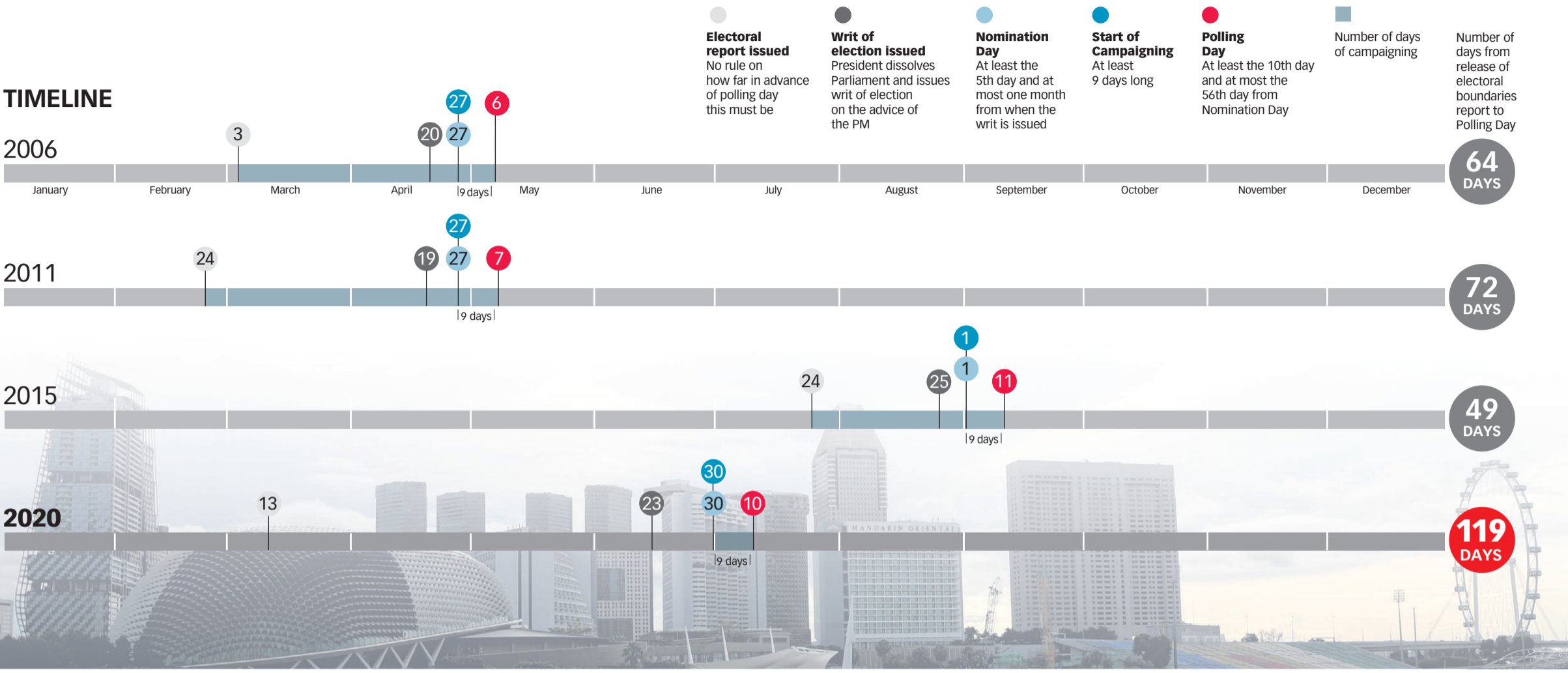


Singapore's electoral system

President Halimah Yacob, on the advice of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, dissolved Singapore's 13th Parliament on June 23. Nomination Day is set for June 30, and over 2.65 million voters are eligible to cast their ballots on Polling Day on July 10. There are a total of 93 seats in 31 constituencies up for grabs this time. Here's a look at how things will unfold until Polling Day. **BY LEE U-WEN**



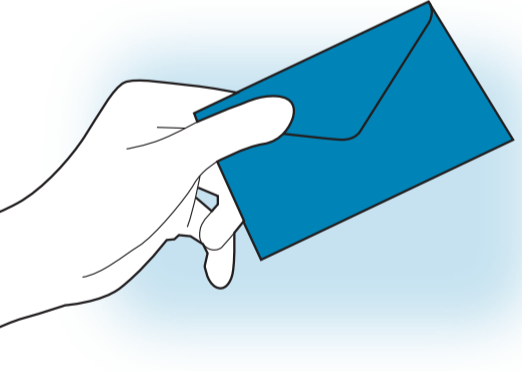
* For GE2011, GE2015 and GE2020, the day before Polling Day is the designated Cooling-Off Day

Nomination Day: June 30

11am-12 noon
Candidates hand in nomination papers at the respective nomination centres. Every nomination paper must be signed by at least 6 electors qualified to vote in the respective constituency. The election deposit per candidate is S\$13,500.

Declaring walkovers
If only one candidate (SMC) or one group of candidates (GRC) runs for any particular constituency, they are declared MPs of the next Parliament.

Candidates-to-be have been disqualified from past elections at this stage due to erroneous papers or a lack of assentors. 2006 was the first election since 1988 that the PAP did not return to power on nomination day. This happened again in 2011, when all constituencies except for Tanjong Pagar GRC were contested. In 2015, all the constituencies were contested for the very first time.



Campaigning: June 30 to July 8

It kicks off the moment a notice of a contest is issued after Nomination Day and lasts till the eve of Cooling-Off Day.

The maximum amount a candidate can spend on election expenses is:
- capped at S\$4 per voter in an SMC
- capped at S\$4 per voter in a GRC, divided by the number of candidates in that GRC

- No physical rallies
- Every candidate will get three minutes of TV airtime during the campaign.
- Two party political broadcasts to be aired on 19 TV and radio channels.

Cooling-Off Day: July 9

It was first introduced in GE2011.

- The eve of Polling Day is designated as Cooling-Off Day. The cooling-off period, where all campaigning must stop, will be observed from midnight on Cooling-off Day until after polls close on Polling Day. This period is to give voters some time to reflect rationally on issues raised during the election before going to vote.

There are some exceptions to the prohibition of campaign activities on Cooling-Off Day:

- Party political broadcasts on television
- Reports in the newspapers, on radio and television relating to election matters
- Approved posters and banners that were already up, and lawful Internet advertising that was already published before the eve of Polling Day
- Books previously scheduled for publication
- The transmission of personal political views by individuals to other individuals, on a non-commercial basis, using the Internet, telephone or electronic means
- Such activities or circumstances as may be prescribed by the Minister

Polling Day: July 10

8am to 8pm
A total of 2,653,942 eligible voters to cast votes at polling stations

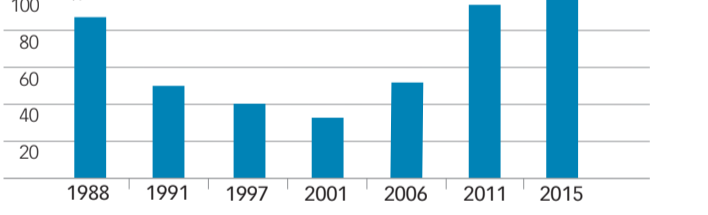
Overseas polling
For registered overseas voters, polling may start before voting starts in Singapore but must close before polling ends here. Ballot boxes are brought back to Singapore for counting of votes no later than 10 days after Polling Day.

Counting of votes
If overseas votes have no impact on outcome of election, Returning Officer will declare candidate or group of candidates with most votes to be the new MPs. If they do, result will be deferred till the overseas votes are counted.

Sample Count
A random bundle of 100 ballots is picked up at the start of the counting process for each constituency and counted. This gives an early indication of the possible outcome for that constituency.

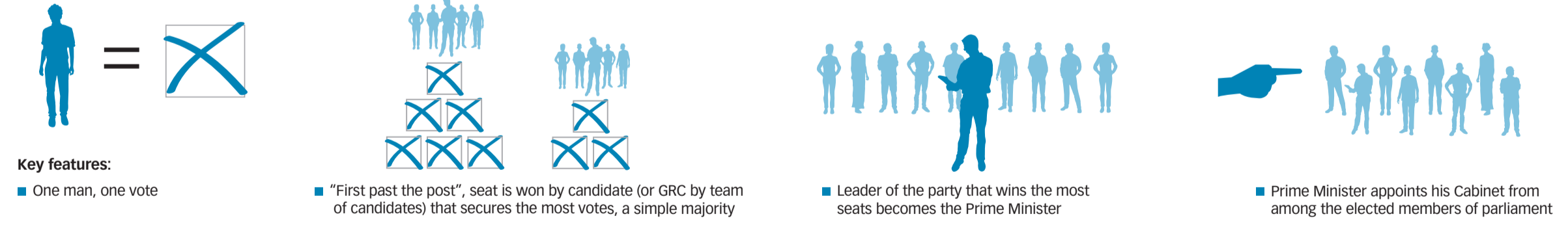
GE2015
A total of 3,415 Singaporeans abroad cast their ballots in GE2015. Their voting pattern largely mirrored that of Singaporeans here.

Registered voters who got the chance to vote



The Singapore model

Singapore's political system, like that of most Commonwealth nations, is modelled on the British Westminster system of parliamentary democracy.



Unique to Singapore

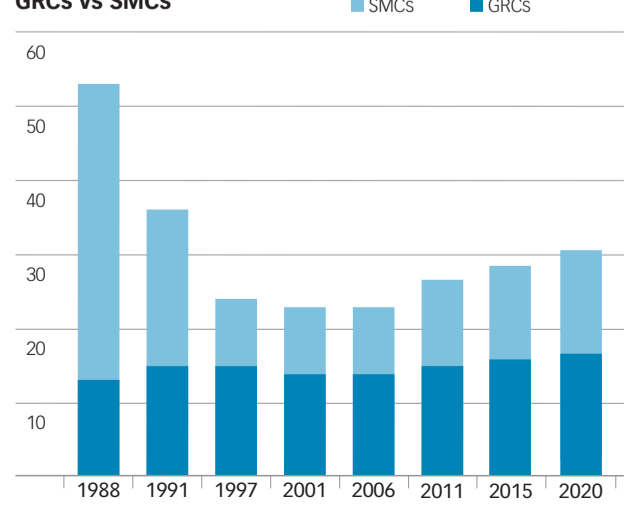
1. Group Representation Constituency (GRC) system

- Introduced in 1988. GRCs are represented by teams of candidates, rather than single candidates.
- In GE2015, there were 16 GRCs representing 76 seats in Parliament, and 13 SMCs.

Rationale

- To ensure minority representation in Parliament – at least one MP in each GRC must be a member of the Malay, Indian or other minority community of Singapore.
- More economical for town councils to manage larger constituencies.

Constituencies



2. Non-constituency MPs (NCMPs)

- Best-performing losers from opposition political parties, are offered NCMP seats. NCMPs currently have the same voting rights as elected MPs.
- Introduced in 1984, to allow 3-6 NCMPs. This was increased to 9 in 2010.
- Tweaked in 2016, to allow a maximum of 12 NCMPs (Actual number = 12 - number of elected opposition MPs)

Rationale

- PAP had won all seats in the four GEs since independence.
- NCMP scheme was introduced in 1984 to allow the opposition a voice in Parliament and expose Singaporeans to the concept of an opposition.

3. Nominated MPs (NMPs)

- NMPs are appointed by the President for a 2.5-year term, on the recommendation of a Special Select Committee of Parliament chaired by the Speaker.
- Introduced in 1990, up to 6 NMPs could be appointed. Maximum number of NMPs raised to 9 in 1997.

Rationale

- To contribute independent and non-partisan views in Parliament.
- NMPs could be non-partisan Singaporeans recognised in certain professions or who could represent various groups in society.