

13 try to woo the voters in Urban Council polls

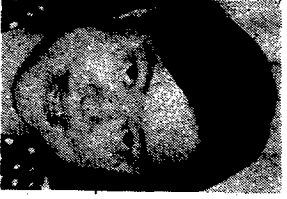
Handy Hong Shum
6 March 1978



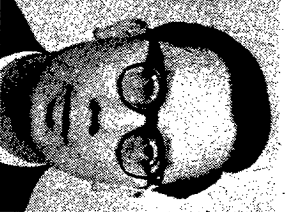
Mrs Eisie Elliott



Dr Denny Huang



Miss Marie Tam



Mr Hilton Cheong-Leen



Mr Anthony Wong



Mr Augustine Chung



Dr Keeson Shum



Miss Cecilia Yeung



Mr Francis Knight



Mr Francis Chaine

THIS year's Urban Council election will be held on Thursday when more than 30,000 registered voters choose six new elected members from 13 candidates for the coming four-year term.

Thirteen polling stations — four in Hongkong, six in Kowloon and three in the New Territories — will open for 12 hours from 8 a.m.

A team of more than 100 people will count the votes in the Exhibition Hall of the City Hall, after the polling booths close.

The polling stations on Hongkong Island are at King's College, the City Hall's Exhibition Hall, Hennessy Road Government Primary School and the North Point Government Primary School.

In Kowloon, the polling stations are at Kowloon Public Pier, Queen Elizabeth School, Kowloon Technical School, Homantin Government Middle School, Ng Wah College and Kuntong Government Primary School.

The polling stations in the New Territories are at Tsunwan Government Secondary School, Huen Yee Kuk Yuenlong District Secondary School and Wong Shu Chi Middle School.

Thumbnail sketches of the 13 candidates follow:

for justice, or against anything unfair to them. She said: "I have worked and will continue to work loyally for the public on issues both within and outside the Urban Council's jurisdiction. What I have done in past years is open for everyone to see and I hardly need to mention it myself."

"Sometimes it may be that I tread on bureaucratic corns, because I feel that policies are being made for people without the remotest idea of what they need. My only purpose is to wake up the bureaucrats to the facts and then spur them onto action."

Miss Elliott was born in England, and came to Hongkong 28 years ago. She has been an elected member of the Urban Council since 1963 and is now serving as the chairman of the council's Libraries Select Committee and a member of the Housing Authority.

She said she will continue to press the Government to put the Housing Authority under the Council's control in order to improve its management.

● DENNY HUANG, an independent candidate running for his fourth term, intends to continue fighting for the people's rights.

"I am rather pessimistic about the current situation, as not only has the council's jurisdiction been restrained further, but the

status of elected members has deteriorated", he said.

Dr Huang, 59, was born in Shanghai and came to Hongkong in 1947, when he joined the Medical and Health Department. He started his private practice in 1956 after completing a two-year scholarship in United Kingdom.

During his 12 years in the Council, Dr Huang led two major campaigns in Hongkong, the language campaign and the Keep Hongkong Clean Campaign.

● MARIA TAM, is an independent candidate who wants to contribute her legal knowledge and skill to help improve the institution and system of the Urban Council.

"I am interested in joining the Select Committee for Standing Orders to seek an amendment permitting Urban Councillors to speak on issues of public concern more than once a year," she said.

A lawyer by profession, Miss Tam, 33, was born in Hongkong. She is vice-president of the Hongkong Federation of Women Lawyers, and a member of the International Year of the Child Committee in Hongkong, and many community organisations.

Miss Tam feels that although the Urban Council is restricted as a legislative body and a forum for democratic discourse, an

effective councillor remains an important link in a chain in defence of social justice.

● H I L T O N Cheong-Leen, a Civic Association candidate running for his sixth term, wishes to continue serving the people and fighting for their rights and privileges.

"If I am re-elected, I shall press ahead with my efforts to strengthen and expand the council's works in cultural, recreational and health issues," he said.

Mr Cheong-Leen, 59, is an industrialist who came to Hongkong 40 years ago. He has been an elected member of the Urban Council since 1957 and is now serving as the Chairman of the Civic Association.

"I will also continue to do my best to keep close to the grassroots of the community, so that the problems and wants of the ordinary people are brought to the attention of the Government," he pledged.

● ANTHONY WONG, a Reform Club candidate, is keen to improve and strengthen protection for consumers.

"An Urban Councillor will be able to do this as the council has power to make and amend the relevant law within its jurisdiction," he said.

Multi-storey Building Committee of the Civic Association.

"If I am elected, I will seek more protection for consumers and strengthen their legal status because the jurisdiction of the Urban Council on food and environmental hygiene, recreation, and amenities, have a direct effect on consumers," he said.

"I also think the Urban Council should construct more multi-storey buildings for indoor recreational and cultural purposes in different urban districts."

● AUGUSTINE CHUNG, an independent candidate is making his first attempt to win a seat in the council. He decided to stand for election in order to act as a direct link between the ordinary people and the Government.

"As an adviser and director of many civil servants' associations and other community organisations, I have a very close relation with the general public," he said.

In the past nine years, Mr. Chung has tackled various social problems connected with undrinkable water.

● KEESON SHUM, is a Civic Association candidate, who feels that all Urban

Councillors should speak out for the people and make their grievances and demands known to the Government.

"Often councillors' ideals are restrained by the jurisdiction of the Urban Council, but still councillors must speak for the people, even on matters that are outside the council's jurisdiction," he commented.

Dr Shum, 39, is the Chairman of the Civic Association's Committee on Medical Affairs and the medical adviser to the Hongkong Teachers' Association and the Hongkong Swimming Teachers' Association.

If elected, he will propose the establishment of a children's hospital to deal with complicated problems endangering the lives of children. Existing facilities are not sufficient for such purposes, he said.

Dr Shum will also urge the Government to provide a sound and fair medical scheme for people from all walks of life.

● CECILIA YEUNG, a Reform Club candidate running for her third term, proposes that the Government should give some kind of allowance to people in the middle income class to encourage them to buy flats in the private sector.

"People earning more than \$2,000 a month cannot apply for public

housing, and those earning more than \$3,500 a month cannot apply for the 'homeownership scheme'," she said.

Miss Yeung pointed out that these people do not benefit by the Government's housing scheme.

"If I am re-elected, I will urge the Government to raise the present income level for home ownership from \$3,500 to \$5,000, and also grant an allowance to encourage people to buy their own flats."

Miss Yeung, an educationist as well as a businesswoman, has been an elected member of the council since 1971.

● FRANCIS KNIGHT, a Reform Club candidate, proposes to amend the voting system to enable every resident over 18 to vote.

"I suggest that the pre-election registration of voters should be scrapped because it reduces people's interest in participating in the elections," he said.

"I think every person over 18 who has lived here more than five years should be eligible to vote."

Mr Knight was born in Essex, England and joined the Royal Hongkong Police Force in 1954. He retired after 24 years of service and is now a director of a security company.

If elected, Mr Knight will propose to the Government to impose a fair rent control system for

housing, and those earning more than \$3,500 a month cannot apply for the 'homeownership scheme'," she said.

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Harry Mary Markers

6 March, 1973



Mr. Andrew Tu

Dr. Wong Pun-chuk

Mr. Law Che-keung

post-war and pre-war buildings to protect tenants from unreasonable rent increases.

● FRANCIS Chaine, a Reform Club candidate, is an advocate of separate taxation for married couples.

"It is unfair to assess jointly the income of a husband and wife because this means they pay more," he said.

A solicitor by profession, Mr. Chaine, 58, is an ex-chairman of the Football Association and founder of the Hongkong Bowling Congress.

He said daily-paid female workers should be allowed paid maternity leave because they do not get an annual bonus.

● ANDREW Tu, an independent candidate, said he is standing for election because he understands the difficulties of the poor and wants to help them.

Apart from being the chairman of the Samaritans, a movement that helps depressed people, I have also worked closely with Mrs Elliott during the past 16 years," he said.

"These experiences have helped me understand better about conditions on the harsher side of life!"

Mr Tu, 57, was born in Inner Mongolia, and came to Hongkong in 1949. During the past 28 years, he has been the principal of a secondary school.

● WONG Pun-chuk, an independent candidate running for his third term, said the jurisdiction of the Urban Council and the number of seats for elected members should be expanded.

"A Citizen's Central Complaints Office should be set up and councillors should work in shifts to listen to the grievances of the public," he said.

Dr Wong wants the office in addition to the existing ward system in government office buildings. Dr Wong, 61, has been an elected member of the council since 1973.

He said an independent "Extra-Council Affairs Committee" should also be set up to study matters outside the present jurisdiction of the Urban Council.

● LAW Che-keung, also an independent candidate, wants more seats for elected members.

Mr Law is a factory owner and an adviser to the Hongkong Teachers' Association and the Hongkong Government Employees' General Union. He is also president of the New Territories Scout Association.

"If I am elected, I will urge the Government to build more homes for the poor and homeless aged people, because it is a Chinese virtue to take care and respect the old," he said.