

SINGAPORE.

Date of Elections: 23 December 1980

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament following the premature dissolution of this body on 5 December 1980. General elections had previously taken place on 23 December 1976.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Singapore consists of 75 members* elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

All Singaporean citizens resident in the country and at least 21 years of age are entitled to vote. Disqualified from this right are persons owing allegiance to a foreign State, those under sentence of death or serving a sentence of imprisonment for a period in excess of 12 months, the insane, persons convicted of election-connected offences and persons on active duty with an armed force not maintained out of moneys provided by Parliament, unless possessing a domicile in Singapore.

Electoral registers are revised at the latest three years after the last general election. Voting is compulsory, failure to vote resulting in the offender's name being expunged from the register.

Candidates for Parliament must be qualified electors who are residents of Singapore at the time of their nomination and have been so resident for periods totalling at least 10 years*, and who are able, with a degree of proficiency sufficient to enable them to take an active part in the proceedings of the Parliament, to read and write at least one of the following languages: English, Malay, Mandarin, Tamil. Not qualified to be members of Parliament, however, are undischarged bankrupts, persons sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year or to a fine of at least S\$2,000, and persons who have been candidates or election agents to candidates and who have failed to lodge a return of election expenses as required by law. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with an office of profit in Singapore.

Each candidate's nomination paper must be signed by two persons as proposer and seconder and by not less than four other persons, all of whose names must appear on the register of electors for the candidate's electoral division. A candidate must make a deposit of S\$ 1,500, which is reimbursed if he obtains more than one-eighth of the total number of votes polled in his division.

For election purposes, Singapore is divided into 75 divisions, each returning one member by simple majority vote.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary vacancies occurring between general elections.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 24-25

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The normal term of Parliament would have run for five years as from 7 February 1977, but the holding of new elections was announced on 30 November 1980.

During the election campaign, the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) stressed the importance of continuity of a strong and tested Government, while the opposition parties—the United People's Front, the United Front, the Workers' Party, the *Barisan Sosialis*, the Singapore Democratic Party, the Singapore Justice Party, and the Singapore Malay National Organization (PKMS)—pointed to the need for an opposition in Parliament and the lowering of various charges such as those on public utilities, road taxes and medical fees. Some parties called for the reduction of defence spending, the abolition of National Service and closer co-operation with Malaysia.

On Nomination Day (13 December 1980), the PAP won 37 uncontested seats. On polling day, the PAP won all the remaining 38 contested seats. In terms of percentage of the votes cast, the PAP won 75.55%, as compared to 72.4% in the 1976 elections. Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew remained in power; his new Cabinet was sworn in on 6 January 1981.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections* and Distribution of Seats
in Parliament

Number of registered electors	685,141
Voters	654,195 (95.48%)
Blank or void ballot papers	17,743
Valid votes	636,452

*In the 38 constituencies where polling took place.

Political Group	Number of Candidates	votes obtained	%	*Number of Seats
People's Action Party (PAP)		494,268		75 (+ 6)**
Workers' Party	8	39,590	6.05	—
United People's Front	14	28,586	4.37	—
United Front	8	27,522	4.21	—
<i>Barisan Sosialis</i>	4	16,488	2.52	—
Singapore Malay National Organization (PKMS)	4	13,435	2.05	—
Singapore Democratic Party	3	11,292	1.73	—
Singapore Justice Party	2	5,271	0.81	—

"75*

**Six seats added since last elections.

2. *Distribution of Members of Parliament
according to Professional Category*

University professors and lecturers	
Lawyers	
Journalists	
Doctors	
Architects	
Engineers	
Others (Trade unionists, businessmen, teachers, politicians, former civil servants, accountants, etc.)	

3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to*

Men	
Women	

4. *Distribution of Members of Parliament
according to Age Group*

30-39 years	
40-49	
50-59	
60-69	