

**Candidate Name: Sarath Keerthirathne**

**Election Symbol: Football**

## 1. Candidate Profile and Background

**Sarath Keerthirathne** is a former Deputy Minister and a former Member of Parliament for Gampaha representing the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP)/People's Alliance (PA). He was also a presidential candidate in 2019 and is running as an independent candidate in the 2024 Sri Lankan Presidential Election. His career includes significant experience in political and governmental roles.

## 2. Candidate's Policy Platform and Vision

- **Economic Policies:** Keerthirathne's economic platform is likely to focus on pragmatic economic reforms aimed at fostering growth and stability. He may advocate for policies that promote economic development, job creation, and support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). His approach might include enhancing infrastructure, attracting foreign investment, and improving economic efficiency.
- **Social Policies:** His social policies are expected to emphasize improving public services such as healthcare and education. Keerthirathne may propose reforms to enhance social welfare programs and address disparities in access to essential services.
- **Foreign Policy:** As an independent candidate, Keerthirathne's foreign policy might focus on strengthening Sri Lanka's international relationships and pursuing strategic partnerships that benefit the country's economic and security interests. He may advocate for a balanced foreign policy approach that protects Sri Lanka's sovereignty while engaging with global partners.
- **Environmental Policy:** His environmental policies could include measures to promote sustainable development, address climate change, and support conservation efforts. Keerthirathne may advocate for integrating environmental considerations into economic planning and development projects.

## 3. Track Record and Experience

- **Previous Positions Held:** Keerthirathne has served as a Deputy Minister and was a Member of Parliament for Gampaha under the SLFP/PA. His roles included overseeing various governmental functions and contributing to legislative processes.
- **Accomplishments:** His accomplishments include his service as Deputy Minister and his contributions to policy-making and governance. His previous candidacy in the 2019 presidential election reflects his ongoing commitment to national leadership.

## 4. Values and Integrity

- **Ethical Standards:** Keerthirathne's values are likely to emphasize ethical governance and transparency. As an independent candidate, he may seek to present himself as a leader committed to integrity and accountability.

- **Consistency in Principles:** Throughout his political career, Keerthirathne has maintained a focus on practical and effective governance. His independent candidacy suggests a commitment to addressing national issues without strict party constraints.

## 5. Public Image and Communication Skills

- **Public Engagement:** Keerthirathne has engaged with the public through political campaigns, speeches, and media interactions. His public engagement is aimed at building support and communicating his vision for Sri Lanka.
- **Leadership Qualities:** His leadership qualities include experience in both administrative and legislative roles. He is likely to emphasize his ability to lead effectively and address national challenges through a pragmatic approach.

## 6. Party Affiliation and Support Network

- **Political Party:** Keerthirathne is running as an independent candidate in the 2024 presidential election. His previous affiliations include the SLFP/PA, but he is currently campaigning outside of traditional party structures.
- **Coalition and Alliances:** As an independent candidate, Keerthirathne may seek to build broad-based support from various voter groups and potential allies. His campaign might focus on reaching out to diverse segments of the electorate.

## 7. Public Opinion and Endorsements

- **Polls and Public Sentiment:** Public opinion on Keerthirathne will be influenced by his campaign's effectiveness and his ability to address key national issues. Polls and public sentiment will reflect his appeal as an independent candidate and his platform's resonance with voters.
- **Endorsements:** Endorsements for Keerthirathne might come from individuals and groups who support his independent candidacy and his vision for Sri Lanka. His endorsements may include community leaders and activists.

## 8. Debates and Interviews

Keerthirathne's participation in debates and interviews will likely focus on presenting his independent platform, addressing national issues, and contrasting his vision with those of other candidates. Effective communication will be crucial for articulating his policies and gaining voter support.

## 9. Election Symbol - Football

The election symbol for Keerthirathne's campaign is the football, which may symbolize teamwork, engagement, and progress. This symbol could represent his focus on collaborative governance and addressing national challenges.

## 10. Challenges and Opportunities

- **Feasibility of Promises:** The feasibility of Keerthirathne's promises will depend on his ability to implement them as an independent candidate and navigate the political landscape. Achieving his goals may require broad-based support and effective policy implementation.
- **Potential Obstacles:** Obstacles could include competition from established political parties, limited party infrastructure, and challenges in mobilizing support as an independent candidate. Overcoming these challenges will be important for a successful campaign.

## 11. Personal Vision and Values

Keerthirathne's personal vision likely focuses on practical and effective governance, with an emphasis on addressing current national challenges through pragmatic policies. His values include a commitment to ethical leadership and inclusive progress.

## 12. Conclusion

Sarath Keerthirathne presents an independent option in the 2024 Sri Lankan Presidential Election, offering a pragmatic approach to addressing national issues. His background in government and legislative roles, combined with his independent candidacy, provides a distinctive alternative to traditional party-affiliated candidates. His campaign will focus on practical solutions and building broad-based support.

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*Article from themorning.lk*

### **Former MP Sarath Keerthirathne places deposit as independent presidential candidate**

26 Jul 2024

Former MP Sarath Keerthirathne has placed his deposit as an independent candidate at the upcoming Presidential Election.

The Election Commission (EC) announced that the deposit money for the 2024 Presidential Election can be deposited from 8.30 am today (26) until 12 noon on 14 August, the day before the calling of nominations for the election.

The Presidential Election will be held on 21 September and Nominations will be accepted on 15 August, according to the Gazette notification announced today.