

## CANDIDATE ADVISORY FOR GENERAL ELECTION 2020

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This advisory to candidates highlights the key changes to election processes for General Election (GE) 2020. Details can be found in the Candidate Handbook for General Election 2020. The Elections Department (ELD) has also updated the Guide for Polling Agents and the Guide for Counting Agents for General Election 2020. These publications are available on the ELD website.

### Key dates

2. For GE 2020, Nomination Day is 30 Jun 2020 (Tue) and Polling Day is 10 Jul 2020 (Fri).

### Nomination

3. The Nomination Places are listed at **Annex A**. Persons seeking candidature (candidates), their subscribers i.e. a proposer, a seconder and assentors for each candidate (or group of candidates) and one other person appointed by each candidate may enter the Nomination Centres from 10 am on Nomination Day.

4. Only candidates<sup>1</sup> who meet the following conditions<sup>1</sup> may be allowed to enter the Nomination Place from 10.30 am on Nomination Day:

- The candidate has been issued a Political Donation Certificate<sup>2</sup>;
- The candidate is accompanied by a proposer, a seconder and at least four assentors<sup>3</sup>; and
- In the case of Group Representation Constituency (GRC)<sup>4</sup> candidates, the relevant candidate in the group has been issued the relevant certificate<sup>5</sup> from either the Malay Community Committee or the Indian and Other Minority Communities Committee.

5. Nomination proceedings will begin at 11 am sharp. The time for accepting nominations will end at 12 noon sharp. Objections can be made to nominations filed from 11 am. From 12 noon until 12.30 pm, only objections can be made but no nominations can be filed.

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<sup>1</sup> An aspiring candidate who is unwell and certified by a medical practitioner to be unfit to attend Nomination proceedings in person, can authorise a representative to file his Nomination papers. The Authorised Representative must have the Power of Attorney, which must include authorisation to submit the Nomination papers and to raise objections to the Nomination papers of other candidates.

<sup>2</sup> Candidates can apply for the Political Donation Certificate online via Candidate Services or in person at ELD Prinsep Link not later than 26 Jun 2020 (Fri).

<sup>3</sup> Subscribers (i.e. seconder, proposer, assentors) who are unwell will not be allowed to enter the Nomination Centre. Candidates should replace subscribers who are unwell.

<sup>4</sup> In the case of a GRC, the following additional requirements also have to be met: the number of members of the group must satisfy the number of candidates designated for the GRC; all the members in the group must belong to the same political party, or must be seeking to stand as a group of independent candidates; and all the members in the group must be present.

<sup>5</sup> Candidates can apply for the relevant minority community certificate online via Candidate Services or in person at ELD not later than 26 Jun 2020 (Fri).

## Updates to election processes

6. Candidates should note the following updates to election processes, and refer to the relevant paragraphs in the Candidate Handbook for details.

- a) Enhancements to digital services for candidates (section 2.1 in Handbook). In light of the COVID-19 situation, candidates are encouraged to use the expanded digital services for candidates (i.e. Candidate Services) on the ELD website to prepare their submissions. All forms for nomination can be printed from the ELD website to be filled out in hard copy, so there is no need to come to ELD to collect hard copy forms. The list of digital services for candidates is at **Annex B**;
- b) Provision for applicants for minority community certificates to submit additional information to support their application (section 1.3 in Handbook). The additional information must be set out in a statutory declaration and not exceed two pages. The original copy of the statutory declaration must be submitted in person or by post to ELD not later than 26 Jun 2020 (Fri);
- c) Entry into the Nomination Place (section 3.2.1 in Handbook). Only candidates who meet the conditions listed in para 4 above may be allowed to enter the Nomination Place on Nomination Day;
- d) Election deposit is \$13,500 per candidate (section 2.2 in Handbook). We encourage candidates to pay via electronic funds transfer through Candidate Services. Candidates may also pay using bank draft or certified cheque (made payable to "Elections Department") at ELD office at Prinsep Link;
- e) Update to rules governing display of posters and banners (section 4.5.3 in Handbook). The size of printed election advertising will be streamlined to two maximum sizes, with an increase in the maximum size for small printed election advertising in Single Member Constituencies. Candidates will also be allowed to display 25% more large printed election advertising (i.e. maximum size of 9m by 1.2m);
- f) Revised campaigning guidelines under COVID-19 (section 4.6 and 4.7 in Handbook). As large group gatherings are not allowed under the prevailing MOH guidelines, no Police permits will be granted for physical rallies and gatherings at Assembly Centres on Counting Night. In lieu of physical rallies, there will be more airtime on national free-to-air TV channels for political parties and candidates and Government will provide venues that candidates can apply and use for holding e-rally livestreams (see also paras 7 and 8 - Party and Constituency Political Broadcasts below);
- g) Declaration of use of paid Internet election advertising (IEA) and stating on paid IEA that it was paid for by them, their political party or an authorised third party campaigner (section 4.5.1.2 in Handbook). This is to enhance accountability and better safeguard the integrity of the election process. There is no change to the timing that the declaration must be made; and

- h) Streamlining of forms and process for returns respecting election expenses and requirement to state in the form the candidates' expenses on paid IEA (section 10.7 in Handbook). Candidates are to use the revised Form 19 to submit their election expenses returns to the Returning Officer. They will also have to clearly state their expenses on paid IEA in the returns.

### **Party and Constituency Political Broadcasts**

7. There will be television airtime for candidates to reach out to voters at the national level, through the Party and the Constituency Political Broadcasts. There will be two Party Political Broadcasts (PPBs) aired across 19 TV and radio channels on 2 July 2020 and 9 July 2020. Only political parties that field at least six candidates under a recognised party symbol are eligible for PPBs, and eligible political parties will be informed of their allocated time on Nomination Day. The Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) will be issuing guidelines on the conduct of the PPBs by 25 June 2020.

8. For the Constituency Political Broadcasts (CPBs), each candidate contesting in a Single Member Constituency (SMC) will be given 3 minutes of airtime, while each group of candidates contesting in a Group Representation Constituency (GRC) will be given 12 minutes or 15 minutes respectively, depending on whether it is a 4- or 5-member GRC. The CPBs will be aired on Channel 5, starting from 3 July 2020. Similarly, IMDA will be issuing guidelines on the conduct of the CPBs by 25 June 2020.

### **Provision of venues to facilitate e-rallies**

9. Candidates can apply to use venues (up to 10 venues a day) provided by the Government for live streaming during the following hours from 1 July to 8 July 2020:

- a. 7 am to 10 am
- b. 12 noon to 3 pm
- c. 7 pm to 10 pm

10. Candidates may submit one application for each timeslot in a day from 30 June 2020 via Candidate Services on ELD Website. Each timeslot will cost \$107. Candidates will only be provided power, internet connectivity and basic furnishings in the venues. Candidates must make their own arrangements for live streaming at the site and ensure successful delivery of their own livestreams. Terms and conditions for the use of the venues will be made available for reference before the application window.

11. Political parties and candidates are reminded that the publication of all their livestreams, whether from inside or outside the provided venues and timeslots, must comply with prevailing laws. Platforms used for live streaming must be declared to the Returning Officer. Foreigners are prohibited from taking part in any election activity or publishing election advertising, including livestreams.

### **Safety measures at election proceedings**

12. ELD will put in place safety measures for nomination, polling and counting proceedings (see para 3.1.1, 6.1.1 and 7.1 of Handbook). These measures will protect the health and safety of voters, candidates and election officials.

13. Temperature screening will be conducted at election premises. Candidates and their election agents with fever or respiratory symptoms will not be allowed to enter election premises. The only exception is that candidates detected to have fever or respiratory symptoms during the temperature screening will be allowed into the Nomination Centre to file their papers. However, if a candidate has already appointed an Authorised Representative, he can send his representative, and should not show up at the Nomination Centre. ELD calls on everyone to be socially responsible, and to play their part by adhering to safe distancing and safe management measures to ensure a safe election amid the COVID-19 situation.

### **Other advisories**

14. Candidates should also read the following advisories/guidelines to political parties and candidates which are available on the ELD website:

- (a) Advisory on threat of foreign interference in elections and precautionary measures;
- (b) Advisory on cybersecurity risks and precautionary measures;
- (c) Advisory on application of Personal Data Protection Act to election activities;
- (d) Advisory on online campaigning and cybersecurity protocols; and
- (e) Advisory on safe physical campaigning during the GE 2020

15. ELD has also prepared a candidate's checklist for the different stages of the election at **Annex C**. This list is not exhaustive. Candidates are advised to refer to the legislation and the Candidate Handbook for more details.

### **ELD Contact**

16. For queries, candidates and their election agents may contact ELD at [candidates@eld.gov.sg](mailto:candidates@eld.gov.sg). ELD office is located at 11 Prinsep Link, Singapore 187949. Operating hours during the election period are:

Monday to Friday : 8.30 am to 6.00 pm  
Saturday : 8.30 am to 1.00 pm  
**(Closed on Sunday and Public Holiday.)**

**Elections Department**  
**Prime Minister's Office**  
24 Jun 2020

**List of Nomination Places**

<i>Nomination Place</i>	<i>Electoral Division</i>
1. Bendemeer Primary School School Hall Building 91 Bendemeer Road Singapore 339948	Bishan-Toa Payoh Jalan Besar Radin Mas Tanjong Pagar
2. Chongfu School School Hall Building 170 Yishun Avenue 6 Singapore 768959	Kebun Baru Marsiling-Yew Tee Nee Soon Sembawang
3. Deyi Secondary School School Hall Building 1 Ang Mo Kio Street 42 Singapore 569277	Aljunied Ang Mo Kio Marymount Yio Chu Kang
4. Jurong Pioneer Junior College School Hall Building 21 Teck Whye Walk Singapore 688258	Chua Chu Kang Hong Kah North Pioneer
5. Kong Hwa School School Hall Building 350 Guillemard Road Singapore 399772	MacPherson Marine Parade Mountbatten Potong Pasir
6. Methodist Girls' School School Hall Building 11 Blackmore Drive Singapore 599986	Bukit Panjang Holland-Bukit Timah
7. Nan Hua High School School Hall Building 41 Clementi Avenue 1 Singapore 129956	Bukit Batok Jurong West Coast Yuhua
8. Poi Ching School School Hall Building 21 Tampines Street 71 Singapore 529067	Hougang Tampines
9. St. Anthony's Canossian Primary School School Hall Building 1602 Bedok North Avenue 4 Singapore 469701	East Coast Pasir Ris-Punggol Punggol West Sengkang



# Digital Services for Candidates

Before Nomination Day	Can be prepared by election agent or candidate	Can be submitted by election agent or candidate	Must be submitted by candidate
Appoint election agent	—	—	✓
Apply Political Donation Certificate	✓	—	✓
Apply minority community certificate (for GRC)	✓	—	✓
Pay election deposit	—	✓	—
Submit photograph for ballot paper	✓	—	✓
Submit name for ballot paper (Optional)	✓	—	✓

After Nomination Day	Can be submitted or downloaded by election agent or candidate
Declare Internet election advertising platforms	✓
Lodge a copy of poster or banner	✓
Submit list of persons authorised to conduct election activity	✓
Submit election office address	✓
Access map showing 50m poster and banner prohibition zone around polling stations & bus sequence for ballot box delivery from polling stations to counting centres	✓
Register to witness counting of overseas ballot papers	✓
Submit election expenses returns	✓ Election agent must declare first before sending to candidate to declare and submit
Submit post-election donation report and declaration	✓ Election agent must declare first before sending to candidate to declare and submit
Register to witness destruction of ballot boxes (6 months after election)	✓



# Other Services for Candidates

## Draft & Print

Can be prepared by  
election agent or  
candidate

### Prepare Nomination Paper

Up to 4 versions of the Nomination Paper can be drafted and saved. Nomination Papers do not have to be completely filled up. System auto-checks for whether the names of the proposer, seconder and assentors are in the relevant Register of Electors when the electoral division is specified.



Only candidate can  
submit at Nomination Centre  
in person

### Prepare form to appoint one other person



Only candidate can  
submit at Nomination Centre  
in person

### Prepare form to appoint principal election agent (for GRC)



Only candidate can  
submit at Nomination Centre  
in person

**Candidate's Checklist**

This list is not exhaustive, but serves as a checklist for a candidate at different stages of the election. Candidates are advised to refer to the legislation and the Candidate Handbook for General Election 2020 for more details.

<b>Before Nomination Day</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Submit Pre-Election Donation Report and Declaration to apply for the Political Donation Certificate [by 26 Jun 2020]</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Submit application for the relevant certificate from either the Malay Community Committee or the Indian and Other Minority Communities Committee (for GRC) [by 26 Jun 2020]</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Nomination Paper and check electoral status of your proposer, seconder and assentors</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Pay election deposit of \$13,500 early</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Submit Photo for Ballot Paper</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Submit Name to be Printed on Ballot Paper and Notice Outside Polling Stations form (if needed)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Appoint election agent</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Appointment of Principal Election Agent form (for GRC)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Appoint one other person to join you at the Nomination Place (if needed)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Submit your symbol (If you are not standing for a political party and plan to use your own symbol)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Appoint an Authorised Representative through Power of Attorney if you are unable or unfit to file your Nomination Paper because of a COVID-19 Stay Home Notice (SHN) or Quarantine Order (QO), or if hospitalised or in ill health. Certification by a medical practitioner is required.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Find replacement if any subscriber is unwell, as unwell subscribers will not be allowed to enter the Nomination Centre.</li></ul>
<b>On Nomination Day</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Arrive at Nomination Centre early (Nomination Centres opens from 10 am)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bring along the duly completed Nomination Paper, Political Donation</li></ul>



Certificate, relevant minority community certificate (for GRC) in duplicate as well as other forms (if not already submitted via Candidate Services)

- Bring along your election deposit receipt
- Bring along your required number of subscribers

### **After Close of Nomination Proceedings on Nomination Day**

- Receive Returning Officer's permit to display posters and banners
- Declare IEA platforms and paid election advertising via Candidate Services, including the additional requirements within first 12 hours. Subsequent declarations must be made before IEA is published on any new platforms
- Lodge all printed election advertising with ELD before you display them
- Submit list of persons authorised to conduct election activity
- Submit address of election office (if needed)
- Download 50m prohibition zone map from Candidate Services so that you do not display posters and banners within 50m of any polling station
- Apply for Perambulating Vehicle permit from Police (if needed)
- Apply for e-rally livestreaming venues (if needed)
- Adhere to safe distancing guidelines at all times when carrying out walkabouts etc. (e.g. avoid physical contact with members of the public)
- Refer to the Gazettes for the list of polling stations in the electoral division that you are contesting in, and counting centres. You can download the bus sequence for ballot box delivery from polling stations to counting centres from Candidate Services to plan for your polling agent to witness the process to transport the ballot boxes from polling stations to counting centres.
- Register to witness overseas polling (if needed)
- Appoint polling agents
- Appoint counting agents
- Collect Candidate and Election Agent passes from ELD

### **On Polling and Counting Day**

- Submit the Oath of Secrecy to gain entry to polling station and counting centre
- Inform Polling Agent to bring along their appointment form to gain entry to the polling station
- Inform Counting Agent to bring along their appointment form to gain entry to the counting centre

#### **After Polling Day**

- Register to witness counting of overseas votes (if needed)
- Submit election expenses return (within 31 days after the results of the election are published in the Gazette)
- Submit post-election donation report and declaration (within 31 days after the results of the election are published in the Gazette)
- Make payment to ELD for the cost to remove posters/banners in breach of the rules. You will receive a Notice from ELD on the total amount payable after the election (If applicable)
- Register to witness the destruction of ballot papers (6 months after election; ELD will make announcement) (if needed)