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# 1988 voting gets strong support in Kwun Tong

By Pamela Ngai

MORE than half the residents polled in a recent Kwun Tong survey supported the introduction of direct elections to the Legislative Council next year.

The survey, which polled 768 people aged 18 or above on the composition of Legco next year, was conducted by the Grassroots Concern Group on the Political System between July 6 and 22.

The group's chairman, Mr Fung Ho-lap, told a press conference yesterday 83.1 percent of the respondents supported direct elections to Legco.

And about 70 percent of these supporters, or 58.3 percent of the entire survey population, thought this should be done next year.

About 67 percent of those who supported the introduction of direct elections next year thought a quarter or more of the Legco members should be elected this way.

Only 7.4 percent of the respondents objected to direct elections. Of these, just over half thought that people did not have sufficient political consciousness to elect Legco representatives.

Mr Fung said that in general the public did not want any drastic changes made to the political system.

Respondents choosing the

## Direct dates

How those in favour of direct elections want them timed.

1988: 70.2 percent;  
1989: 2.2 percent; 1990: 11 percent; 1991: 2.7 percent; 1992: 3 percent; 1993-95: 1.3 percent; 1996-97: 2.5 percent; 1997: 0.8 percent; unspecified: 6.4 percent.

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"no change" option accounted for the biggest proportion of all the choices of the ways to create Legco members.

He said 58.2 percent thought the number of officials sitting in Legco should remain unchanged and more than 30 percent said the composition of Legco should remain basically unchanged except that part of it should be directly elected next year.

Results also showed 37.2 percent of the respondents said there should be no change to the

number of appointed seats but another 35.5 percent said these seats should be reduced.

There was not a majority view about the number of members elected by functional constituencies and electoral colleges.

Mr Fung said the survey had been carried out under very strict conditions so it would be representative of the views of Kwun Tong residents.

Throughout the processes of sampling, questionnaire design and face-to-face interviews, they had tried to be as objective, accurate and comprehensive as possible, he said.

A professional statistician and advisor to the concern group, Mr Tam Ping-kwan, said 48.2 percent of the sampled households had responded to their questionnaire.

The response rate was high considering it was a private survey which nobody was obliged to answer, he said.

Mr Fung said the Green Paper's content was wide-ranging and the issues discussed were very complicated.

They sought Kwun Tong residents' views on the Legislative Council because it was considered the most important part of the Green Paper, he said.

The findings will be submitted to the Survey Office.