

Support Clean Elections

Reminder to Candidates on Election Return

The Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance (Cap. 554), enforced by the Independent Commission Against Corruption, aims to ensure public elections in Hong Kong are conducted fairly, openly and honestly, and are free from corrupt and illegal conduct. According to the Ordinance, a candidate

- ✓ must lodge with the Chief Electoral Officer an election return setting out his election expenses and all election donations received at the election by the statutory deadline* as required.

**For Chief Executive Election, Legislative Council Election and District Council Election, it means before the expiry of the period of 60 days after the election is settled; for Election Committee Subsector Election, it means before the expiry of the period of 30 days after the election is settled.*

- ✓ must ensure the election return be accompanied by:
 - (1) (in the case of each election expense of \$500 or more) an invoice and a receipt giving particulars of the expenditure issued by the goods or service provider;
 - (2) (in the case of each election donation of more than \$1,000 in value) a copy of the receipt issued to the donor specifying the name and address of the donor and the particulars of the donation;
 - (3) a copy of the receipt given by a charitable institution or trust of a public character to which the candidate has chosen to give his election donations (including anonymous election donations of more than \$1,000 in value, unused election donations and election donations that exceed the prescribed maximum amount of election expenses);
 - (4) (if applicable) a written explanation setting out the reason why an election donation was not disposed of in accordance with paragraph (3) above; and
 - (5) a declaration verifying the contents of the election return.
- ✗ must not make any materially false or misleading statement in the election return or the revised copy of the election return.

Points-to-note:

- A candidate has to lodge an election return even if he is returned uncontested, not elected or has not incurred any election expense.
- A “candidate” is defined not only as a person who stands nominated as a candidate at an election, but also a person who, at any time before the close of nominations for an election, has publicly declared an intention to stand as a candidate at the election (even though the candidate has not submitted his nomination, has withdrawn his nomination after being nominated as a candidate or his nomination has been ruled invalid).



Clean Election Enquiry Hotline **2920 7878**
24-hour Report Corruption Hotline **25 266 366**
Clean Election Website **www.icac.org.hk/elections**

