

A convincing vote

In this crisis election, more voters chose a side, resulting in a record low percentage of rejected votes in the July 10 General Election, said observers. The share of rejected votes was 1.81 per cent, down from 2.05 per cent in the last election, and the lowest in Singapore's post-independence history. Higher shares of rejected votes were seen in constituencies where the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) performed well, including the single seat of Radin Mas, which saw 3.47 per cent of votes rejected; Jalan Besar GRC, with 2.9 per cent rejected; Ang Mo Kio GRC, where Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's team was up against the Reform Party, with 2.81 per cent. In contrast, the constituencies won by the Workers' Party (Aljunied GRC, Hougang SMC and Sengkang GRC) were among those with the lowest rejected vote shares. **BY JANICE HENG**

Rejected votes in previous General Elections

YEAR	NUMBER OF REJECTED VOTES	%
1968	2,058	2.6
1972	15,229	2.0
1976	18,558	2.3
1980	17,843	2.7
1984	26,394	2.9
1988	30,629	2.2
1991	21,981	2.7
1997	17,255	2.4
2001	13,636	2.1
2006	26,730	2.3
2011	44,714	2.2
2015	47,315	2.05
2020	45,772	1.81

Areas with the highest and lowest percentage of rejected votes

CONSTITUENCY	%
Radin Mas SMC	3.47
Jalan Besar GRC	2.90
Ang Mo Kio GRC	2.81
Mountbatten SMC	2.59
Tampines GRC	2.41
West Coast GRC	1.17
Aljunied GRC	1.10
Hougang SMC	1.07
Sengkang GRC	1.02
Punggol West SMC	0.84