

H. K. Standard

21 Jan. 1983

## 24 in the Urbco race so far

WITH the deadline for Urban Council nominations only a week away, a total of 24 candidates have come forward for the March 8 elections.

Yesterday an appeal was made for more candidates.

The candidates who will be contesting in 12 of the 15 constituencies include seven Urban councillors and six elected district board members after nominations opened about a week ago.

In four constituencies, there is one only candidate in each. This means that the seats there will be declared uncontested when nominations close on January 28, if no other contestants are named.

These four candidates are: Marie Tam in Central and Western, Hilton Cheong-Leen in Wanchai, Chan Ching-kwan in Kowloon City West and Elsie Elliott in Kuntong West.

The three constituencies that do not have any candidates so far are Kowloon City East, Wongtaisin South and Wongtaisin North.

### APPEAL

A spokesman for the City and New Territories Administration yesterday appealed to citizens interested in the work of the Urban Council, to submit their nominations before the closing date.

The Urbco plays an important part in the day-to-day management of the city, he said.

"We are looking for people of calibre who have the welfare of the public at heart and are willing to serve the community," he added.

There are now 708,119 registered voters, representing a 20-fold increase from the 34,000 in the 1981 elections.

The increase is due to the simplification of the franchise this year. Anyone over 21 who has been resident in Hongkong for seven years or more is now eligible to register as a voter.

As the size of the Urbco constituency is much larger than that of the district board constituency, voting turnout is expected to be proportionately bigger, the spokesman said.