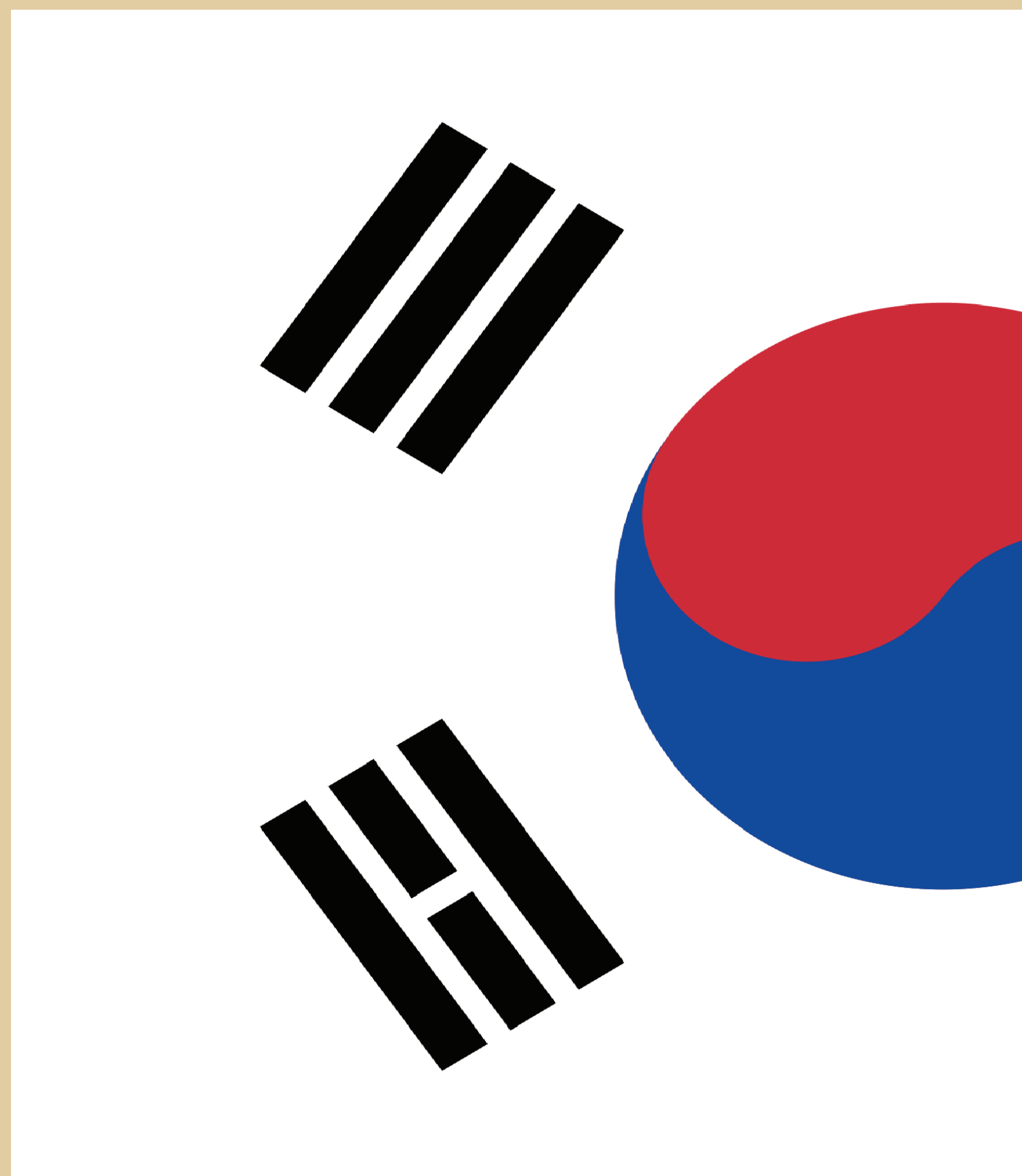


Hard Measures in Elections during COVID-19



1. Social Distancing

-Required 1.5 meters distance for every voter

2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

-Increase the health safety for polling staff
E.g. gloves, face shields, hair covers, gowns for polling staff

3. Hand Sanitizer

-Required voters to use hand sanitizer before entering polling stations

4. Temperature Screening

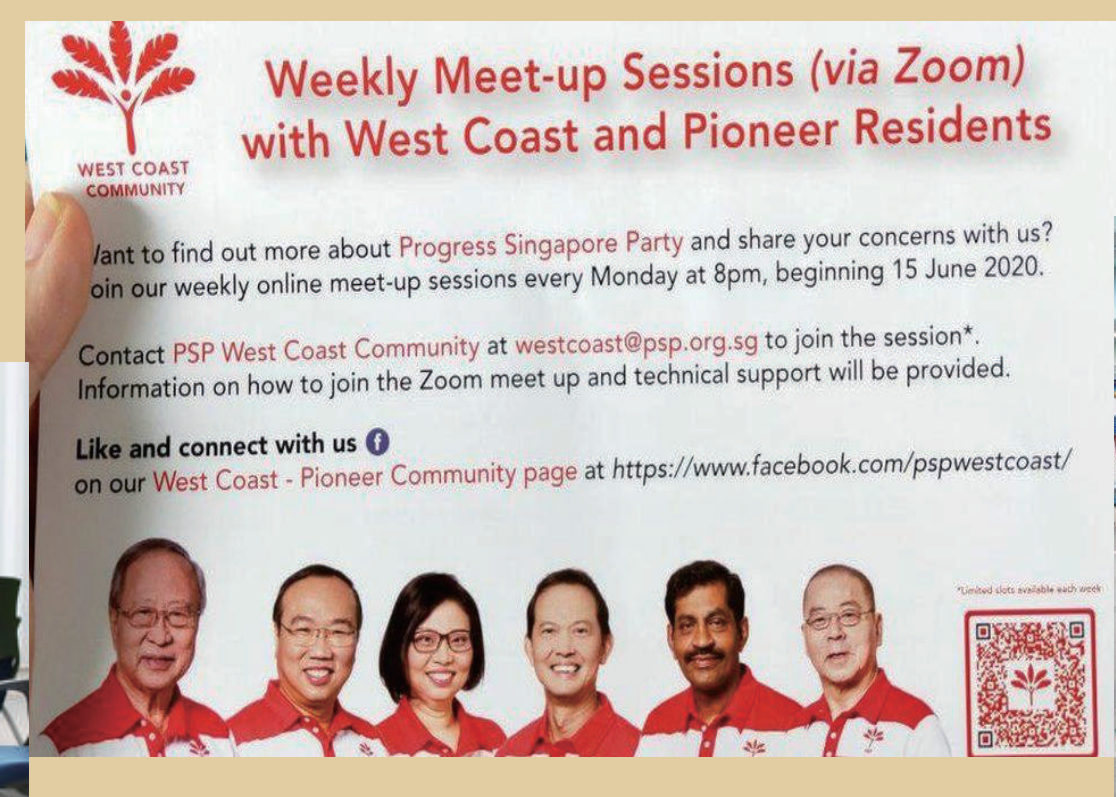
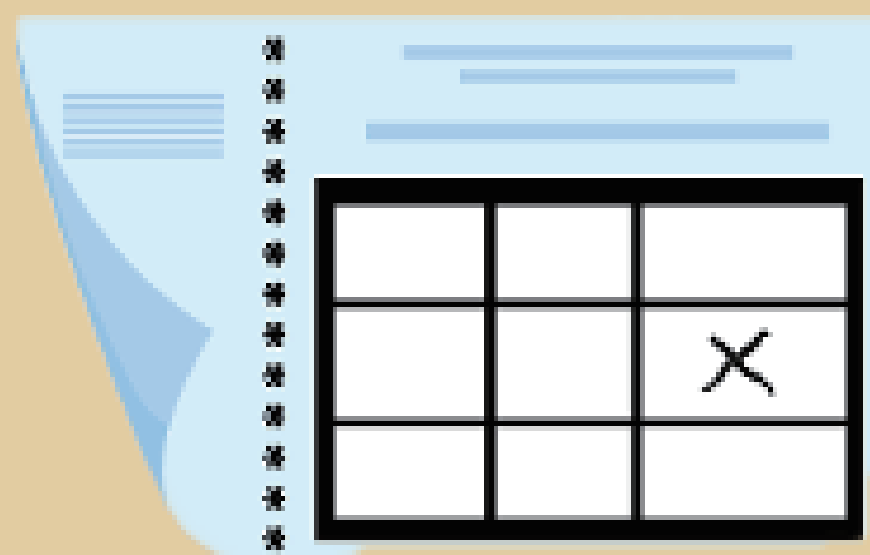
-Every voter temperature had to be screened before entering the polling station
-Special Situation: e.g., Voters with high temperature or fever --> be separated into other special polling booths

5. Expansion of the voting hours

-An hour was added from 6 pm to 7 pm for citizens who were in quarantine

6. Promotion of advance voting

-Strongly recommended voters to participate in advance voting to reduce voter numbers on the election day



1. The voting hour extended from 8pm to 10pm
2. Adding more polling stations from 880 to 1100
the average number of voters per voting station would decrease from 3000 to 2400

3. Setting up a designated website for voters to check the queue situation for each poll stations to divert avoid clustering
4. Setting up e-Registration machines to help to verify voters against the electoral roll at polling stations

-It could be used for contract tracing if necessary

5. Voters had to maintain a 1m distance to other voters when entering poll station and queueing up for voting

6. Voters had to sanitize their hands and wear disposable gloves before receiving ballot paper

7. A smaller team of election officials at every polling station would don full personal protective equipment

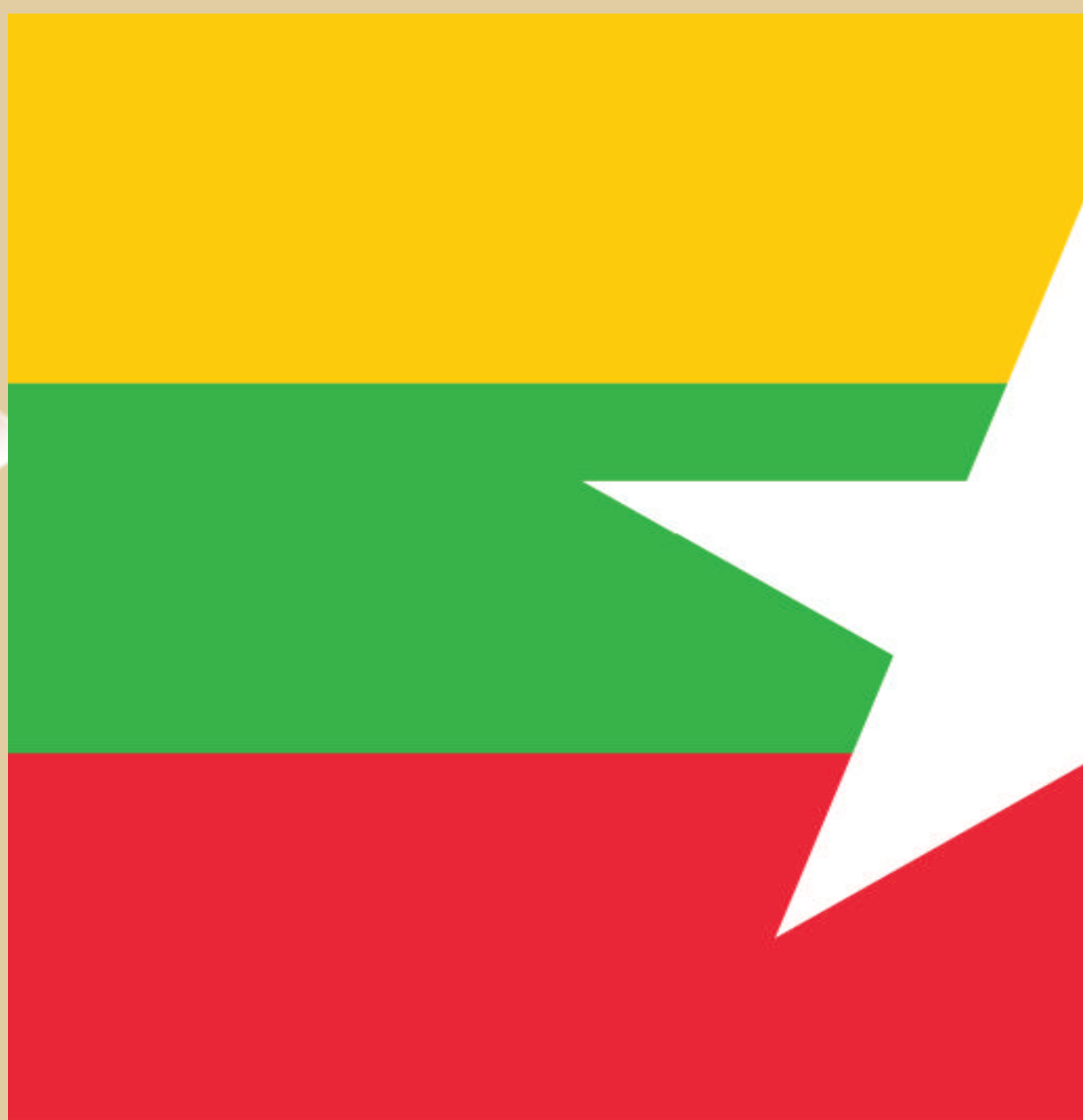
8. Disinfection would be conducted

9. Special hour (7pm to 8pm) for special cases

-This voting period would be assigned to suspected COVID case voters (ie had a fever of 37.5 Celsius or above)

10. COVID-19 patients and quarantined persons would not be allowed to vote

-They would remain in their staying place, and a mobile polling team under the two designated polling stations would go to them to record voting



1. Postpone the election due to COVID-19

2. Cancellation of election of total 7 regions and states out of 14

3. Voters aged 60 or above and those who cannot vote on the election day can start their voting at 29th October, 2020

4. Special voting procedures have been published on posters

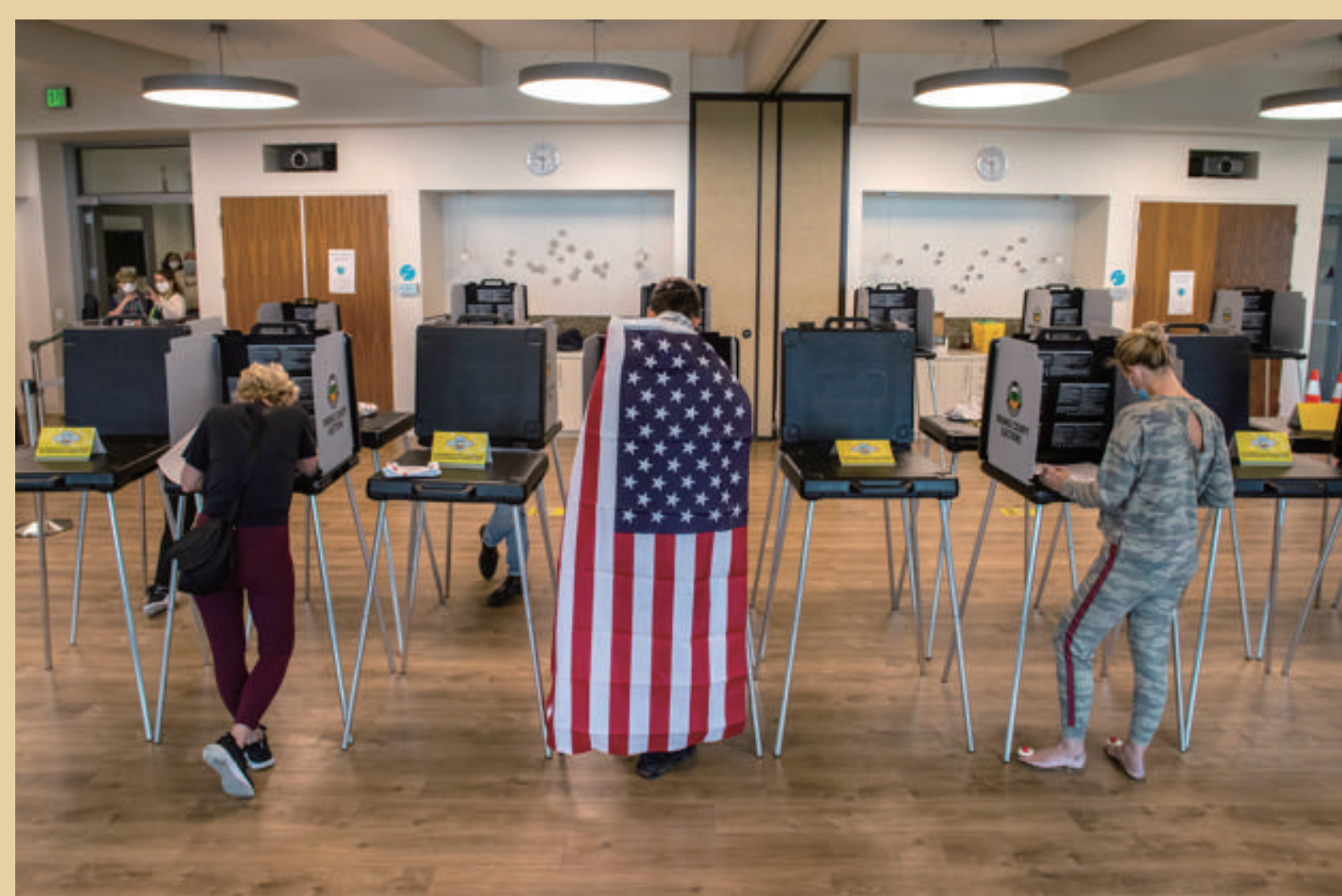
-Showing the layout of the voting booth and voting steps to assist the voters
-Workers have been trained, and these procedures have already been trialed

5. Information have been posted on Facebook page and newspapers

-including election-related news and information regarding the Hluttaw Election Law



Hard Measures in Elections during COVID-19



The National Election Commission issued the following guidance in advance of the presidential election:

1. Voters could vote in person on June 28 or by mail up to 12 days prior to the election if in self-isolation or quarantine
2. Voting workers would receive FFP1 masks and gloves, which needed to be changed every hour
3. Voting workers must be at least 1.5 meters apart, and each of their stations would be covered with a barrier at least 1 meter above the "breathing zone"
4. Voting workers and voters would be provided with hand sanitizer upon entering the polling stations
5. Polling stations would be aired out at least every hour for 10 minutes
6. All high-touch surfaces would be disinfected every hour
7. Based on the size of the electoral precinct, a maximum of 1 person would be allowed per 15 square meters



1. The Prevention through Design (PtD) approach

-To enhance the work environment by including prevention methods in all designs that impact workers and others on the premises.

2. Purchasing and distributing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

and hand sanitizer to poll workers and voters

- The CARES act funding (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) from the government is being used
- In Arizona: to support early voting initiatives.
- In Virginia: towards expenses related to the sake of health safety.

3. Encouraging the use of facial coverings during in-person voting

4. Disinfection cleansing for voting machines and equipments.

5. Education of Preventive measures, such as washing hands frequently.

6. Establishing alternative voting locations to maintain social distances.

- The guideline of social distancing is six feet

7. Mail in ballots

- Different states accept it but conducted in separate ways
 - Automatic mail-in ballot systems (No excuse required)
 - Eligible voters receive a ballot by default
- Request-required mail-in ballot systems (Excuse required)



1. Postponing elections

E.g. National referendum, Original: 29 March 2020 Moved to: 20/21 September 2020 (5 months)
Mayoral elections, Original: 15 April –15 June 2021 Moved to: 15 September – 15 October 2021 (4 months) in Rome, Milan, Turin and Naples

2. Adding more voting operations

- Set-up of polling stations
 - 1. To provide dedicated routes, distinct entrance and exit with clear signs
 - 2. To provide restricting access to the building, and possibly creating areas for waiting outside
 - 3. To provide a sufficiently large environment
 - 4. Distance of 2 meters must be guaranteed during voter identification
 - 5. Specific horizontal signs may be provided
 - 6. To ensure the cleaning of the premises
 - 7. To provide available sanitizing products placed in the common areas
 - 8. The use of masks is mandatory for access the polling station



Lesson For Hong Kong



1. The attitude and policy of the politicians towards the pandemic greatly affect the result of elections

E.g. Matteo Salvini (Right-wing Lega party leader)

- Fail in regional elections and a national referendum
- ∴ Against the pandemic policy (mandatory mask-wearing, local lockdown)

2. The importance of the election in one country

- There should be an ongoing election during pandemic
- Implement different policy with extra cost to finish a successful election
- the significance of local and regional leadership (In Italy, health care is administered at a regional level)

∴ Government should find different ways to hold election



1. Comprehensive electoral measures to ensure the enfranchisement of citizens

2. Propose an electoral reform that would allow the operation of advance voting

-According to the Basic Law, there is no single law code that has mentioned advancing voting)

3. Provide sufficient resources for poll workers to implement COVID-19 precautionary measures

- E.g. PPE, back-up masks for voters, hand sanitizers, and gloves
- These measures protect the safety of the voters and the health of the poll workers



1. Increase the number of voting stations and staff

- Social distancing could be maintained
- Population flow could be divided to avoid human contact
- Maximize the efficiency of polling stations
- Maintain better hygienic conditions

2. Extend the days of voting

- Increases flexibility
- Reduces population flow for lowering chances of infection
- Provides larger convenience

3. Offer new ways of voting (vote by mail)

- Diminishes human interaction to avoid infection
- Increases the accessibility of elections
- Beneficial for both younger and older generations



1. Clearly listed out the procedures in voting station for voters to follow

2. Providing different resources to help facilitating the rundown of the election

-E.g. a designated website was set up to let voters check the queue of the polling station

3. Different citizen would have different voting time slots

-Singled out an hour for the suspected COVID-19 voters to vote

4. E-Rallies were allowed to keep running

-Make sure every candidate could promote themselves even without street rallies



1. Learn the method of vote by mail in Poland

- Compared with Poland, the cost for vote by mail is lower, and the feasibility is high. Hong Kong need not to set up more polling stations since the land is limited and cost is high.

2. All contact surfaces in polling stations need to be disinfected every hour.

- This method has already been implemented in public areas in Hong Kong which is easy to implement.

3. When voting, the required front-to-back distance must be maintained and supervised

4. Opinion pollsters and voters who participated in the vote will be given hand sanitizer



1. Election of Hong Kong should be continued to ensure the fairness

2. Should resume of election and more strict public activities control should be launched.

3. Quarantine policy in Hong Kong should be more strict to minimize the spread of the virus.

4. Hong Kong government should disallow all the entrance from foreign countries at the very beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic to avoid risk of election.