

The Hotly Contested Constituencies

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PUNGGOL GRC

In this four-member constituency, a PAP team, which includes a minister and two ministers of state, will face off against a WP team of new faces.

Based on a Straits Times analysis using Department of Statistics data dated June 2024, more than half of Punggol GRC's over 120,000 voters are estimated to be working adults aged between 21 and 45.

Dr Mustafa Izzuddin, a senior international affairs analyst at Solaris Strategies Singapore, said that the younger profile of voters means that a party seeking to prevail in Punggol must be able to field a slate of candidates who can better resonate with them than the competition.

He also pointed to the GRC's proximity with Sengkang GRC – which the WP flipped in GE2020 – as a sign of greater unpredictability in the contest for the new GRC.

But observers cautioned against drawing a direct link between Sengkang in 2020 and Punggol in 2025, noting that there are a number of differences. In fast-growing Punggol, PAP MPs have worked hard to address issues affecting new estates.

This has ranged from increasing the number of pre-school facilities to improving traffic congestion. In addition, PAP has secured victory in Punggol in the past.

WEST COAST-JURONG WEST GRC

This five-member constituency is a rematch between PAP and PSP, with PAP's National Development Minister Desmond Lee leading a team against PSP's founder Tan Cheng Bock, who also ran for the presidency in 2011.

In GE2020, PAP managed a narrow win in West Coast GRC (the GRC's previous form), taking 51.68 per cent of the vote against a PSP team led by Dr Tan. This result allowed it to appoint two NCMPS – Mr Leong Mun Wai and Ms Hazel Poa, who are running again.

The pair's performance in Parliament has allowed the PSP to build its national brand and standing, said Institute of Policy Studies senior research fellow Gillian Koh.

Both parties told The Straits Times that they have been working the ground hard over the past five years.

The PAP said that over the past five years, it has introduced social and community as well as enhanced infrastructure and hardware across the constituency. These include local schemes to supplement national programmes to help lower- and middle-income households cope with the cost of living.

As for the PSP, the party's chief, Mr Leong, told ST that over the past five years, it has tried its best to meet as many residents as possible in the original West Coast GRC.

TAMPINES GRC

A four-way contest is happening in this five-member constituency. The WP, NSP and PPP will challenge the PAP for the GRC which has the highest proportion of Malay voters.

Tampines GRC has been a PAP stronghold since its formation in 1988, when the group representation constituency system was introduced. It won the constituency in GE2020 with 66.41 per cent of the vote – outperforming the national vote share of 61.24 per cent.

Though it is the first time the WP is contesting the GRC, it is the most anticipated opposition contender. The party has been actively engaging residents in Tampines through walkabouts and door-to-door visits over the past two years at least.

Asked about the four-way fight in Tampines, Social and Family Development Minister Masagos Zulkifli, who is leading the PAP team there, said: "I think Tampines residents should be very proud and honoured that so many opposition parties want to contest in Tampines."

Mr Faisal Manap, who was an Aljunied GRC MP, is now leading the WP Tampines GRC team. Speaking in Malay, he said: "For years you've asked for WP to come to this GRC... For this election, we have fulfilled your wish. Give us your support to represent you in Parliament."