

September 2, 2020

Letters Editor  
The Atlantic  
[letters@theatlantic.com](mailto:letters@theatlantic.com)

Dear Letters Editor,

I refer to Timothy McLaughlin's August 25 article.

As stressed by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSAR), the decision to postpone the September 6 Legislative Council election for one year was made to protect public health and to ensure an open and fair election.

When announcing in late July the decision to postpone the election, Hong Kong was experiencing a renewed and concerning wave of COVID-19 outbreaks, with the number of confirmed cases since July more than doubling the cumulative caseload over the preceding six-month period. Holding an election for over 4 million registered voters casting ballots at a limited number of polling stations in a highly dense city would pose a significant risk of further community infection. Furthermore, the stringent boundary control measures currently in force make it challenging for registered voters who are away from the city to return to cast their votes. In the absence of alternatives to in-person voting, such as mail-in, absentee or electronic ballot, our government made the difficult decision to postpone the election.

The HKSAR Government is committed to conduct the elections in September next year freely, openly and in good faith.

Sincerely,

Eddie Mak  
Hong Kong Commissioner, USA

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