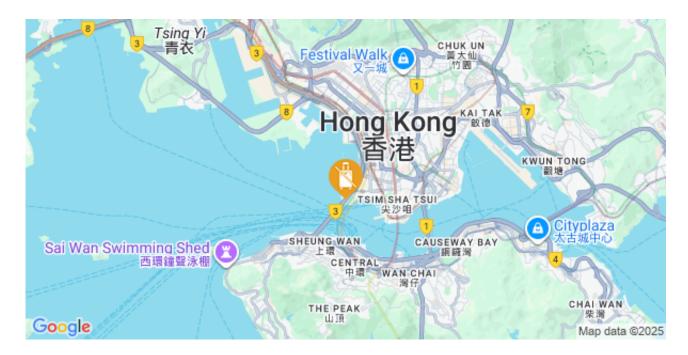


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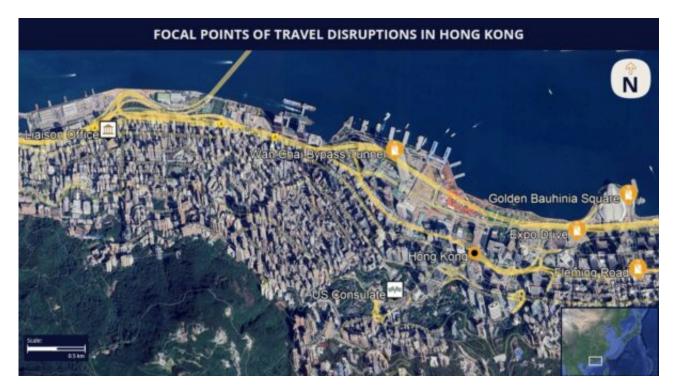
Hong Kong Tactical: Legislative Council General election slated on December 7; maintain vigilance

Current Situation:

- The Legislative Council General election in Hong Kong is slated for December 7.
- Eligible voters will elect 90 representatives from the Election Committee (EC), functional constituencies (FC), and geographical constituencies (GC).
- The official polling hours will run from 07:30 to 23:30 (local time) on December 7.
- A total of 615 general polling stations will be set up around the city, mostly in schools, community centers, and government facilities. Four new types of designated polling stations to make it easier for civil servants, medical workers, ethnic minority groups and elderly and disabled residents to vote in the Legislative Council election.
- Per the Hong Kong Transport Department, several roads will remain closed from 19:00 on December 7 to 07:00 on December 8. This includes Expo Drive, Expo Drive Central, Expo Drive East, the slip road linking from the Central via Wan Chai Bypass Tunnel eastbound to Expo Drive, the slip road leading from Expo Drive eastbound to Central via Wan Chai Bypass Tunnel, Wan Chai Lung Wo Road Entrance eastbound.
- Similarly, the section of Lung Wo Road eastbound between Tim Wah Avenue and Fleming Road, part of the traffic lanes of Fleming Road northbound between Lung Tat Path eastbound and Lung Wo Road westbound, and Lung Tat Path eastbound will also be closed for vehicular traffic.
- The section of Expo Drive East to the north of Expo Drive outside Golden Bauhinia Square

(including the pick-up/ drop-off area) will be temporarily closed from 07:00 to 09:00 on December 8.

• Further details regarding road closures and traffic restrictions can be found <u>here</u>.



Source: <u>Hong Kong Election</u>, <u>Hong Kong Transport Department</u>

Assessments & Forecast:

- 1. The measures align with broader preparatory efforts for the General Elections scheduled for December 7. Standard security protocols will include reinforced police deployments, the installation of traffic barricades, random inspections of vehicles and pedestrians, and movement restrictions around polling stations across all administrative districts. Vehicular checks are expected to intensify at national entry and exit points. In addition to the identified routes, the authorities can impose ad hoc road closures and supplementary prohibitory orders in sensitive areas and along border zones to ensure the orderly conduct of the electoral process.
- 2. The authorities are also expected to expand online monitoring of anti-election content. This is underscored by the recent arrest of four individuals by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) for allegedly encouraging others to abstain from voting in the Legislative Council General Election. Publicly advocating for election boycotts remains prohibited in Hong Kong following its criminalization under the 2021 electoral reforms.
- 3. Further restrictions on public assemblies are likely, and such violations will likely result in arrests, particularly amid heightened public discontent following the November 26 incident in which at least 159 individuals were killed in a high-rise residential complex at Wang Fuk Court in Hong Kong's Tai Po district. Additional security measures will likely involve increased scrutiny of movements near polling stations and intensified monitoring of online platforms to detect potential incitement to violence or unrest. Localized travel disruptions are anticipated across the region on December 7.

Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Hong Kong on December 7 are advised to maintain vigilance in the vicinity of the polling stations due to the slated election and anticipated security measures, while allotting for travel disruptions.