

The HKIE Guidelines on Electoral Affairs in respect of the 2026 Election Committee Engineering Subsector Election

1. Purpose and Scope

1.1 These Guidelines govern the arrangements and restrictions adopted by The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (“HKIE” or “the Institution”) in connection with the Engineering Subsector of the 2026 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections (“the Election”).

1.2 The Institution shall maintain neutrality and uphold the principle of fair and equal treatment of all candidates. These Guidelines apply to the Institution, its Divisions and Committees, and persons acting on its behalf.

1.3 For the purposes of these Guidelines, “candidate” includes a person who has publicly declared an intention to stand for the Election. Unless otherwise specified, the restrictions concerning a candidate shall apply from the first day of the nomination period or the date of that person’s public declaration, whichever is earlier, until the close of polling.

1.4 These Guidelines supplement, but do not replace, applicable electoral legislation, the Electoral Affairs Commission’s (“EAC”) Guidelines and relevant requirements issued by the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”).

2. Institutional Neutrality and Use of the HKIE’s Identity

2.1 No person shall use the Institution’s name, logo, official stationery, publications, communication channels or other resources to support or oppose any candidate, except for neutral arrangements expressly authorised under these Guidelines.

2.2 Requests by members to use their HKIE office titles together with the Institution’s name to express support for a candidate shall not be acceded to. No member, office bearer or staff member shall purport to endorse a candidate on behalf of the Institution.

2.3 Members expressing support in a personal capacity shall not imply that their views represent those of the Institution or any of its Divisions or Committees.

2.4 Candidates and their supporters shall comply with the applicable requirements governing claims of support and the use of another person’s or organisation’s name, logo or pictorial representation in election advertisements, including obtaining prior written consent where required.

3. Publications, Websites and Social Media

3.1 During the applicable period specified in paragraph 1.3, *Hong Kong Engineer* and other HKIE publications shall not publish:

- articles, columns or letters authored or co-authored by a candidate;
- interviews, profiles, messages or other content featuring a candidate; or
- photographs, captions, reports or other material identifying or referring to a candidate.

Editorial teams shall review scheduled content and remove or defer affected material before publication.

3.2 The Institution's websites, including those maintained by its Divisions and Committees, shall not be used to promote or oppose any candidate or to publish candidates' election platforms, campaign materials or endorsements.

3.3 The same restrictions shall apply to all official social media accounts and other digital communication channels operated by or on behalf of the Institution, its Divisions or Committees. Prohibited activities include:

- publishing or sharing candidates' campaign materials;
- adding promotional wording, images, videos, captions, comments, hashtags or links to posts;
- liking, endorsing, reposting or otherwise amplifying content to support or oppose a candidate; and
- using official accounts to encourage votes for or against a candidate.

3.4 Administrators shall monitor official platforms and remove electioneering comments or campaign materials posted by third parties in accordance with a consistent moderation policy.

3.5 The Institution shall not accept election advertisements, whether paid or unpaid, from candidates or third parties for publication, display or distribution through its premises or communication channels.

3.6 Neutral administrative notices concerning the Election or an HKIE-organised election forum may be issued with prior approval from the Institution. Such notices shall be factual, limited to their administrative purpose and prepared on a fair and equal basis.

4. Use of Premises, Facilities and Institutional Activities

4.1 Except for an election forum expressly authorised under Section 5, electioneering activities shall not be permitted at the HKIE Headquarters or in other premises or facilities controlled by the Institution. This restriction includes canvassing, campaign meetings, promotional interviews and recordings, and the display or distribution of election materials.

4.2 **Except for an election forum expressly authorised under Section 5**, the Institution's staff, equipment, funds, mailing lists, membership information and other resources shall not be made available for candidates' electioneering purposes.

4.3 Divisions and Committees shall not, individually or jointly with third parties, organise, sponsor or conduct activities intended to promote or prejudice the election of any candidate.

4.4 Seminars, workshops, learned society activities and institutional meetings shall not be used for canvassing or campaign publicity. Candidates attending such activities shall comply with this restriction.

4.5 Existing bookings shall not be changed or repurposed for electioneering. Any booking found to have been repurposed in this manner shall be cancelled.

5. Election Forum

5.1 The Institution may, at its discretion, organise an election forum. All candidates standing for the Engineering Subsector Election shall be invited on the same terms. The forum may proceed

notwithstanding that one or more candidates decline or fail to attend.

5.2 The Institution shall retain records of the dates, times and contents of invitations and notices until at least three months after the Election.

5.3 The Chairman shall determine and communicate the forum's format and procedural rules in advance. Each participating candidate shall receive equivalent time to present their election platform and a fair opportunity to express views and respond during other sessions.

5.4 Appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure that the forum is conducted safely and in an orderly manner.

5.5 No candidate shall be obliged to participate. Participation shall not constitute endorsement or support by the Institution.

6. Media Enquiries and Invitations

6.1 All media enquiries and invitations relating to the Election and addressed to the Institution, its Divisions or Committees shall be referred to the Secretariat for central coordination. Only an authorised spokesperson may respond on behalf of the Institution.

6.2 Responses shall be confined to factual information about the Institution's policies, administrative arrangements and any authorised election forum. The Institution shall not comment on individual candidates' merits, election prospects or campaign platforms, or indicate a preferred candidate.

6.3 The Institution shall not nominate, recommend or arrange for candidates to respond to media enquiries or participate in interviews, programmes, press events or other publicity opportunities in an HKIE capacity during the applicable period specified in paragraph 1.3.

6.4 The Institution shall not provide media liaison or publicity services for candidates' campaigns, circulate their campaign statements, or arrange media invitations on their behalf.

6.5 Any media arrangements for an HKIE-organised election forum shall be centrally coordinated and administered on a fair and equal basis.

7. Election Expenses and Legal Compliance

7.1 Before offering any authorised candidate-related service, the Institution shall assess its implications for election expenses and election donations. Where a charge or valuation is appropriate, a consistent basis shall be established and communicated to all affected candidates before implementation.

7.2 Goods or services provided free of charge or at a discount may constitute election donations, and their value may also need to be accounted for as election expenses when used for election purposes. Subject to statutory exceptions, only candidates and their duly authorised election agents and election expense agents may incur election expenses. Any necessary authorisation shall be obtained before expenditure is incurred.

7.3 Candidates shall remain responsible for compliance with applicable election-expense limits,

election-return obligations and requirements concerning election advertisements, election donations and claims of support. The provision of any service by the Institution shall not discharge those responsibilities.

7.4 Candidates, their agents and other persons involved in election-related activities shall comply with the prohibitions on corrupt and illegal conduct, including electoral bribery, improper treating, force or duress, deception, obstruction of voting and materially false or misleading statements about candidates made for electoral purposes.

8. Administration and Review

8.1 Requests for clarification and reports of suspected non-compliance shall be referred to the Secretariat for consideration by the Institution's designated approving authority.

8.2 The Institution may decline or discontinue any arrangement inconsistent with these Guidelines and may remove unauthorised materials from its premises or official communication channels.

8.3 The Institution may issue supplementary administrative arrangements or amend these Guidelines, subject to applicable law and the principle of fair and equal treatment. Changes affecting candidates shall be communicated to all candidates on the same basis.

8.4 Nothing in these Guidelines constitutes consent to use the Institution's identity or resources for electioneering, or an endorsement of any candidate.