

**BPF Response to  
Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive and  
for Forming the Legislative Council in 2012  
Consultation Document**

November 2009

Method for Selecting the CE in 2012

1a	We believe that increasing the number of the Election Committee is a cosmetic change only but DO NOT OBJECT to the proposal.
2a	YES, the proportion of members of the four sectors should remain even.
2b	YES, while we agree that most of the new seats in the fourth sector should be allocated to District Council (DC) members we do so with the aim of moving forward the electoral debate while remarking that these are not functional constituencies (FCs) as originally defined. It is as well to point out too that the insertion of these DC members may indicate a path for future changes contrary to the model which it is hoped to introduce.
2c	YES, we agree that only elected District Council members should take part in the election, this, too is with the aim of moving forward. The BPF holds to the view that the appointed members play a valuable part. Not everyone who can fulfill a useful role has the time or wishes to be involved in street level elections Sir David has indeed suggested that representatives of the local chambers of commerce, industrial and education committees should be ex-officio members of Councils. In congested commercial districts such as Mongkok, this might have real value.
3a	The method of replacing “corporate votes” with “director’s / executive’s / association’s / individual votes” should NOT YET be adopted. There is widespread dislike of this form of representation, if it could be modified in some way another obstacle to the reform package would be removed.
3b	YES, we agree that the proportion of District Council members in the Election Committee should be increased to broaden the electorate base
4a	YES, we agree that the nomination threshold should be maintained at the existing level, i.e. at the ratio of one-eighth of the total membership of the Election Committee.
4b	NO, we strongly prefer an upper limit of NOT MORE THAN 50% be set on the number of subscribers.

5a	FOR THE TIME BEING, the requirement that the CE should not have any political affiliation should be maintained.
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#### Method for Forming the LegCo in 2012

6a	YES, we agree that the number of seats should be increased from 60 to 70.
7a	The method of replacing “corporate votes” with “director’s / executive’s / association’s / individual votes” should NOT be adopted YET.
7b	YES, we agree that all the five new FC seats and the existing District Council seat should be returned through election by elected District Council members from among themselves to broaden the electorate base of the FC group.
8a	YES, we agree that the existing arrangement of allowing Hong Kong permanent residents who are not of Chinese nationality or who have the right of abode in foreign countries to stand in the Leg Co elections for 12 seats should remain unchanged.

#### Other Comments

1. The BPF would stress the need for balanced participation and broad representation. It reiterates the proposal that to ensure the candidates for the CE elections enjoy a broad body of support, to be successfully nominated a candidate should be required to secure at least 30 nominations from each of the four sectors named in Annex 1 of the Basic Law and each candidate in addition should have among his nominators the support of at least 17 members of Legislative Council.
2. The BPF strongly supports the present system which includes FCs until an acceptable replacement is found embodying the two group system of Legco and the check and balance it enables. Any evolved system must contain the safeguards against reckless adventurism and a dictatorship by the majority and safeguards for the economy and trade.
3. The BPF wishes to record its preliminary impression that the one man two vote formula seems to provide in later years a valuable route forward and prides a method for transition from the present impasse.