22 June 2018 For discussion

Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs

2018 Voter Registration

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the key statistics relating to the 2018 Provisional Registers ("PR") of electors, as well as the progress of checking measures and related work undertaken by the Registration and Electoral Office ("REO") in the 2018 Voter Registration ("VR") cycle.

2018 Provisional Registers

2. The REO publishes the PR, omissions lists¹ ("OL") and final registers ("FR") of electors each year to ensure that a highly transparent VR system is maintained. The 2018 PR and OL were published for public inspection on 1 June this year. During the period of public inspection from 1 June to 25 June this year, the public may lodge claims or objections against the entries on the PR and OL which will be determined by the Revising Officer by means of hearings. Taking into account the Revising Officer's rulings, the REO will compile the 2018 FR to be published on or before 25 July this year. Key statistics of the 2018 PR are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Geographical Constituencies

Newly registered electors

3. There are about 3.81 million geographical constituency ("GC") electors contained in the 2018 PR, representing a registration rate of 79.8%. The number of electors and registration rate this year reach the record high, with about 81 000 newly registered electors. On the other hand, about 73 000 electors have been included in the OL, of which

The omissions list contains electors who have passed away or electors who have failed to update or confirm their latest residential addresses in response to the REO's inquiry letters.

about 27 000 are those who have passed away and about 46 000 who have failed to update or confirm their latest residential addresses in response to the REO's inquiry letters. There is a net increase of about 8 000 electors when compared with the 2017 FR.

Registration rates of different age groups

4. In launching the 2018 VR campaign, the REO continues to disseminate the VR messages to the public through social media in addition to the traditional publicity channels. In the 2018 PR, the registration rate among eligible young people aged 18-30 is 70.8%. The registration rates of electors of other age groups are on average over 80% and relatively stable. Details of the age and sex profile of electors by Legislative Council ("LegCo") GCs and District Council constituencies in 2018 are set out in the table at **Annex 1**.

Updating of registration particulars

- 5. In the 2018 VR cycle, the REO has handled a total of about 124 000 applications for updating registration particulars from registered electors. This figure is comparable to the approximate number of 120 000 per year recorded in 2013 and 2014 respectively, both of which being non-election years.
- 6. From 1 February this year onwards, existing electors applying for change of registered address are required to submit address proof at the same time, so as to facilitate verification by the REO of the accuracy of the electors' address information, thereby enhancing the accuracy of registration particulars. From 1 February this year to the statutory deadline for change of registration particulars on 2 April 2018, the REO received and handled about 11 400 applications for change of registered address. Of these applications, around 10 600 electors submitted address proof in accordance with the new requirement, and about 300 electors being authorised tenants of public rental housing under the Housing Department ("HD") or Hong Kong Housing Society ("HKHS") were exempted from the requirement of submitting address proof, upon the REO's data-matching with relevant departments or organisations. For electors who have not submitted address proof with their applications for change of registered address, the REO had, in accordance with the electoral laws, written to request them to provide Reminders were also sent through other channels according to the contact information provided by the electors (including

telephone and electronic mail) to urge them to submit the relevant documents. Eventually, applications for change of registered address from about 500 electors could not be processed further by the REO as these electors fail to submit address proof. Since the registered addresses of these electors might no longer be their only or principal residence, the REO will include such cases in the statutory inquiry process in the next VR cycle.

7. The REO will continue to strengthen its publicity efforts in future VR campaigns to appeal to electors to update their registration particulars in a timely manner and remind them of the requirement to submit address proof at the same time when applying for updating their registered addresses.

Progress in implementing checking measures

- 8. To maintain the credibility of the VR system and to enhance the accuracy of the information contained in the registers of electors, the REO continues to implement checking measures and carry out statutory inquiry process in the 2018 VR cycle. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards of the 2018 LegCo By-election and other electoral documents; checks with the HD on the data of tenants whose tenancies have been terminated; checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on existing electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information, commercial or suspected non-residential addresses; and checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or vacant buildings to be demolished. After implementing or following up with the checking measures, the REO initiated the inquiry process in accordance with the relevant electoral law for about 57 300 electors because it had reasonable grounds to suspect that their registered addresses might no longer be their only or principal residence. From January to April this year, inquiry letters were issued to these electors requesting them to update or confirm their registered address. 46 000 electors who did not respond to the inquiry process have been included in the OL.
- 9. In carrying out the checking process, the REO contacted the electors concerned by telephone, mobile phone short message service, electronic mail or fax based on the contact information (if any) they provided, and reminded them to update or confirm their registered addresses. Moreover, on 31 May this year, the REO issued reminding letters to those electors included in the OL, to remind them to reinstate

their VR by taking appropriate remedial action by 25 June, including lodging a claim or confirming/updating their registered addresses. Upon approval by the Revising Officer, their names and residential addresses will be included in the 2018 FR. To strengthen the reminding effect, the envelope of the reminding letters issued by the REO was beige in colour and stamped with a red reminding message, "Immediate action required. Your voting right is at stake".

10. Members of the public can verify their registration status and check the accuracy of their own registration particulars, including registered address and respective constituencies, at any time by logging into the REO's Online Voter Information Enquiry System (www.voterinfo.gov.hk) or calling the REO's hotline (2891 1001).

Functional Constituencies

Traditional functional constituencies

The number of registered electors for traditional functional constituencies ("FCs") in the 2018 PR is about 230 600, of which about 1 500 are newly registered electors and some 4 700 are electors who have changed to register under the District Council (Second) FC, most of whom being switched to the District Council (Second) FC as they were no longer eligible to register under traditional FCs. On the other hand, about 3 100 electors are included in the OL. As such, the number of traditional FC electors in the 2018 PR represents a decrease of about 6 300 compared with the 2017 FR.

District Council (Second) FC

- The number of electors under the District Council (Second) FC in the 2018 PR is about 3.52 million, representing an increase of around 15 900 when compared with the 2017 FR. Of these 3.52 million electors, about 80 400 are newly registered GC electors, about 1 400 are GC electors who have applied for registration as electors in the District Council (Second) FC and around 4 700 are electors who have switched from other FCs. Meanwhile, in the 2018 PR, about 70 000 electors belonged to this constituency are included in the OL, and some 600 electors switching to other FCs.
- 13. Currently, about 75 300 GC electors who have not registered in traditional FCs choose not to register under the District Council (Second) FC. Before the end of this year, the REO will write to appeal

to those electors who have not yet registered under the District Council (Second) FC to be so registered.

14. A table showing the distribution of electors by FCs (other than the District Council (Second) FC) in 2018 is at **Annex 2**.

The Next Steps

15. In the following VR cycle, the REO will continue to implement the checking measures and carry out the statutory inquiry process mentioned in paragraph 8 above. As the 2019 VR cycle falls within an election year, the REO will conduct a full-scale checking with the HD and HKHS regarding the electors with registered addresses in public housing units, in order to improve the accuracy of registration particulars. Moreover, similar to the arrangements in previous election years, the REO will collaborate with other government departments in launching a large-scale 2019 VR campaign to, through various publicity channels, encourage more eligible people to register as electors, and at the same time remind electors to update their residential address or other registration particulars.

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Registration and Electoral Office June 2018

2018 Provisional Register

Age and Sex Profile of Registered Electors by Legislative Council Geographical Constituencies and District Council Constituencies

		Hong Kong Island					Kowloon West				Kowloon East		New Territories West				New Territories East				Grand					
Age Range	Sex	Central & Western	Wanchai	Eastern	Southern	Total	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowloon City	Total	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Total	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	Kwai Tsing	Islands	Total	North	Tai Po	Sai Kung	Sha Tin	Total	Total	Registration Rate
10.20	М	961	546	3,053	1,457	6,017	1,364	2,411	2,233	6,008	3,360	5,359	8,719	1,984	3,302	5,362	3,798	1,154	15,600	2,847	2,296	3,821	5,422	14,386	50,730	
18-20	F	996	510	2,803	1,343	5,652	1,256	2,275	2,085	5,616	3,050	4,953	8,003	1,826	3,093	5,076	3,709	1,134	14,838	2,685	2,160	3,722	5,055	13,622	47,731	54.5%
18-20 S	Sub-total	1,957	1,056	5,856	2,800	11,669	2,620	4,686	4,318	11,624	6,410	10,312	16,722	3,810	6,395	10,438	7,507	2,288	30,438	5,532	4,456	7,543	10,477	28,008	98,461	
21-25	M F	2,555	1,435	8,374	3,759	16,123	3,291	5,722	5,318	14,331	8,495	12,525	21,020	5,248	9,486	13,728	9,860	2,760	41,082	7,229	6,404	9,341	13,692	36,666	129,222	
21-23		2,425	1,344	8,093	3,853	15,715	3,105	5,559	5,224	13,888	8,234	11,893	20,127	5,026	8,789	13,146	9,356	2,603	38,920	7,032	6,032	9,164	13,145	35,373	124,023	72.7%
21-25 \$	Sub-total	4,980	2,779	16,467	7,612	31,838	6,396	11,281	10,542	28,219	16,729	24,418	41,147	10,274	18,275	26,874	19,216	5,363	80,002	14,261	12,436	18,505	26,837	72,039	253,245	
26-30	M	2,951	1,567	9,207	4,272	17,997	3,622	6,227	5,651	15,500	9,109	12,819	21,928	5,208	11,375	14,808	10,764	2,611	44,766	8,401	8,350	9,815	14,563	41,129	141,320	1
	F	2,990	1,684	9,021	4,282	17,977	3,490	6,034	5,358	14,882	8,611	12,142	20,753	4,798	10,384	13,773	10,186	2,418	41,559	7,761	7,884	9,447	13,897	38,989	134,160	77.1%
26-30 \$	Sub-total	5,941	3,251	18,228	8,554	35,974	7,112	12,261	11,009	30,382	17,720	24,961	42,681	10,006	21,759	28,581	20,950	5,029	86,325	16,162	16,234	19,262	28,460	80,118	275,480	
31-35	M	3,152	1,843	8,764	4,465	18,224	3,887	5,970	5,306	15,163	7,349	10,856	18,205	4,882	10,427	12,251	9,670	2,108	39,338	7,000	7,521	8,824	14,251	37,596	128,526	
	F	3,298	1,860	8,745	4,472	18,375	3,758	5,628	5,424	14,810	6,876	10,049	16,925	4,939	9,846	11,299	9,255	1,954	37,293	6,617	7,125	8,698	14,307	36,747	124,150	72.6%
31-35 \$		6,450	3,703	17,509	8,937	36,599	7,645	11,598	10,730	29,973	14,225	20,905	35,130	9,821	20,273	23,550	18,925	4,062	76,631	13,617	14,646	17,522	28,558	74,343	252,676	
36-40	M	3,585	2,226	10,084	4,728	20,623	4,710	6,002	6,168	16,880	7,462	11,891	19,353	6,192	12,108	12,061	9,792	2,214	42,367	6,369	6,901	8,895	16,250	38,415	137,638	
26.40.6	F	3,882	2,518	10,423	4,800	21,623	4,759	6,432	6,813	18,004	7,560	11,944	19,504	6,470	11,177	11,644	9,719	2,279	41,289	6,161	6,677	9,334	16,460	38,632	139,052	81.0%
36-40 \$		7,467	4,744	20,507	9,528	42,246	9,469	12,434	12,981	34,884	15,022	23,835	38,857	12,662	23,285	23,705	19,511	4,493	83,656	12,530	13,578	18,229	32,710	77,047	276,690	
41-45 S	M	4,232	2,781	11,208	5,176	23,397	5,556	6,592	7,615	19,763	8,027	13,326	21,353	7,057	10,039	11,676	11,224	2,528	42,524	4,950	5,477	10,484	15,233	36,144	143,181	82 49/
	F Sub-total	4,695 8,927	3,103 5,884	12,219 23,427	5,536	25,553	5,938 11,494	7,413	8,506	21,857	8,714 16,741	14,247 27,573	22,961	7,570 14,627	10,085	12,953	11,420	3,093	45,121 87,645	5,842	5,625	11,996 22,480	15,959	39,422 75,566	154,914 298,095	82.4%
41-43	M	4,256	3,006	11,576	5,615	48,950 24,453	5,536	6,824	16,121 8,024	41,620 20,384	8,771	13,795	44,314 22,566	6,864	8,295	24,629 12,006	22,644 11,324	5,621 3,003	41,492	10,792 5,550	4,986	11,256	31,192 12,857	34,649	143,544	
46-50	F	4,952	3,335	13,712	6,560	28,559	5,859	8,127	8,921	22,907	10,660	16,055	26,715	7,697	10,269	15,331	12,344	3,877	49,518	7,520	6,185	13,487	15,826	43,018	170,717	85.1%
46-50 \$	Sub-total	9,208	6,341	25,288	12,175	53,012	11,395	14,951	16,945	43,291	19,431	29,850	49,281	14,561	18,564	27,337	23,668	6,880	91,010	13,070	11,171	24,743	28,683	77,667	314,261	351177
	M	4,916	3,201	14,279	7,094	29,490	5,571	7,849	8,598	22,018	12,171	16,696	28,867	7,663	11,956	16,251	12,359	3,795	52,024	8,383	7,380	13,237	16,722	45,722	178,121	
51-55	F	5,648	3,538	16,683	8,102	33,971	5,950	9,208	9,700	24,858	14,047	18,791	32,838	8,745	14,927	19,311	14,548	4,331	61,862	10,449	10,122	15,339	20,270	56,180	209,709	83.7%
51-55 \$	Sub-total	10,564	6,739	30,962	15,196	63,461	11,521	17,057	18,298	46,876	26,218	35,487	61,705	16,408	26,883	35,562	26,907	8,126	113,886	18,832	17,502	28,576	36,992	101,902	387,830	
	M	5,634	3,370	16,785	8,162	33,951	5,667	9,507	9,285	24,459	14,588	18,509	33,097	8,511	16,103	20,559	14,847	4,369	64,389	11,307	11,579	15,223	21,506	59,615	215,511	
56-60	F	5,933	3,799	18,629	8,936	37,297	5,768	10,214	9,602	25,584	15,049	19,273	34,322	8,608	17,870	18,963	15,985	4,129	65,555	11,664	12,936	15,477	24,094	64,171	226,929	88.0%
56-60 \$	Sub-total	11,567	7,169	35,414	17,098	71,248	11,435	19,721	18,887	50,043	29,637	37,782	67,419	17,119	33,973	39,522	30,832	8,498	129,944	22,971	24,515	30,700	45,600	123,786	442,440	
61-65	M	5,114	3,314	14,819	7,164	30,411	5,061	8,898	8,008	21,967	11,527	15,854	27,381	6,781	14,862	16,070	13,140	3,658	54,511	9,714	10,090	11,765	19,513	51,082	185,352	
01-03	F	5,453	3,574	16,017	7,667	32,711	5,291	9,567	8,928	23,786	12,414	17,793	30,207	7,063	16,387	14,167	14,644	3,354	55,615	8,995	10,350	11,342	21,269	51,956	194,275	88.0%
61-65 \$	Sub-total	10,567	6,888	30,836	14,831	63,122	10,352	18,465	16,936	45,753	23,941	33,647	57,588	13,844	31,249	30,237	27,784	7,012	110,126	18,709	20,440	23,107	40,782	103,038	379,627	
66-70	M	4,616	3,313	13,429	5,952	27,310	4,761	7,662	7,488	19,911	9,037	14,094	23,131	5,512	12,380	10,773	11,207	2,873	42,745	6,753	7,224	8,425	16,148	38,550	151,647	
33 70	F	4,612	3,557	14,377	6,279	28,825	4,910	7,574	8,463	20,947	9,947	15,900	25,847	5,692	11,392	9,043	12,584	2,319	41,030	5,362	6,204	8,007	16,618	36,191	152,840	85.6%
66-70 \$	Sub-total	9,228	6,870	27,806	12,231	56,135	9,671	15,236	15,951	40,858	18,984	29,994	48,978	11,204	23,772	19,816	23,791	5,192	83,775	12,115	13,428	16,432	32,766	74,741	304,487	
71 or above	M	7,620	6,545	23,028	10,554	47,747	9,298	14,869	15,260	39,427	19,283	30,754	50,037	9,724	14,907	14,705	22,133	3,876	65,345	8,772	8,723	11,833	23,124	52,452	255,008	
	F	8,009	7,214	26,815	12,235	54,273	9,824	16,611	17,431	43,866	25,185	34,444	59,629	10,200	12,757	13,591	23,455	3,712	63,715	8,894	8,745		23,195	53,372	274,855	73.6%
71 or above S		15,629	13,759	49,843	22,789	102,020	19,122	31,480	32,691	83,293	44,468	65,198	109,666	19,924	27,664	28,296	45,588	7,588	129,060	17,666	17,468		46,319	105,824	529,863	
Total	M	49,592	33,147	144,606	68,398	295,743	58,324	88,533	88,954	235,811		176,478	295,657	75,626	135,240	160,250	140,118	34,949	546,183	87,275	86,931		189,281	486,406	1,859,800	
	F	52,893	36,036	157,537	74,065	320,531	59,908	94,642	96,455	251,005	130,347	187,484	317,831	78,634	136,976	158,297	147,205	35,203	556,315	88,982	90,045	128,551	200,095	507,673	1,953,355	
Gran	nd Total	102,485	69,183	302,143	142,463	616,274	118,232	183,175	185,409	486,816	249,526	363,962	613,488	154,260	272,216	318,547	287,323	70,152	1,102,498	176,257	176,976	251,470	389,376	994,079	3,813,155	79.8%

Distribution of Electors by Traditional Functional Constituencies in the 2018 Provisional Register

Nan	ne of Functional Constituencies		No. of Electors					
		Bodies	Individuals	Total				
		(i)	(ii)	(i)+(ii)				
1	Heung Yee Kuk	-	148	148				
2	Agriculture and Fisheries	154	-	154				
3	Insurance	127	-	127				
4	Transport	193	-	193				
5	Education	-	85,594	85,594				
6	Legal	-	6,714	6,714				
7	Accountancy	_	25,692	25,692				
8	Medical	-	11,386	11,386				
9	Health Services	-	36,681	36,681				
10	Engineering	-	9,442	9,442				
11	Architectural, Surveying, Planning and	-	7,774	7,774				
	Landscape							
12	Labour	671	-	671				
13	Social Welfare	-	13,765	13,765				
14	Real Estate and Construction	478	194	672				
15	Tourism	1,350	-	1,350				
16	Commercial (First)	1,007	-	1,007				
17	Commercial (Second)	607	778	1,385				
18	Industrial (First)	486	0	486				
19	Industrial (Second)	701	-	701				
20	Finance	122	-	122				
21	Financial Services	634	-	634				
22	Sports, Performing Arts, Culture and	2,522	399	2,921				
	Publication							
23	Import and Export	841	500	1,341				
24	Textiles and Garment	1,860	58	1,918				
25	Wholesale and Retail	1,794	4,723	6,517				
26	Information Technology	383	7,692	8,075				
27	Catering	944	3,733	4,677				
28	District Council (First)	-	430	430				
	Total	14,874	215,703	230,577				