

Sri Lanka's 2024 Presidential Election, scheduled for September 21, will be pivotal, as it is the first since the country's severe economic crisis in 2022. This election sees a record 39 candidates running, with a ranked voting system in place. Major candidates include the current President, Ranil Wickremesinghe, opposition leader Sajith Premadasa, and leftist leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

Wickremesinghe's administration has been focused on stabilizing the economy, negotiating an IMF bailout, and introducing austerity measures, but these policies have faced criticism. Premadasa and Dissanayake are expected to focus on economic recovery, advocating for policies that provide greater relief to the public. While Premadasa emphasizes moderate economic reforms, Dissanayake pushes for anti-privatization and equitable governance policies.