

Electing Hong Kong's Chief Executive

The government's proposal for the 2017 Chief Executive election promises "one man, one vote" but critics say it is not "true universal suffrage". SCMP explains just how the proposal would work.

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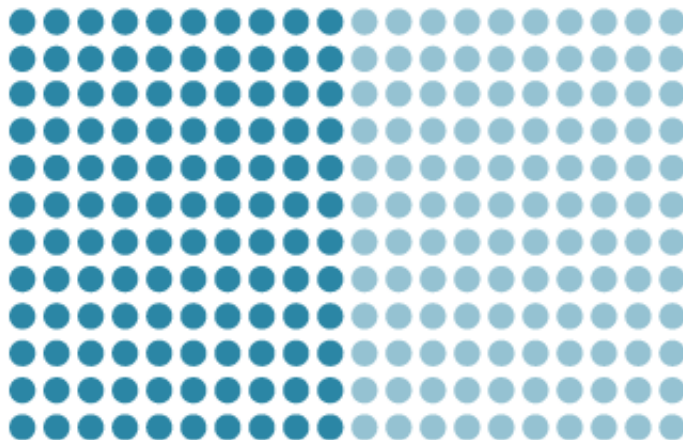
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The government's proposal for the 2017 poll

● = 1 person
■ = 1 person

1 Entry stage

Each nominating committee (NC) member can recommend one aspirant



120

Number of votes an aspirant needs to qualify

240

Maximum votes an aspirant can get

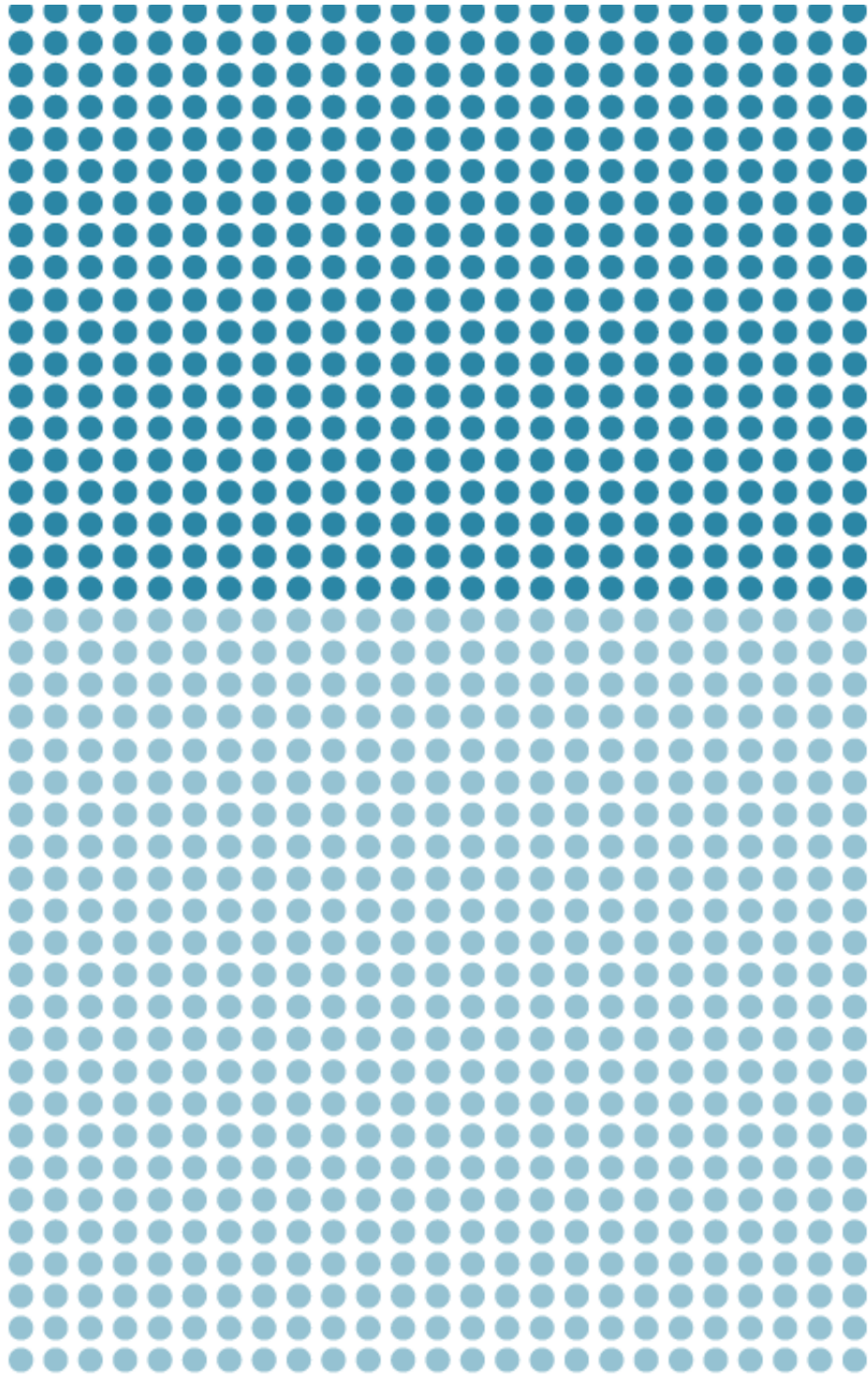
Up to 10 candidates can enter primary



2 Primary within 1,200-strong NC

NC members vote on each candidate to support





Top two or three who get more than
50 per cent members' support can
proceed to public vote.
Each member casts at least two votes

1,200 NC



3 Public vote

One man, one vote, one round. Candidate
with the most votes wins

2017 Chief Executive

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Each member casts at least two votes
2017 Chief Executive: the most votes wins

Hong Kong's voting population

7.2 million
population in
Hong Kong

5 million
eligible voters
in Hong Kong

3.5 million
registered voters
in Hong Kong

1,200
NC members

See 2

7.2 million
population
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5 million eligible voters
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1,200
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See 2

Inside the Legislative Council, Tamar. Photo: Sam Tsang/SCMP

The long road to reform

2007

December: NPC standing committee says universal suffrage will apply to CE poll in 2017

Opening ballot box in the counting centre of the Legislative Council By-election at Wong Nai Chung Road in Happy Valley. Photo: Sam Tsang/SCMP

2010

January: Five lawmakers from League of Social Democrats and Civic Party resign to trigger by-elections as a de facto referendum on universal suffrage in 2012

April: Government issues new proposals for 2012 CE and Legco elections: Election Committee membership to go up from 800 to 1,200

May: Legco by-elections are held and all five lawmakers who quit in January get re-elected.

Three Democratic Party leaders meet Beijing Liaison Office to discuss political reforms

Copies of the report on the consultation of election the future Hong Kong leader proposed to Beijing.
Photo: Felix Wong/SCMP

2013

March: NPC law committee chairman Qiao Xiaoyang says a CE candidate must “love the country and love Hong Kong”

December: Government starts five-month public consultation on reforms for 2017 CE and 2016 Legco polls

2014

June: State Council issues a white paper on rolling out ‘one country two systems’ in Hong Kong. Says Beijing is committed to universal suffrage for Hong Kong but opposes unpatriotic CE candidates

July: Government releases its report on the political reform consultation and CE Leung Chun-ying submits his report to the NPC standing committee

August: NPC standing committee rules that voters are to choose from two or three candidates endorsed by the majority of a 1,200-member nominating committee, who will then be voted through ‘one man, one vote’

September: Pro-democracy activists and students kick off Occupy Central protests, blocking main roads in Mong Kok, Admiralty, and Causeway Bay

2015

January: Government launches second round of consultation on electoral reforms for CE

April: Government spells out its reform proposals for the 2017 CE election

Reform rollout

To implement electoral reform, Hong Kong must go through a five-step process, as set out in the Basic Law and by the National People's Congress Standing Committee decisions:

July 2014: Chief Executive (CE) reports to Standing Committee on need to amend methods for electing the CE and Legislative Council methods

August 2014: Standing Committee issues framework for 2017 CE election

May 2015: Hong Kong government tables its proposed amendments to Legco. Two-thirds majority in Legco needed for approval

Third quarter of 2015: If Legco approves, CE gives consent

Third quarter of 2015: CE submits a report to the Standing Committee for approval

Chief Secretary Carrie Lam Yuet-ngor with Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at his office. Photo: Felix Wong/SCMP

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