



# Enriching our Community

## 2023 District Council Election Manifesto

October 16, 2023

Hong Kong is our home. We need a responsible district governance team willing to work with and serve the public with dedication to better our community.

The DAB will never stop serving the community and is your trustworthy partner.

- **Core beliefs:** We love our country, and we have served Hong Kong sincerely for more than 30 years;
- **Willing to shoulder responsibility:** We refused to back down in the face of violent riots in 2019; stood firmly on the front line and served the people during the COVID-19 epidemic, typhoon and the recent "once-in-a-century" rainstorm;
- **Transcending class boundaries:** Our more than 50,000 members come from different sectors of society, which allows us to serve the overall interests of Hong Kong wholeheartedly;
- **Wide-reaching networks:** We have politically-appointed officials, Executive Council members, Legislative Council members, and District Council members who can connect with the government and achieve concrete results;
- **Serving the community:** We boast more than 100 service points. Last year, we handled more than 10,000 requests for help or inquiries from citizens and organised more than 1,000 livelihood service events or cultural and recreational activities;
- **Strong track record:** Many of our past policy initiatives have been accepted by the government - including elderly health care vouchers, two-dollar public transport fare concession, bidding farewell to subdivided units (SDUs), improving community hygiene and increasing penalties for environmental hygiene offences, etc. We helped shape the good governance supported by the population.



The DAB believes that the new District Council should:

- Actively offer policy advice to improve governance
- Form consensus to lead community development
- Reflect the views of the public to enhance communication between the government and the people
- Provide quality services to solve problems for the people

The Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong (DAB) is committed to fulfilling these responsibilities and working with the people to build a better community.

We propose the following election pledges and sincerely ask for your support!

Choose DAB for the District Council!



Detailed recommendations:

### Housing and Livelihood

Affordable housing has always been the most pressing concern for citizens, and we advocate for the following:

- Request the implementation of a gradual phasing-out plan for substandard subdivided units within 5 years, including relocation arrangements, providing relocation allowances, reserving transitional housing units or offering rental subsidies to accommodate affected residents.
- Promptly establish an initial rent for subdivided units based on the average rent per square foot in the respective districts. The new rent should not exceed the average rent of subdivided units in the same district, with a flexibility of up to 10% based on factors such as location, floor level, and quality.
- Demand an increase in public housing supply and strive to further reduce the waiting time for allocation.
- Advocate for an increase in subsidized housing supply, including setting a target of 15,000 units per year for the Home Ownership Scheme.
- Propose the introduction of the "New Home Ownership Scheme" to pre-sell subsidized housing within designated areas of large-scale development projects such as the "Northern Metropolis" and "Lantau Tomorrow Vision" to expedite housing supply.
- Urge the Housing Authority to study the extension of the mortgage guarantee period for existing subsidized housing under its purview, allowing a repayment period of up to 420 months in total, to facilitate the turnover of second-hand subsidized housing.



- Recommend enhancing and relaunching the "Tenants Purchase Scheme" to assist public housing tenants in homeownership and improving their quality of life.

### Building Management

Supporting owners in improving the management of older buildings and enhancing safety standards, we advocate for the following:

- Request a comprehensive inspection and updated record of the condition of residential or mixed-use buildings that are 50 years or older, to facilitate appropriate follow-up actions.
- Urgently accelerate the completion of inspections and repair works for over 1,000 Category 2 buildings included in the "Operation Building Bright 2.0".
- Recommend the establishment of a special arrangement for the maintenance of older buildings based on a "demand-led" principle. This would allow owners to proactively apply to the Buildings Department for inspection and repair works, subject to specific ownership shares and building conditions, to promptly address safety risks.
- Propose amendments to the "Building Management Ordinance" to allow for the adoption of collective management models. In areas with a higher number of "three-nil" buildings, designate specific areas where multiple buildings can join together to engage property management companies, thereby improving living conditions.
- Recommend allocating funds for providing public area cleaning services for grassroots residents in "three-nil" buildings, as well as public area rodent control services for such buildings.

- Request special resources and additional manpower to be allocated to the "Joint Office for Investigation of Water Seepage Complaints" set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Buildings Department to prioritize cases that have been pending for over a year without resolution. Additionally, introduce the latest technologies and equipment to improve the efficiency of identifying the sources of water seepage.

### Poverty Alleviation and Support for the Vulnerable Groups

Improving assistance measures for the underprivileged and fostering a caring society, we advocate for the following:

- Recommend enhancing the "Working Family Allowance Scheme" by including assistance for those with insufficient working hours, introducing a grading system based on total working hours (64-144 hours), and shortening the application period to every two months, to ensure support for low-income families.
- Suggest incorporating a "Carers Allowance Scheme" into the "Working Family Allowance Scheme" and doubling the allowance amount for carers compared to the "Working Family Allowance Scheme".
- Propose providing government-subsidized Mandatory Provident Fund contributions for carers to ensure basic retirement protection.
- Advocate for the establishment of one-stop carer support centers in all eighteen districts of Hong Kong, providing temporary care services and expanding various home-based care services, to offer appropriate support to carers.
- Recommend using a formula adjustment approach for the statutory minimum wage, linking the adjustment level to the 10th percentile of hourly wages for employees in low-paying industries, with an annual review.

- Propose flexible handling of pedestrian access paths owned by private entities in the "Universal Accessibility (UA) Programme" to expand the coverage of the Programme. The government should take responsibility for maintenance and management, and provide incentives for private property owners to participate in the Programme.
- Request reasonable waiting time for residential care places for disabled persons with special needs. This can be achieved by expanding subsidized care facilities, collaborating with private care homes for purchased places, and encouraging the expansion of existing social welfare premises to provide more accommodation.
- Demand the introduction of more low-floor minibuses to promote inclusivity for persons with disabilities.
- Suggest establishing ethnic minority service centers in areas with a concentration of ethnic minority populations, and encouraging community service teams to hire ethnic minority professionals or support staff to provide mental health and outreach social work services.
- Recommend conducting surveys by the Census and Statistics Department to understand the needs of ethnic minority youth and launching internship programs for them, enabling them to gain diverse work experience and increase upward mobility opportunities.
- Request enhanced translation services for better access to public healthcare and legal services, ensuring that language barriers do not hinder ethnic minority individuals from seeking relevant services.
- Request the provision of briefing sessions and guidance to facilitate the rental of government land for religious or social service purposes by ethnic minority groups, reducing unnecessary obstacles.



### Enhance Medical Services

We advocate for the comprehensive strengthening of medical services to meet the needs of citizens. Our proposals include:

- Recommend studying the construction of a third local medical school to enhance physician training.
- Call for enhanced overseas promotion efforts to attract high-quality foreign doctors to work in Hong Kong.
- Suggest enhancing the "Greater Bay Area Healthcare Talents Visiting Programmes", including encouraging more mainland doctors to participate in the programmes and extending the duration of their stay in Hong Kong to no more than two years.
- Propose making effective use of the medical facilities provided by the central government in response to the pandemic, to increase the capacity for medical testing and treatment.
- Recommend increasing the quota for specialist and general out-patient clinics services and expanding the scope of public-private collaboration to reduce waiting times for consultations.
- Suggest providing an annual medical voucher of no less than HKD 2,000 for each child.
- Propose establishing more public Chinese medicine clinics, including transforming the current "tripartite collaboration" model into direct government operation through a pilot programme and aligning the fees with public services.
- Recommend gradually establish Chinese medicine departments in public hospitals to support the development of public Chinese medicine inpatient services.

- Request the formulation of a blueprint and timetable for the development of public dental services, gradually providing comprehensive dental services to citizens, especially the elderly.
- Propose the establishment of a dedicated dental fund to support non-profit organizations in providing affordable dental services to the elderly in various districts, while ensuring proper oversight and continuous operation.
- Recommend the establishment of "public-private collaboration dental services" by procuring private dental services through the government to cater the medical needs of public dental patients.
- Recommend expanding the health screening services at women's health centers, including increasing the number of slots for existing services, introducing free osteoporosis screening, providing free prenatal check-ups, expanding the range of free HPV vaccination, and encouraging women to develop a habit of regular check-ups.
- Suggest conducting atrial fibrillation screening for individuals aged 60 and above and classifying new anticoagulant drugs as "general drugs" in the HA Drug Formulary.
- Request the prompt establishment of an official definition for "rare diseases" to facilitate the formulation of relevant support policies and expedite the inclusion of extremely expensive drugs for treating rare diseases and cancer in the HA Drug Formulary, ensuring appropriate drug assistance for patients.





### Convenient Transportation

To facilitate convenient transportation, enhance facilities and improve management, we advocate for the following:

- Recommend introducing innovative collective transportation systems to improve the traffic network in Kowloon East and Central, such as implementing a bus rapid transit system or other systems like the "Sky Shuttle" or "Autonomous Rail Rapid Transit" with lower construction costs and shorter travel time.
- To optimize the functionality of Route 11, propose adding a new access road at the northern exit of the Lam Tei Tunnel to connect to the Yuen Long South New Development Area and provide a link to Route 9 in the northern New Territories at the Au Tau location.
- Propose the development of a Northwest New Territories Rail Network, including the construction of the "Tsuen Tun Rail" and "Tsuen Kwai Sha Rail," connecting Tuen Mun Ferry Pier, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port, and the eastern area of Tung Chung, including passing through Sunny Bay, Discovery Bay, and Silver Mine Bay, then crossing the sea to the future East Lantau Metropolis to Hong Kong West.
- To facilitate travel for residents in the Tsing Yi area to the future East Lantau Metropolis and provide a swift connection to the western part of Hong Kong Island, we propose the construction of a railway connection linking northeast part of Kwai Fong and Kau Yi Chau.
- Recommend the construction of the "New North-South Railway" to divert passengers from the East Rail Line, with Liantang as the terminal station. The railway would pass through Queen's Hill, Fanling North, Lam Tsuen, and then cross Tai Mo Shan to reach the urban area. The new railway line should also be designed to allow future connections with other railways, creating a loop railway network in the New Territories Central.

- Suggest enhancing the planning of the "Three Railways and Three Major Roads" by extending the "Northern Link" as the "Central Rail Link" to comprehensively connect the east, west, and north of the New Territories, forming a loop railway network. The "Central Rail Link" should converge with multiple railway lines, not only connecting the East Rail and West Rail Lines but also integrating with the Tsuen Wan Line.
- Suggest connecting the Shenzhen section of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line to the existing railway lines to maximize the synergistic effect; consider adding a Tin Shui Wai North Station.
- Recommend constructing the "Northern Metropolis Expressway" to enhance the design of the "Northern Metropolis Highway". Extend the route to include Ta Kwu Ling, Lo Wu South, Ma Tso Lung, San Tin Technopole (Loop), Hung Shui Kiu, and Ha Tsuen.
- Propose conducting a feasibility study on a multi-purpose tunnel for vehicles, pedestrians, and railways from Hong Kong Island East to Tseung Kwan O and Area 137 Fat Tong O, with the implementation of the Siu Sai Wan Station.
- Suggest studying the extension of the LOHAS Park Station at the Tseung Kwan O Line to Area 137 and crossing the harbor to Hong Kong Island East to accommodate future population needs.
- Request the expeditious implementation of the North Hong Kong Island Line and the western section of the South Hong Kong Island Line.
- Study the extension of the Tuen Ma Line's Wu Kai Sha Station to the Shap Sze Heung in Sai Kung to meet the needs of the growing population in the area, which is expected to reach hundreds of thousands.

- Recommend opening a new expressway from Tai Au Mun at Clear Water Bay to Wan Po Road to facilitate connection to the Cross Bay Link and provide traffic diversion at the Ying Yip Road interchange.
- Request expediting the installation of platform gates at various stations along the East Rail Line.
- Suggest gradually phasing out the eligibility threshold for the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme and capping the subsidy amount at HK\$600 per month.
- Request to include a "profitability index" in the formula for adjusting MTR fares, linking the annual profits earned by MTR with the fare adjustment mechanism. This would reduce the extent of fare increases based on MTR's profitability, alleviating the pressure of fare hikes.
- Suggest that the government actively engage with public transport operators to provide fare concessions for full-time students.
- Recommend the government to promote more interchange discounts between MTR and green minibuses, and support regional route restructuring for franchised buses to reduce route duplication.
- Propose the establishment of a stable fuel price fund for ferry services to outlying islands and study the possibility of publicizing the operation of these ferry services.
- Suggest expanding the subsidy scheme for tunnel tolls to non-franchised buses (residents' buses) and green minibuses.
- Recommend the development of intelligent transport systems (ITS) that leverage the power of big data to optimize traffic flow by coordinating vehicles, roads, and traffic lights, addressing issues such as congested roads and excessive traffic signals.

- Suggest the construction of additional park-and-ride facilities at major transportation interchanges and tunnel exits, as well as the enhancement of the environment and expansion of routes frequencies of public transportation at interchange stations, to facilitate residents in the rural areas of the New Territories.
- With utmost consideration for technical feasibility and community support, propose identifying suitable locations in each district for the construction of additional intelligent parking facilities under the guiding principle of "multiple uses for one site".
- Recommend the development of an intelligent transport management system that utilizes big data to optimize traffic flow, as well as the development of transport information systems to facilitate drivers in finding available parking spaces, charging facilities, and more.
- Suggest a significant increase in electric vehicle charging infrastructure in various districts, including the installation of charging stations at petrol stations and roadside parking spaces.
- Propose the implementation of a joint boundary control system at newly constructed and reconstructed control points to expedite clearance efficiency.
- Recommend a phased approach to extend the operating hours of the "Shenzhen Bay" and "Heung Yuen Wai/Liantang" control points, ultimately achieving 24-hour operation.



### Community environment

Committed to promoting community development, improving living environment, and enhancing cultural and recreational services, we advocate for:

- Request the installation of CCTV cameras in areas with poor hygiene to monitor the streets, alleys, and roadside conditions in real-time, serving as a deterrent and surveillance measure.
- Demand stronger enforcement to combat the issues of feeding and congregating of wild pigeons.
- Suggest the adoption of the design of small-scale garbage collection stations from Macau, reconstructing fully sealed small-scale garbage collection stations in rural areas to reduce odor and environmental hygiene problems.
- Call for strengthening rodent control efforts, including increasing the placement of poison baits, traps, destruction of rodent burrows, and installation of rodent deterrent facilities. Actively introduce new technologies and measures for rodent eradication.
- Suggest establishing dedicated rodent control task forces in each district to organize teams responsible for rodent prevention and eradication in public areas and residential premises.
- Recommend developing a comprehensive mosquito control strategy and implementing a "biting midges index".
- Request for the presence of on-site janitors in all public toilets, improvement in the overall design of public toilets, and the introduction of third-party monitoring contractors to assess their performance.

- Accelerate the installation of air conditioning systems and improve management in older public markets to address the issues of being old, damp, and dirty. Additionally, consider establishing new modern public markets in suitable locations to meet the shopping needs of residents.
- Propose providing residents with at least one year of free designated waste bags when implementing Municipal Solid Waste Charging and offering corresponding financial assistance to grassroots citizens.
- Suggest converting single-level sports centres and community halls into multi-purpose integrated sports centres and cultural facilities.
- Recommend phasing out non-compliant sports facilities within public housing estates and gradually renovating old sports fields, including those built on parking lots, with stylish and fashionable designs to attract young people.
- Encourage public and private institutions to incorporate urban sports facilities when constructing housing, undertaking redevelopment projects, and designing public spaces.
- Propose promoting the "Playful City" project in all 18 districts, which involves bringing together relevant stakeholders such as schools, NGOs, and the industry related to recreational facilities collaborate on transforming the community.
- Request to expand the Transformation of Public Play Spaces plan to cover playgrounds under the Hong Kong Housing Authority and Hong Kong Housing Society, allowing more children from grassroots to enjoy fun and high-quality playground facilities.
- Request to increase the collection of public libraries and suggest conducting regular surveys to gather reading opinions as a reference for procurement policies.



- Suggest extending the daily service hours of public libraries in each district until 11 PM.
- Propose introducing a wider variety of e-books for readers to download or read online, and enhancing promotion and outreach efforts to increase public awareness and interest in e-books.
- Suggest allocating funds to support local organizations and non-governmental organizations in organizing events and projects that promote Chinese culture, such as Chinese costume festivals, Chinese music weeks, and the promotion of traditional Chinese activities like chess, martial arts, and paper cutting.
- Support local community groups, including associations of Chinese fellow townsmen, in organizing festive events that showcase local traditions, such as the Chao Zhou Festival, Hong Kong Dragon and Lion Dance Festival, and Hakka Cultural Festival, and more, to strengthen the dissemination of clansmen cultural heritage.

### Caring for the Elderly

To develop a more comprehensive elderly policy, ensuring that the elderly can enjoy their later years, we advocate for:

- Suggest expanding the coverage of Health Care Voucher to include Grade A tertiary hospitals and appropriate clinics in the mainland, making it more convenient for elderly residents in the mainland to seek medical services.
- Propose extending the "Guangdong Scheme" and "Fujian Scheme" arrangements to other provinces in the mainland, such as Hainan.

- Engage in discussions with relevant Mainland authorities to establish a quality accreditation system that meets the needs of Hong Kong's elderly population, providing them with assured and reliable choices for elderly care.
- Improve the existing registration system for health worker and optimize the Community Nursing Services, including introducing night shift arrangements, to alleviate the issue of understaffing in private care homes.
- Study the establishment of assistance programs to help small and medium-sized elderly care homes improve their services, such as setting up an "Elderly Care Home Development Fund" to enhance the facilities and services of private elderly care homes.
- Increase the construction of subsidized care homes and enhance the Bought Place Scheme in collaboration with private care homes, ensure reasonable waiting times for individuals with special needs and disabilities.
- Expand the scope of the current "Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care" to include individual applications and children with special needs, instead of only allowing institutional applications.
- Expand the existing "Elder Academy" by adding more learning subjects and offering flexible learning schedules and locations, to attract more elderly participants.
- Lower the eligibility age for the Old Age Allowance from the current age of 70 to 65.
- Allow senior citizens to participate in recreational classes and attend cultural performances organized by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department free of charge, enriching their retired lives.
- Engage in discussions with public transportation agencies and private organizations to actively provide more benefits and priority services to "JoyYou Card" holders.





### Family-Friendly Policies

To formulate comprehensive family-friendly policies and establish a support network for families, we advocate for:

- Establish a "Foreign Domestic Helpers Regulatory Authority" dedicated to handling issues related to foreign domestic helpers, aiming to address various problems that may arise in the employment of foreign domestic helpers.
- Allocate more resources to improve childcare services, such as increasing the number of childcare slots (especially for children under two years old), providing flexible childcare hours, and enhancing the quality of childcare providers. Encourage women to engage in community nanny services to meet the needs of working families.
- Request the formulation of pro-natal policies, including increasing subsidies for assisted reproduction services, establishing a Baby Fund, and providing government-funded egg freezing services with extended storage periods.
- Develop policies to support single-parent families, including setting up dedicated "Single Parent Centres" to provide comprehensive support services for divorced single-parent families. Additionally, establishing specialized institutions to assist in the enforcement of maintenance.
- Allocate more resources to train additional professional marriage counselors and promote messages about parental responsibility and co-parenting through center activities.
- Provide financial assistance to economically disadvantaged single-parent families and expedite emergency relief housing arrangements for single-parent families with urgent housing needs.



- Strengthen support services for families in crisis, including enhancing identification efforts and increasing the frequency of visits to high-risk families, enabling early intervention when necessary.

### Nurturing Future Leaders

To cultivate a new generation of patriotic and proactive stakeholders, we advocate for:

- Establishing a dedicated committee to coordinate the implementation of patriotism education across different sectors of society.
- Strengthening the teaching of contemporary Chinese history and modern history, including increasing the emphasis on these topics in the curriculum of middle school Chinese history courses.
- Incorporating content that promotes the mainstream values of patriotism and love for Hong Kong into the training programs of existing youth uniform groups, and further assist these groups in expanding their reach to attract more young participants.
- Enhancing support for special education and children with special needs, including creating more dedicated positions and promoting professional organizations to provide in-school services.
- Developing a curriculum framework for STEM education and implement it in primary and secondary schools in a systematic and spiral manner.
- Increasing the number of school counselors to provide comprehensive support for students' holistic development and enhance the identification of high-risk situations for early intervention.



- Encouraging more universities to organize student participation in simulated international conferences, such as Model United Nations, to cultivate young students' international perspectives.
- Providing assistance to educational organizations in establishing schools for Hong Kong students in the Greater Bay Area, catering the needs of Hong Kong residents who have settled in the mainland.
- Reviewing the matching mechanism of the "Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme" and changing the application restrictions from graduation year to age, allowing associate degree and higher diploma students to participate, and relaxing the participation criteria for mainland enterprises.
- Increasing the Continuing Education Fund and expanding its coverage to include more workplace skills and the latest courses on innovation and technology applications to enhance the competitiveness of young people.

### Treating Animals with Kindness

**To promote animal welfare and establish animal-friendly policies, we advocate for:**

- Regulating the practice of releasing animals into the wild to better protect the environmental ecosystem and animal welfare.
- Intensifying efforts to implement "Trap, Neuter, Return" programs. Adding identification to dog tags and allow animal volunteers to reclaim their dogs without paying impound fees.
- Refining the scope of "Duty of Care," including studying the inclusion of mental harm to animals, and establishing a dedicated team and a 24-hour reporting system within the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.



- Requesting for further enhancement of penalties for animal cruelty, and discussions with the judicial authorities on sentencing guidelines to increase deterrence.
- Intensifying enforcement efforts to combat illegal sale of animals.
- Strengthening efforts to combat wildlife smuggling and illegal trade, as well as regulating the trade of exotic animals and endangered species.

### Strengthening Social Service Networks

**Utilizing community governance teams to provide better services to citizens.**

- Suggest utilizing Area Committees, District Fight Crime Committees, and District Fire Safety Committees to enhance community governance and assist the government in understanding local sentiments.
- Recommend establishing youth volunteer teams under the Care Teams in 18 districts to cultivate the values of kindness, compassion, and spirit of dedication among young people, while also enhancing social cohesion.
- Suggest allocating additional resources to Care Teams to ensure they have stable and sufficient resources to serve the community.
- Recommend referring to existing experiences and strengthening cooperation with associations of Chinese fellow townsmen or other organizations in different provinces and cities to explore the establishment of a "One-stop Mainland Service Machine" in Hong Kong to facilitate Hong Kong residents in handling mainland affairs.

~End~