



# SINGAPORE

## SUMMARY

Singapore is a democratic parliamentary republic with no local government.

### 1. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Singapore is a democratic parliamentary republic city state.<sup>40.1a</sup> The head of state is the non-executive president who is directly elected for a term of six years. The head of government is the prime minister, who is the leader of the majority party and is appointed by the president. Cabinet is appointed by the president on the advice of the prime minister from amongst members of the unicameral parliament. Parliament consists of 84 popularly elected members (MPs), elected either from the nine single-member constituencies or the 14 group representation constituencies. A further six may be nominated to parliament with speaking rights and voting rights on all resolutions not pertaining to finances or the constitution. Elections are based on universal suffrage of those over 21 years of age. Following the 2015 national election, 23.8% of MPs were women.<sup>40.1b</sup>

### 2. LEGAL BASIS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### 2.1 Constitutional provisions

There is no constitutional provision for local government.<sup>40.2</sup>

#### 2.2 Main legislative texts

There are no legislative provisions for local government.

#### 2.3 Proposed legislative changes

No legislative changes are currently proposed.

#### 2.4 National urban policy

Singapore's 'Master Plan 2014' was published on 6 June 2014.

The plan is driven by the vision of an inclusive, highly liveable, economically vibrant and green home for all Singaporeans. There are six key areas of focus: housing, the economy, recreation, identity, transport and public spaces.

### 3. STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### 3.1 Local government within the state

There is no local government in Singapore. There are however five community development councils (CDCs) which provide local administration. Each is governed by a board of between 12 and 20 members, including a mayor. The boards are responsible for initiating, planning and managing community programmes and encouraging regional civil society activity. The CDCs provide various community and social assistance services delegated from the ministries. Singapore also uses two concurrent sets of sub-divisions: electoral divisions consisting of 23 constituencies and 84 wards, and administrative divisions known as urban planning areas. Of the constituencies, five have six wards, nine have five wards and nine consist of a single ward.

#### 3.2 Ministerial oversight

The Ministry of National Development oversees community development councils.<sup>40.3b</sup>

#### 3.3 Council types

3.3.1 Community development councils  
No information available.



## KEY FACTS

**POPULATION: (2017 estimate):**  
5,612,300

**AREA (UN 2006):** 710 sq km

**CAPITAL:** Singapore

**CURRENCY:** Singapore dollar (SGD)

**HEAD OF STATE:**  
President Halimah Yacob

**HEAD OF GOVERNMENT:**  
Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

**FORM OF GOVERNMENT:**  
democratic parliamentary republic

**PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM:** unicameral

**STATE STRUCTURE:** city state

**LANGUAGES:** English (official), Malay (national language), Mandarin and Tamil (recognised)

**NATIONAL ELECTIONS:**  
**general:** last: 2015, turnout: na; next: 2020

**presidential:**  
last: 2017, turnout: na; next: 2023

**WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT (2015):** 23.8%

**LOCAL ELECTIONS:**  
there is no elected local government

**WOMEN COUNCILLORS:** na

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE as a percentage of total government expenditure 2016/17:** na

Table 40.1a Distribution of urban planning areas and population

Region	No. of urban planning areas	Population (2010 Census)	Population (2017 estimate)
Central	24	929,082	na
East	6	692,290	na
North	7	504,920	na
North-East	7	747,216	na
West	11	893,739	na
Total resident population	-	3,767,247	3,965,800
Approximate non-resident population	-	1,305,000	1,646,500
<b>Approximate total population</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>5,076,700</b>	<b>5,612,300</b>

Source: 2010 Census and Department of Statistics Singapore<sup>40.3a</sup>

#### 4. ELECTIONS

##### 4.1 Recent local elections, 4.2 Voting system, and 4.3 Elected representatives

There are no elected local governments in Singapore.<sup>40.4</sup>

##### 4.4 Women's representation

No information on women's representation on the community development councils available.

#### 5. SYSTEMS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

##### 5.1 Legal requirement and 5.2 Implementation

No information is available.

##### 5.3 ICT use in citizen engagement

No information is available.

#### 6. ORGANISED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Not applicable.

#### 7. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Not applicable.

#### 8. MONITORING SYSTEMS

No information is available.

#### 9. FINANCE, STAFFING AND RESOURCES

##### 9.1 Local government expenditure

No information is available on CDCs' expenditure as a proportion of total government expenditure.

##### 9.2 Locally raised revenue

CDCs have no revenue-raising powers.

##### 9.3 Transfers

No information is available

##### 9.4 Loans

No information is available

##### 9.5 Local authority staff

Not applicable.

#### 10. DISTRIBUTION OF SERVICE DELIVERY RESPONSIBILITY

##### 10.1 Overview of local government service delivery responsibility

Not applicable.

##### 10.2 ICT use in service delivery

No information is available.

##### 10.3 The role of local government in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Singapore will be launching a new Sustainable Development Programme under the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), a long-running initiative that conducts 300 courses for 7,000 officials from developing countries each year.<sup>40.10a</sup> The new programme will offer leadership training and work with UN bodies on development plans and solutions for the developing world. The new Sustainable Development Programme will offer leadership programmes on good governance and public sector institutions in partnership with the UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence.<sup>40.10b</sup> It will also cooperate with UN-Habitat to roll out a multi-year programme on sustainable cities and urbanisation for 100 cities from the developing world, and will work with partners such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UN-Water to provide training and consultancy on water and sanitation solutions for countries in need.

#### REFERENCES AND USEFUL WEBSITES

- 40.1a Government of Singapore [www.gov.sg](http://www.gov.sg)
- 40.1b Inter-Parliamentary Union 'Women in national parliaments' [www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm](http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm)
- 40.2 Constitution of Singapore <http://statutes.agc.gov.sg>
- 40.3a Singapore statistics office [www.singstat.gov.sg](http://www.singstat.gov.sg)
- 40.3b Ministry of National Development <http://app.mnd.gov.sg/AboutUs/Introduction.aspx>
- 40.4 Elections Department [www.eld.gov.sg](http://www.eld.gov.sg)
- 40.5 No reference for this section
- 40.6 No reference for this section
- 40.7 No reference for this section
- 40.8 No reference for this section
- 40.9 No reference for this section
- 40.10a Singapore reveals new sustainable development programme at UN summit [www.gov.sg/news/content/today-online---singapore-reveals-new-sustainable-development-programme-at-un-summit](http://www.gov.sg/news/content/today-online---singapore-reveals-new-sustainable-development-programme-at-un-summit)
- 40.10b Global Centre for Public Service Excellence [www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/global-policy-centres/publicservice.html](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/global-policy-centres/publicservice.html)
- 40.11a UN statistics surface area <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2006/Table03.pdf>
- 40.11b Commonwealth Local Government knowledge hub [www.clgf.org.uk/resource-centre/knowledge-hub](http://www.clgf.org.uk/resource-centre/knowledge-hub)
- 40.11c UNDP HDR Singapore country profile <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/SGP>



## Annex 40a Summary of service provision in different spheres of government in Singapore

Services	Delivering authority		Remarks
	Central government	Urban planning areas	
<b>GENERAL ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Police	■		
Fire protection	■		
Civil protection	■		
Criminal justice	■		
Civil status register	■		
Statistical office	■		
Electoral register	■		
<b>EDUCATION</b>			
Pre-school (kindergarten and nursery)	■		
Primary	■		
Secondary	■		
Vocational and technical	■		
Higher education	■		
Adult education	■		
<b>SOCIAL WELFARE</b>			
Family welfare services	■		
Welfare homes	■		
Social security	■		
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH</b>			
Primary care	■		
Hospitals	■		
Health protection	■		
<b>HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING</b>			
Housing	■		
Town planning	■		
Regional planning	■		
<b>TRANSPORT</b>			
Roads	■		
Transport	■		
Urban roads	■		
Urban rail	■		
Ports	■		
Airports	■		
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SANITATION</b>			
Water and sanitation	■		
Refuse collection and disposal	■		
Cemeteries and crematoria	■		
Slaughterhouses	■		
Environmental protection	■		
Consumer protection	■		
<b>CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORTS</b>			
Theatres and concerts	■		
Museums and libraries	■		
Parks and open spaces	■		
Sports and leisure facilities	■		
Religious facilities			
<b>UTILITIES</b>			
Gas services	■		
District heating	■		
Water supply	■		
Electricity	■		
<b>ECONOMIC</b>			
Agriculture, forests and fisheries	■		
Local economic development/promotion	■		
Trade and industry	■		
Tourism	■		

■ sole responsibility service ■ joint responsibility service ■ discretionary service