



SO YOU WANT TO RECOMMEND A
***NOMINATED MEMBER
OF PARLIAMENT?***

WHAT IS AN NMP?



An unelected member of parliament who serves a 2 and ½ year term; up to 9 serve at a time



Powers and privileges: All of an elected MP's, except:

- Ability to vote to amend the Constitution
- Participate in a vote of no confidence against the government
- Vote to remove the President from Office or votes related to public funds



Scheme effected to bring more independent and diverse views in Parliament

WHO DECIDES?



The Special Select Committee decide who our NMPs are, in consultation with the House.

Members of the Committee are:

- Speaker Tan Chuan Jin (Chair)
- Mr Chan Chun Sing
- Mr Gan Kim Yong
- Ms Gan Siow Huang



- Ms Indranee Rajah
- Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman
- Mr Leon Perera
- Dr Vivian Balakrishnan



HISTORY OF NMP SCHEME

NOV 1989: DPM Goh Chok Tong introduces a constitutional amendment bill for nomination of NMPs

MAR 1990: 7th Parliament of Singapore passes a constitutional amendment bill into law to introduce the NMP scheme

NOV 1990: The first two NMPs, Mr Leong Chee Whye and Dr Maurice Choo, are appointed.

JUL 1997: 9th Parliament of Singapore passes a constitutional amendment bill to raise the maximum number of NMPs from six to nine.

AVG 2002: 10th Parliament of Singapore passes a constitutional amendment bill to extend the NMP term from 2 to 2.5 years.

APR 2010: 12th Parliament of Singapore abolishes requirement for Parliament to decide by resolution if it would adopt NMP nominations.

ANTHEA ONG



- Uses her voice to raise issues of systemic discrimination and inequality affecting marginalised communities
- With 2 other NMPs, Ong suggested four amendments to the POFMA bill, such as creating low-cost, expeditious processes for parties making appeals against POFMA claims
- Advocated for better access to mental health treatment especially for lower-income individuals (e.g. how the GST hike would affect migrant workers disproportionately)

KVIK SHIAO-YIN



- Co-founder of **The Thought Collective**: an organisation that works to build “social and emotional capital” in Singapore
- Believes that politicians should speak more plainly, which helps challenge the sentiment that Parliament is “boring”
- Also pushed for politicians to speak with emotion and empathy, and focus on “empathetic human solutions” rather than just “technical” ones: within a week, her 2017 speech on the importance of trust and social and emotional capital collected over 647,000 views

WALTER WOON



- Law academic Walter Woon served as an NMP from 1992 to 1996
- An expert in company law, Woon provided his expertise within the Select Committee for the review of the Companies (Amendment) Bill in 1992
- Successfully initiated a Private Member's Bill, which culminated as the Maintenance of Parents Act in 1995. It is the first bill proposed by an NMP to become a public law
- Highlights the capacity of the NMP scheme to sit in select committees and pass bills as public law

PUBLIC NOMINATION PROCESS

Singaporeans can nominate candidates to the Parliament's Special Select Committee (SSC) if they are:

- Singaporeans aged 21 years or above
- Resident for at least ten years
- Name appears in the register of electors
- Able to speak, read and write in at least one of the four official languages
- Not disqualified from being an MP

The candidate's contributions in public service and expertise in certain fields will be considered. The President will receive a recommendation of up to 9 NMPs. The candidates will then be appointed by the President.

TWO CHANNELS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To the Special Select Committee directly
2. Through the Coordinators (see press release in caption!) of one of the seven functional groups convened to seek the views of those in:

- Business and industry
- The professions
- The labour movement
- Social service organisations
- Civic and people sector
- Tertiary education institutions
- Media, arts and sports organisations

In the past few weeks, both the arts communities and the ecosystem of green groups in Singapore have held town halls for nominees to share their ideas and rally support.



NOMINATE NOW!

LINK IN BIO

Members of the public can submit a nomination by **4.30 pm, 23 November 2020.**

Questions to ask when thinking of names:

- Does the candidate provide independent or alternative views?
- Do they have the capacity to be non-partisan?
- What kinds of views and perspectives are missing in parliament?
- What do you want to see in parliament?



REFERENCES

1. <https://www.parliament.gov.sg/newsroom/events/Details/invitation-for-submission-of-names-for-nominated-members-of-parliament>
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4. <https://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers/Digitised/Article/straitstimes19891130-1.2.27.19>
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