



2024

FINAL REPORT

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SRI LANKA

An Official Report by The Oslo Institute of Political Research and Advocacy

Welcome to the fourth official political vote estimate and poll report by The Oslo Institute of Political Research and Advocacy. This comprehensive report is prepared by our dedicated team of 240+ members across Sri Lanka, using extensive national data sources.

In this report, you will find a recap of the 2019 presidential election campaign, an overview of the political and economic changes that have occurred since then, and their impact on the community. Additionally, we provide an analysis of the 2024 election campaign, including a detailed breakdown of voter distribution by geography, age, and digital engagement.

Our geo-vote calculation formula, based on data collected by our island-wide team, is used to estimate this year's election results. As we have done in previous years, our goal is to assist you in making informed decisions.



Director

Section X28 | Asia | Sri Lanka

The Oslo Institute of Political Research and Advocacy

OIPRA

The Oslo Institute of Political Research and Advocacy (OIPRA) specializes in the analysis of presidential elections and referendums worldwide, offering critical data and insights to researchers.

To forecast the outcome of Sri Lanka's 2024 presidential election, a comprehensive study was undertaken, examining voter's behavior, preferences, and the policies and programs proposed by the candidates. This research was carried out with the assistance of several non-profit organizations in Sri Lanka.

The preliminary report on the projected results of Sri Lanka's 2024 presidential election has been released. Following the publication of campaign manifestos and content on social media by each candidate, data was gathered from a sample of 100,000 voters across 25 districts, reflecting voting and non-voting behaviors, as well as intentional vote cancellations. The sampling was conducted in proportion to the population of each district.

This report utilizes the same data sample as the previous analysis, highlighting significant shifts in public opinion and attitudes over this period. Notably, changes in public sentiment regarding candidates' policies and platforms indicate a favorable trend relative to other South Asian countries.

The Oslo Institute of Political Research and Advocacy is dedicated to safeguarding democratic processes through fair and impartial elections. We are committed to advancing democracy and protecting civil and human rights. We extend our best wishes for Sri Lanka to conduct its elections successfully and to continue fortifying its democratic institutions.



INTRODUCTION

The 2024 Sri Lankan presidential election marks a pivotal juncture in the nation's democratic evolution, offering voters a crucial opportunity to influence Sri Lanka's future political and economic trajectory. Scheduled for September 21, 2024, this election will elect the next president, who is anticipated to play a vital role in navigating the country's challenges and seizing its opportunities.



BACKGROUND

In recent years, Sri Lanka has encountered a range of significant challenges, including economic turmoil, social unrest, and political instability. The aftermath of the 2022 economic crisis has deeply affected the country's governance and public sentiment. As Sri Lanka addresses these complex issues, the forthcoming presidential election is anticipated to be a crucial forum for shaping policy direction and leadership.



CANDIDATES

By the end of candidate registration on August 15, the Election Commission of Sri Lanka had received a total of 39 applications for the presidential election, marking the highest number ever recorded in Sri Lankan history. Unfortunately, one candidate, Mohamed Illiyas, passed away before the election. Notably, despite the record number of candidates, no female candidates were among those registered.

The election features a diverse array of candidates, each presenting distinct visions for Sri Lanka's future. The major contenders include:



The leader of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna and the Presidential candidate of The National Peoples Power (NPP). With experience of 24 years as a member of the Parliament and a cabinet minister.

ANURA KUMARA DISSANAYAKA



The Presidential Candidate of Sri Lanka Podujana Party (SLPP). The Eldest son of the former president Mahinda Rajapaksha. With experience of 14 years as a member of parliament and a cabinet minister.

NAMAL RAJAPAKSHE



The current President of the Sri Lanka and the leader of the United National Party. The most experienced candidate in the election 2024. With experience of 47 years as a member of parliament, Prime Minister, Opposition Leader and the Executive President.

RANIL WICKREMASINGHE



The Leader of the "Samagi Jana Balawegaya" and also the Presidential Candidate of "Samagi Jana Sandhanaya". The son of the former President, late Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa. With experience of 24 years as a member of parliament, Cabinet Minister and the Leader of Opposition.

SAJITH PREMADASA



POLITICAL CONTEXT

Sri Lanka's political context is characterized by a multi-party democracy facing significant challenges. The country has experienced periods of political instability, economic difficulties, and social unrest. Recent years have seen heightened public discontent over governance issues, including corruption, economic mismanagement, and inadequate responses to crises. The political landscape is dominated by two major parties—the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) and the National Peoples Power (NPP)—along with various smaller parties and independent candidates. These dynamics create a complex and competitive environment as Sri Lanka navigates its democratic processes and strives for stability and reform.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report seeks to project the potential outcome of the 2024 presidential election by leveraging the latest election data, historical trends, and expert analysis. It offers a comprehensive overview of election dynamics, candidate profiles, and key issues, aiming to provide valuable insights into the likely course of the election and its implications for Sri Lanka's future.

This study used the same data sample as previous research, with a particular focus on candidates Manifestos. The findings show that the majority of voters in Sri Lanka ignore the candidates' manifestos, and there is a marked increase in the level of interest compared to previous periods. In addition, many Sri Lankans prefer to attend their candidates' meetings or events and are keen to listen to their speeches in the local political context.

This study observed that Sri Lankan voters are placing greater emphasis on five key areas: the economy, education, health, law, and security. Notably, there was a reduced focus on the issue of corruption and irregularities among politicians and officials, which had been a central theme in previous elections. Additionally, the study found that public confidence in these issues has diminished due to the previous governments' failures to address them effectively.



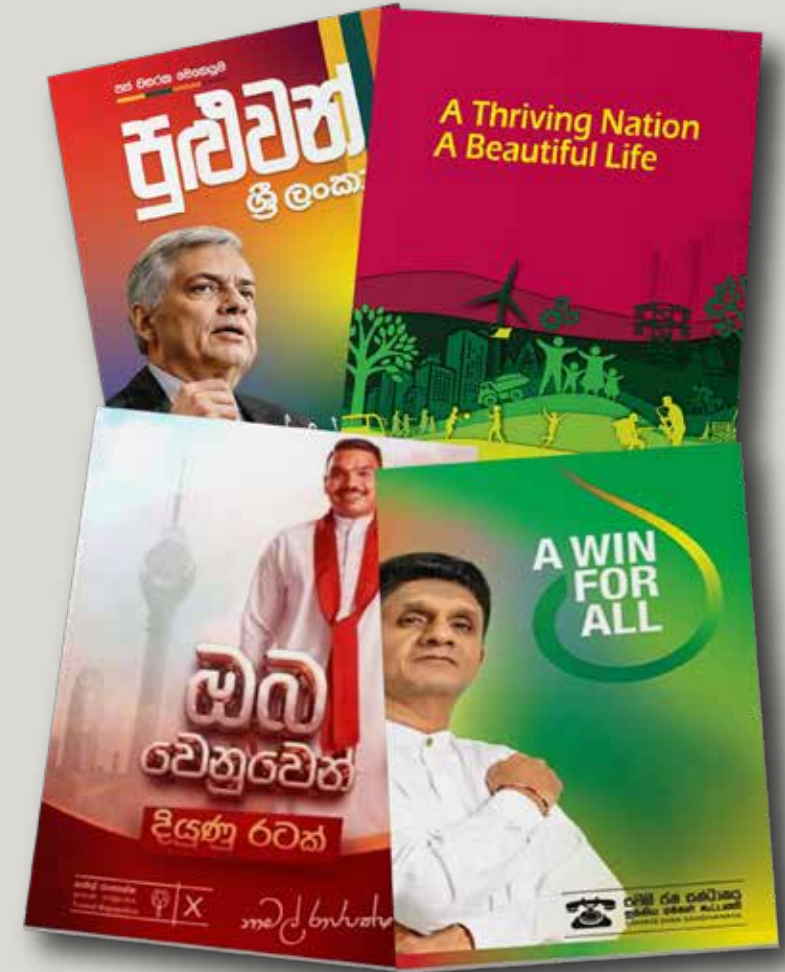
MANIFESTO

A Brief analyze of the manifestos provided by the 2024 Sri Lankan presidential election candidates. Anura Kumara Dissanayake has introduced his policy under the theme "A Thriving Nation - A Beautiful Life." The manifesto includes numerous statements; however, it lacks a specific work plan or detailed statistical evidence regarding the program's success. The extensive length of the document appears to contribute to its disorganization, making it less accessible for readers. Additionally, there are notable similarities between this manifesto and the policy statement presented by Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna candidate in 2019. This resemblance raises concerns from an independent perspective and could potentially detract from the effectiveness of Mr. Dissanayake's election campaign

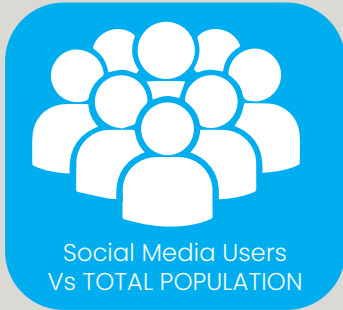
"For you – A developed country" Namal Rajapaksa has framed his manifesto around the vision of transforming Sri Lanka into a developed country, with a particular emphasis on digitalization. As a young and emerging candidate, Mr. Rajapaksa frequently highlights his intention to advance the political policies of his father, former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, rather than outlining a distinct agenda of his own.

Ranil Wickremesinghe's policy statement, titled "The Five-Year Mission," outlines a compelling vision for Sri Lanka's future. Mr. Wickremesinghe has effectively communicated his program through a straightforward approach, with a particular focus on the economic, tourism, and education sectors.

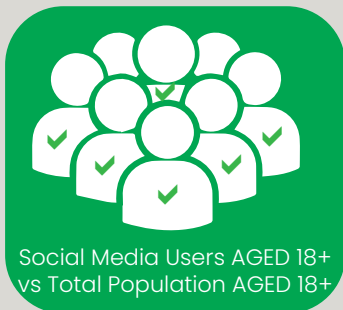
Sajith Premadasa has introduced his policy under the theme "A WIN FOR ALL." His policy outlines a comprehensive range of reforms and empowerment initiatives across various sectors. Notably, this policy statement is distinguished by its detailed presentation of facts and figures, enhancing its credibility compared to other policy statements.



COMMUNITY ANALYSIS



32.9%



43.2%

The study utilized a nationwide sample of 100,000 individuals, with data collection facilitated by our team of assistants distributed across the country. The data comprises actual figures obtained from the Election Commission regarding registered voters, as well as projected values derived from historical analysis of previous years' voting patterns. These projections account for the number of cast votes and rejected ballots, and are calculated based on the sample data, including the annual addition of new voters.

In addition, voter behavior in the upcoming presidential election was also analyzed by studying social media bias for each candidate based on sympathetic issues, social and cultural issues. Accordingly, the influence of social media in elections has seen a significant increase in the last few years. It appears that social media has become a decisive factor in elections as the new generation of young people use more digital devices. According to the study, more people on social media are more inclined towards the National People's Force led by Anura Kumara. However, the influence of social media on public opinion during an election in Sri Lanka is still very low compared to other countries.

COMMUNITY ANALYSIS

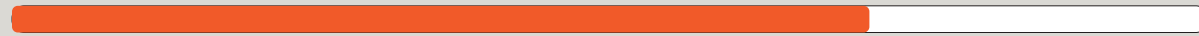


To project presidential election results across all 25 districts using a hybrid approach that combines 2019 statistics with a sample of 100,000 data points, the analysis begins with examining the 2019 election data to establish historical voting patterns, demographic influences, and district-specific trends. The study involved gathering a representative sample of 100,000 voters through surveys and polls to capture current preferences, ensuring the sample reflects the diverse demographics and political landscapes of each district. This sample data was integrated with historical trends to account for any changes or shifts in voter behavior. A projection model was developed, incorporating statistical techniques and polling aggregation to predict election outcomes for each district, with adjustments based on both historical and current data. The model was validated by comparing its projections with past election results and performing sensitivity analysis to assess its reliability, considering factors such as voter choice, abstention, and vote cancellation.

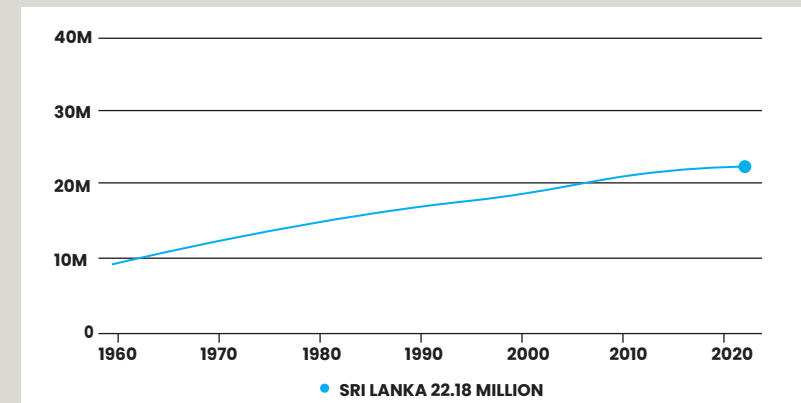
METHOD – XNET FORMULA

The study revealed that voters are increasingly focused on the leadership qualities of presidential candidates, the practicality of their proposed programs, and their past performance. The margin of error in these projections typically ranges from $\pm 2\%$ to $\pm 4\%$ for aggregated results, depending on the methods used and data quality. This margin of error can vary based on factors such as sample size, polling methodology, and district-specific variables, with smaller or less predictable districts potentially exhibiting higher margins of error compared to larger or more stable ones.

15,992,096 VOTERS | 2019 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



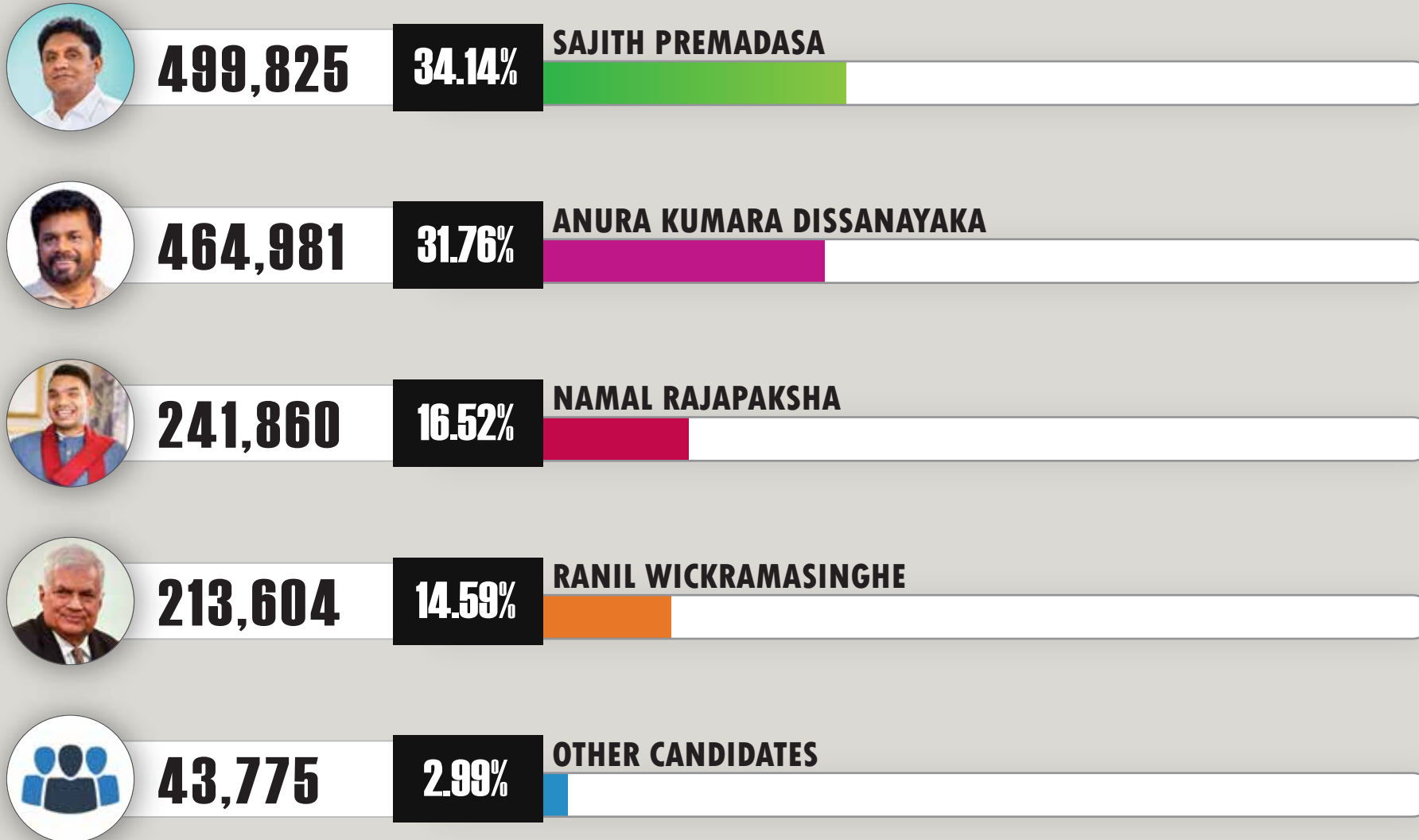
17,141,354 VOTERS | 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



Based on the collected data samples and after the scientific, standard, independent, and unbiased analysis conducted by our data analysts, the projected results for the presidential election to be held in 2024 or all 25 districts are as follows

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULT PROJECTION

COLOMBO DISTRICT



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES

1,765,351

TOTAL CASTED VOTES

1,475,555

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES

11,509

TOTAL VALID VOTES

1,464,046

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULT PROJECTION

GAMPAHA DISTRICT

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES

1,881,129

TOTAL CASTED VOTES

1,565,910

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES

15,236

TOTAL VALID VOTES

1,550,674



549,714

35.45%

ANURA KUMARA DISSANAYAKA



486,136

31.35%

SAJITH PREMADASA



294,938

19.02%

NAMAL RAJAPAKSHA



196,470

12.67%

RANIL WICKRAMASINGHE



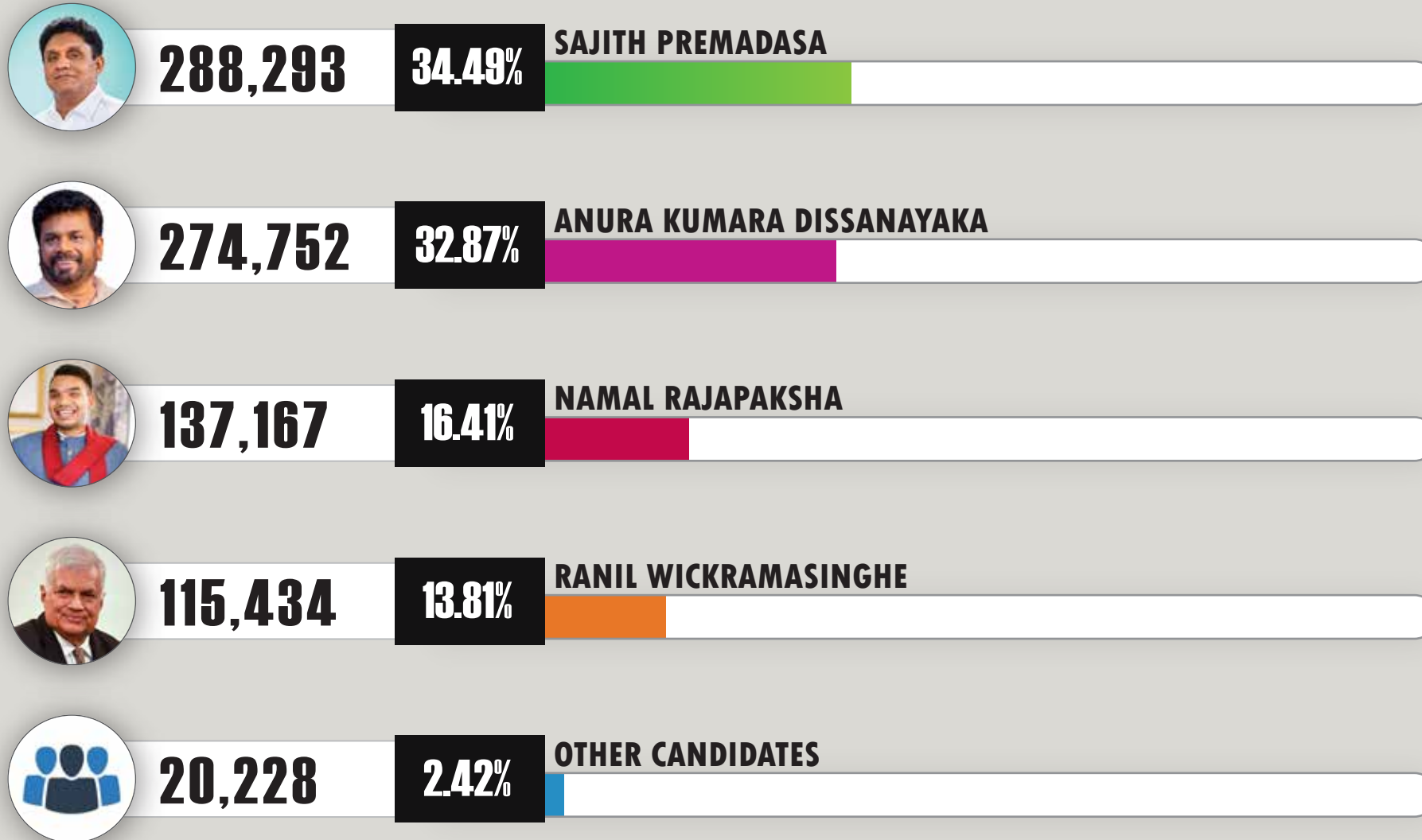
23,415

1.51%

OTHER CANDIDATES

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULT PROJECTION

KALUTHARA DISTRICT



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES

1,024,244

TOTAL CASTED VOTES

845,342

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES

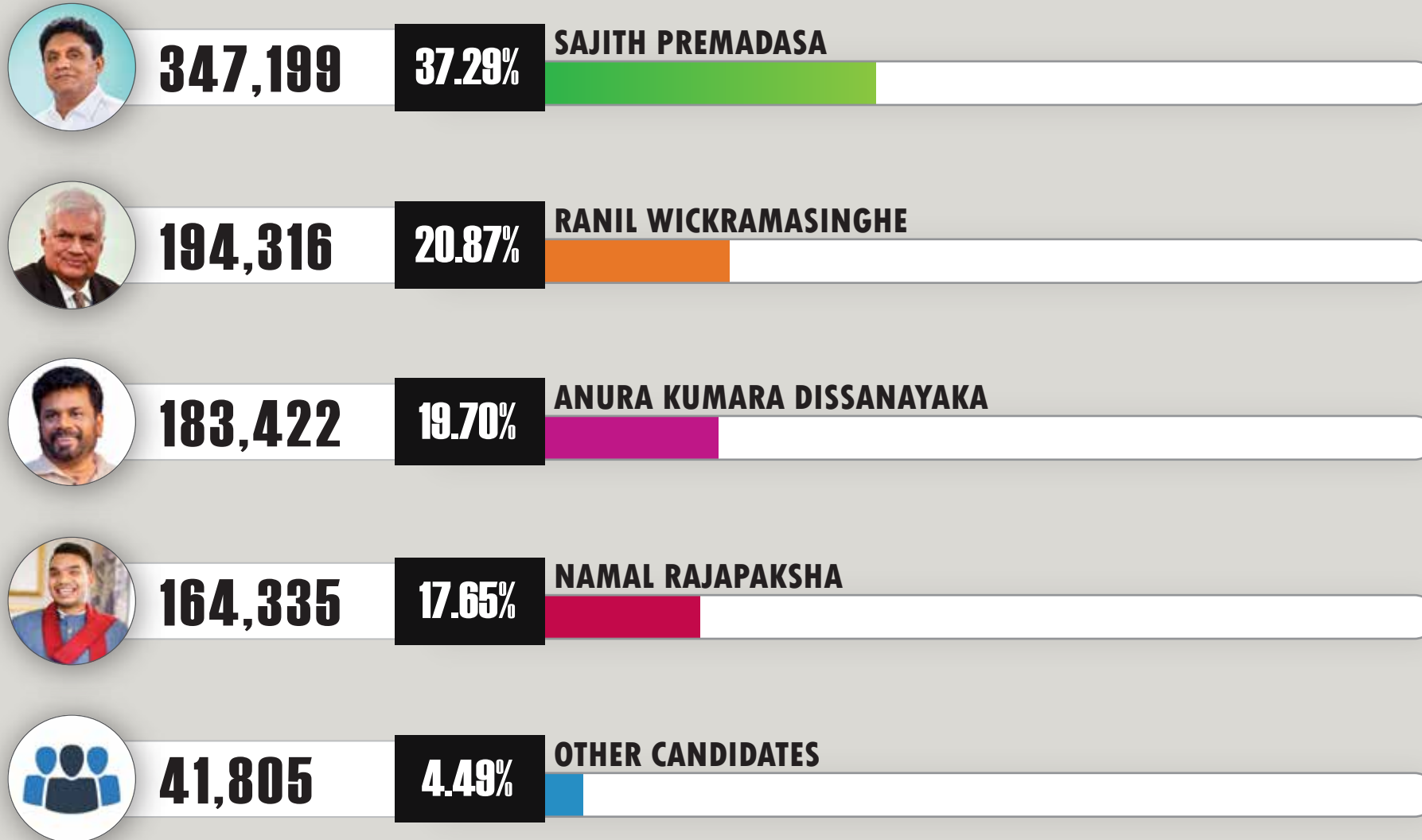
9,468

TOTAL VALID VOTES

835,874

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULT PROJECTION

KANDY DISTRICT



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES

1,191,399

TOTAL CASTED VOTES

936,462

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES

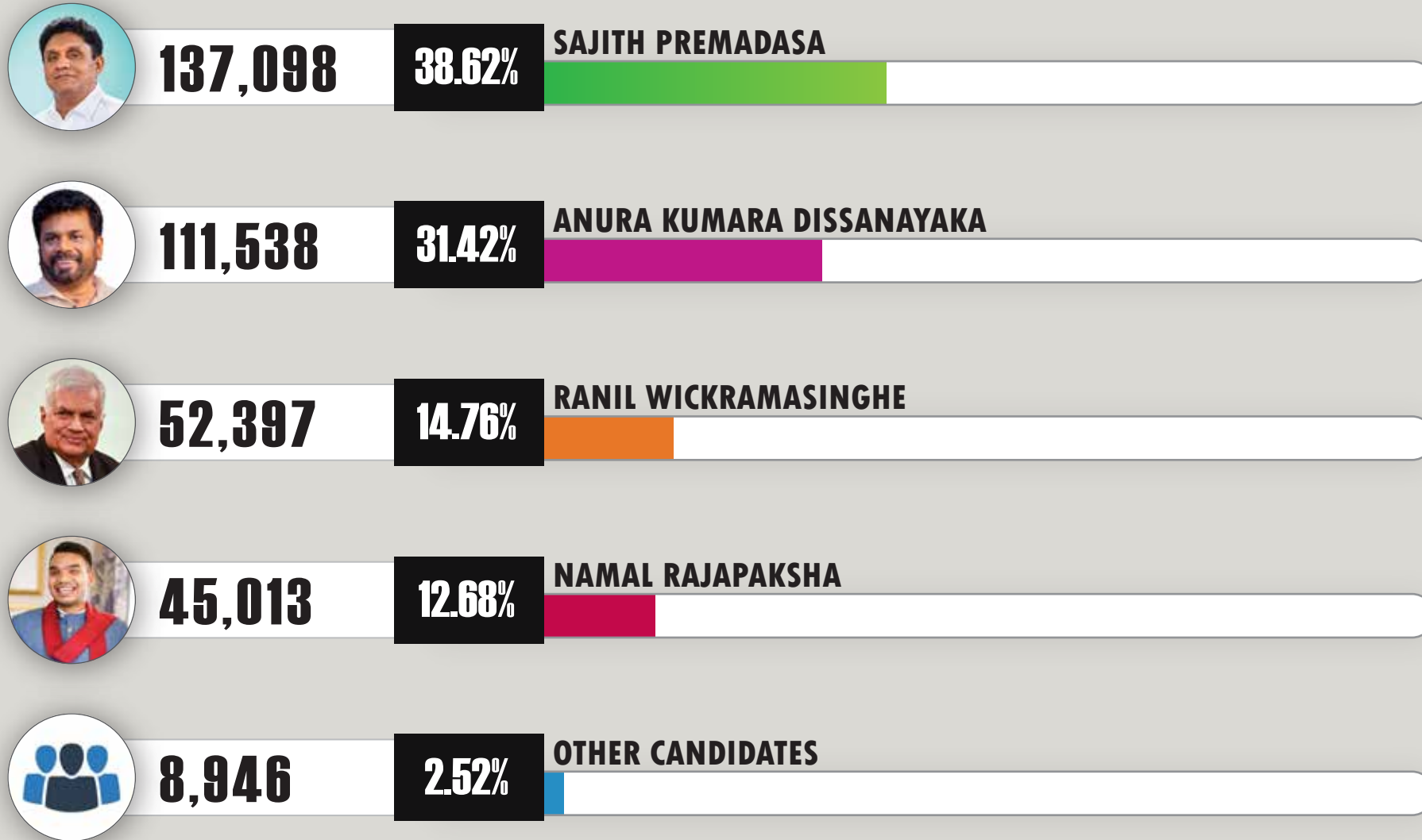
5,385

TOTAL VALID VOTES

931,077

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULT PROJECTION

MATALE DISTRICT



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES

429,991

TOTAL CASTED VOTES

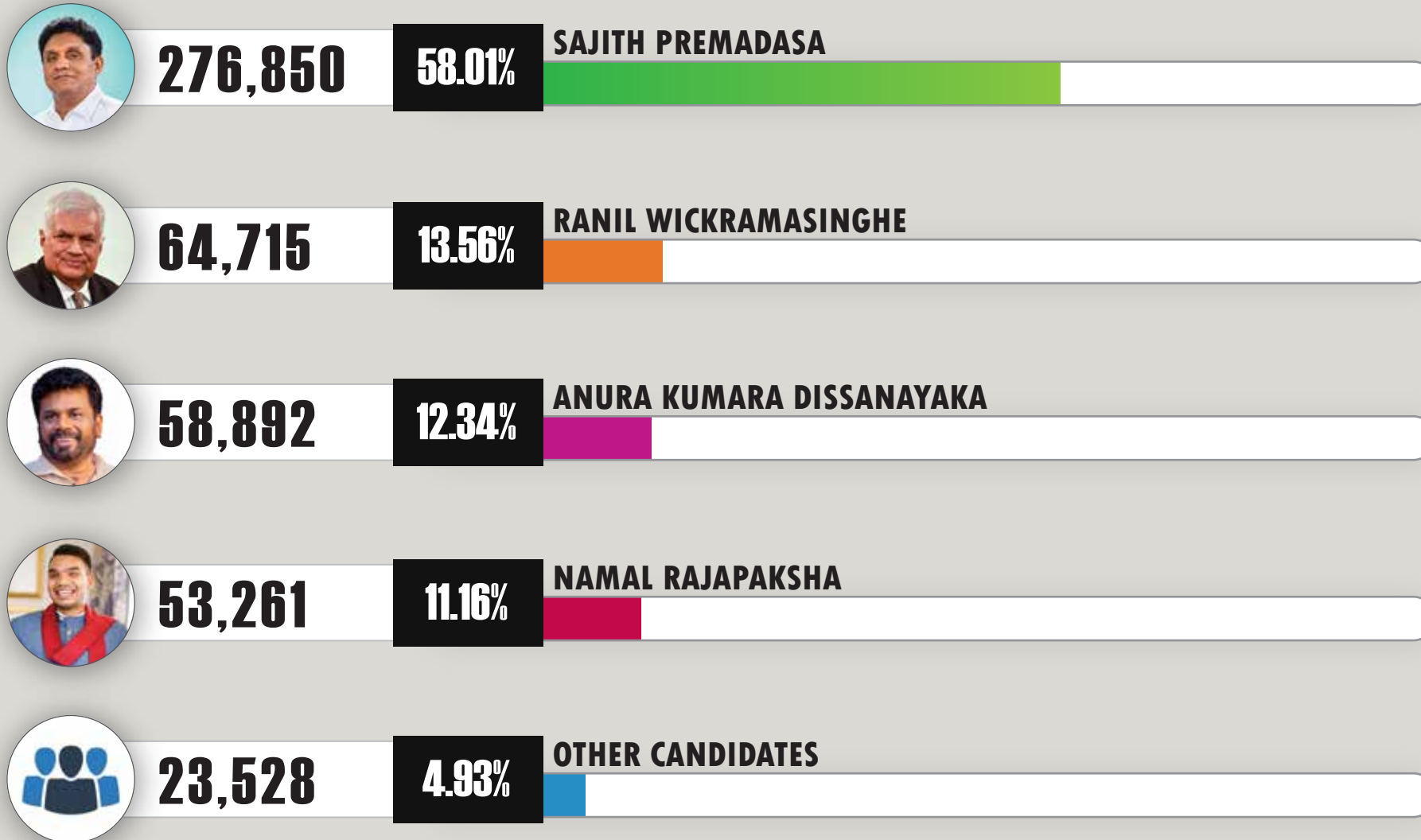
357,249

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES

2,258

TOTAL VALID VOTES

354,991



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES
605,292

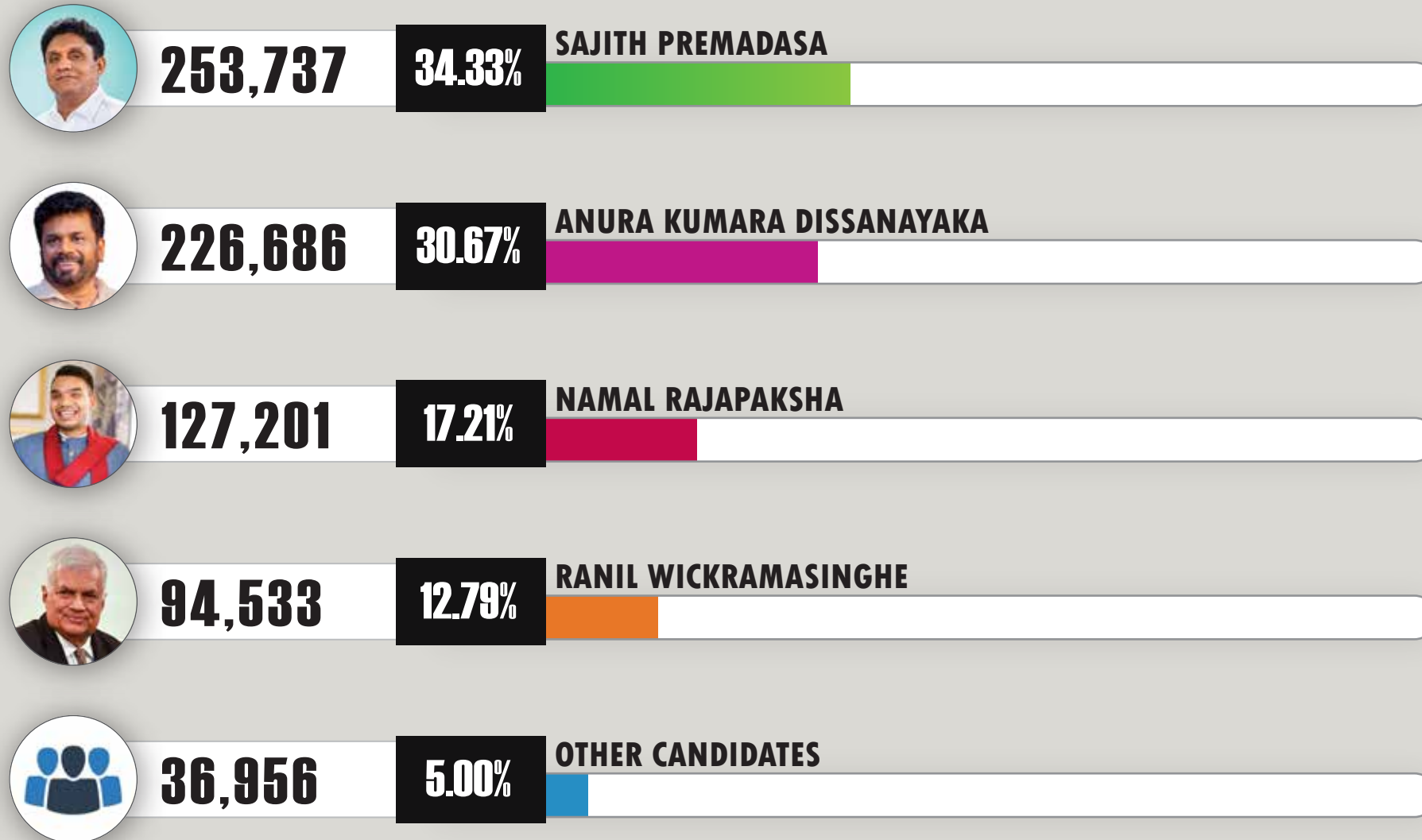
TOTAL CASTED VOTES
483,194

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES
5,948

TOTAL VALID VOTES
477,246

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULT PROJECTION

GALE DISTRICT



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES
903,163

TOTAL CASTED VOTES
744,953

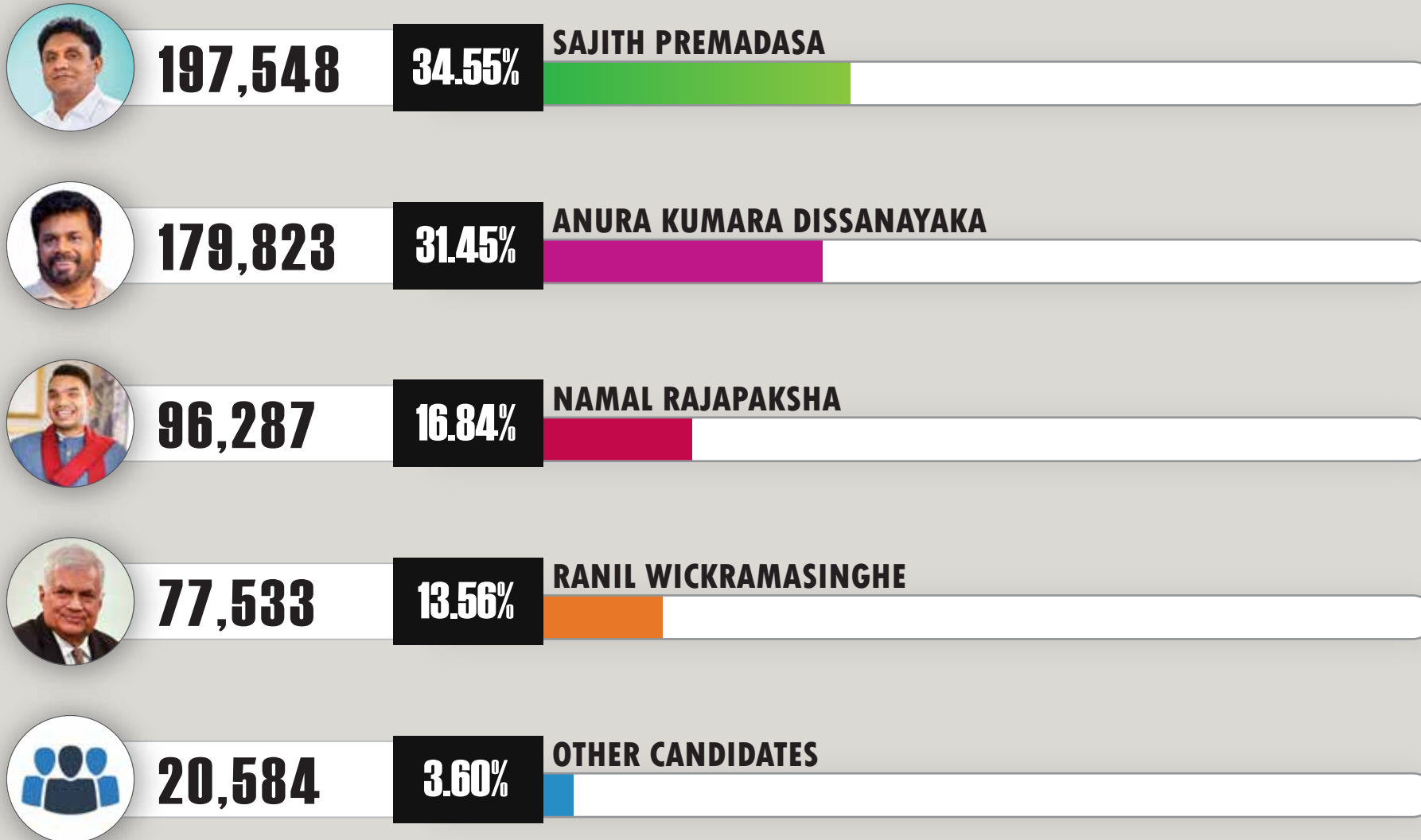
TOTAL REJECTED VOTES
5,840

TOTAL VALID VOTES
739,113

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MATARA DISTRICT



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES

686,175

TOTAL CASTED VOTES

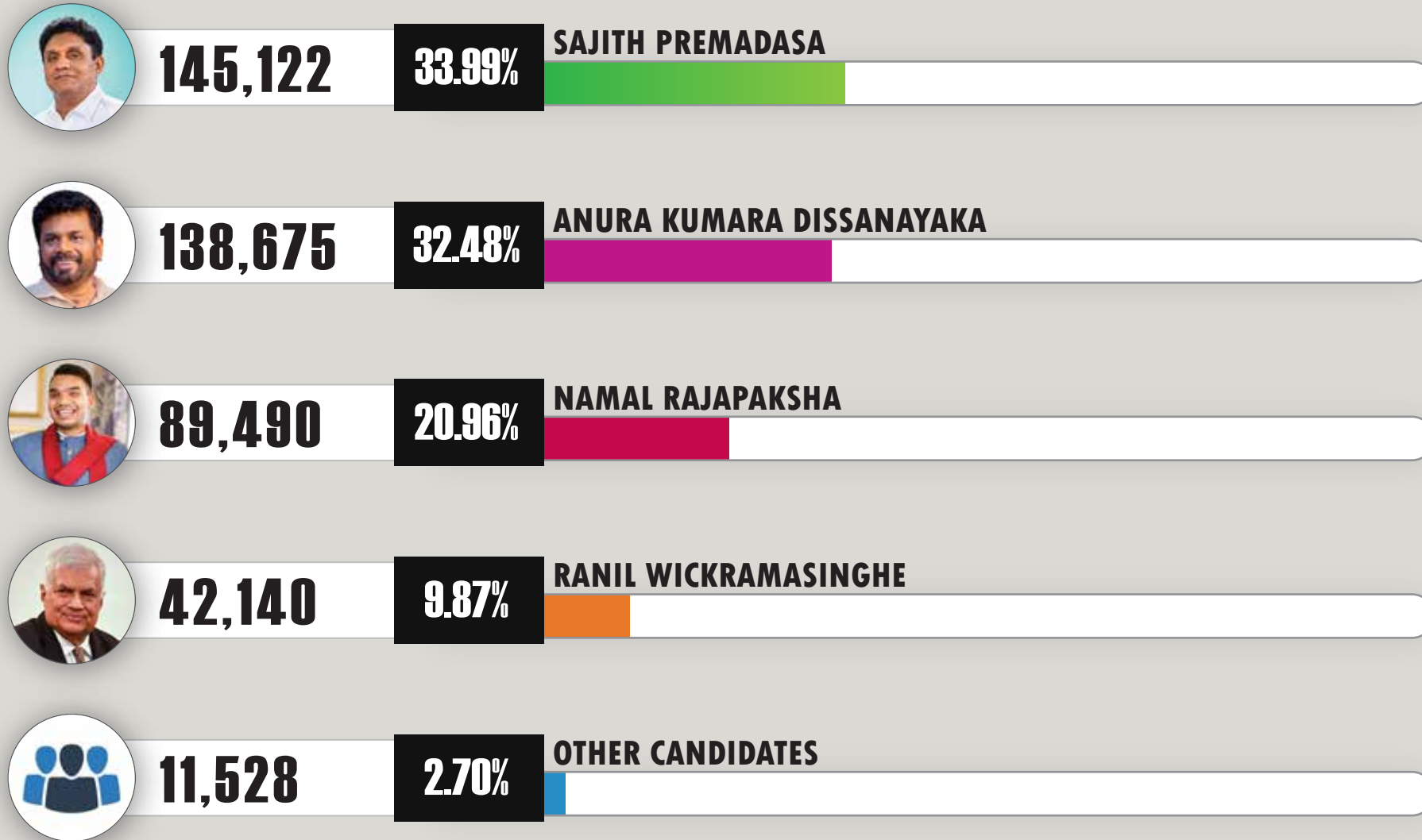
577,510

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES

5,735

TOTAL VALID VOTES

571,775



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES
520,940

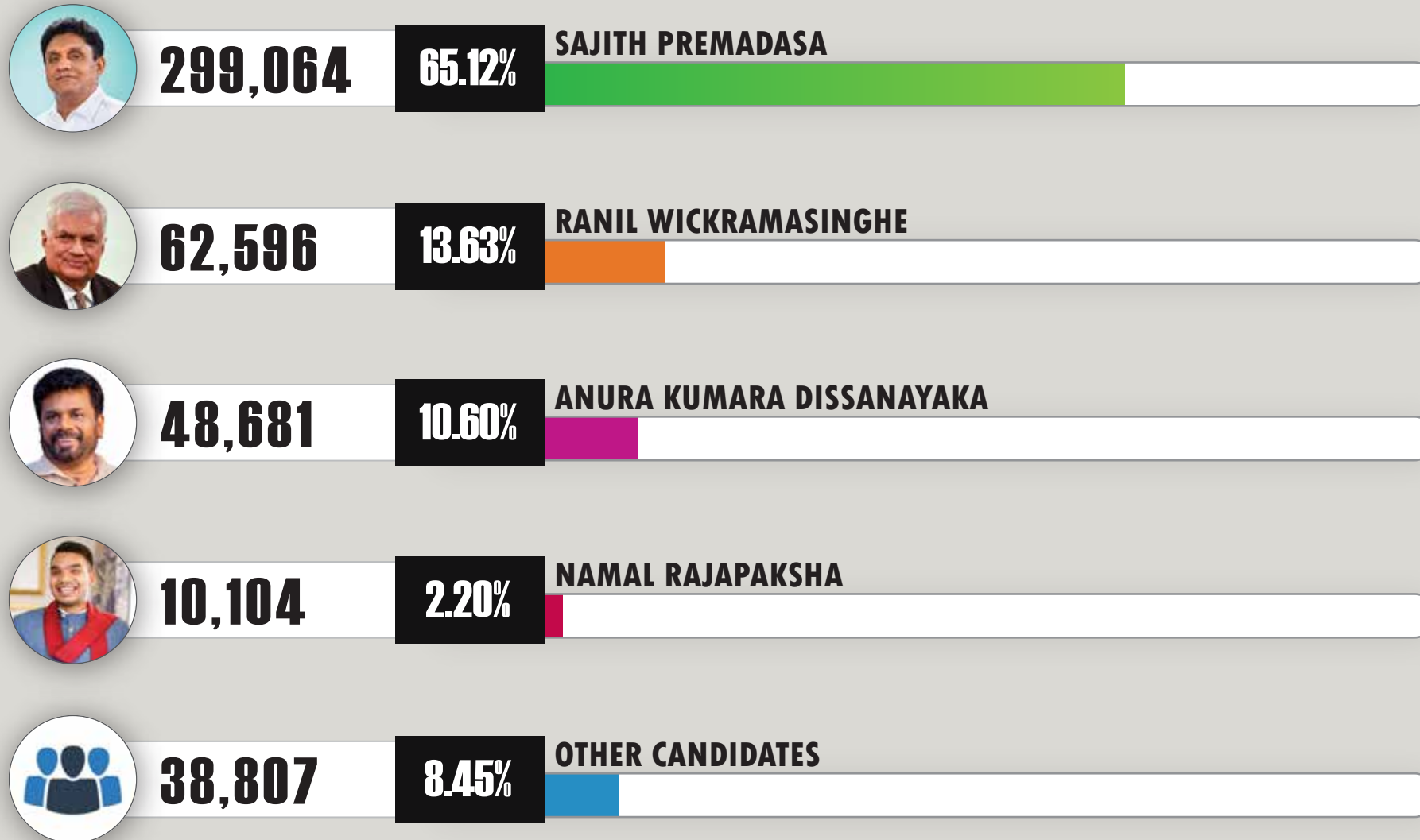
TOTAL CASTED VOTES
429,367

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES
2,413

TOTAL VALID VOTES
426,954

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULT PROJECTION

JAFFNA DISTRICT



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES

593,187

TOTAL CASTED VOTES

463,268

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES

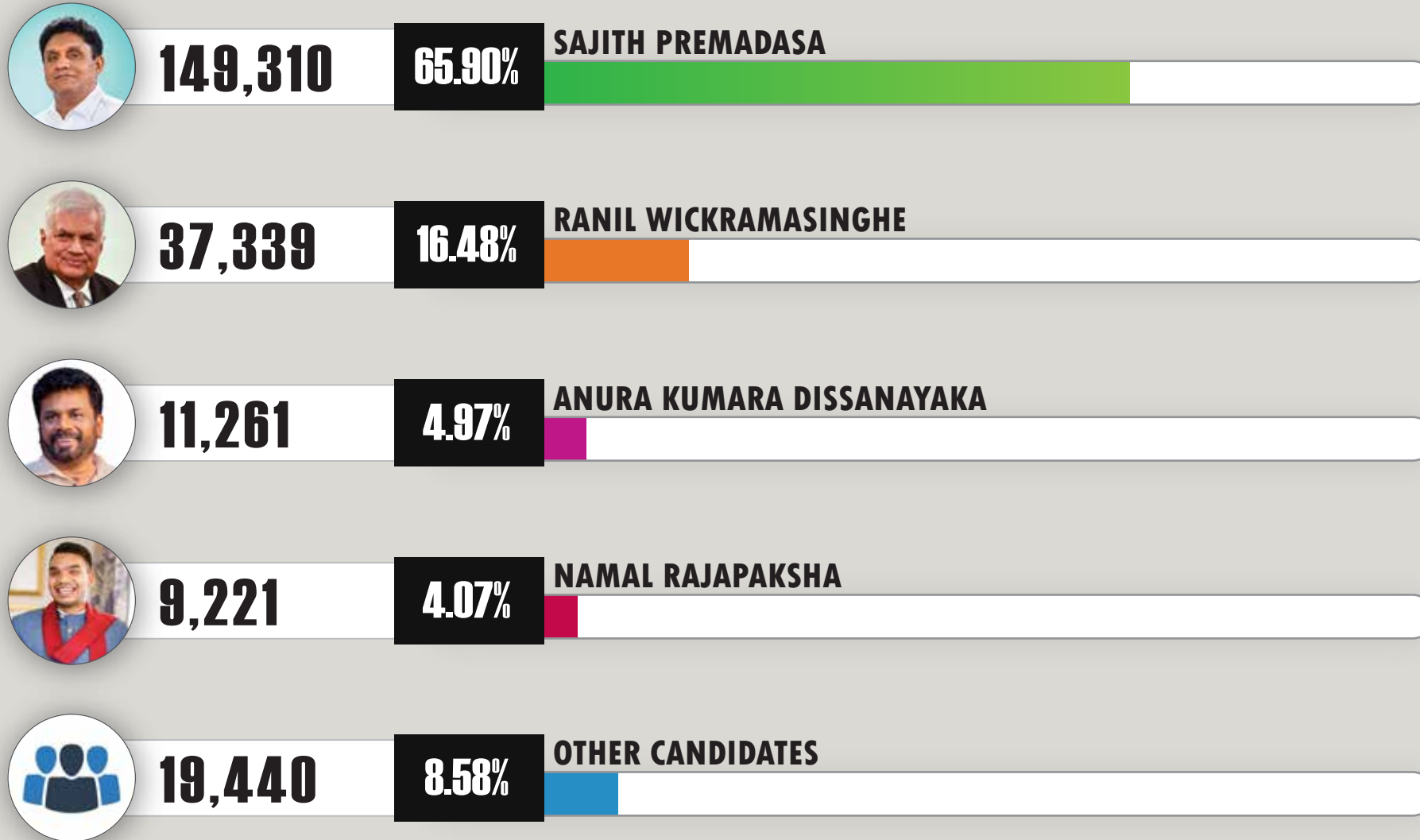
4,017

TOTAL VALID VOTES

459,251

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULT PROJECTION

VANNI DISTRICT



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES

306,081

TOTAL CASTED VOTES

227,831

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES

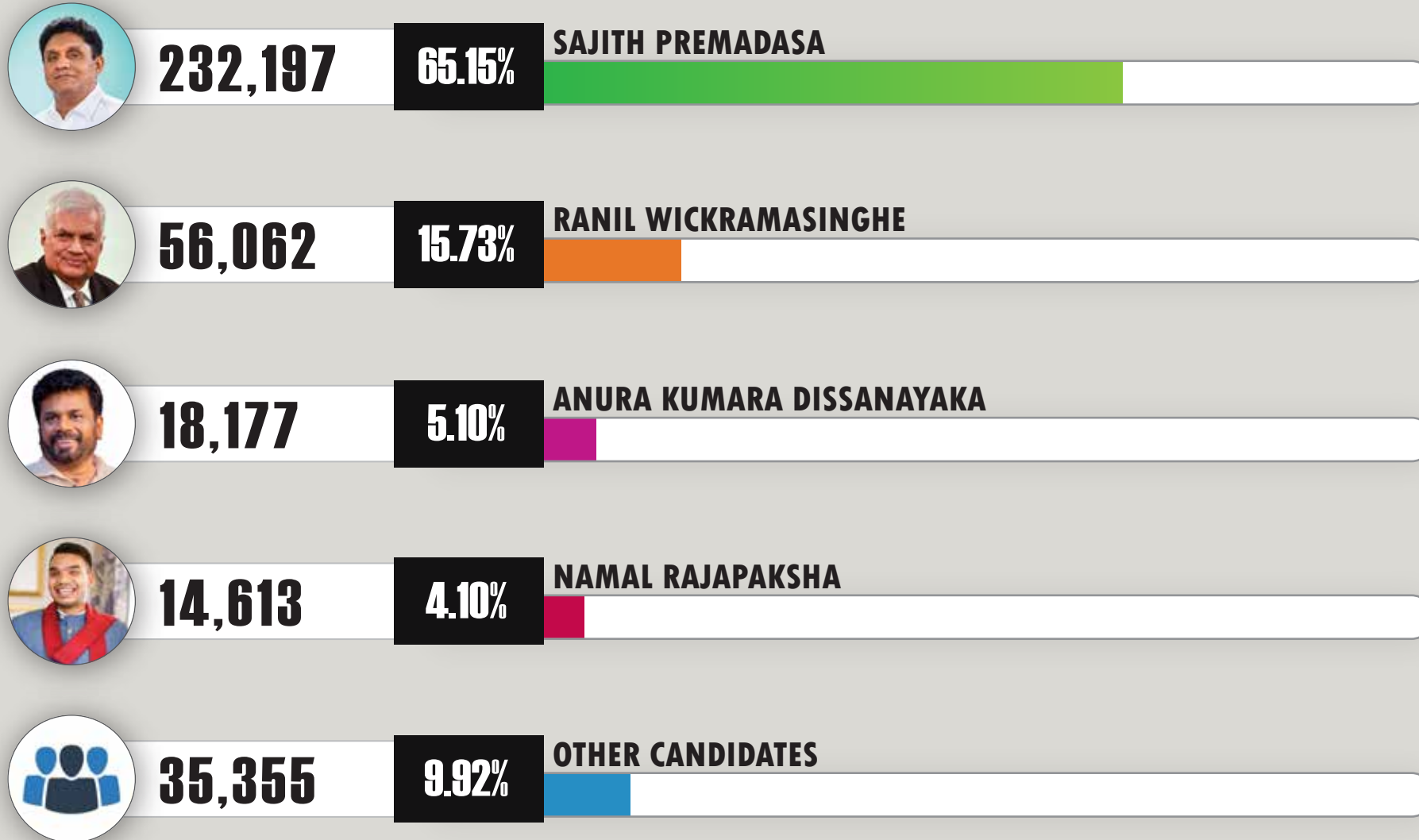
1,260

TOTAL VALID VOTES

226,571

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULT PROJECTION

BATTICOLA DISTRICT

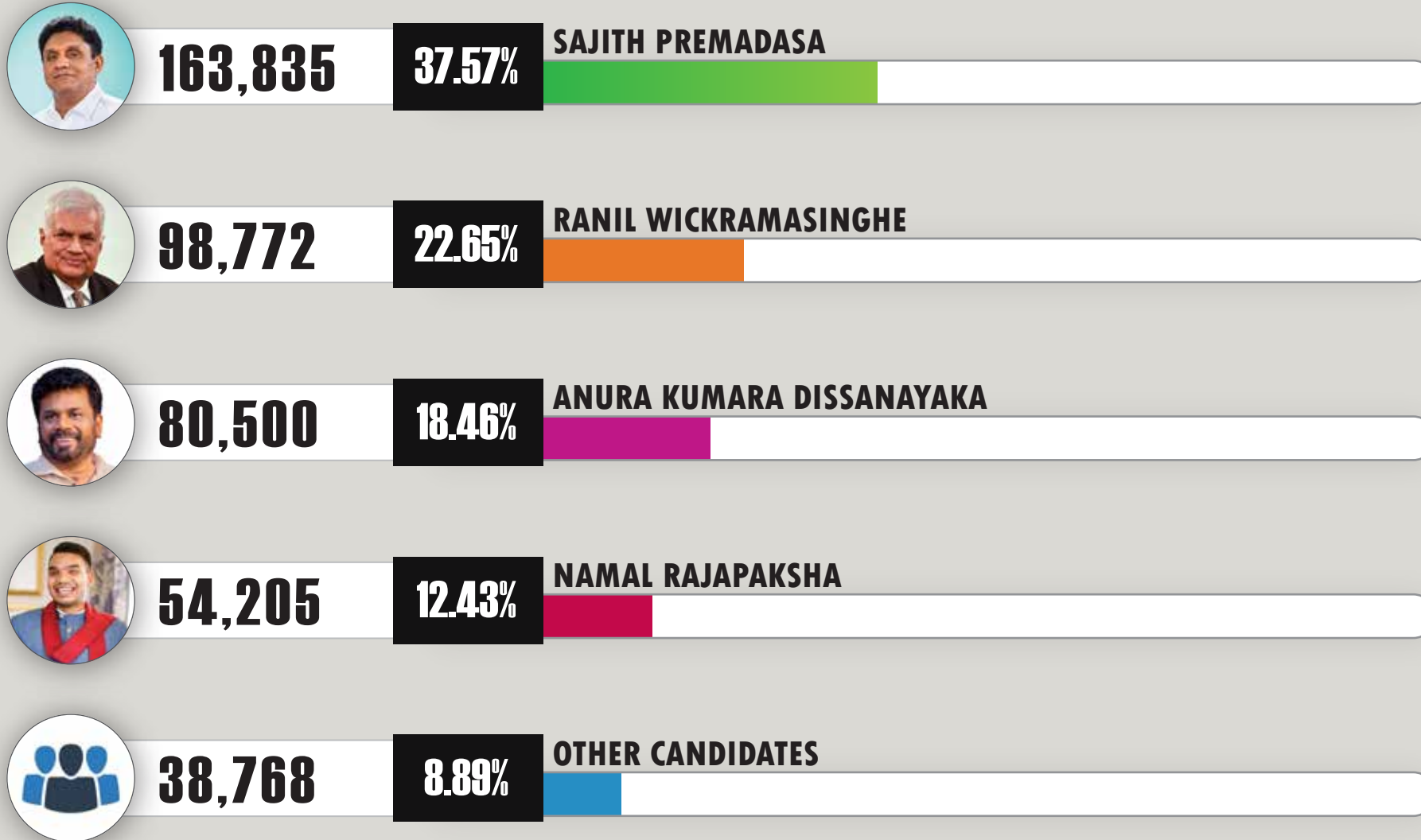


TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES
449,686

TOTAL CASTED VOTES
358,779

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES
2,375

TOTAL VALID VOTES
356,404

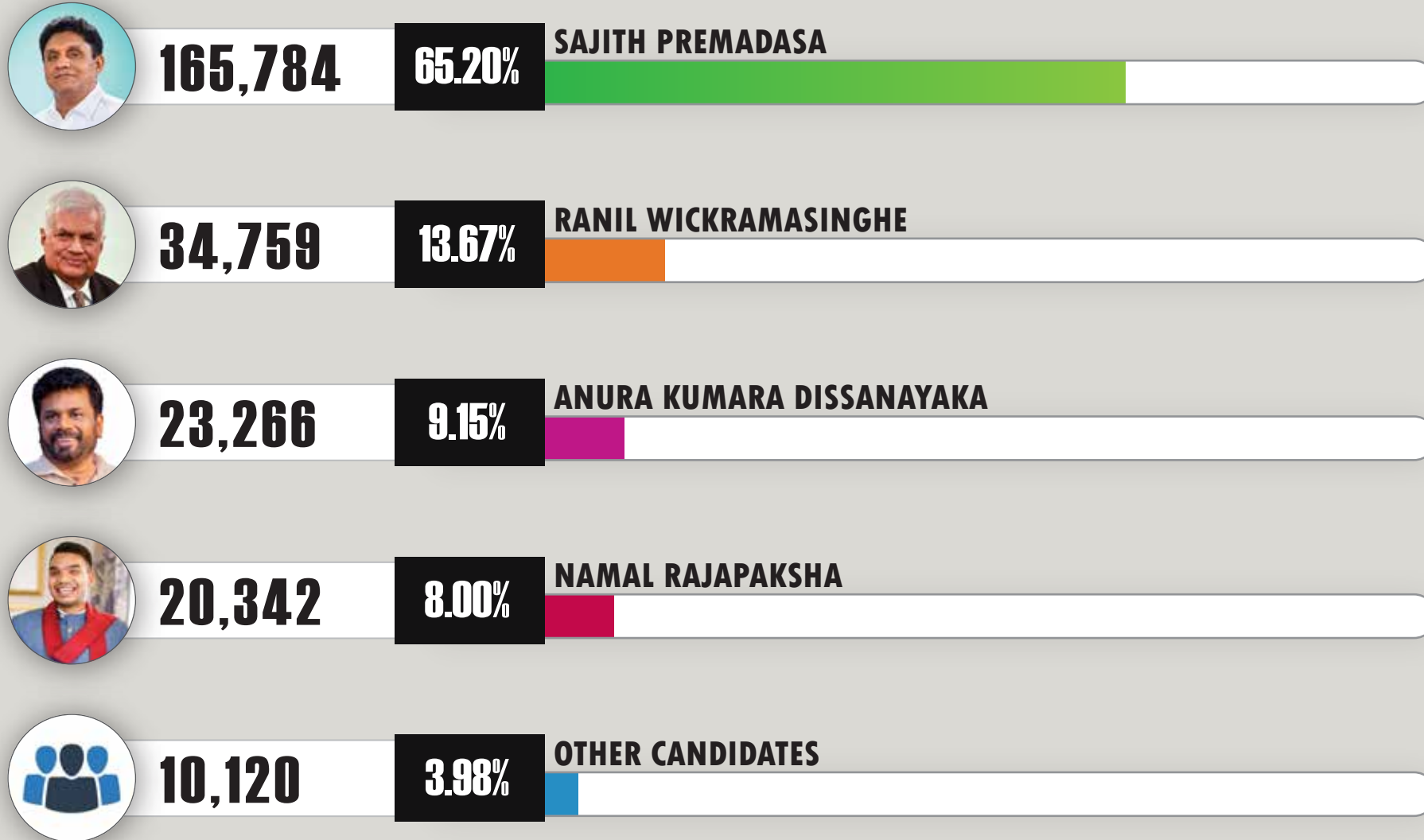


TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES
555,432

TOTAL CASTED VOTES
440,984

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES
4,904

TOTAL VALID VOTES
436,080



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES
315,925

TOTAL CASTED VOTES
256,158

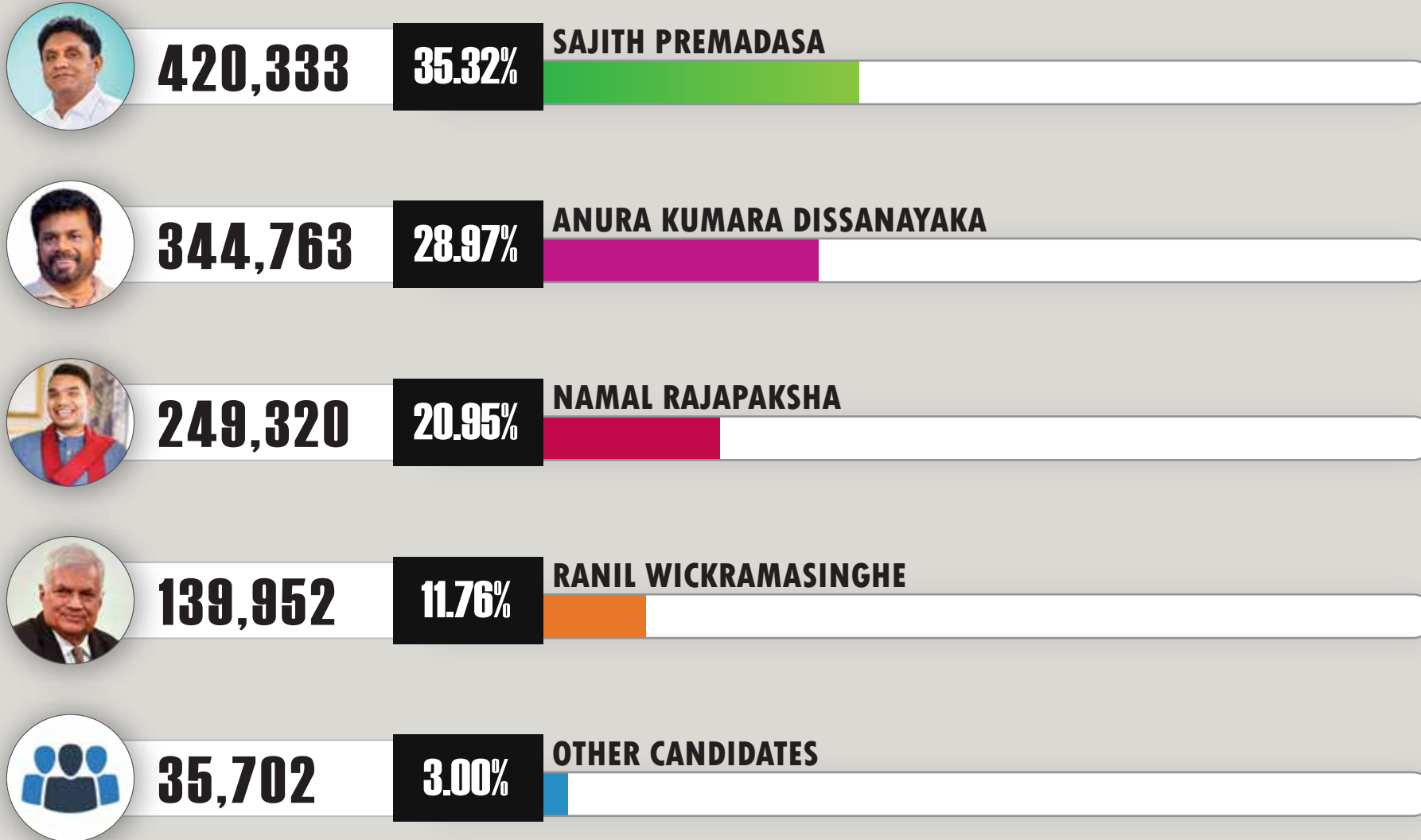
TOTAL REJECTED VOTES
1,888

TOTAL VALID VOTES
254,270

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULT PROJECTION

KURUNEGALA DISTRICT

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TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES

1,417,226

TOTAL CASTED VOTES

1,196,796

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES

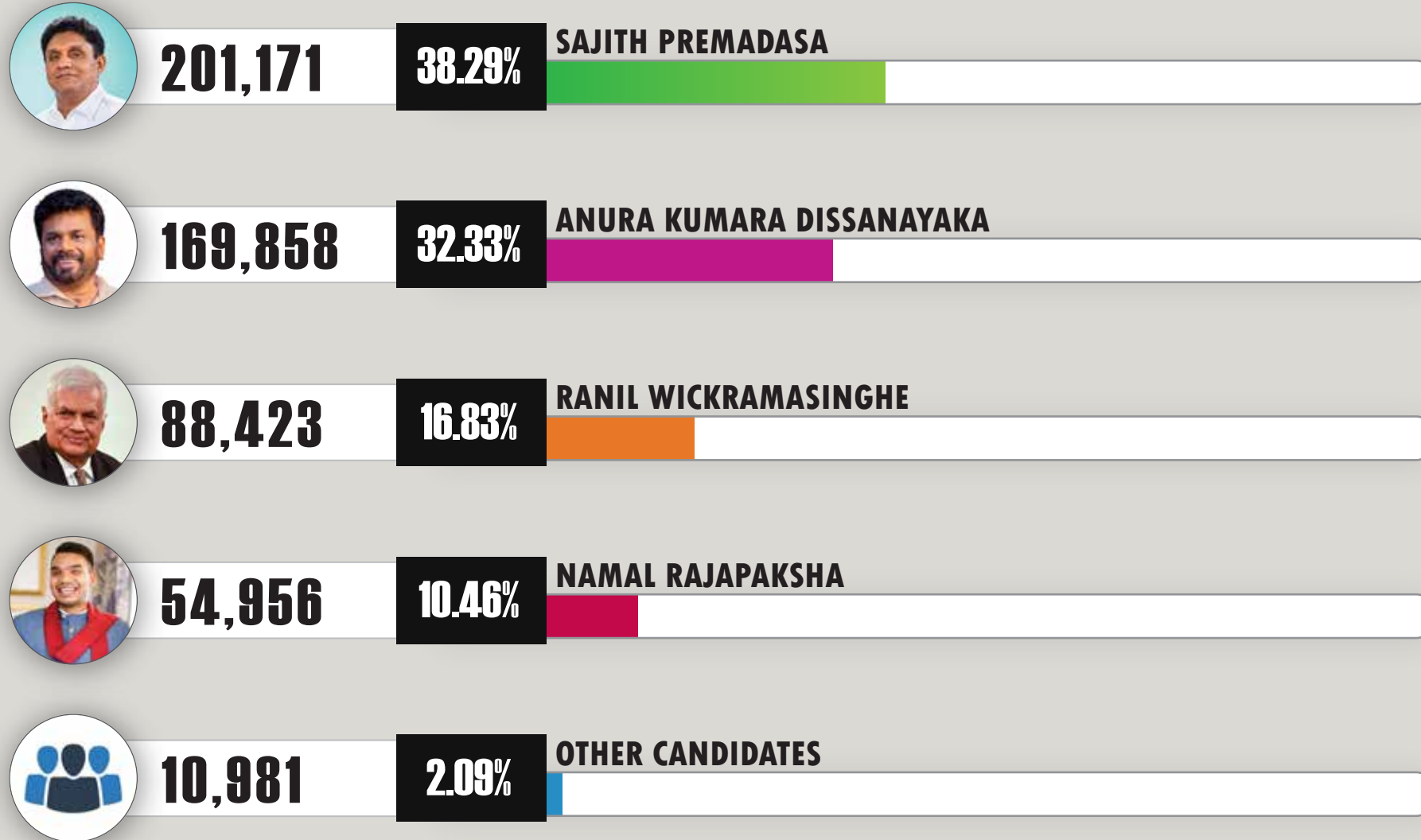
6,726

TOTAL VALID VOTES

1,190,070

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULT PROJECTION

PUTTALAM DISTRICT



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES

663,673

TOTAL CASTED VOTES

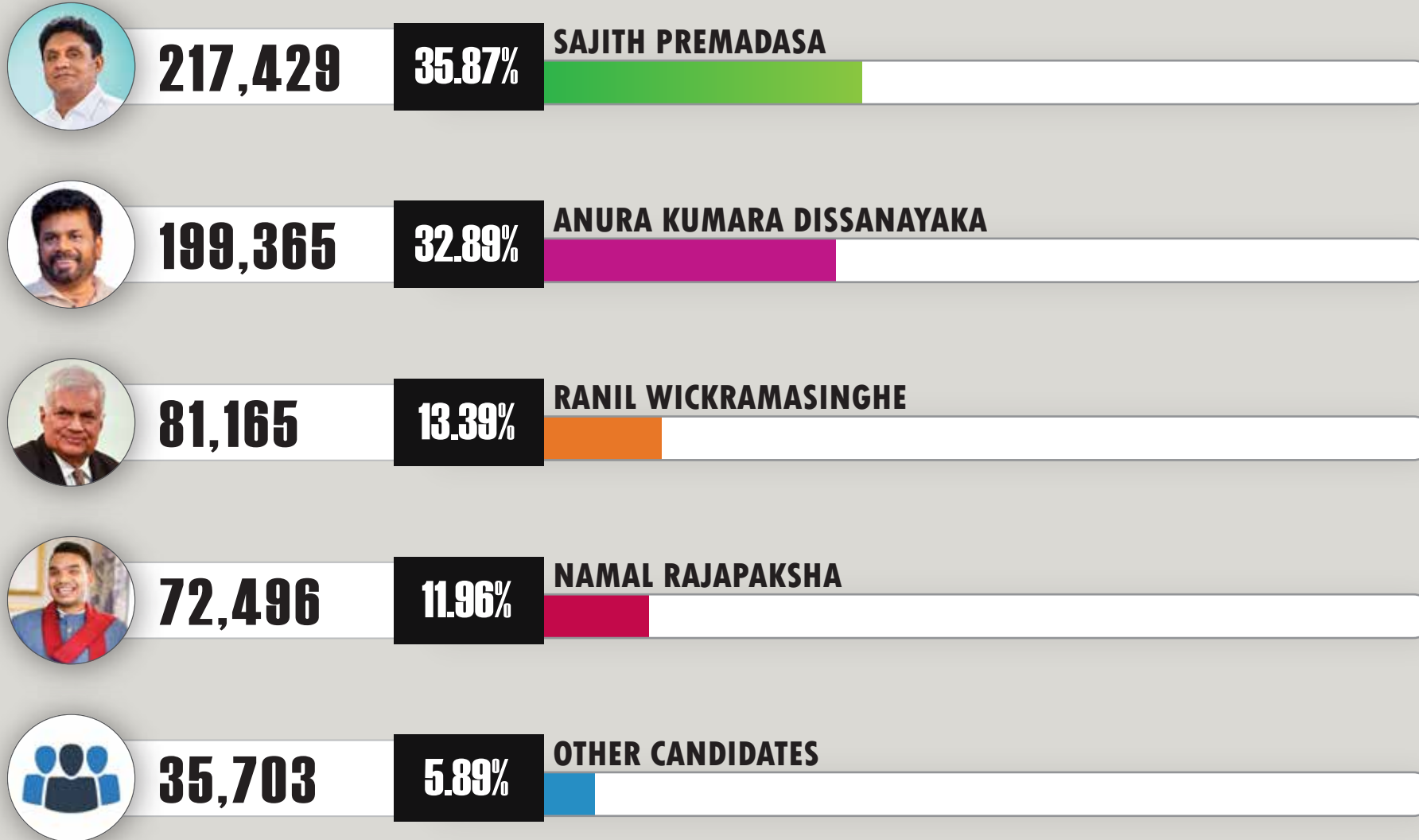
528,809

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES

3,421

TOTAL VALID VOTES

525,388

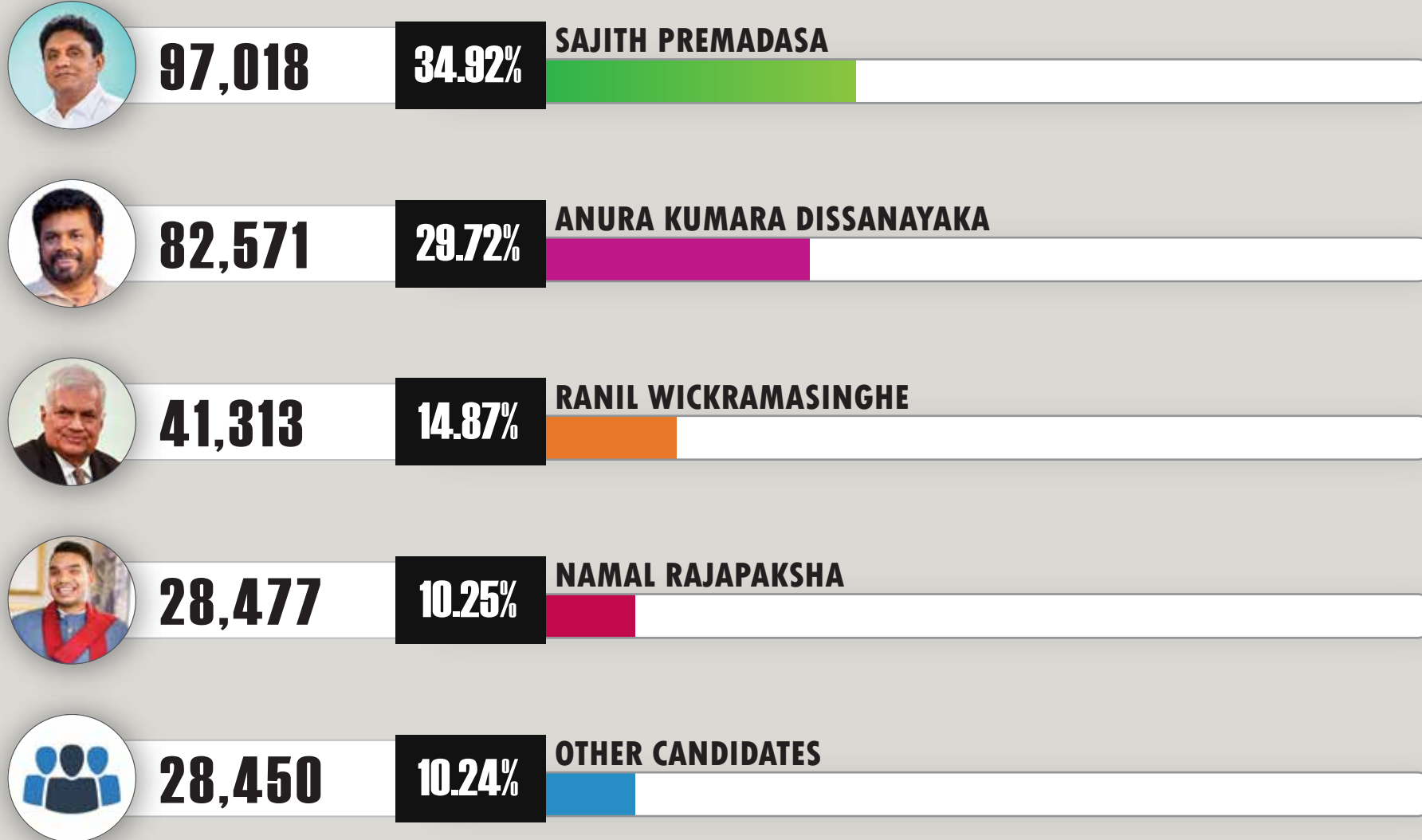


TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES
741,862

TOTAL CASTED VOTES
611,034

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES
4,876

TOTAL VALID VOTES
606,158



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES
351,302

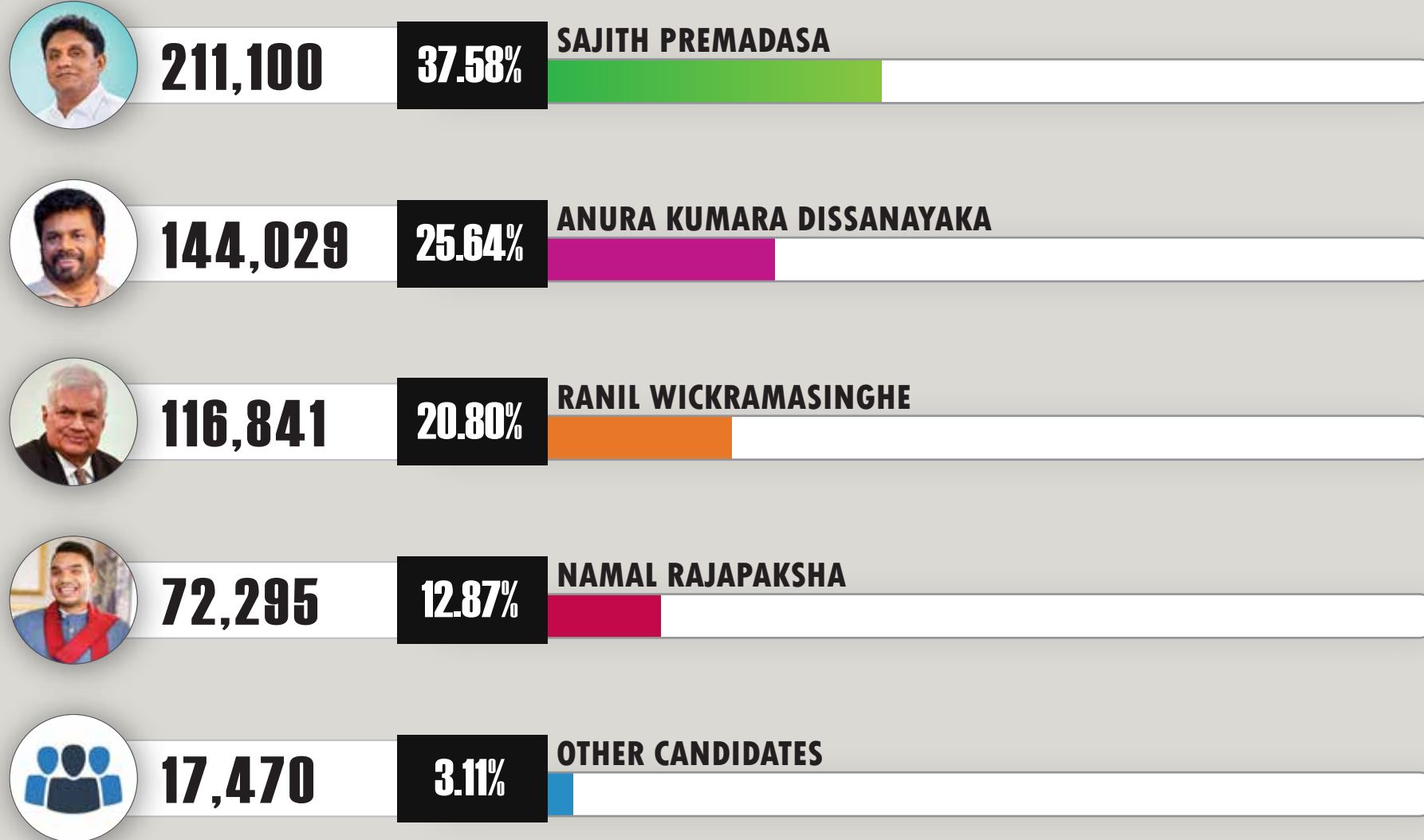
TOTAL CASTED VOTES
280,726

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES
2,897

TOTAL VALID VOTES
277,829

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULT PROJECTION

BADULLA DISTRICT



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES

705,772

TOTAL CASTED VOTES

565,650

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES

3,914

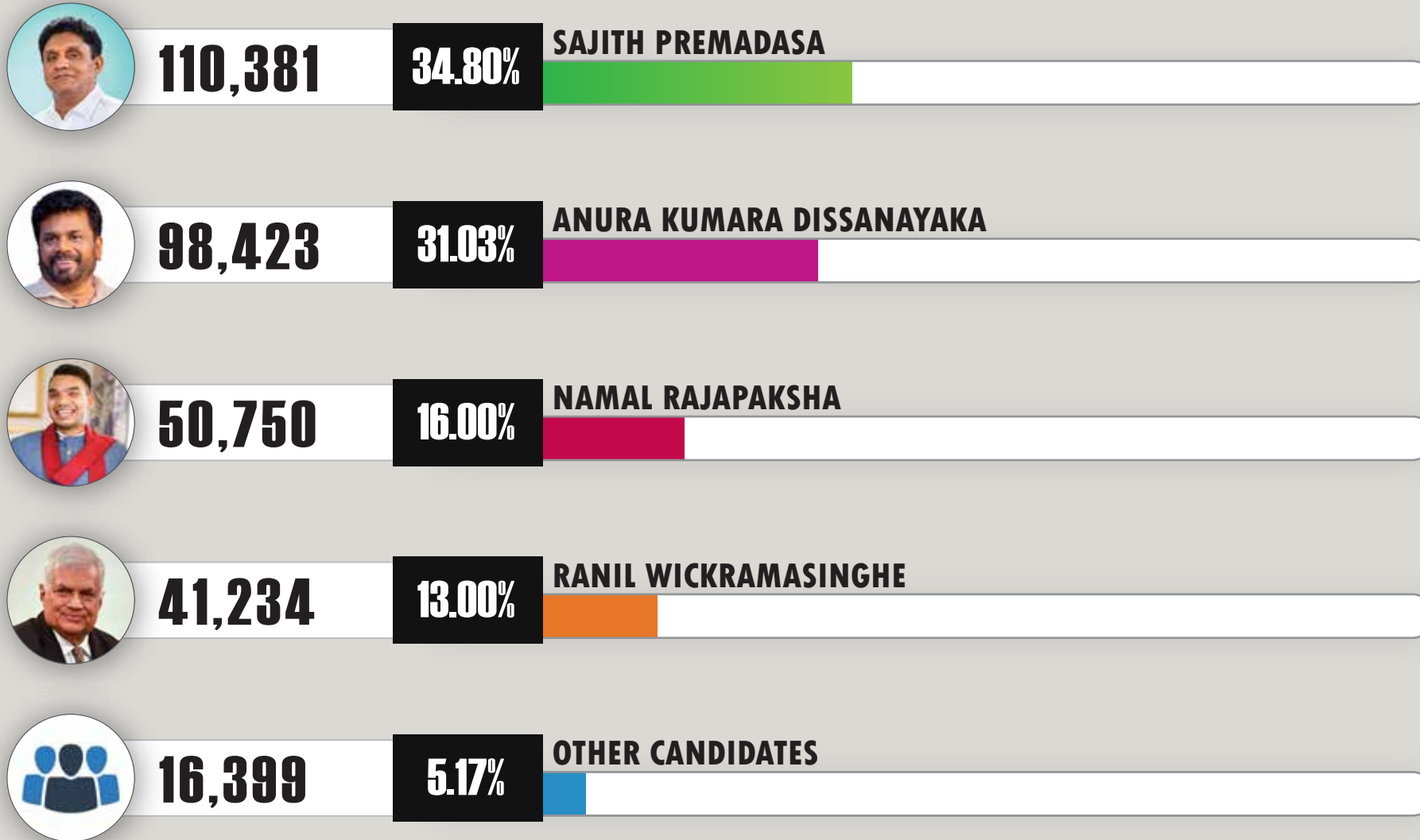
TOTAL VALID VOTES

561,736

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULT PROJECTION

MONARAGALA DISTRICT

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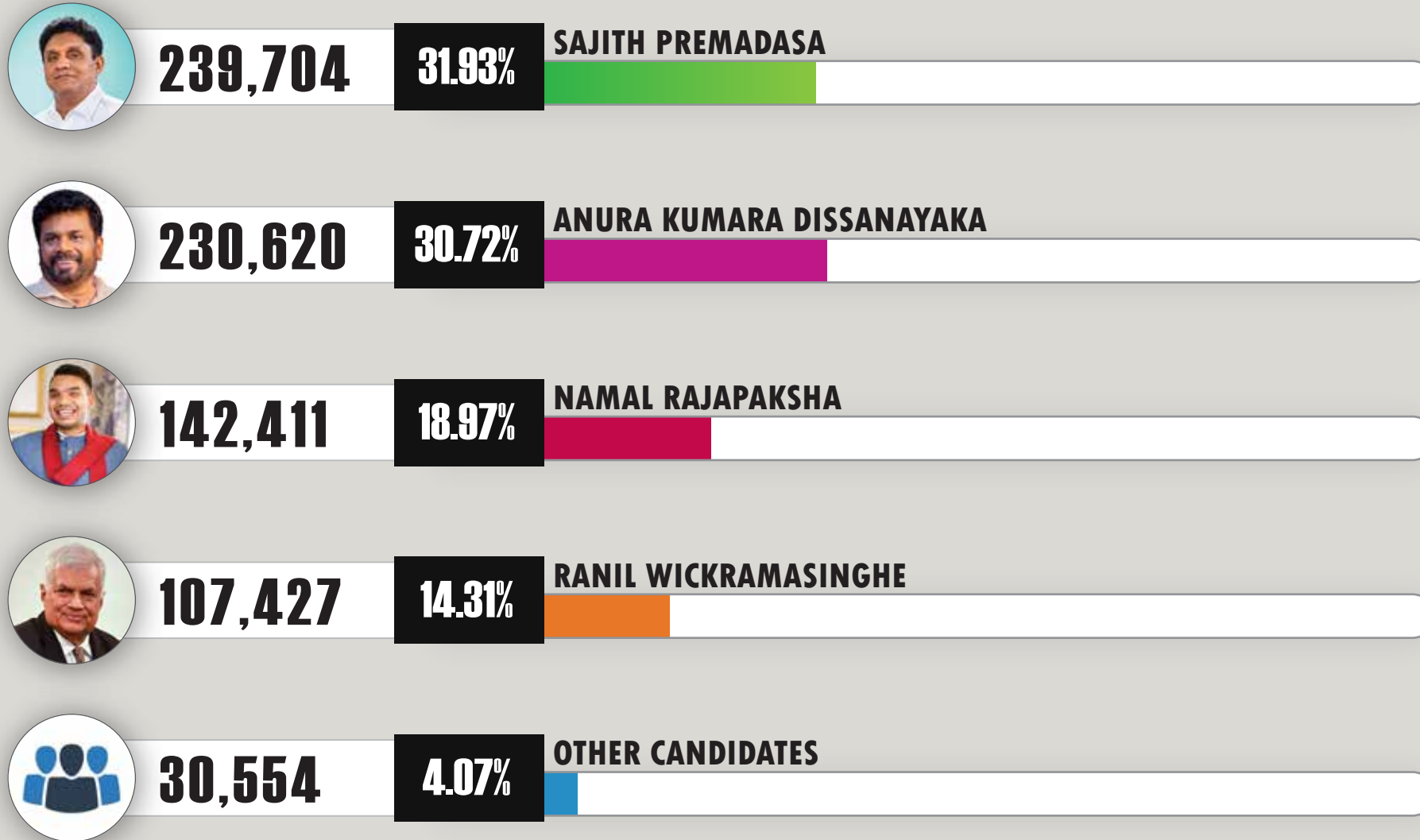


TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES
399,166

TOTAL CASTED VOTES
320,022

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES
2,835

TOTAL VALID VOTES
317,187



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES
923,736

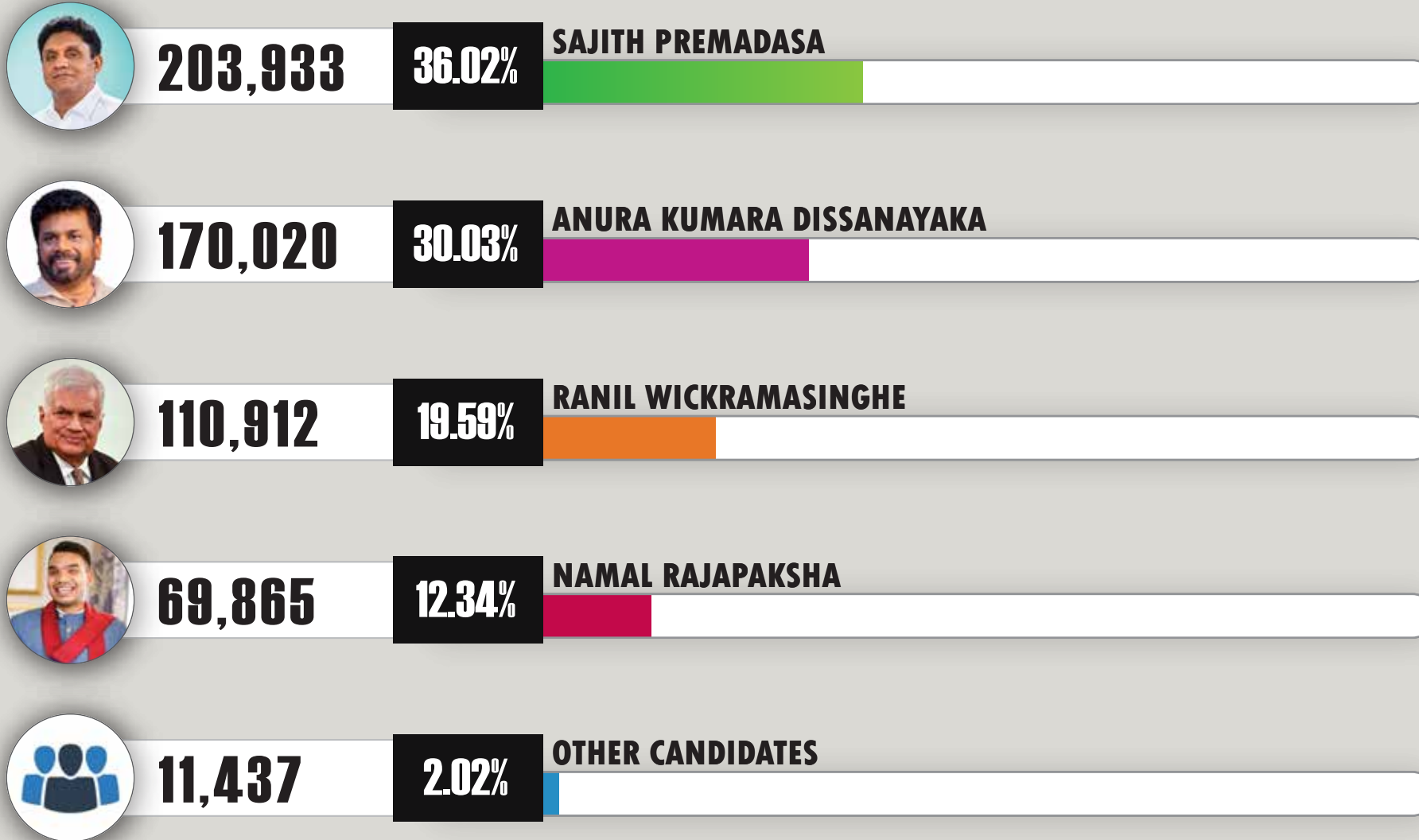
TOTAL CASTED VOTES
755,620

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES
4,904

TOTAL VALID VOTES
750,716

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULT PROJECTION

KEGALLE DISTRICT



TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES

709,622

TOTAL CASTED VOTES

570,646

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES

4,480

TOTAL VALID VOTES

566,166

FINAL REPORT



5,343,068

38.50%



3,810,016

27.45%



2,098,606

15.12%



2,067,937

14.90%



559,948

4.03%

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTES

17,140,354

TOTAL CASTED VOTES

13,991,865

TOTAL REJECTED VOTES

112,289

TOTAL VALID VOTES

13,879,576

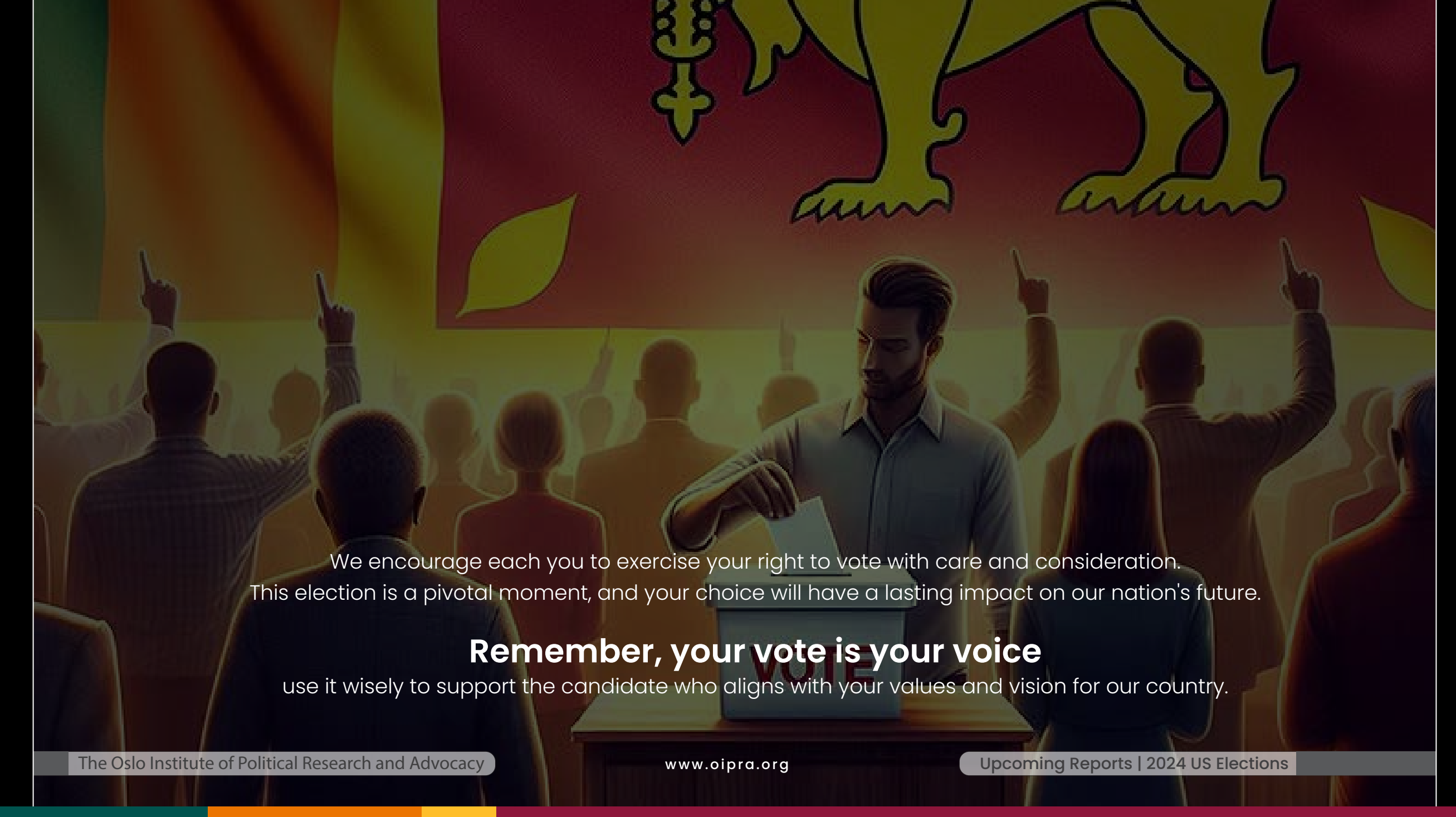
CONCLUSION

Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, who assumed office in 2019 with strong support from 6.9 million voters, has since experienced a significant decline in his voter base by 2022. This situation has significantly impacted the SLPP's voter base. It is a clear fact that the candidate who manages to secure a substantial portion of these 6.9 million votes is likely to emerge victorious in the upcoming election.

In the 2024 presidential election, all political parties aimed to attract the 6.9 million voters who were previously indifferent to their respective camps. The study provides a clear depiction of the trends among these neutral voters.

The study reveals that a significant portion of neutral and undecided votes has shifted toward the National People's Power (NPP) led by Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake. Their voter base, previously at 3.16%, has increased to 27.45%. Based on the findings, voter support is projected as follows: 38.50% for Mr. Sajith Premadasa, 15.12% for Mr. Namal Rajapaksa, 14.90% for Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe, and 4.03% for other candidates.

The study notably observed a significant divergence between public opinion reflected on social media and actual public sentiment. It has been identified that numerous social media accounts, frequently operated by fictitious personas, are being utilized for election campaigning and the dissemination of misinformation.



We encourage each you to exercise your right to vote with care and consideration. This election is a pivotal moment, and your choice will have a lasting impact on our nation's future.

Remember, your vote is your voice

use it wisely to support the candidate who aligns with your values and vision for our country.