

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF NAMES FOR NOMINATED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Though these FAQs provide as much accurate and useful information as possible, they do not take precedence over the law. This document is not legal authority and should not be cited as such in a court of law. Persons to be proposed and proposers are advised to read this guide in conjunction with the statute book.

Q1. What are the qualifications for a Nominated Member of Parliament (NMP)?

An NMP must be –

- a. a citizen of Singapore;
- b. at least 21 years old on the day of nomination;
- c. registered as an elector in the current register of electors;
- d. resident in Singapore on the day of nomination and has been so resident in Singapore for a total period of at least 10 years before the date of nomination;
and
- e. sufficiently proficient in English, Malay, Mandarin or Tamil so that he can participate in the proceedings of Parliament.

Q2. What are the disqualifications from being an NMP?

A person is disqualified from being an NMP if the person –

- a. is of unsound mind;
- b. is an undischarged bankrupt;
- c. is the holder of a whole time office in the service of the Government e.g. a civil servant;
- d. has been convicted of an offence by a Singapore or Malaysian court and sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year or to a fine of not less than \$2,000 and has not been pardoned;
- e. has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of, or exercised rights of citizenship in, a foreign country or has declared allegiance to a foreign country;
- f. did not file returns respecting election expenses within the time required by law at any previous parliamentary or presidential election; or
- g. is disqualified under the Parliamentary Elections Act (Cap. 218) or Presidential Elections Act (Cap. 240A) on account of having committed one of the election offences.

Q3. Are there any additional criteria for persons to be nominated?

Under the Fourth Schedule of the Singapore Constitution, the persons to be nominated shall be persons who have rendered distinguished public service, or who have brought honour to the Republic, or who have distinguished themselves in the field of arts and letters, culture, the sciences, business, industry, the professions, social or community service or the labour movement. In making any nomination, the Special Select Committee shall have regard to the need for Nominated Members to reflect as wide a range of independent and non-partisan views as possible.

Q4. What are the forms and documents to submit?

The following Forms (available for download at the Parliament website at www.parliament.gov.sg) and documents must be submitted:

- a. Proposal Form;
- b. Curriculum Vitae of the person proposed;
- c. An essay by the person proposed; and
- d. Letter of Reference from each of the two referees.

You are strongly encouraged to refer to the Submission Guide to ensure the completeness of your submission. The Guide can be downloaded from the Parliament website at www.parliament.gov.sg.

Q5. How to fill in the Proposal Form?

The Proposal Form has three sections which must be filled up accurately as follows:

Particulars of Person Proposed

First fill in the particulars of the person to be proposed for appointment as an NMP. The person proposed must appear in the current Register of Electors. Except for the name in Chinese characters which is to be filled up if applicable, do not leave any boxes blank.

Particulars of Proposer, Seconder and Assentors

Fill in the names and NRIC numbers of –

- a. one proposer;
- b. one seconder; and
- c. **at least four** assentors (up to a maximum of six assentors).

Every proposer, seconder and assentor must be **registered as an elector** in the current Register of Electors. The particulars of every proposer, seconder and assentor must be provided and they must sign the Proposal Form under this section.

Declaration of Person Proposed

The person proposed will make a declaration at the end of the Proposal Form that he/she is not disqualified from being nominated and consents to be considered for nomination as an NMP in the presence of a witness.

Any correction to the particulars given in the Proposal Form must be initialled by the person making the change. You should use English when filling up so as to facilitate checking. Fill up the Form legibly and use indelible ink as far as possible.

Q6. How do I check if I am on the current register of electors?

Candidates, proposers, seconders or assentors can check if they are on the current register of electors through the Elections Department's website at <http://www.eld.gov.sg>. Login to the department's eServices using your NRIC and SingPass.

Please ensure that your particulars in the Proposal Form such as your name, and NRIC match the entries on the current register of electors.

Q7. How do I apply to restore my name to the current register of electors?

You can apply to restore your name to the current register of electors by downloading a form available at the Elections Department's website under eServices at <http://www.eld.gov.sg> and following the instructions provided.

Please restore your name to the current register of electors before the closing date for the submission of Proposal Forms.

Q8. How and by when must I submit my Proposal Form and other documents?

You are encouraged to submit the completed Proposal Form and supporting documents via email to nmp_2018@parl.gov.sg. The materials for submission should be in PDF or Microsoft Word format. The total size of your email should not exceed 10MB.

If electronic submission is not possible, you may submit the completed Proposal Form and supporting documents (placed inside one sealed envelope) by hand to the Office of the Clerk of Parliament at 1 Parliament Place, Singapore 178880. The person proposed need not submit the completed Proposal Form and supporting documents personally.

The completed Proposal Form and supporting documents must be received by The Office of the Clerk of Parliament by 4.30 pm on Friday, 6 July 2018.

Q9. How many candidates can each Functional Group¹ propose?

Each Functional Group can propose up to two persons.

Q10. What is the role of the Coordinator of a Functional Group?

The Coordinator² will seek the views and inputs from constituent organisations under his/her Functional Group. Constituent organisations are encouraged to consult and submit suitable names of their members to be proposed as NMPs to the Coordinator. The Coordinator will then decide on the two names to be submitted to the Special Select Committee, using the official forms provided.

¹ Please refer to the Press Release on Nominated Members of Parliament which can be found at www.parliament.gov.sg.

² The names and addresses of the Coordinators are listed in our Press Release on Nominated Members of Parliament. Please refer to the Press Release at www.parliament.gov.sg.

Q11. Can the Coordinator consider nominations from other organisations outside of the list of constituent organisations under the Functional Group?

The Coordinators are at liberty to consider nominations received from other such organisations.

Q12. What is the selection criteria and process for Functional Groups?

Each Functional Group is free to determine its own selection process or criteria, so long as the qualification and qualities of the person proposed meet the eligibility criteria as set out in the Constitution.

Q13. Is it necessary for the person chosen by a Functional Group to have expertise in all areas covered by the Functional Group?

The person selected by the Functional Group need not have expertise in all areas. For example, a person proposed under the Media, Arts and Sports Functional Group need only have expertise in one of the areas such as the arts.

Q14. If a candidate is not selected by a Functional Group, can his name be submitted independently by another proposer?

The invitation for submission of names to the Special Select Committee is open to the general public. A person not selected by a Functional Group may be nominated by another proposer. The Special Select Committee will consider all applications.
