

No Surprises in Singapore Election Timing -- Market Talk

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The timing of Singapore's general elections is unlikely to surprise anyone, says Gillian Koh, senior research fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy after Singapore advances polls by more than one year to September 11. The ruling People's Action Party is typically seen by the electorate as a safe pair of hands through economic difficulties, Koh says. "The global economy is tanking so I think it doesn't hurt to provide an outlet for the flight to safety, politically, in this more troubled economic context," she says. The recent 50th anniversary celebrations of Singapore's founding have generated a strong sense of national pride, which could give Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and the PAP a boost, she adds.

Since the last election in 2011, the government has put a greater emphasis on social policies, reacting to public discontent about rising housing prices and perceived overcrowding of transport networks by the city's burgeoning population of foreign workers.