

GENERAL ELECTION 2015

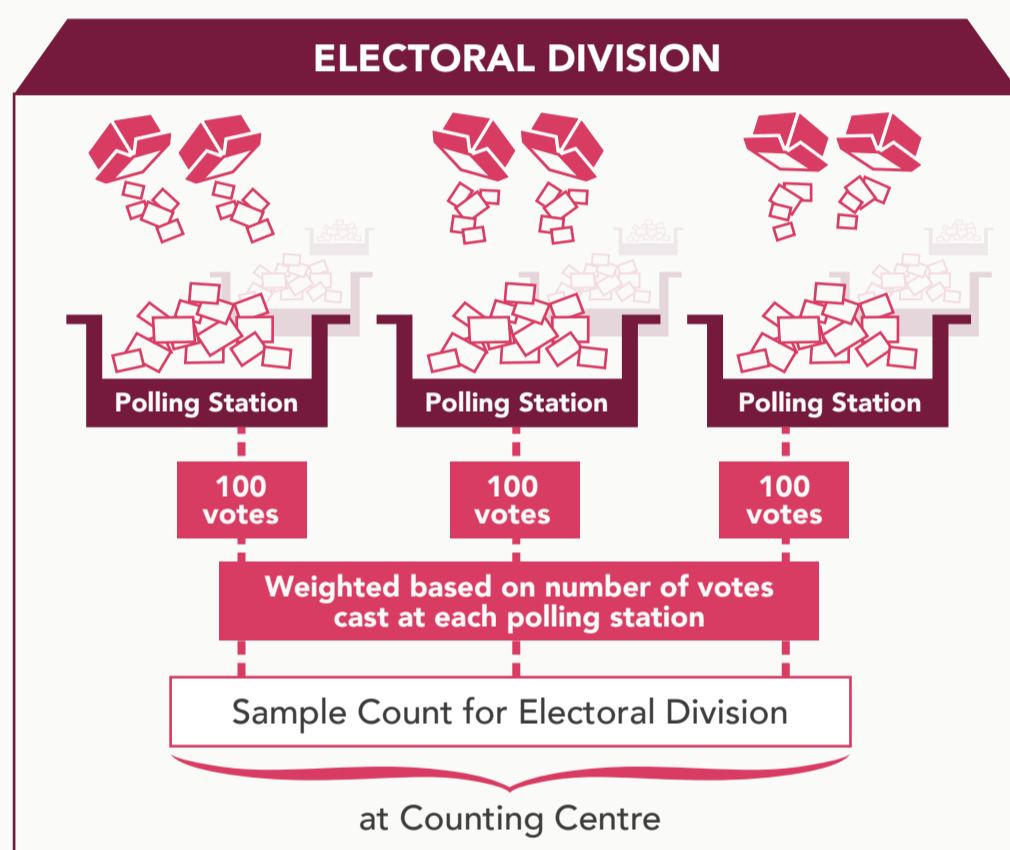
SAMPLE COUNT

WHAT IS A SAMPLE COUNT?

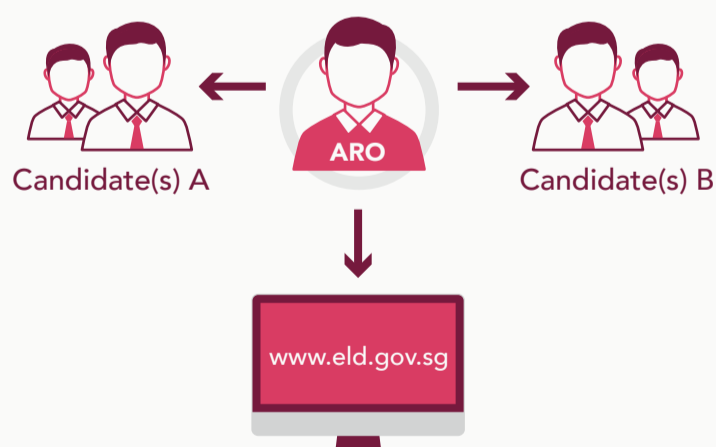
A sample count is performed at the start of the counting process to get an early indication of the possible electoral outcome for that electoral division.

WHY DO WE HAVE IT?

It helps prevent speculation and misinformation from unofficial sources while counting is underway, before counting is completed and the election results are announced. A sample count also helps election officials check against the election result for that electoral division.



- From the votes cast at each polling station, a counting assistant picks up a random bundle of 100 ballot papers (in front of the candidates and counting agents present) and counts the number of votes for each candidate (or group of candidates in the case of a GRC).
- The votes will be added up, with weightage given to account for the difference in the number of votes cast at each polling station.
- Sample count for the electoral division will be shown as a percentage of valid votes garnered by each candidate (or group of candidates).



- Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) records the votes for each candidate (or group of candidates) in a form and shares the sample count for the polling station with the candidates and counting agents present.
- Sample count for the electoral division will be released to the media and published on the Elections Department's website, while counting is still in progress. As this is a sample count, the election result could be different.



- **The public should wait for the Returning Officer's (RO) announcement to know the election result.** Tune in to watch the RO announce the election results 'live' on TV when counting of votes is completed.