# Summary of Policy Proposals by Candidates for the 2024 Presidential Election

Sri Lanka's presidential election is scheduled for Saturday, 21 September 2024. In anticipation of the election, many of the candidates have published manifestos detailing their visions for Sri Lanka. In the interest of comparing these visions for the country, the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) has prepared this document which categorises the policy proposals of the candidates in their manifestos. It was practically impossible to include the policy proposals made by all Presidential candidates in this document; as such, CPA had to limit itself to the manifestos of Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Mr. Sajith Premadasa, Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake and Mr. Namal Rajapaksa.

CPA divided the candidates' policy proposals into the categories of economic governance, constitutional reforms, rights and related issues, infrastructure and accountability, truth, and reconciliation. The table on Infrastructure contains policy proposals made by the candidates on infrastructure, transportation and energy and technological development.

The content of each column for candidates are direct quotations from their individual manifestos on specific issues. Though CPA recognises the intersectionality of issues of many of the policy proposals made by candidates, the quotations inserted have been categorised based on the strength of relevance to the issue and ease of reference for the reader. CPA hopes that this document will be a useful tool for all citizens interested in learning more about the candidates and for anyone who is interested in engaging in a deeper analysis of the key policy proposals put forward by the candidates.

# Infrastructure

| Issue | Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe | Mr. Sajith Premadasa | Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake | Mr. Namal Rajapaksa |
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| **Infrastructure, Transportation, Energy** | "Several housing schemes will be launched under local and foreign investments within the next two years with the government intervention."<br><br>"The sewage systems currently existing in most of the main cities are decades old. We will develop and improve the conditions of urban sewage systems."<br><br>"In order to encourage the use of electrical vehicles, we will establish charging centres around the country."<br><br>"Investments in renewable energy production including green hydrogen will be highly encouraged. By 2030, we will obtain 70% of the power supply network from renewable energy sources. Sri Lanka will thus be transferred to a Green Energy | "Government-owned lands will be provided for the construction of low-income and middle-class housing schemes."<br><br>"Our government is committed to implementing a national land reforms programme aimed at improving land productivity and securing land rights. A key priority will be the creation of a digital land registry, completing the ongoing "Bim Saviya" programme."<br><br>"Expedite the work at Millawa, Millaniya & Bingiriya export processing zone and establish 25 new state-of-the-art industrial zones strategically located across all districts of Sri Lanka." | "Facilitating the provision of affordable housing for residents of low-income settlements in Colombo through government intervention."<br><br>"Developing comprehensive housing projects in urban and semi-urban areas, including essential facilities such as healthcare, education, sports, transportation, and parks."<br><br>"Offering financial support to newly married couples for purchasing or constructing their homes."<br><br>"Providing financial and infrastructural support to enhance housing, water and sanitation facilities for Malayagam communities." | "The necessary infrastructure will be improved to develop the marine tourism industry."<br><br>"Katunayaka, Mattala, Jaffna, Ratmalana and other Airports, as well as Colombo, Hambantota and Trincomalee Sea Ports will be developed over the next 15 years to service 80 million passengers per year."<br><br>"The transport system will be improved and completed to international standards including high-quality sanitary facilities."<br><br>"New licences and credit facilities will be provided to gradually phase out old buses and import only modern and comfortable buses of international standards." |

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| | Hub and it will enable us to export energy to India and other neighbouring countries." | | "Modifying the railway fuel storage and distribution system to ensure a continuous supply."<br><br>"Modifying the currently broken-down pipe system between the Colombo harbour and Kolonnawa terminal as an investment of the CPTSL to separately unload and upload petroleum fuel products."<br><br>"Construct an international oil transmission and cargo storage terminal in Trincomalee following the refurbishment of existing oil terminals."<br><br>"A National Land Council to coordinate and oversee land management." | "Licences of errant bus drivers will be suspended, and new licences will be issued only after proper counselling and driving training and testing."<br><br>"New trains will be deployed to double the productivity of the existing railways, and the train timetable and ticketing process will be done entirely through the ICT system."<br><br>"Passenger and Cargo transportations services will be expanded by connecting the seaports located around the island."<br><br>"Develop international maritime transport and service centres."<br><br>"Investments will be made in housing construction following the policy of providing safe housing to every citizen."<br><br>"Priority will be given to the planning of towns and villages, |

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| | | | | the design and construction of new towns, and the construction of offices and factories."<br><br>"Investments will be made to meet the country's energy needs from renewable sources so that electricity can be continuously supplied to reduce fuel imports and environmental pollution."<br><br>"A comprehensive programme will be implemented to continuously meet the drinking water." |
| **Technological Development** | "A Technology Promotion Act will be passed in the year 2025 with the aim of bringing about a digital transformation. A Digital Transformation Agency and a Technology and Innovation Council will thereon be established. Amendments have already been made to the Sri Lanka Telecommunications Act in an | "We will implement a rapid, smart technology-driven agricultural modernization programme to reduce rural poverty, increase productivity, and promote sector growth."<br><br>"We will focus on e-commerce and information technology services and in transforming | "Establishing "Technology Development Centers" in selected districts to promote local innovators to build technical solutions for local and national needs."<br><br>"Establishing a technical task force with specialist knowledge of Information Technology (IT), Big Data, | "New ICT Clusters will be developed to support the youth with education, training, and access to deliver ICT services to foreign clients."<br><br>"Tariffs on internet connectivity will be immediately revised as an essential service." |

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| | attempt to create the background for this purpose." <br><br> "Steps will be taken to accelerate the digital revolution through the introduction of internet services based on the satellite technology." <br><br> "A technological zone of approximately 100 acres will be established centered around the city of Kandy in 2026." <br><br> "Issuing the digital identity cards to citizens has already been initiated and it is expected to introduce an electronic voting system for elections in the near future." <br><br> "It is aimed to completely shift to e-Governance within a period of three years, by digitizing the entire public service and utilizing AI to deliver effective and efficient services to the public." | Sri Lanka into a logistics service center." <br><br> "To promote Artificial Intelligence in Sri Lanka, the government will establish a 'State Research Fund' of 5 billion rupees per year, which can be applied for and claimed by state and non-state universities in Sri Lanka for research and development." <br><br> "We aim to establish 25 cutting-edge IT parks." | Machine Learning, AI, Communication & Networking, and social media to analyze and approach local entrepreneurs and innovators and encourage them to start business ventures locally." <br><br> "Researching on establishing efficient public transportation management system (Buses & Trains) using IoT & GPS technology to minimize delays and improve passenger safety and comfort." <br><br> "Establish a fund for new ventures, research, and development to encourage local innovation and entrepreneurship in the ICT sector" <br><br> "Develop and implement an AI policy to ensure ethical AI use, data privacy, and the integration of AI technologies across state sectors, with | "Public services will be made easier and faster by installing the Electronic National Identity Card System that includes biometric data." <br><br> "An integrated ICT system will be implemented across all public services thereby reducing the time wastage, cost of travel and unnecessary paperwork." <br><br> "An ICT based Public Service Performance Management System will be set up promptly." <br><br> "A Policy and practical program will be established with international stakeholders and investors to utilise the capability to produce modern technology products to the global market." <br><br> "Small and medium-sized technology manufacturing industries will be linked to create regional manufacturing clusters and provided with |

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| | | | access to state services in all languages." <br><br> "Implement training and educational programs to expand the ICT workforce to 200,000 by 2030." <br><br> "Establish Research and Development centers and ICT parks in the Western, Northern, Eastern, and Southern provinces to promote regional development and innovation." <br><br> "Leveraging the latest satellite technology and equipment to accurately forecast the weather and calculate energy demand for the country and maximize the utilization of hydroelectricity, wind, and solar-generated electricity." | necessary technology, investment and global market access to upgrade to high-precision products." |