

**For discussion on
21 June 2021**

**Legislative Council
Panel on Constitutional Affairs**

**Practical Arrangements for
the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections**

PURPOSE

As announced by the Chief Executive at the press conference on 13 April 2021, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections (“ECSSOEs”) to elect members of the Election Committee (“EC”) would be held on 19 September 2021. This paper sets out the key electoral arrangements proposed by the Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC”) for the elections.

BACKGROUND

2. The EAC is an independent statutory body responsible for the conduct and supervision of elections. The EAC, supported by the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”), is making preparations for various electoral arrangements for the 2021 ECSSOEs. The key electoral arrangements regarding polling stations, electoral staff, vote counting, public inspection of election advertisements (“EAs”), facilitation measures for voters with special needs, Media Centre and contingency planning are set out below.

PROPOSED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

(A) Voter Registration (“VR”)

3. Under the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Ordinance 2021 (“the Ordinance”), the EC will be reconstituted including the increase of the number of sectors from four to five with substantial changes to the composition of the EC subsectors. In addition to the changes in electorate, some of the existing subsectors are abolished while new subsectors are created. Except for certain EC

subsectors, all EC subsectors will be elected by corporate voters. Unless specified in the electoral laws, an association or enterprise may become a corporate voter for an EC subsector only if it has been operating for not less than three years after acquiring relevant qualifications for that EC subsector.

4. Pursuant to the Ordinance, a special VR deadline (i.e. 5 July 2021) is set to allow individuals and bodies to handle their VR matters. For EC subsectors, all individuals and bodies who meet the new registration eligibilities, regardless of whether they are currently registered as EC subsector voters or wish to register as EC subsector voters for the first time, must submit VR applications no later than the special VR deadline of 5 July 2021, before they can be included in the 2021 EC subsectors provisional register. Under the special VR arrangement for 2021, the provisional register and the final register (“FR”) for voters of the EC subsectors will be published on 18 July 2021 and 5 August 2021 respectively. Thus, the final VR figures for the upcoming ECSSOEs will not be available until the publication of the FR in early August 2021.

(B) Nomination Period

5. The ECSSOEs will be held on 19 September 2021, and the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (“CMAB”) will arrange for the publication of the relevant notice in the Gazette in accordance with section 16(1) of the Schedule to the Chief Executive Election Ordinance (Cap. 569) (“CEEO”) in due course. Section 5 of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (Election Committee) Regulation (Cap. 541I) (“EAC(EP)(EC) Regulation”) provides that the nomination period must not be less than 7 days, and that it must end not less than 12 days before the date on which the election is to be held. We plan to set the nomination period for the coming ECSSOEs from 6 August (Friday) to 12 August (Thursday) 2021. The confirmed dates will be announced in a Gazette Notice later.

6. Candidates and designated bodies are required to submit the nomination forms to the Returning Officer (“RO”) of the relevant subsector during the nomination period. According to the relevant legislation, except where the Chief Electoral Officer (“CEO”) has authorized any other manner of submission, candidates must submit their nomination forms in person to the relevant ROs at their offices.

7. In view of public health considerations due to the COVID-19 and security concern, appropriate crowd control and infection control measures

(such as limiting the number of persons entering and staying in the ROs' offices as well as requiring them to wear surgical masks and undergo body temperature check, etc.) will be implemented in the offices of the ROs having regard to the situation during the nomination period. The details will be promulgated via press release and the dedicated website for the 2021 ECSSOEs.

(C) VR and Set Up of Polling Stations

8. Pursuant to the Ordinance, a special VR deadline is set at 5 July 2021. The provisional register and the FR for voters of the EC subsectors will be published on 18 July 2021 and 5 August 2021 respectively, the final VR figures will only be available thereafter. To facilitate voters to cast votes, we shall set up ordinary polling stations ("OPSs") at different districts in Hong Kong by making reference to the number of voters (including the authorized representatives ("ARs") of the corporate voters) and their distribution among districts. Voters will be allocated to different polling stations according to their residential addresses as registered in the relevant FR. To facilitate voters with mobility difficulties to cast votes, we aim to set up all OPSs at accessible venues.

9. Other than OPSs, we shall set up dedicated polling stations ("DPSs") at the penal institutions so that registered voters and ARs who are imprisoned or remanded under the custody of the Correctional Services Department ("CSD") can cast their votes. Depending on the actual number and distribution of such voters on the polling day, a maximum of 20 DPSs will be set up at these penal institutions. We also plan to set up one DPS at the police station for registered voters who are remanded or detained on the polling day by law enforcement agencies other than CSD, such as the Police, Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Customs and Excise Department, to cast their votes.

(D) Polling Hours

10. The polling hours of OPSs and DPSs set up at police stations for the 2021 ECSSOEs will run from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. As for DPSs set up at CSD penal institutions, due to security considerations, the polling hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(E) Polling Arrangements

11. As in past elections, combined polling arrangement will be adopted to facilitate voters to cast votes. Under this arrangement, a voter

of a subsector who is also an AR of a corporate voter of another subsector would cast both votes at the same polling station.

12. To enhance workflow efficiency and accuracy in the ballot paper issuance process, the Electronic Poll Register (“EPR”) System will be adopted in all polling stations except DPSs in the 2021 ECSSOEs. With the adoption of the EPR System, a voter can be directed to any ballot paper issuing desk in the allocated polling station to obtain the ballot paper. This would help to even out the workload among the issuing desks, thereby shortening the queuing time of voters.

13. The REO has hired independent information technology contractor / audit firm to provide the following services:

- (a) an independent IT contractor to conduct the Privacy Impact Assessment;
- (b) an independent IT contractor to conduct the Security Risk Assessment and Audit;
- (c) an independent IT contractor to conduct the acceptance tests; and
- (d) an independent audit firm to provide a computer audit service on the operation, accuracy and security of the EPR system.

To enhance public confidence on the EPR system, the REO has formed a Technical Advisory Committee (“TAC”) comprising three industry experts, and representatives from REO and Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. The TAC will provide independent experts’ advice on the technical aspects of the EPR system.

14. Besides, the presiding Officer (“PRO”) will set up a special queue for voters in need, namely voters who are 70 or above, pregnant women, and persons who are unable to queue for a long time or have difficulty in queuing due to illness, injury, disability or dependence on mobility aids. The PRO will also designate a seating area inside the polling station for such voters to take a rest as needed. After resting, these voters can queue up along the special queue before being directed to the ballot paper issuing desks. Suitable publicity would be arranged on the above new polling arrangements.

(F) Vote Counting Arrangements

15. The central vote counting arrangements for the 2021 ECSSOEs would follow those adopted in the 2016 ECSSOEs and votes will be counted in the Central Counting Station (“CCS”) to be set up at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

16. Given the large number of seats and candidates in the ECSSOEs and in line with the practice adopted since 1998, the REO has commissioned a contractor to update/enhance a Voting Validation and Counting Automation System (“VVCAS”), whereby vote counting will be conducted in an automated mode with the aid of an Optical Mark Recognition (“OMR”) system. The REO will commission three independent quality assurance services for the VVCAS to safeguard its reliability. The services cover the following three areas: (a) a quality assurance audit on the programmes employed by the VVCAS; (b) a computer audit on the integrity of the entire automated counting process; and (c) an IT security risk assessment and audit on the whole system.

17. Upon completion of the count, the RO will make known the counting results to the candidates or their agents present in the CCS. The candidates or their election agents will then have the opportunity to request a re-count of votes. If there is such a request which is accepted by the RO, the re-count will be conducted on the spot. When a re-count¹ is not needed, the RO shall formally announce the election results at the Media Centre.

(G) Design of Ballot Papers and Ballot Boxes

18. Of the 40 EC subsectors, members for 36 subsectors (involving a total of 982 seats at the maximum²) are to be returned by elections. In this regard, the design of ballot papers must not only conform to the requirements as prescribed in the relevant EAC electoral regulation, but also be able to accommodate a sizeable number of candidates. The REO

¹ Or when such request is rejected by the RO as being unreasonable in accordance with section 76(2) of EAC(EP)(EC) Regulation.

² In accordance with Annex I to the Basic Law and section 2(8) of Schedule to CEEQ, if a HKSAR deputy to the National People’s Congress (“NPC”) or a HKSAR member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (“CPPCC”) chooses to be registered as a member of a subsector (“relevant subsector”) other than the NPC and CPPCC subsector, and the registration is determined as valid, the number of members to be elected by the relevant subsector is to be decreased by 1 for that term of office.

will conduct a full-scale checking on the ballot papers to ensure that they are correctly and properly printed, and carefully and thoroughly test the capacity of ballot boxes to ensure that there will be a sufficient number of ballot boxes to cater for a 100% turnout of the registered voters.

(H) Introduction to Candidates and Postage-free Election Mail

19. Under the present arrangement, candidates are free to make use of the Introduction to Candidates published by the REO for promoting their election and candidature. Following the practice of the 2016 ECSSOEs, it is planned that the size of the Introduction to Candidates will remain at one-fourth of one A4 page for each candidate in a subsector. Candidates who wish to make use of the Introduction to Candidates must submit the content of their electoral messages and candidature to be printed in the Introduction to Candidates, in a format specified by the EAC, to the REO before the end of the nomination period. The REO will mail the Introduction to Candidates, together with the poll cards, to the voters before the polling day.

20. In order to protect the EAC and the Government against any liabilities arising from these facilities being misused by candidates for disseminating unlawful or defamatory materials, we will continue to require candidates to sign an undertaking to indemnify the EAC and the Government against any civil liabilities arising from the publication of the unlawful or defamatory contents in the Introduction to Candidates. Similar requirement to indemnify the EAC and the Government will also be included in the undertaking on posting of candidates' election mail in paragraphs 21 and 22 below, in the undertaking on use of voters' information in paragraphs 23 and 24 below, as well as in the undertaking in using the Central Platform mentioned in paragraph 25 below.

21. In accordance with section 38(1) of the Schedule to the CEEO, a validly nominated candidate at a subsector election is entitled to send free of postage one letter to each voter of the subsector for which the candidate is nominated. The purpose is to enable candidates to send election mail to promote or advertise themselves to voters. According to the electoral law amended in late 2019, the maximum size of a postage-free election mail has been revised from 175 mm x 245 mm to 165 mm x 245 mm and the thickness of each mail must not exceed 5 mm.

22. To enable candidates to jointly promote themselves at the same election, and as a further step to reduce paper consumption in election-related materials, candidates standing for election in the same subsector

may send joint promotional letters free of postage to each voter of the relevant subsector in accordance with section 38(2A) of the Schedule to the CEEO. Under this arrangement, the letter sent by a candidate who is validly nominated at a subsector election may contain information on any other candidate(s) of the same subsector who is/are also validly nominated at that election.

(I) Address Labels

23. To facilitate candidates to send out election mail by free postage, the REO will continue to provide, upon request, each validly nominated candidate with a set of address labels pertaining to the voters in the relevant subsector, except those voters who have provided REO with their email addresses for receiving election mail and those who have requested no receipt of election mail.

24. We will also continue the practice of providing, upon request, each validly nominated candidate with the Candidate Mailing Label System (“CMLS”) containing the mailing information of voters (including the names, addresses and, if provided by the voters, their email addresses) in the subsector. Candidates may make use of the information in the CMLS to post election mail or send out electronic election mail to the voters via their email addresses. There will be reminder messages on/in the cover, the user guide and the CMLS programme to remind candidates of the proper use of voters’ personal information (including the use of “b.c.c.” function or other proven means to prevent inadvertent disclosure of voters’ email addresses) and the legal consequences of not taking heed of the reminder. Candidates are required to sign an undertaking on the proper use of voters’ information before they are provided with the address labels and/or CMLS. We will inform the validly nominated candidates to collect the voters’ mailing information at the REO’s office once such information is available.

(J) Public Inspection of EAs

25. To comply with the public inspection requirement stipulated in the electoral law, candidates may deposit copies of their EAs and the relevant information and documents with the ROs, or upload the electronic copies onto a central platform maintained by the CEO (referred to as “Central Platform”) or an open platform maintained by the candidate (referred to as “Candidate’s Platform”) for public inspection within one working day after the publication of the EAs. For those EAs of which uploading on the Central Platform or Candidate’s Platform is not practicable (e.g.

electioneering messages of interactive and spontaneous nature, video streaming or live broadcasting through social networking and communication websites on the internet), candidates may upload the hyperlinks of the EAs onto the Central Platform or Candidate’s Platform in order to satisfy the public inspection requirement.

(K) Facilitation Measures for Voters with Special Needs

26. As in previous elections, REO will continue to make best endeavours to facilitate voters with special needs to exercise their right to vote. In addition to the special queue for voters in need (as detailed in paragraph 14), the following facilitation measures will continue to be put in place in the 2021 ECSSOs –

- (a) For voters with mobility difficulties, we aim to have all polling stations set up in accessible venues. Where circumstances permit, the REO would install temporary ramps at the polling stations to facilitate wheelchair users;
- (b) For voters with hearing impairment, all polling stations are provided with a pictorial voting aid to assist them to understand the voting procedures. Sign language translation has been incorporated in the Announcements-in-the-Public-Interests (“APIs”) relating to the voting procedures;
- (c) For voters with visual impairment, we will continue to appeal to candidates to provide the text version of their Introduction to Candidates for uploading onto the dedicated website to facilitate the online reading of the relevant information using software aids by voters with visual impairment. At the same time, in addition to sending poll cards in accordance with the relevant electoral law, we will continue the arrangement to collect the email addresses of voters with visual impairment via the VR website (www.voterregistration.gov.hk) and to use email to send to them the relevant polling information (including hyperlinks to the text version of Introduction to Candidates) electronically. These voters would be informed through Short Message Service that the REO has issued the email to them and they can open the email and read the electronic polling information with software aids;
- (d) A 24-hour Interactive Voice Response System (“IVRS”) will be set up by the REO for voters with visual impairment to listen to the recording made from the text version of the Introduction to

Candidates at any time. They can also be redirected to the operators of the REO's enquiry hotline during the hotline's operating hours to obtain other electoral information. On the polling day, the aforesaid voters will be allowed to use the telephones at the polling stations to access the IVRS through a dedicated telephone line without redirect function. Other facilitation measures such as provision of braille templates and braille list of candidates at the polling stations will continue. Given a Braille template contains only 30 candidates' names with numbers at most, if there are more than 30 candidates in the relevant subsector, the voters with visual impairment can seek help from the PRO to mark the ballot paper on their behalf according to their choices; and

- (e) For voters of diverse race who cannot speak English or Chinese, all polling stations will be equipped with a voting guide compiled in eight languages (Bahasa Indonesia, Tagalog, Thai, Hindi, Nepali, Urdu, Punjabi and Vietnamese) commonly used by the people of diverse race in Hong Kong to facilitate them to understand the voting procedures. In addition, we shall collaborate with the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents ("CHEER") to provide interpretation service in these eight languages, through the REO telephone hotline service, to help voters of diverse race understand the voting procedures and facilitate them to make enquiries on election-related matters during the two weeks prior to the polling day. Arrangement will also be made with CHEER to provide interpretation service over the phone if voters of diverse race make a request to the PROs for language assistance at the polling stations.

———— A summary list of the facilitation measures which the REO plans to put in place to serve voters with special needs is at **Annex** for reference.

(L) Publicity

27. To encourage nomination of candidates, publicise election and polling arrangements, promote clean and fair election as well as voter turnout, we will organise publicity programmes to widely publicize the election through TV and radio APIs, posters, advertisement, election dedicated website and appeal letters to eligible voters. The Independent Commission Against Corruption will also publish and distribute

information folders and pamphlets to promote clean election.

(M) Electoral Staff Recruitment

28. We have started in June 2021 to recruit civil servants as electoral staff for carrying out polling duties at the polling stations and for counting votes at the CCS for the ECSSOEs.

29. We will arrange briefing sessions on the polling procedures and arrangements for all polling staff. We will also arrange Polling Management Training for the PROs and Deputy Presiding Officers with more focus on maintaining the order of the polling stations, responding to crises and handling complaints. Specialised training will be provided for staff designated to compile statistical returns on the polling day. We will arrange a practical training course for all counting staff. Since the counting of votes will be conducted with scanning machines using OMR technology, we will arrange practical training course for staff assigned to operate the scanning machines. Besides, staff working in the CCS need to attend an on-site final briefing cum rehearsal of counting duties on the day before the polling day.

(N) Central Command Centre (“CCC”)

30. On the polling day, a CCC will be set up each at REO’s Office in Kowloonbay International Trade and Exhibition Centre (“KITEC”) and the CCS to oversee the conduct of the poll and vote counting, and to provide central command and helpdesk/support services.

(O) Statistical Information Centre (“SIC”)

31. A SIC will be set up each inside the CCC at REO’s office in KITEC and the CCS. The former is to collect and consolidate voter turnout statistics from the polling stations. The latter is to check the counting results collected from the CCS. The same arrangement was made in the 2016 ECSSOEs and had proved to be efficient and reliable. The voter turnout figures will be made available to the public through press releases and the dedicated website for the 2021 ECSSOEs on an hourly basis.

(P) Media Centre

32. A Media Centre will be set up in the CCS to facilitate the dissemination of counting results to the candidates, the media and the

public. Election results will be declared by the respective ROs at the Media Centre. Inside the Media Centre, there will be designated areas for use by candidates and their agents, the media and the public. If needed, media announcements will be made through the Media Centre.

(Q) Contingency Planning

33. We shall draw up a contingency plan (“the Plan”) to cater for the postponement or the adjournment of the subsector elections, the poll or the count for the 2021 ECSSOEs, as specified in section 24 of Schedule to the CEEO and Schedule 1 to the EAC(EP)(EC) Regulation. Specifically, under the Plan, a Crisis Management Committee will be set up to provide the EAC with professional advice on the handling of matters pertaining to the postponement or adjournment of an election, the poll or the count under the specified circumstances on the polling day, including typhoon or other serious climate condition; riot, open violence or any danger to public health or safety; and occurrence which appears to the EAC to be a material irregularity relating to the election, the poll or count. The Plan will also set out other contingency measures to be taken by the REO in relation to the electoral and security arrangements for the polling stations and the CCS.

(R) Proposed Safety Measures for Election Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

34. The REO will continue to closely monitor the development of COVID-19 in Hong Kong, and draw up details of the electoral arrangements and safety measures to ensure voters’ safety, and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the polling stations and the CCS in consultation with the Centre for Health Protection.

ADVICE SOUGHT

35. Members are invited to express views on the proposed arrangements set out in this paper.

Facilitation Measures for Voters with Special Needs

(A) Voters whose age is 70 or above, pregnant women, and persons who are unable to queue for a long time or have difficulty in queuing

1. The Presiding Officer (“PRO”) may set up a special queue to give priority to the following voters for obtaining their ballot paper(s) from the ballot paper issuing desk -
 - (a) voters who are 70 years old or above;
 - (b) pregnant women; or
 - (c) persons who are unable to queue for a long time or have difficulty in queuing due to illness, injury, disability or dependence on mobility aids.

(B) Voters with mobility difficulties

1. The Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) aims to have all polling stations set up at venues which are accessible to voters with mobility difficulties or who are wheelchair users. Where the circumstances permit, temporary ramps will be set up at polling stations for wheelchair users.
2. Telephone number of the polling station will be posted near the ramp leading to the station. If necessary, voters with mobility difficulties can contact the polling staff for assistance.
3. Polling stations, which are all accessible, will be equipped with enlarged voting compartments with lower polling tables for voters who are wheelchair users.
4. If necessary, voters can seek help from the PRO to mark the ballot papers on their behalf according to their choices inside a voting compartment with a polling staff serving as a witness. Where space permits, one of the voting compartments at each polling station will be separated from the remaining compartments in order to prevent voters at the adjacent compartments from overhearing the conversation between the polling staff and the voters concerned.

(C) Voters with visual impairment

1. All the election websites have incorporated accessible designs. Most of the information or documents on the websites are convenient for browsing by voters with visual impairment with the aid of screen reading software.
2. Appeal will be made to candidates to provide a text version of their “Introduction to Candidates” for uploading onto the dedicated website to facilitate online reading of the relevant information using assistive software by voters with visual impairment.
3. Voters with visual impairment may provide/update their email addresses for receiving soft copy of electoral information from the REO by completing an electronic form at the Voter Registration website (www.voterregistration.gov.hk). They would be reminded through Short Message Service to read the email issued by the REO.
4. The telephone number of the enquiry hotline (2891 1001) will be read out in radio Announcements in the Public Interest (“APIs”) and TV APIs so that persons with visual impairment may obtain information relating to electoral arrangements through the hotline.
5. A web accessible version of the TV APIs will be available on the dedicated website to facilitate the browsing of election-related information by voters with visual impairment.
6. A 24-hour Interactive Voice Response System (“IVRS”) (2893 3762) will be provided for voters with visual impairment to listen to the recording made from the text version of the “Introduction to Candidates” at any time. They can also be redirected to the operators of the REO’s enquiry hotline during the hotline’s operating hours to obtain other electoral information. On the polling day, voters with visual impairment will be allowed to use the telephones at the polling stations to access the IVRS through a dedicated telephone line without redirect function.
7. A braille list of candidates with the candidate numbers and candidates’ names will be available at polling stations to facilitate the access of voters with visual impairment to the relevant information.
8. Braille templates will be available at polling stations to facilitate the marking of ballot papers by voters with visual impairment themselves.

A Braille template contains 30 candidates' names with numbers at most. If there are more than 30 candidates in the relevant subsector, the voters with visual impairment can seek help from the PRO to mark the ballot paper on their behalf according to their choices.

9. If necessary, voters can seek help from the PRO to mark the ballot papers on their behalf according to their choices inside a voting compartment with a polling staff serving as a witness. Where space permits, one of the voting compartments at each polling station will be separated from the remaining compartments in order to prevent voters at the adjacent compartments from overhearing the conversation between the polling staff and the voters concerned.
10. Voters with visual impairment may bring along their guide dogs into the polling stations.

(D) Voters with hearing impairment

1. Sign language interpretation and subtitles will be included in all election-related TV APIs.
2. An "Illustration on Guidance on Voting Procedure" ("pictorial voting aid") is available at all polling stations to assist voters with hearing impairment in understanding the voting procedures. The pictorial voting aid will be uploaded onto the dedicated website for voters' reference before the poll.

(E) Voters of diverse race

1. Electoral information in eight languages of diverse race (Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Punjabi, Tagalog, Thai, Urdu and Vietnamese) will be available on the dedicated website.
2. Electoral information in Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Tagalog, Thai, and Urdu will also be available on the homepage of the Home Affairs Department's Race Relations Unit (www.had.gov.hk/rru).
3. Information on the election will be broadcast in five languages (Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Thai, and Urdu) on radio.
4. Appeal will be made to candidates to provide election advertisements in English and/or languages of diverse race to facilitate understanding by voters who do not read Chinese.

5. Polling stations will be equipped with a Language Assistance Folder which will contain guides on voting procedures written in the aforesaid languages to assist voters of diverse race in casting their votes.
6. The REO will collaborate with the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (“CHEER”) to provide free interpretation service in the aforesaid eight languages of diverse race, through the REO’s dedicated telephone line, to help voters of diverse race understand the voting procedures and to facilitate their making of enquiries on election-related matters.
7. Electoral information in the aforesaid eight languages of diverse race will be posted in eight support centres for the people of diverse race run by non-governmental organisations.

(F) Other voters with special needs

1. A pictorial voting aid explaining the voting procedures will be provided at all polling stations to assist voters in need (e.g. voters with intellectual differences, voters with speech or communication impairment and voters who are not familiar with Chinese or English, etc.) in understanding the voting procedures. The pictorial voting aid will be uploaded onto the dedicated website for voters’ reference before the poll.
2. Voters who are unable to cast their votes on their own can seek help from the PRO to mark the ballot papers on their behalf according to their choices. The whole process will be witnessed by another polling staff to ensure that the voting will be conducted in a fair manner. According to the current legislation, all polling staff (including the PRO) must sign a declaration of secrecy in the specified form and must comply with various requirements concerning voting secrecy. To further protect the privacy of the voters concerned, where space permits, one of the voting compartments at each polling station will be separated from the remaining compartments in order to prevent voters at the adjacent compartments from overhearing the conversation between the polling staff and the voters concerned.