Elected Presidency review: Key proposals

How to guarantee minorities can be elected periodically

- Mechanism triggered if a person from one racial group has not become president after five continuous six-year terms, or 30 years
- Only candidates from that racial group can contest; eligibility criteria remain the same
- If no qualified candidate during that election, contest will be open to all racial groups
- Candidates from Malay, Indian and other communities can still stand in open elections
- Over six full terms, there will be one Malay and one Indian/other communities president

Tighten eligibility criteria for private sector candidates

- Candidate must have held the most senior position in the company
- Company must have at least S$500m shareholders' equity, instead of S$100m in paid-up capital
- Company must have recorded net profit during candidate's tenure; no insolvency process within 3 years' of candidate's departure

Strengthen role of CPA

- President obliged to consult CPA on all fiscal matters and key public sector appointments
- If CPA disagrees with president, issue can be subject to parliamentary override
- Parliament majority needed for override to be calibrated against level of support by CPA
- Expand number of CPA members from 6 to 8

Consider making presidency an appointed office again

- To unbundle custodial role of the president and vest it in an appointed specialist body
- Appointed body will have no power to veto or block government
- President to focus on historical role of being symbolic unifying figure

Source: Constitutional Commission 2016