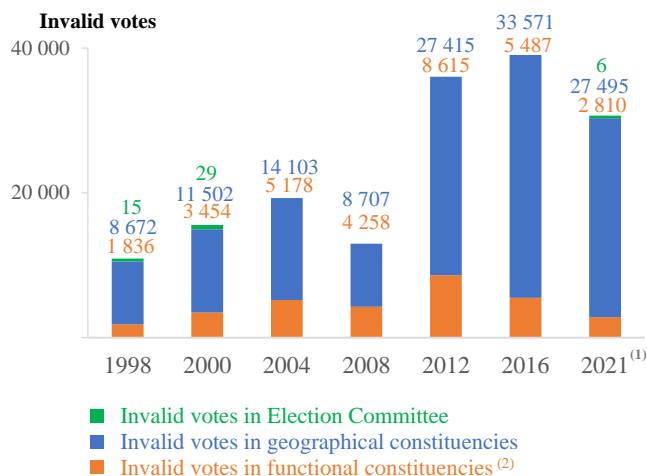
	Election Committee	Functional Constituencies	Geographical Constituencies
Seats	40	30	20
Valid candidates	51	67	35
Average number of candidates per seat	1.3	2.2	1.8
Number of eligible electors	1 448	218 811	4 472 863

Figure 5 – Voter turnout rate in selected LegCo elections

Year	Election Committee	Functional Constituencies	Geographical Constituencies
1998	99%	64%	53%
2000	96%	57%	44%
2016	-	74% ⁽¹⁾	58%
2021	98%	32%	30%

Note: (1) Excluding District Council (second) functional constituency (for which electors comprised all GC electors who were not registered in the “traditional” FCs) for like-with-like comparison.

Figure 6 – Number of invalid votes in LegCo elections



Notes: (1) Figures for 2021 are provisional and tentative, as estimated by the difference between voter turnout and valid votes.
 (2) Excluding District Council (second) functional constituency in 2012 and 2016 to facilitate comparison across different years.

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Highlights

- The LegCo election under the revised electoral system was held on 19 December 2021. Altogether 153 candidates were determined by CERC to be validly nominated in all three major constituencies, and one nomination in FC was determined as invalid as the candidate concerned was a “prescribed public officer” (**Figure 4**). There was more than one valid candidate in each and every constituency in the 2021 LegCo election, contrasted against a total of 12 uncontested seats in the 2016 LegCo election.
- Voter turnout rate varied across constituencies. While turnout rate in EC stood at a very high level of 98% in 2021, those for FCs and GCs were noticeably lower at 32% and 30% respectively (**Figure 5**). As observed by some commentators, skepticism and more political polarization in certain segments in society might have weighed on participation of some registered electors in this round of election. Some stakeholders also opined that certain electors felt that they were not familiar enough with the new electoral system and thus were not energized to vote, while the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic situation might have dampened voting propensity as well. Indeed, the Government also acknowledged that “there is a combination of factors that will affect the voter turnout rate”.
- It is crudely estimated that there were some 30 000 invalid votes (including so-called “blank votes”) in the 2021 LegCo election, representing around 2.0% of the overall votes in GCs and 4.0% in FCs, compared with the respective figures of 1.5% and 3.2% in the 2016 LegCo election (**Figure 6**). As regards election complaints, the Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC”) announced that it had provisionally received 533 complaints up to one day after the 2021 LegCo election, primarily relating to election advertisements, electioneering and polling arrangements. In comparison, there were 7 375 complaints in 2016. EAC is scheduled to release the final statistics on both invalid votes and complaints by March 2022.

Data sources: Latest figures from Registration and Electoral Office, Electoral Affairs Commission, GovHK, and Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau.

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