

November 10, 2021

The Editor
Bloomberg

Dear Editor:

Matthew Brooker's article "Hong Kong's Stage-Managed Election Is Fooling Nobody" (Nov 7) contains groundless comments and smacks of fearmongering.

Attempts to undermine Hong Kong's electoral system with sensationalist and biased reporting are extremely deplorable.

Your correspondent's criticism of Hong Kong for urging voters to cast legitimate ballots in the Legislative Council (LegCo) elections next month is a clear case of double standards. Surely every government would want its residents to cast valid votes in any election.

Hong Kong has endured years of acrimonious political stalemate, during which radical elements abused the system to severely disrupt the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government.

The Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021 passed on May 27, 2021 allows people from all walks of life with different opinions about government policies to participate in the political system, as long as they uphold the Basic Law and swear allegiance to the HKSAR. This pledge of allegiance is no different from what is required of public office holders around the world.

People in Hong Kong are free to vote and stand for election, regardless of their political affiliation. We encourage all eligible civic-minded voters to participate in the LegCo elections on December 19.

Erick Tsang
Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
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