

RESULTS OF PAST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN SRI LANKA

At the Parliamentary Elections held in July 1977, the United National Party led by J.R Jayawardena gained a resounding victory and J.R Jayawardena was named the Prime Minister of the country.

Shortly after this in 1978, he changed the constitution to an Executive Presidential style of government where the focus of power shifted from Parliament to an Elected President (for a six year term) endowed with wide ranging powers.

FIRST EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT

With the new constitution in place J.R Jayawardena was sworn in as the First Executive President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on 4th Feb. 1978 and continued to hold office for a period of 4 ½ years until October 1982

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 20.10.1982

For the *First Presidential Election*, 6 candidates handed in their nomination. This included the incumbent President, J.R. Jayawardena of the United National Party and Hector Kobbekaduwa from the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party. The S.L.F.P leader at that time, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranayake was unable to contest as she had been stripped off her civic rights following the findings of a Presidential Commission of inquiry. President J.R Jayawardena was the first elected President polling 52.91% of the votes.

1. Date of order issued by the Commissioner of elections under section 2 of the Presidential Elections Act 30.08.1982
2. Nomination Period 8.00 a.m to 11.00 a.m on September 17th, 1982
3. At the close of nominations the valid nominations had been received from the following six (6) candidates.

Name of Candidate	Political parties/Ind. groups	Symbol
Mr. J.R Jayawardene	United national party	Elephant
Mr. H.S.R.B Kobbekaduwa	Sri Lanka Freedom party	Hand
Mr. Rohana Wijeweera	Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna	Bell
Mr. G.G Ponnambalam	Akila Illankai Tamil congress	Bicycle
Dr. Colvin R.De Silva	Lanka Smasamaja Party	Key
Mr. Vasudeva Nanayakkara	Nawa Sama Samaja Party	Umbrella

4. Notice of poll under sections 21 was published in the Gazette Extraordinary No 211/2 dates September 20th 1982.
5. Date of Poll :- 20.10.1982
6. Results of the Presidential Election

Mr. J.R Jayawardene	34,50,811
Mr. H.S.R.B Kobbekaduwa	25,48,438
Mr. Rohana Wijeweera	2,73,428
Mr. G.G Ponnambalam	1,73,934
Dr. Colvin R.De Silva	58,531
Mr. Vasudeva Nanayakakra	17,005

Number of valid votes	65,22,147
Number of votes equal to one half	32,61,073

Candidates who polled more than one half of this number of valid votes
Mr. J.R Jayawardena

Number of valid votes received by that Candidate over the above such one-half of the valid votes:- 1,89,738

Percentage of the Valid Votes Polled by the Candidate: 52.91%

7. (a) Number of Polling Stations - 6985
- (b) Number of Registered Electors - 81,45,015
- (c) total Polled - 66,02,617

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 19.12.1988

President J.R Jayawardena continued his second term as President until December 1988 when he was compelled to stand down, as the constitution provided that a President be in office for a maximum period of 2 terms only. The UNP's candidate for presidency was the then Prime Minister R. Premadasa.

The SLFP candidate was former Prime Minister Mrs. Srimavo Bandaranayake. Ranasinghe Premadasa polled over 50.43% of the votes and was a clear winner and became the second Executive President of Sri Lanka.

1. Date of order issued by the Commissioner of Elections under section 2 of the Presidential Elections Act 21.10.1988
2. Nominations Period 9.00 a.m to 11.00 a.m on November 10th 1988
3. At the close of nominations the valid nominations had been received from the following six (3) candidates.

Name of Candidates	Political Parties /Ind. Groups	Symbol
Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa	United National Party	Elephant
Mrs. Siriamavo Bandaranayake	Sri Lanka Freedom Party	Hand
Mr. Abeygunasekara Osvin	Sri Lanka mahajana Pakshaya	EYE

4. Notice of Poll under Section 21 was published in the Gazette Extraordinary No 531/12 dated November 11th 1988.

5. Date of Poll :- 19.12.1988

6. Results of the presidential Election

- Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa 2,569,199
- Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranayake 2,289,960
- Mr. Osvin Abeygunasekara 235,719

Number of Valid Votes 5,094,778
Number of votes equal to one half 2,547,389

Candidate who polled more than one half of this number of valid votes

Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa

Number of valid votes received by that candidate over the above such one half of the valid votes:- 21,180

Percentage of the valid votes polled by that candidate 50.43%

7. (a) Number of polling Stations - 8060
(b) Number of Registered Electors - 9,375,742
© Total Polled - 5,186,223

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 09.11.1994

President Premadasa could not complete his full term in office as he was assassinated on 1st May 1993. Following his assassination the then Prime Minister D.B Wijetunga was elevated to the post of President.

In the *Third Presidential Election* that was held on 9th Nov. 1994 there was a power struggle in the U.N.P and Gamini Dissanayake was finally nominated as the candidate. Challenging Gamini Dissanayake was Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranayake Kumaranatunga the daughter of S.W.R.D Bandaranayake and Srimavo Bandaranayaka, both former Prime Ministers.

During the election campaign a few weeks before the polling date Gamini Dissanayake fell victim to a bomb blast while addressing an election meeting. Following his death, his wife's name was substituted on the Ballot sheet and Mrs. Srimathi Dissanayake became the candidate of the U.N.P.

In the election that followed Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranayake Kumaratunga polled a record 62.28% of the votes and became the first woman and the 3rd Executive President of Sri Lanka.

1. Date of order issued by the Commissioner of Elections under section 2 of the Presidential Elections Act 17.08.1994
2. Nominations Period 9.00 a.m to 11.00 a.m on October 07th 1994
3. At the close of nominations the valid nominations had been received from the following six (6) candidates.

Name of Candidates	Political Parties /Ind. Groups	Symbol
Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga	People's Alliance	Chair
Mr. Galappaththi Arachchige Nihal	Sri Lanka Progressive Front	Flower
Mr. Gamini Dissanayake	United National Party	Vase Elephant
Mr. A.J Ranasinghe	Independent	Swan
Dr. Harischandra Wijethunga	Sinhalya Mahasammatha Bhomiputhra Pakshaya	Aero Plane
Mr. Hudson Samarasinghe	Independent	Table

4. Notice of Poll under Section 21 was published in the Gazette Extraordinary No 839/9 dated October 26th ,1994.

5. Date of Poll :- 09.11.1994

6. Results of the presidential Election

a. Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumarathunaga	4,709,205
b. Mrs. Vajira Srimathi Dissanayake	2,715,285
c. Mr. Hudson Samarasinghe	58,886
d. Dr. Harischandra Wijaythunga	32,651
e. Mr. A.J Ranasinghe	22,752
f. Mr. Galappatthi Arachchige Nihal	22,749

Number of Valid Votes	7,561,526
Number of votes equal to one half	3,780,763

Candidate who polled more than one –half of this number of valid votes

Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumarathunga

Number of valid votes received by that candidate over the above such one-half of the valid votes:- 1,928,442

Percentage of the valid votes polled by that candidate:-

7. (a) Number of polling stations	-9580
(b) Number of Registered electors	- 10,945,065
© Total polled	- 7,713,232

Number of Valid Votes	5,094,778
Number of votes equal to one half	2,547,389

Candidate who polled more than one half of this number of valid votes

Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa

Number of valid votes received by that candidate over the above such one half of the valid votes:- 21,180

Percentage of the valid votes polled by that candidate 50.43%

7. (a) Number of polling Stations	- 8060
(b) Number of Registered Electors	- 9,375,742
© Total Polled	- 5,186,223

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 21.12.1999

Although elected for a 6 year term, President Kumartunge called for a snap election one year ahead in December 1999.

At this election she faced the challenge of opposition leader Ranil Wickramasinghe and 11 other candidates. Shortly before the Election, while addressing an election meeting at the Town Hall premises in Colombo a suicide bomber attempted to assassinate the President who however survived the attack but lost the sight of one eye.

Riding on the crest of a wave of popularity Chandrika Kumaratunga won with 73.32% of the votes and was elected for a second term of office.

1. Date of order issued by the Commissioner of Elections under section 2 of the Presidential Elections Act 28.10.1999
2. Nominations Period 9.00 a.m to 11.00 a.m on November 16th 1999
3. At the close of nominations the valid nominations had been received from the following six (6) candidates.

Name of Candidates	Political Parties /Ind. Groups	Symbol
Abdul Rasool	Sri Lanka Muslim Katchi	Pair of scales
Alwis Weerakkody Premawardhana	People's Freedom Front	Butterfly
Ariyawansha Dissanayake	Democratic United National Front	Eagle
M.D Nandana Gunathilaka	Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna	Bell
Kamal Karunadasa	People's Liberation Solidarity Front	Lantern
Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga	Peoples Alliance	Chair
Tennyson Edirisuriya	Peduru Hewage Priyantha Arunakumara	Pair of Scissors
W.V.M Ranjith	Sunil Nandana Amarasinghe	Almirah
Ranil Wickramasinghe	United National Party	Elephant
Rajiva Wijesinha	Liberal Party	Book
Vasudeva Nanayakkara	Left and Democratic Alliance	Clock
Hudson Samarasinghe	Sagarika mathavi Kaluarachchi	Radio Set
Harishchandra Wijayatunga	Sinhalaye Mahasammtha Bhoomiputhra Pakshaya	Aeroplane

4. Notice of Poll under Section 21 was published in the Gazette Extraordinary No 1106/16 dated November 16th 1999
5. Date of Poll :- 21.12.1999
6. Results of the Presidential Election
 - a. Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumarathunaga 4,312,157
 - b. Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe 3,602,748
 - c. Mr. M.D Nandana Gunathilaka 344,173
 - d. Dr. Harischandra Wijayatunga 35,854
 - e. Mr. W.V.M Ranjith 27,052

f. Mr. Rajiva Wijesinha	25,085
g. Vasudeva Nanayakkara	23,668
h. Tennyson Edirisuriya	21,119
i. Abdul Rasool	17,359
j. Kamal Karunadasa	11,333
k. Mr. Hudson Samarasinghe	7,184
l. Ariyawansa Dissanayake	4,039
m. Mr. Alwis Weerakkody Permawardhana	3,983

Number of Valid Votes 8,435,754
Number of votes equal to one half 4,217,877
Candidate who polled more than one –half of this number of valid votes

Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumarathunga

Number of valid votes received by that candidate over the above such one-half of the valid votes:- 94,280

Percentage of the valid votes polled by that candidate:- 51.12%

7. (a) Number of polling stations	-9912
(b) Number of Registered electors	- 11,779,200
© Total polled	- 8,635,290

Number of Valid Votes 5,094,778
Number of votes equal to one half 2,547,389

Candidate who polled more than one half of this number of valid votes

Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa

Number of valid votes received by that candidate over the above such one half of the valid votes:- 21,180

Percentage of the valid votes polled by that candidate 50.43%

7. (a) Number of polling Stations	- 8060
(b) Number of Registered Electors	- 9,375,742
© Total Polled	- 5,186,223

FIFTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 15TH NOV. 2005

A controversy rose as to when the Presidential Election was to be. Mrs Kumaratunga stated that it should be end 2006 and the UNP this year. The Election Commissioner, Mr Diyananda Dissanayake claimed that it will be, he who would give the date and this according to the Constitution. The JHU went to Court and the Supreme Court ruled that the 5th. Presidential election should be held this year 2005.

Since President Chandrika Kumaranatunga has served two terms, Mahinda Rajapakse was selected as the Fifth Presidential candidate from the UPFA (United Peoples Freedom Alliance)

The UPFA is an alliance of several political parties, the 2 main parties being the JVP (Janatha Vimukthi Party) and the Jathika Hela Urumaya (religious party composed mainly of Buddhist monks) both of whom have considerable representation in the present parliament. However in both the JVP and the JHU left the UPFA.

The Opposition leader, Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe of the UNP came forward as the main contender with 11 other candidates from other political parties.

Mr. Rajapakse signed MOUs with the JVP and the JHU in support of his candidature, the two parties that had left the UPFA.

Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, the UNP candidate gained the support of the 2 minority parties, the C.W.E (Ceylon Workers Congress representing the Tamils in the Plantation sector) and the SLMC (Sri Lanka Muslim Congress) both parties claiming to have a large number of supporters.

Since the date of handling in of the nominations i.e. 7th. October 2005, the campaign has been in full swing, addressing election meetings and rallies in all parts of the country.

The Election Commissioner declared that the 5th. Presidential Election will be on the 17th. November 2005.

***Compiled by Mr. Chitty Jayawardena & Mrs. B. Silva
Statistics: Department of Elections***