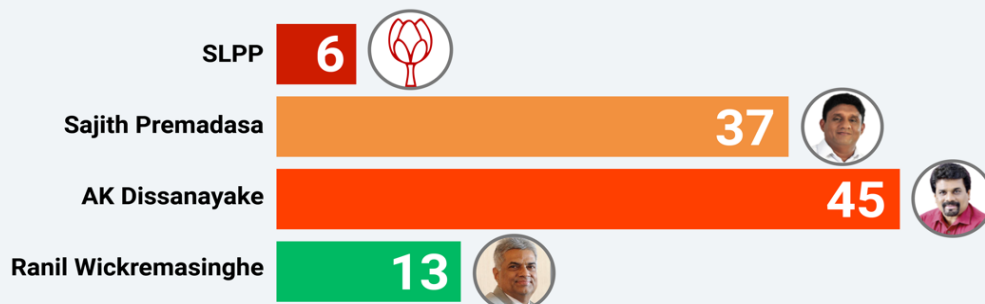# IHP
INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH POLICY

PRESS RELEASE

Support for AK Dissanayake slips to 45%, but still leads Sajith Premadasa (37%)
IHP Presidential Election Voting Intentions Update April 2023.

In April polling for IHP's Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey (SLOTS) MRP tracking of Presidential Election voting intent, support amongst likely voters for AK Dissanayake, NPP/JVP leader, slipped to 45%, but still ahead of Sajith Premadasa, SJB leader on 37%. The decline in support for AK Dissanayake largely benefitted President Ranil Wickremesinghe who gained 3 points to 13% and the generic SLPP candidate who gained 1 point to 6%. Estimates are associated with a margin of error of 1–4%.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION VOTING INTENTION, APRIL 2023 (% LIKELY VOTERS)
If there was a Presidential Election today, who would you vote for?

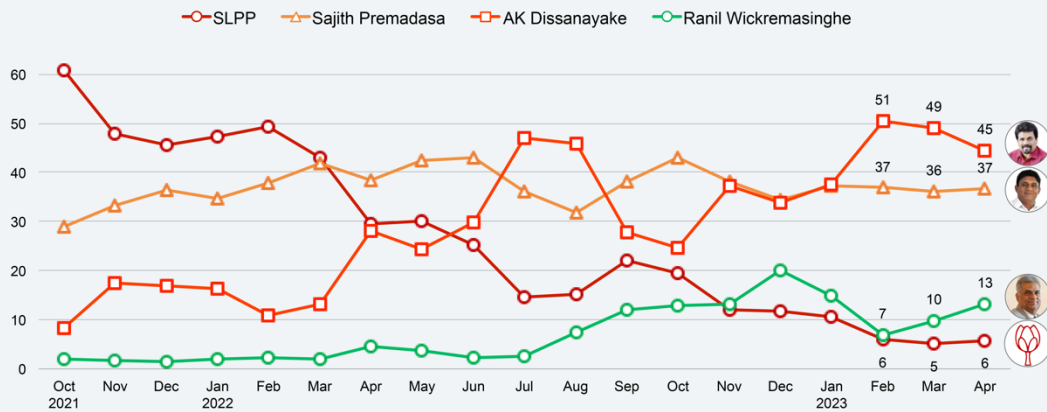|	
SLPP	6
Sajith Premadasa	37
AK Dissanayake	45
Ranil Wickremasinghe	13

Institute for Health Policy Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey MRP
Estimates based on 580 interviews conducted in Apr. 2023, and 11,368 interviews conducted overall from 31 Aug. 2021–19 May. 2023. Estimates are derived from a MRP model and are associated with a margin of error assessed as 1–4%. SLPP referred originally to "President Gotabaya Rajapaksa" but respondents are now asked about a generic SLPP candidate.

The gains in support by President Wickremesinghe in April are consistent with increases in support for the UNP in our SLOTS General Election Voting Intent Tracker and recent improvements in consumer confidence. They add to evidence that the recent IMF agreement and stabilization in some economic indicators has led to increased support for the President and his party, but not the SLPP.

IHP SLOTS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION VOTING INTENTION TRACKER (% LIKELY VOTERS)
If there was a Presidential Election today, who would you vote for?

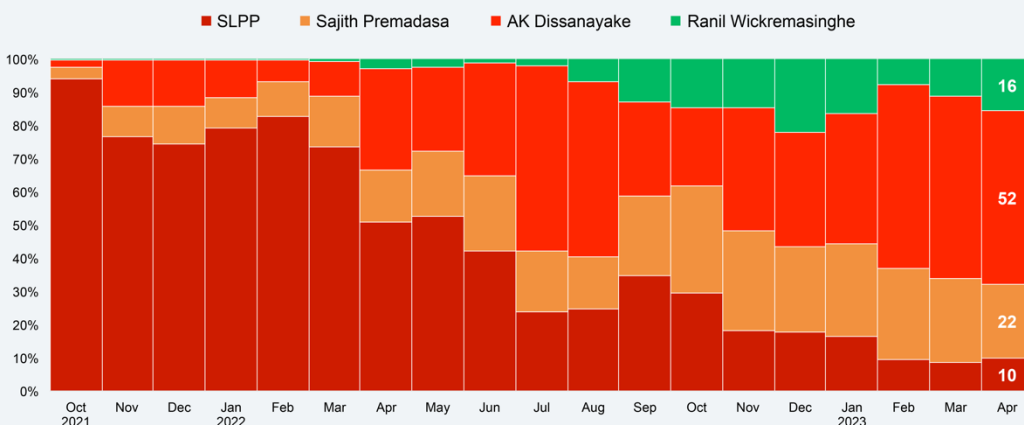Legend: SLPP — Sajith Premadasa — AK Dissanayake — Ranil Wickremasinghe

Institute for Health Policy Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey MRP
Monthly estimates based on 11,368 interviews conducted from 31 Aug. 2021–19 May 2023. Estimates are derived using a MRP model and are associated with a margin of error assessed as 1–7%, depending on the month and candidate. SLPP referred originally to "President Gotabaya Rajapaksa", but respondents are now asked about "Gotabaya Rajapaksa or a member of the SLPP".

WHERE HAVE GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA VOTERS GONE (% GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA 2019 VOTERS)
If there was a Presidential Election today, who would you vote for?

Legend: SLPP ■ Sajith Premadasa ■ AK Dissanayake ■ Ranil Wickremasinghe

Institute for Health Policy Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey MRP
Monthly estimates based on 11,368 interviews conducted from 31 Aug. 2021–19 May 2023. Estimates are derived using a MRP model and are associated with a margin of error assessed as 1–7%, depending on the month and candidate. SLPP referred originally to "President Gotabaya Rajapaksa", but respondents are now asked about "President Gotabaya Rajapaksa or a member of the SLPP".

Dr Rannan-Eliya, SLOTS lead investigator and IHP Executive Director, commented that; "The recent trends in voting intention continues to point to a failure by Sajith Premadasa to pick-up support from former Gotabaya Rajapaksa voters. As of April 2023, only one in five former Rajapaksa voters preferred Sajith Premadasa over other potential candidates. These

former Rajapaksa voters have mostly switched to AK Dissanayake and President Wickremesinghe, and fluctuations in support in recent months have largely involved voters shifting from one to the other."

Related reports

Institute for Health Policy, April 2023, "IHP Presidential Election Voting Intentions Update March 2023: AK Dissanayake (48%) leads Sajith Premadasa (37%) in Presidential Election voter preferences". *Available at:*
https://www.ihp.lk/publications/docs/SLOTSReport202309.pdf

About IHP

IHP is an independent, non-partisan research centre based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The SLOTS lead investigator is Dr Ravi Rannan-Eliya of IHP, who has trained in public opinion polling at Harvard University and has conducted numerous surveys over three decades.

Methodology

SLOTS combines interviews from a national sample of adults (ages 18 and over) reached by random digit dialling of mobile numbers, and others coming from a national panel of respondents who were previously recruited through random selection. IHP estimates voting intent using an adaptation of Multilevel Regression and Post-Stratification (MRP), with multiple imputation to account for uncertainties in its modelling, exploiting data from all SLOTS interviews to estimate voting in a particular month.

The April 2023 MRP estimates are based on 580 interviews conducted in April 2023, and 11,368 interviews conducted overall from 31 August 2021–19 May 2023, with a margin of error assessed as 3–4% for AK Dissanayake and Sajith Premadasa, and 1–3% for the other two potential candidates. All estimates are adjusted to ensure the sample matches the national population with respect to age, sex, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, education, geographical location, and voting in the 2019 Presidential and 2020 General Elections.

Funding