

First step on road to GE

The formation of the Electoral Boundaries Review Committee signals that a general election is imminent and can be expected in the coming months.



1 FORMATION OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES REVIEW COMMITTEE

Under prime ministers Lee Kuan Yew and Goh Chok Tong, the committee's formation was kept under wraps until its report was released. But Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has taken a different tack by announcing the committee's formation in 2006, 2011 and 2015, and now 2019 as well.



Timeframe for report's release not fixed; it was between two and seven months in past GEs



2 THE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES REPORT IS RELEASED

- The country enters the election period in earnest after the report is released.
- Political parties finalise their slates of candidates and introduce them to voters, while election manifestos and slogans are published.



Window before dissolution

Shortest:
One day
(2001 GE)

Longest:
1 month and 26 days
(2011 GE)



3 PARLIAMENT IS DISSOLVED AND WRIT OF ELECTION ISSUED

- This is done by the President, on the advice of the Prime Minister. Under the law, Nomination Day must be no earlier than five days and no later than one month after the writ has been issued.
- Typically, PMs have kept this period to exactly one week. So if Parliament is dissolved on a Thursday, Nomination Day will be the following Thursday.



Usually one week



4 NOMINATION DAY

- Day One of the campaign period. Under the law, Polling Day must be no earlier than Day 10 and no later than Day 56.
- Typically, Polling Day has never been later than Day 11, which means a campaign period of nine or 10 days.



Usually nine days



5 POLLING DAY

- This is typically a Saturday and is a public holiday, though it has been held on weekdays in the past like in the 2015 GE. The polls are open from 8am to 8pm.