



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區立法會
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The Legislative Council

The Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) stipulates that the HKSAR shall be vested with legislative power and the Legislative Council shall be the legislature of the Region.



Composition

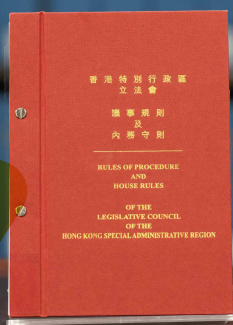
Under the Basic Law, the Legislative Council of the HKSAR shall be constituted by election. The Seventh Legislative Council comprises 90 Members, returned by the Election Committee (40), functional constituencies (30), and geographical constituencies through direct elections (20). The term of office is four years.

The President of the Legislative Council is elected by and from among Members of the Council.

Powers and functions

Pursuant to Article 73 of the Basic Law, the Legislative Council of the HKSAR shall exercise the following powers and functions:

1. To enact, amend or repeal laws in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law and legal procedures;
2. To examine and approve budgets introduced by the government;
3. To approve taxation and public expenditure;
4. To receive and debate the policy addresses of the Chief Executive;
5. To raise questions on the work of the government;
6. To debate any issue concerning public interests;
7. To endorse the appointment and removal of the judges of the Court of Final Appeal and the Chief Judge of the High Court;
8. To receive and handle complaints from Hong Kong residents;
9. If a motion initiated jointly by one-fourth of all the Members of the Legislative Council charges the Chief Executive with serious breach of law or dereliction of duty and if he or she refuses to resign, the Council may, after passing a motion for investigation, give a mandate to the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal to form and chair an independent investigation committee. The committee shall be responsible for carrying out the investigation and reporting its findings to the Council. If the committee considers the evidence sufficient to substantiate such charges, the Council may pass a motion of impeachment by a two-thirds majority of all its Members and report it to the Central People's Government for decision; and
10. To summon, as required when exercising the above-mentioned powers and functions, persons concerned to testify or give evidence.



Rules of Procedure and House Rules

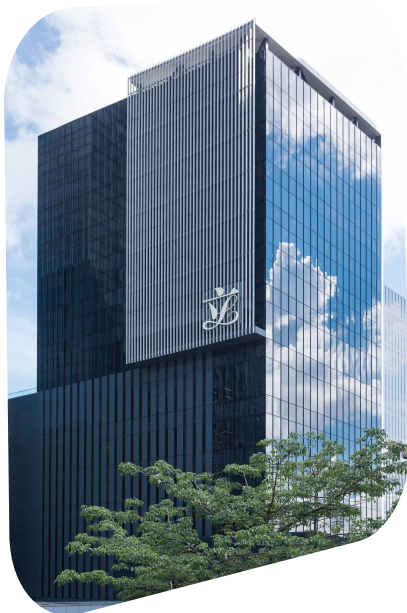
The Legislative Council and its committees conduct business in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure and the House Rules. The Rules of Procedure are made and endorsed by the Council on its own as provided under the Basic Law. The Rules of Procedure are supplemented by customary practices developed in proceedings in Council and in committees over the years, which are codified and adopted by the House Committee as the House Rules.

Legislative Council meetings

While in session, the Legislative Council normally meets on Wednesdays. The business transacted at regular Council meetings mainly includes consideration of bills; tabling of subsidiary legislation, papers and reports; asking of questions for replies from the Government; and debates on motions. The Chief Executive attends meetings of the Council to deliver a Policy Address, address the Council and answer Members' questions on the work of the Government.

Meetings of the Legislative Council are open to the public. Members and public officers may address the Council in Cantonese, English or Putonghua, with simultaneous interpretation and sign language interpretation. The proceedings of Council meetings are broadcast live on the Council's website, reported by the mass media and recorded verbatim in the Official Record of Proceedings of the Legislative Council. Video records of Council meetings are also uploaded to the LegCo YouTube Channel.



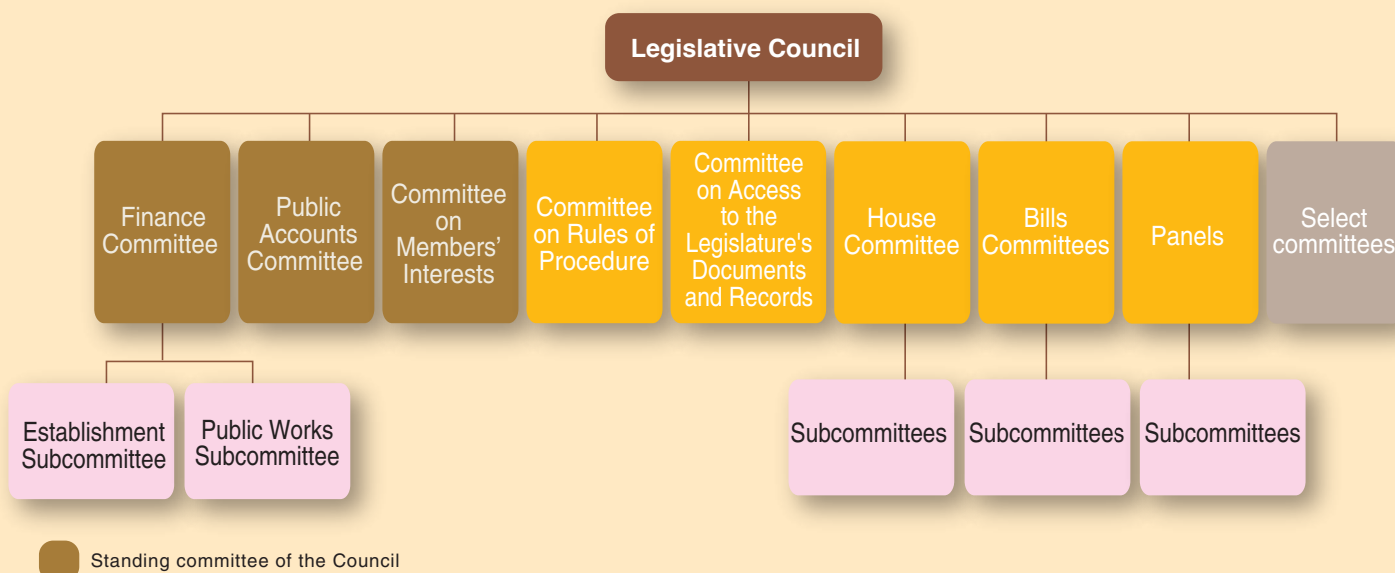


Committees

Members perform the functions of scrutinizing bills and subsidiary legislation, examining and approving public expenditure and monitoring the work of the Government through a committee system. There are three standing committees of the Legislative Council, namely the Finance Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, and the Committee on Members' Interests. In performing their functions, the standing committees, and other committees if so authorized by the Council, may order any person to give evidence and produce documents.

Standing committees aside, the Legislative Council has other committees. These include the Committee on Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Access to the Legislature's Documents and Records, the House Committee, Bills Committees, Panels and subcommittees. Select committees may also be formed to consider matters or bills which the Council may refer to the committees.

The committee system of the Legislative Council



Redress System

The Legislative Council operates a Redress System to receive and handle complaints from members of the public who are aggrieved by government actions or policies. It also deals with public representations on government policies and legislation, as well as other matters of public concern. Members take turns, in groups of nine, to be on duty each week to oversee the Redress System, and to receive and handle representations of and complaints made by deputations. During their duty week, Members also take turns to undertake "ward duty" during which they meet with individual member of the public and provide guidance to staff on the processing of cases.

For more details on the work of the Legislative Council, please visit www.legco.gov.hk

LegCo Website



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Media and Public Relations Division
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