

PRESS RELEASE

COOLING-OFF DAY AND POLLING DAY FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2023

1 September 2023 is Polling Day for the Presidential Election 2023. The day before Polling Day, 31 August 2023, is Cooling-off Day.

No campaigning or election advertising on Cooling-off Day (Thursday, 31 August 2023) and Polling Day (Friday, 1 September 2023)

2. The period starting from Cooling-off Day (Thursday, 31 August 2023), 12am, and ending with the close of polling on Polling Day (Friday, 1 September 2023), 8pm, is called the “cooling-off period”.

3. Campaigning activity and election advertising, including the publishing, display of or wearing of clothing with a candidate’s symbols, are not allowed during the cooling-off period. This is to give voters time to reflect on their choice for President.

4. Election advertising refers to any information that can reasonably be regarded as intended to promote, procure or prejudice the electoral success of a candidate or to otherwise enhance or prejudice the standing of a candidate.

5. Campaigning activities and election advertising which are prohibited during the cooling-off period include:

- a. publishing paid and unpaid Online Election Advertising (OEA) -this includes sharing, resharing, reposting or boosting of existing OEA, as well as broadcasting of online meetings accessible to the public;
- b. publicly displaying non-online election advertising – this includes relocating, altering or modifying existing non-online election advertising. Non-online election advertising includes traditional election advertising such as a banner, flag or poster;
- c. canvassing, walkabouts, door-to-door visits, visiting homes and workplaces of voters for election-related purposes;
- d. holding any form of public assemblies or meetings (whether online, in person, or both) which engage election issues; and
- e. wearing, using, carrying or displaying a candidate’s allotted symbol or campaign propaganda (with the exception that the candidate is allowed to wear a replica of the symbol allotted to him).

6. On Polling Day, voters should refrain from wearing attire with images, or carrying with them items to the polling station, that may be construed as influencing other voters or canvassing support for any particular candidate. If they do so, they may

be turned away by election officials at the polling stations. Examples include (but are not limited to):

- a. shirts, clothing, bags, or badges with prints on them that are identical to or closely resemble a candidate's allotted symbol, or bear words that may be interpreted as showing support to a candidate; and
- b. objects that are identical to or closely resemble a candidate's symbol and would likely be associated with a candidate by the public.

Exceptions to prohibitions

7. There are several exceptions to the prohibition of election advertising during the cooling-off period. These exceptions are:

- a. lawful OEA that was already published before the start of Cooling-off Day and have not been shared, reshared, reposted or boosted during the cooling-off period;
- b. non-online election advertising lawfully displayed before the start of Cooling-off Day and have not been relocated, altered or modified during the cooling-off period;
- c. public display of any non-online election advertising within or on an exterior wall or exterior window of the office or committee room of a candidate provided that the non-online election advertising –
 - consists only of permissible electoral content; and
 - is solely for the purpose of indicating that the office or room is the office or committee room of the candidate;
- d. news reports relating to election matters by authorised news agencies; and
- e. the communication of content between two or more individuals that is of a private or domestic nature using electronic means.

Advisory for candidates and their supporters

8. Candidates and their supporters are expected to comply with all relevant laws during the cooling-off period and should refrain from conduct that goes against the spirit of the cooling-off period.

9. Candidates should be mindful of how they conduct themselves in public and exercise due care to avoid any action that may be perceived as campaigning. Candidates should therefore refrain from making home visits or attending public events where they are likely to attract public attention and may be perceived to be

canvassing for support. Candidates may continue to attend religious ceremonies or worship services, meetings, or other functions in the course of work or employment, subject to the general prohibitions against campaigning and election advertising during the cooling-off period.

10. Candidates and their supporters are reminded that the publication of election surveys and exit polls before the close of polling, on Polling Day is prohibited.

Voting on Polling Day

11. Polling stations are open from 8 am to 8 pm on Polling Day. Voters may check their polling station's queue status by scanning the QR code on their poll card before going to vote.

12. Voters are to bring along their NRIC and poll card for voting. Alternatively, they can also present their digital NRIC and ePoll card on the Singpass app at the polling station.

13. Special voting arrangements will be piloted at some nursing homes (special polling stations). Voters who are in-patients or residents of these nursing homes can cast their votes at the nursing homes they reside in. The special voting arrangements include voting in person at the polling place(s) set up within the premises of the nursing home, and/or deploying mobile polling team(s) to allow those who are not able to make their way to the polling place(s) to cast their votes at their beds.

Assistance for senior voters and persons with special needs at polling stations

14. Vehicles ferrying senior voters and those with special needs can drop them off at the Special Alighting Point at their polling station. Priority queue and wheelchairs are also available for senior voters and voters with special needs.

15. Election officials will be on hand to assist voters at the polling stations.

**ISSUED BY
ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

30 August 2023