

**THE OUTCOME OF THE POLITICAL
REFORM PACKAGE VOTE
IN HONG KONG**

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Executive Summary

1. Hong Kong drew international spotlight when on 18 June 2015, 28 pan-Democrat legislators in Hong Kong threw out a political reform plan that required a committee to screen all chief executive candidates before the election.
2. Over 20 pro-government politicians abstained from the voting of the political reform package apparently to delay proceedings while eight legislators voted in favour of the political reform initiatives.
3. Pan-Democrats believe that if they were to agree with the political reform package, they would have provided political legitimacy to the partially democratic universal suffrage process, the committee that pre-screens the candidate and ultimately, the Beijing masters behind them.
4. Pro-Beijingers argue that saying yes to the political reform package would provide the chief executive with more political legitimacy than the current system where selection is done entirely by a single committee.
5. Resisting radical and confrontational views, moderate government voices and other pro-establishment stakeholders have called for the healing process after the Occupy Central event and the political reform package vote outcome to begin in Hong Kong.
6. For the pragmatist, focusing on bread-and-butter issues tackles the heart of the problem that is bedeviling Hong Kong society, with high housing prices and job insecurity cited as reasons for youth participation in Occupy Central in addition to ideological reasons.
7. This view may not take into account the stronger desire for democracy amongst the younger generation of Hong Kongers, especially those with tertiary education.

8. The challenging aspects of the existing system is the danger of pushing expressions of political choices underground, resulting in fringe and radical activities.
9. An interim alternative may be to tweak the current 1,200 committee member system to widen its representation to include more members of Hong Kong society and embrace the diversity of views within Hong Kong.
10. This could be an acceptable compromise that balances the needs of the silent majority who are weary of public demonstrations after Occupy Central and those who want some breathing space to express their own identity, ideas and aspirations for Hong Kong's future development.