

CTA says: What chance the Environment with so many rubber stampers?



dynamco May 11th 2015 5:43am

www.huffingtonpost.com/gladys-li/rotten-corrupt-hong-kong_b_6051748.html

"Out of the 1,200 members of the Election Committee, precisely 35 members represent the general voting public, namely the 35 members of Legco who are returned through direct elections from geographical constituencies. Any aspiring candidate can safely ignore them as he can get by w/o their support but the various special interest groups that make up the rest of the Election Committee have to be assiduously courted and wooed

Nine out of the 17 sub-sectors have no natural persons as voters & out of those that have individuals as voters as well, in 4 of them, the individuals are way outnumbered by the corporate voters. Individual voters have to be permanent residents of the HKSAR but corporate voters can be wholly under the control of persons who are not permanent residents. So much for foreign interference in our internal affairs

The most extreme example of this so-called balance is the electorate of the (DAB controlled) Agriculture and Fisheries sub-sector whose corporate voters, all 159 of them, have 61 representatives on the Election Committee (this sub-sector had no election, with all representatives being returned uncontested) whereas the 3,466,201 ordinary registered electors have 35 representatives on the Election Committee"



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[The 300 who are used to voting for Hong Kong's leader](#)

Submitted by *monica.chan* on May 11th 2015, 4:01am **News>Hong Kong>Politics POLITICS**

Stuart Lau and Gary Cheung

As most Hongkongers wait for chance, we reveal the politicians, tycoons and religious leaders who have had a say in at least three elections

A quarter of the 1,200 people who got to vote for the city's leader in 2012 had held on to their roles for at least a decade, according to a *South China Morning Post* study that indicated how likely it would be for others to join the nominating committee in future polls.

And most of those election veterans are delegates to the National People's Congress, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference - loyalists appointed by Beijing - business tycoons and religious leaders.

They held either uncontested or ex-officio seats, making up 77 per cent of those who had voted in all four elections since 1996.

More openly representative sectors, by contrast, generally saw far fewer individuals clinging to power over a long time, the study showed.

"The NPC and CPPCC have formed the political core that exists to make Beijing feel safe," political pundit Dr James Sung Lap-lung said.

"The central authorities will make use of the [nominating committee in 2017] to continue to manipulate who can stand as candidates. In such a case, the chance of pan-democrats getting approval is zero."

The *Post* study focuses on the four bodies - known as the Selection Committee in 1996 and the Election Committee thereafter - that have picked the city's chief executive in all four elections up to 2012, since Tung Chee-hwa was chosen as the first post-colonial leader in 1996.

Elite club



By the last poll, 78 committee members had voted all four times, while another 219 were choosing the chief executive for the third time.

The Election Committee is picked by 7 per cent of the city's 3.5 million registered voters. Membership is divided into four sectors, roughly comprising business, professionals, social and cultural services, and politicians. Each sector may have elected, uncontested and ex-officio seats.

Billionaires Li Ka-shing, Lee Chau-kee and Lui Che-woo are among the long-enfranchised business representatives.

The ex-officio members include NPC delegates and local lawmakers.

Political scientist Professor Ma Ngok, of Chinese University, said the fact that a significant number of people had enjoyed an unrivalled presence on the committees over time explained why the government was disinclined to make changes.

The importance of who gets a seat has arisen as the government proposes that, in 2017, a nominating committee modelled on the 2012 body will cross out up to eight hopefuls in an internal vote before putting forward two or three candidates for the public to choose from.

Members will be largely chosen by about 250,000 individual and corporate voters in dozens of subsectors.

The study found just four of those four-time veterans - representing the engineering, architecture, health services and accountancy sectors - won their seats on stronger mandates involving thousands of votes from individual members in their respective professions.

The biggest group among the four-time veterans is that of NPC deputies, who occupy ex-officio seats. There were 17 of them in 2012, including Rita Fan Hsu Lai-tai, Maria Tam Wai-chu and Cheng Yiu-tong. This category denotes the highest level of loyalty in the eyes of Beijing. This group was followed by CPPCC delegates, with nine of them having voted since 1996.

For Ann Chiang Lai-wan, who served on all four committees before becoming a lawmaker, no cap should be placed on the number of terms of membership. She said: "Imagine if Li Ka-shing ceased to be on the committee - that'd be a matter of concern."

Over the years, the committees had changed in size, expanding the number of chief executive voters from 400 to 1,200. Speaking to reporters yesterday, Chief Secretary Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor apparently sidestepped the suggestion of introducing more individual votes to reduce corporate influence on the committee. The idea could help the government garner support from pan-democrats for its electoral reform.

"The government's proposal today ... is already a complete proposal," Lam said. "It is a legal and feasible proposal."

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Football guru defends make-up of sport sector on Election Committee

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[Dickson Lee](#) [2]Renowned football guru Pui Kwan-kay is lesser known as one of the privileged few who can elect the chief executive, a right that remains confined to 1,200 members of the public.

Pui took part in the 2002 exercise renewing Tung Chee-hwa's term, and then in the 2007 and 2012 elections that saw Donald Tsang Yam-kuen and Leung Chun-ying rise to power.

The vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Football Association and chairman of the Citizen Athletic Association was on three occasions returned in the sports subsector in the Election Committee, the body that the nominating committee will be modelled on under the proposed electoral reforms. That committee will decide who can stand as chief executive candidates when all eligible voters get a say in 2017.

Pui, whose seat was uncontested, conceded that representatives in his subsector had remained largely the same over the years. Still, he said: "I disagree with the criticism that the seats in our subsector are dominated by a tiny number of people. I'm adamant that the Election Committee members in our sector can truly represent the sector."

"Who can vote" is always a question facing sectors like Pui's, in which votes are allocated to entities rather than individuals.

Pui said corporate votes within the sports subsector numbered about 1,000. The Registration and Electoral Office published on its website a long list of organisations that are eligible to join the subsector, ranging from statutory bodies affiliated to the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, to smaller groups like the Hong Kong Tai Chi Association.

In principle, Pui agreed that the voter base of the Election Committee should be widened in future. In practice, however, he had reservations about granting the franchise to everyone in the sports subsector.

"The subsector is supposed to represent athletic associations' views. It may be inappropriate if all members of a football club become voters in the sector."

But not everyone who now benefits from what critics call a "small circle" chief executive election are happy with the status quo, especially committee members on the other end of the spectrum, who were returned by individual rather than corporate votes.

Edward Chan King-sang, a barrister, joined the legal sector as the biggest winner after yielding 1,320 votes from the 6,000-odd eligible voters, either barristers or solicitors, in 2011.

A former Bar Association chairman, Chan notes that legal practitioners are generally liberal minded, and said those with a prominent social standing and more personal connections stood a higher chance of being elected onto the committee by their peers.

Lawyers are at the forefront of calls for political changes. But under the proposed system, Chan lamented that their role would be limited in facilitating a wider array of candidacies, as many other sectors are reserved for Beijing loyalists.

"It's certain the central authorities can still control at least half of all the committee members," Chan said. **"An apple or an orange - that's all the citizens will be able to choose from [in 2017]."**

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