

August 24, 2020

National Review  
19 West 44th Street  
Suite 1701  
New York, N.Y. 10036

Dear Letters Editor,

I refer to Doug Bandow's August 20 op-ed "The effects of Hong Kong's national security law are already clear."

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

Hong Kong is experiencing a renewed 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 the election in early September for 4.4 million registered voters casting ballots at a limited number of polling stations in a highly dense city would pose a risk of further community infection. Furthermore, the stringent boundary control measures currently in force make it challenging for registered Hong Kong 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, the government has taken the difficult decision to postpone the election.

The HKSAR Government attaches utmost importance to ensuring, and protecting, the constitutional right of Hong Kong people to take part in, and stand for, elections. This will be conducted freely, openly and in good faith in September next year.

Sincerely,

Eddie Mak  
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