

CHAPTER 12

THE COUNT FOR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ELECTION

Section 1 – Set up of the Central Counting Station

12.1 The counting of votes was centrally conducted at the counting station at Halls F and G on Level 5 of the HKCEC. There was a designated area in the central counting station for candidates, their agents and assistants, a designated area for the EC members and a public area for members of the public to observe the count. In case the seats in the public area of the central counting station were filled up, members of the public would be diverted to a reserve public gallery set up at the Chancellor's Room on Level 4 of the HKCEC to observe the counting process through live TV broadcast. Three rooms were reserved for the exclusive use of the three candidates and their agents. Large projector screens were set up in the central counting station so that those who did not sit near the counting zone could also observe the count clearly. To facilitate media coverage of the central counting process and the declaration of results by the RO, an area inside the counting station was reserved as the working area for the press. A Meet-the-Press Area was also designated for the CE-elect, the other two candidates, and the EAC Chairman to meet with the press after the declaration of election result.

Section 2 – The Counting Arrangements

12.2 After the close of poll, the two ballot boxes containing ballot papers cast in the main polling station were delivered to the central counting station. No vote was cast in the DPS at the Happy Valley Police Station. The empty ballot box at the DPS was also transported to the counting station for opening.

12.3 The count was conducted in the presence of the candidates and their election or counting agents. They could observe the count outside the restricted zone surrounding the counting table. The ballot boxes were unsealed and opened by the RO and the process was witnessed by all those present in the counting zone.

12.4 Counting staff placed the valid ballot papers in separate plastic transparent boxes on the table according to the choice marked by the EC members. They passed the clearly invalid ballot papers and questionable ballot papers to the Counting Supervisor, the role of which was assumed by the PRO. The Counting Supervisor then placed these ballot papers in separate plastic transparent boxes. A total of 75 ballot papers that had been put into the ballot boxes were unmarked. All these clearly invalid ballot papers were not counted.

Section 3 – Determination of Questionable Ballot Papers

12.5 Of the ballot papers cast into the ballot boxes, eight were identified as questionable. All candidates and their election/counting agents gathered in front of a table to observe the RO's determination of the validity of the questionable ballot papers. The RO was accompanied by Ms CHENG Pui-lan, Roxana, the ARO(Legal). During the process, for reasons of transparency and ease of inspection, the questionable ballot papers were projected onto a large screen individually with the aid of a visualiser. Seven ballot papers were determined as not valid and not to be counted, while one was determined as valid and to be counted. Thereafter, all valid votes (including the one previously considered questionable but determined by the RO as valid) were counted.

Section 4 – The Result of the Count

12.6 At the end of the count, the ballot paper account was verified by checking against the summation of all valid votes cast for individual candidates, as well as invalid ballot papers. After the ballot paper account was verified, the RO made known the following counting result to the candidates or their agents:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>No. of valid votes obtained</u>
Candidate No. 1 – Mr LEUNG Chun-ying	689
Candidate No. 2 – Mr HO Chun-yan	76
Candidate No. 3 – Mr TANG Ying-yen, Henry	285

12.7 As no candidate requested a re-count, the RO declared the results publicly. The count commenced at about 11:55 am and completed at 12:34 pm. About 1 hour and 34 minutes were taken to produce the election result after the close of the poll. The RO officially announced the result at about 12:35 pm. As Mr LEUNG Chun-ying had obtained more than 600 valid votes (i.e. 689), the RO announced that he was elected as the fourth-term CE. The result was published in the Gazette on 25 March 2012. There was no need to trigger any contingency plan on the polling day.

12.8 An overall analysis of the ballot papers (including valid, invalid and questionable ones) in the election is at **Appendix X**.

Section 5 – EAC Visits

12.9 As in other elections, the EAC Chairman and Members visited the main polling station and central counting station to observe the polling and counting process and gain first-hand information on the latest developments. Before the commencement of the polling hours for the first round of poll, the EAC arrived at the main polling station at 7:30 am to ensure that preparatory work for the poll was in order. The EAC met the media thereafter. After that, Professor Andrew Chan paid a visit to the DPS at Happy Valley Police Station. Thereafter, the EAC visited the main polling station again to observe the conduct of the poll at around 10:15 am. After the close of the poll, at about 11:50 am, the RO opened and emptied the ballot boxes with the help of the EAC Chairman and Members, SCMA and the Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs before the start of the count.

12.10 Subsequent to the stand-up sessions of the three candidates, the EAC met the media at around 3:00 pm at the meet-the-press area inside the central counting station. The Chairman expressed the EAC's satisfaction that the CE Election had been conducted in an open, fair and honest manner in accordance with the law. The Chairman also expressed his gratitude to all the parties concerned for the smooth conduct of the election.