

Can a "city boy" win office and represent a largely rural population in the Legislative Council?

Or will he be crushed by the sheer power of his four election opponents, all leading rural figures? September 26 will tell.

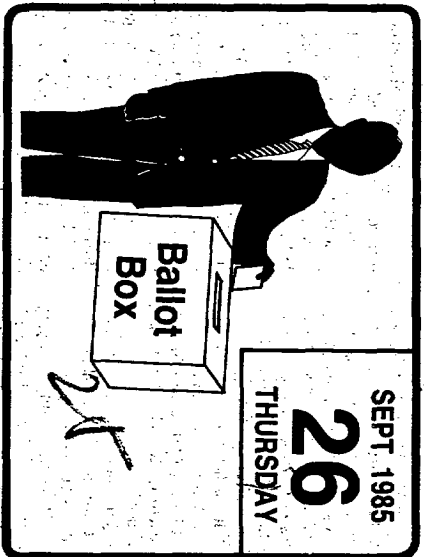
Today DANIEL CHUNG looks at the five candidates in the New Territories East constituency and assesses their chances of winning.

ELECTION

SEPT 1985

26

THURSDAY



COUNTDOWN

'City' image won't handicap Wong

Candidate Mr Andrew Wong candidly admits that being a non-indigenous resident can be a disadvantage in the Legco elections in the New Territories East constituency.

But as far as he is concerned this handicap can be turned into an advantage if political guile is applied.

He is anxious to eliminate the so-called "city and rural dispute" and to promote co-operation between indigenous and non-indigenous residents in the New Territories.

He favours a "step-by-step" approach to political reforms in Hongkong and gradual development of a ministerial system.

Mr Wong said the present system of Legco whereby councillors are working on a part-time basis should be preserved.

Under this system, the councillors are all standing on their own feet. The fact that they come from different fields will prevent the Legislature from becoming out of touch with society," he said.

Mr Pang Hang-yin said he did not think the election in his constituency would turn into a fight between candidates of indigenous and non-indigenous origin.

During his four terms as chairman of the

Fanning Rural Committee, Mr Pang said he had been given more support from non-indigenous residents than indigenous ones in the community.

If elected to Legco, Mr Pang said he would make maximum use of the resources of society and strive to strike a balance of interests between people of different backgrounds.

He would also report his Legco work to district board members in his constituency.

Mr Liu Ching-jeung said he would strive to maintain Hongkong's present social system and lifestyle.

He would like to see a fair allocation of resources in society and a balanced development between urban and rural areas.

Mr Wai Hon-leung said he would work for the implementation of the system of representative Government.

He will also seek to expand the power of the district boards and promote a sense of belonging among new town residents.

Mr Wai said he would sincerely listen to public opinion and would keep on pressing for improvements to community facilities in his constituency.

See M.T.

11 Sept. 1985