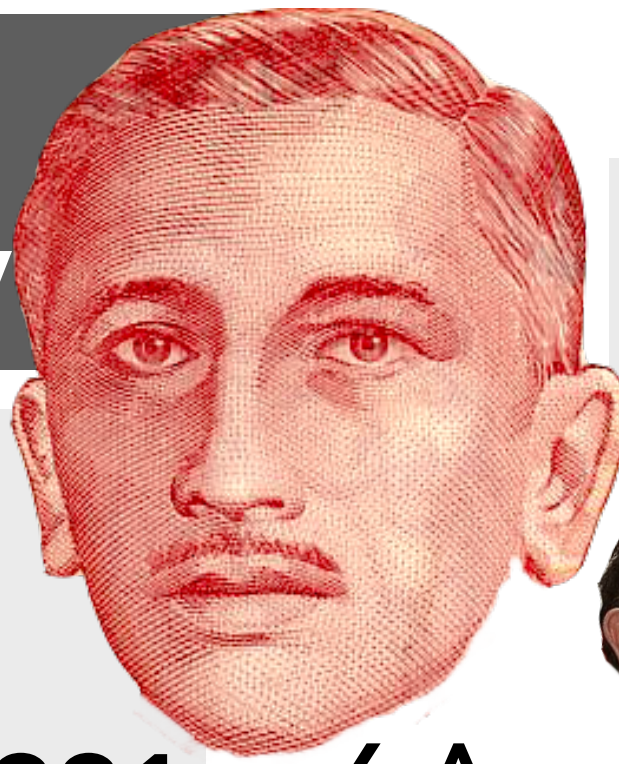


Timeline of the Elected Presidency

23 August

The Court of Appeal affirms the decision of the High Court
Dr Tan Cheng Bock's appeal is dismissed, and there are no remaining legal challenges to a reserved elections



President appointed by Parliament

The President acted as a ceremonial Head of State

- Yusof bin Ishak (1965-1970)
- Benjamin Sheares (1971-81)
- Devan Nair (1981-85)
- Wee Kim Wee (1985-1993)

Before **1991**

6 August

Halimah Jacob confirms run for Presidency

Speaker of Parliament and MP for Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC, Halimah Jacob, confirms that she will resign from Parliament to contest the upcoming Presidential Elections

Inception of the Elected Presidency

3 Jan **1991**

Parliament passed the 1991 Constitutional Amendment Bill, introduced by then-First Deputy Prime Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong, which created the Elected Presidency

In addition to existing ceremonial role, the Elected President would act as a check on the powers of the Government, by safeguarding the reserves and upholding the integrity of the public services

Though appointed, President Wee Kim Wee was the first President to hold these new custodial powers after the constitutional amendments took effect

11 July

Second candidate launches election bid

Chairman of marine service provider Bourbon Offshore Asia, Farid Khan, holds press conference announcing that he plans to run in the upcoming elections

7 July

High Court dismisses Constitutional challenge mounted by Dr Tan Cheng Bock

Dr Tan argued that the first Presidential term to be counted for the purpose of determining a reserved election, must be that of a President elected by the Singaporeans to a six-year term of office. He argued, therefore, that the reference to President Wee Kim Wee as the first Elected President was unconstitutional.

High Court dismissed his application, on the basis that the term "President" in Art 19(B) of the Constitution does not only refer to the Presidents who were elected by the citizens of Singapore for terms of six years, but also Presidents who were elected by Parliament for four years. Hence, Parliament's choice of the First Term is a policy decision which falls outside the remit of the courts, and is not unconstitutional.

1993

First popularly elected President

President Ong Teng Cheong was elected by the people with 58.69% of the vote



1999

Second Presidential Elections end in walkover

As the only running candidate, President S R Nathan was sworn in as President without a popular vote as two other prospective candidates - Ooi Boon Ewe and Tan Soo Phuan - were found to be constitutionally ineligible to compete



2005

Third Presidential Elections end in walkover

President S R Nathan extended his tenure as President after three prospective candidates, including then CFO of Jurong Town Corporation Andrew Kuan, were found to be constitutionally ineligible to compete

2011

Fourth Elected President wins by narrow margin

President Tony Tan is elected as President, beating the second highest candidate, Dr Tan Cheng Bock, by a mere 0.35 percentage points



2016

Most recent constitutional amendments

February: Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong convened a Constitutional Commission chaired by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon to gather public feedback on proposed changes to the Elected Presidency scheme (i.e. raising the eligibility criteria and the introduction of a race-based reserved election system).

November: Parliament passes Constitutional amendment bill to introduce reserved election system, among other changes. Consequently, pursuant to Art 19B, the upcoming Presidential Elections were to be reserved only for Malay candidates.

15 June

High Court dismisses Constitutional challenge mounted by lawyer M Ravi

M Ravi argued that the EP scheme was unconstitutional, but the High Court dismissed his application on the basis that:

- (i) he did not have sufficient legal standing, and
- (ii) the amendments to the Constitution and the EP scheme itself was validly passed and legally effective


31 May **2017**

First runner for inaugural reserved elections announces bid

CEO of Second Chance Properties, Salleh Marican, announces interest in running as first Malay President elected under the reserved elections system

Functions of the Elected Presidency


Apart from traditional ceremonial roles such as the power to grant clemency to prisoners on death row, to appoint the Prime Minister and to dissolve Parliament, there are also custodian roles which are as follows:

1 Fiscal guardian of the national reserves 

2 Review of key public service appointments of key officeholders in the Public Service including the Chief Justice, Attorney-General, Chairman and members of the Presidential Council of Minority Rights

3 Protective functions to veto Cabinet's detention orders under the Internal Security Act and the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act, and to concur or continue corruption investigations by the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau

Council of Presidential Advisors (CPA)

12 

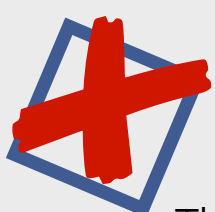
- Unelected body made up of 12 individuals (3 appointed by the President and Prime Minister respectively and 2 by the Chief Justice) to advise and make recommendations to the President in performing his/her custodial roles
- The President is generally required to consult the CPA with some exceptions

* T&C: Parliament may override the President's veto on the government's budget (Supply Bills) or constitutional amendments related to the Elected Presidency

Reserved Elections

In a reserved election, a candidate is deemed to be of a particular race if he or she is accepted by members of that racial community.

The Presidential Election Committee, comprised of 16 public servants, will determine if a candidate is eligible to run based on the above criteria.



Voting

The President is elected through a first-past-the-post system. This means that the President need not have the mandate of the majority.

Eligibility Criteria

A candidate needs to have demonstrated capability to manage large amounts of funds and a public service ethos. He/she can be eligible via the following tracks:

Automatic

A candidate is considered to have the necessary experience and ability if he has held office for a period of not less than three years

(1) as Minister, Chief Justice, Speaker, Attorney-General, Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Auditor-General, Accountant-General or Permanent Secretary;

(2) as chairman or chief executive officer of statutory boards in the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution; or

(3) as chairman of the board of directors or chief executive officer of a company with a paid-up capital of at least \$100 million.

OR

Deliberative

A candidate will qualify if he satisfies the Presidential Elections Committee that he has held an office (of a comparable nature to those held under the automatic track) that has given him the necessary experience and ability for Presidential office.