

Elections in Time of Epidemic

the case of the Republic of Korea

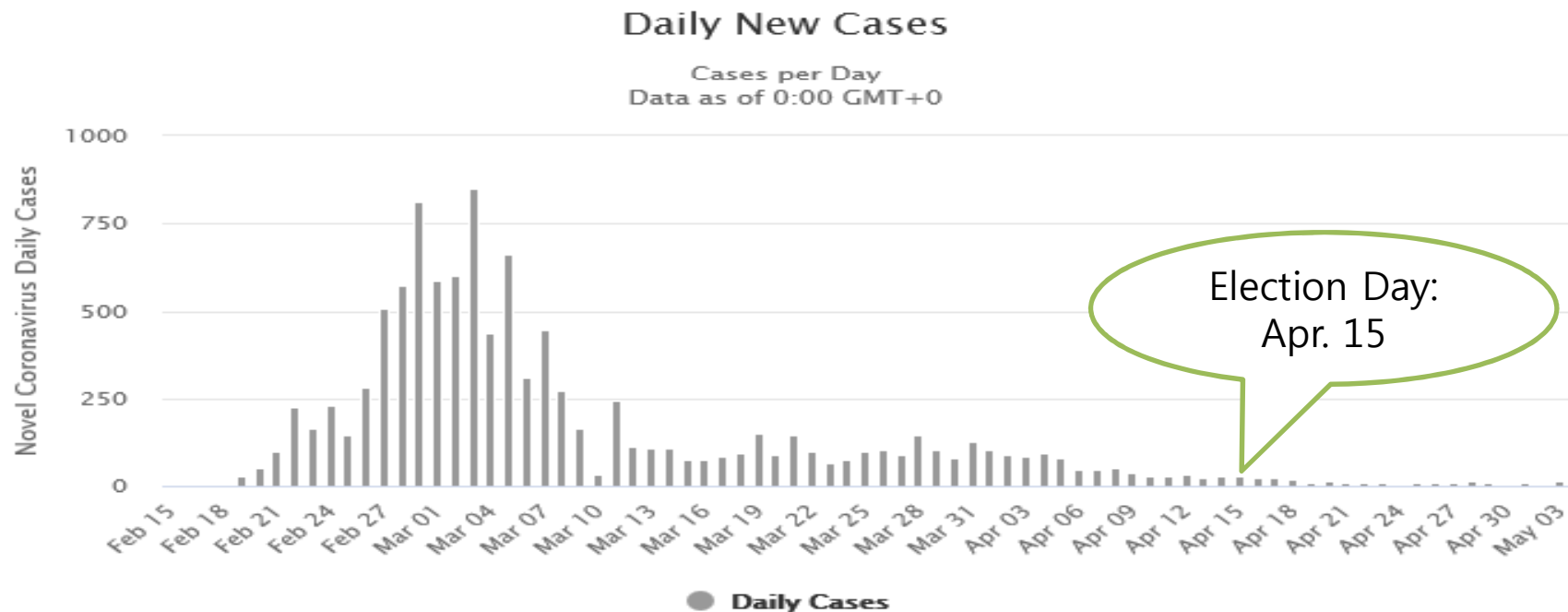
Juhwan Lee

A-WEB

To hold or not to hold?

- Had the relevant authority ever considered postponing the election?
- Had the Koreans ever thought of the possibility of postponing the election?

No formal decision ever been made as to holding or postponing the election



Challenges of Holding Elections in Time of Epidemic

- Endangered health of the people
- Maintaining the legitimacy of the election (low voter turnout, underrepresentation of the marginalized, etc.)
- Guaranteeing the right to vote of affected citizens

Creating a Safe Election Environment



a transparent screen to protect election officials

Safe Election Campaign

I'm doing intact campaigning to prevent the spread of Coronavirus.



increased use of SNS for campaign purposes



Safe Voting Environment

When your body temperature is higher than 37,5 degrees Celsius (or 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit) or display respiratory problems, you will be ldd to a separate voting booth.

코로나19 감염 예방을 위한 투표 절차



마스크 쓰고
투표소 도착



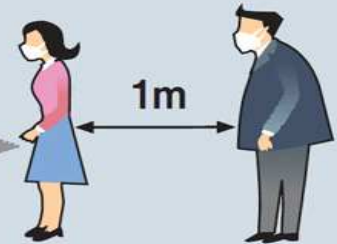
체온 재기



손 소독하기



투표소에 비치된
비닐장갑 착용



다른 투표자들과 1m
간격 유지하며 이동



신분증 제시하며 마스크
잠깐 벗고 본인 확인



다시 마스크 착용하고
투표용지 수령



기표소 입장해
기표



기표용지
투표함에 투입

선거인이 발열 증세(체온 37.5도 이상)가 있거나 호흡기 증상이 있을 땐 임시기표소에서 투표. 자료: 중앙선거관리위원회

Voting right Guaranteed for the Affected Citizens



an early voting station set up at a facility accommodating Covid-19 patients with mild symptoms

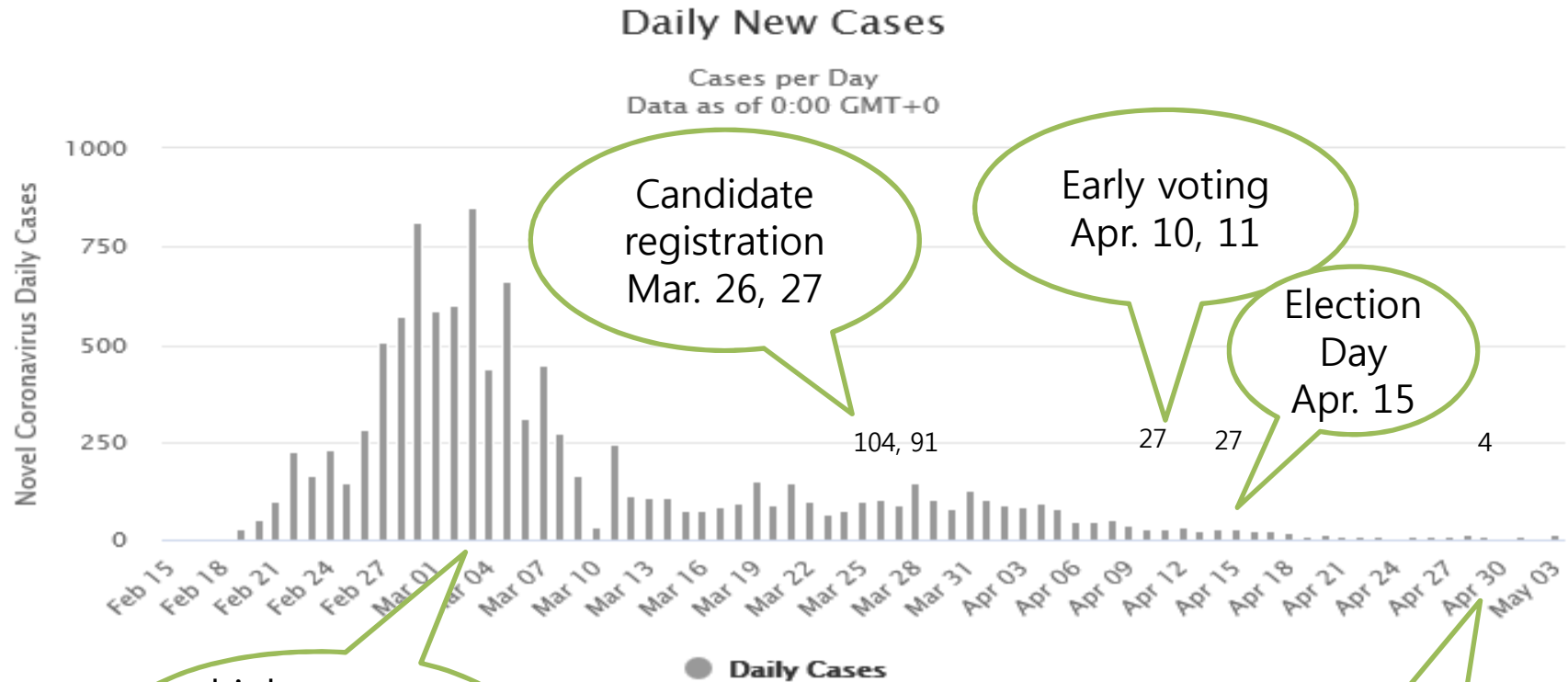
Cooperation with Government Agencies

- Ministry of the Interior and Safety
: provided additional manpower for voting procedure, especially for the voting of the affected
- Ministry of Strategy and Finance:
: provided additional budget for safety measures
- Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
: advised on safeguard measures during voting and counting

Voter Turnout

- Early voting: 26.69%, the highest ever, adopted in 2013
- Total turnout: 66.2%, the highest since 1992
- Most of the hospitalized or the quarantined citizens were able to vote.

Daily New Covid-19 Cases around the Election Day



highest new cases of 851 on Mar. 3

Candidate registration Mar. 26, 27

Early voting Apr. 10, 11

Election Day Apr. 15

4 new cases on Apr. 30, the end date of incubation period

Best Practices Identified

- Creating a safe voting environment to encourage people to come to vote
- Providing many options in voting
 - : early voting, postal voting, and regular election day voting
- Guaranteeing the right to vote of the hospitalized or the quarantined citizens
 - : special support for these voters without endangering the health of others