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Singapore's General Election 2025

Key Takeaways

- Although the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) is all but guaranteed a victory, it faces stiff competition in several electoral districts.
- This election is especially important for the PAP as it aims to refresh its ranks and solidify its next generation leadership amidst the departure of prominent PAP politicians.

Overview

On April 15, Singapore dissolved parliament and scheduled a general election for May 3, marking Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's first major test since taking office in 2024. Although Wong's ruling PAP is all but certain to maintain a majority in parliament, the opposition Workers' Party (WP) and Progress Singapore Party (PSP) may present fierce competition in several districts. The election also serves as the first major test of Wong's political leadership and an important indicator of the PAP's public support, which fell from nearly 70 to 61.2 percent in 2020. Despite the 2020 dip in the PAP's support and frustrations about both the rising cost of living and goods and services tax (GST) rate hikes, recent polling data shows that Wong enjoys a 75 percent approval rating. Notably, WP leader Pritam Singh's approval has grown to 71 percent, up from 64 percent from Q4 2024.

Based on the three major political parties' manifestos, campaigns will likely focus on cost-of-living pressures, job security, and economic uncertainty fueled by President Trump's new tariffs. While the PAP will likely present itself as an island of stability with a proven track record among shifting geopolitical tides, opposition parties such as the Workers' Party and Progress Singapore Party will likely campaign on rising inequality, foreign labor, and housing affordability.

Singapore's 2025 General Election has been marked by record numbers of new candidates fielded by both the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) and the various opposition parties. The election is expected to refresh each party's leadership, while new PAP candidates are prospective members of the party's next generation (5G) leadership. The 2025 General Election also saw the departure of several prominent PAP politicians, further emphasizing the election's importance in rebuilding the PAP's



ranks. Notably, Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat, Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen, Senior Minister Teo Chee Hean, and longtime politician Maliki Osman have announced plans to retire. Heng specifically noted that his retirement was intended to allow new politicians to assume leadership positions. Ng's and Teo's retirement represent the departure of two significant figures in Singapore's national defense and signals a major turning point in Singapore's leadership as previous PAP giants make way for younger politicians.

The Effects of Redistricting

Singapore has two types of electoral district: Group Representation Constituencies (GRCs), which consist of four or five Members of Parliament (MP); and Single Member Constituencies (SMCs), which consist of a single MP. The PAP's domination of GRCs since their introduction in 1988 has contributed to their hold on power.

Redistricting efforts appear focused on stymying potential gains by the WP and the PSP. Efforts were most pronounced in the battleground East Coast GRC – a PAP-held electoral district that is among the most likely to flip this election cycle. An opposition victory in the East Coast GRC would mean the loss of five seats in parliament and a visible indicator of diminishing national support for the PAP. Three new districts, Pasir Ris-Changi GRC, Punggol GRC, and Tampines-Changkat SMC, appear to serve as potential counterweights to the East Coast GRC. All three districts will likely swing PAP given 2020 voting trends, mitigating a potential WP victory.

The West Coast-Jurong West GRC similarly appears to be an attempt to break the PSP's hold on the West Coast GRC by combining it with portions of the PAP-dominated Jurong GRC, potentially giving the PAP enough of an edge to maintain control over its seats.

The six new SMCs are all primarily split off from PAP strongholds and appear to be attempts to safely pad the PAP's supermajority in parliament to mitigate potential opposition party gains.

Although the PAP is likely to face stiff competition in several existing electoral districts, they have already secured a victory in the new 5-member Marine Parade-Braddell Heights GRC after the WP pulled out of the contest at the last minute. While other opposition parties expressed their disappointment, WP Chief Pritam Singh noted that the move was intended to allow the WP to focus on other races and maximize their chances of electoral success.

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