

PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL

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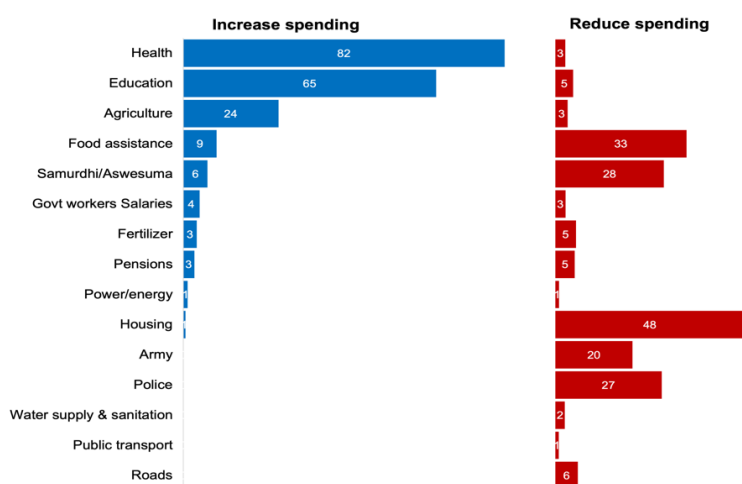
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Majority of Sri Lankan voters want increased government spending on health and education as election approaches

As Sri Lanka approaches the General Election, Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey (SLOTS) polling reveals strong voter support for prioritising increased government spending on health and education. In the latest polling since August 2024, 82% want spending on health to increase, and 65% want education to be increased. There is less consensus on where to cut spending, with 48% prioritizing cuts to spending on housing, and 33%, 28% and 27% naming food assistance, Aswesuma and the police respectively.

Priorities to increase or decrease government spending (%), Sep.–Nov. 2024

% who think ___ is one of the top two priorities for increasing or cutting government spending



Institute for Health Policy Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey (SLOTS)

Estimates based on 364 interviews conducted by SLOTS from Aug. 1, 2024–Nov. 3, 2024, for the question on increased spending, and 271 for that on spending cuts. Estimates adjusted for gender, age, ethnicity, education, sector, province, and socioeconomic status. “Don’t know” and “Refused” responses are excluded from the calculations.

About IHP

IHP is solely responsible for commissioning and designing the survey, and it takes full responsibility for it. IHP is an independent, non-partisan research institution based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The SLOTS lead investigator is Dr Ravi Rannan-Eliya of IHP, who was trained in public opinion polling at Harvard University, and who has conducted many opinion surveys over three decades, both in and outside Sri Lanka.

Methodology

SLOTS interviews representative samples of Sri Lankan adults every day by telephone to gather their current views and situation. All interviews include a core set of common questions, with additional rotating sets of other questions that examine issues of topical importance. Interviews are done daily by phone by IHP employees, with respondents recruited by a national field survey or by randomly dialling mobile phone numbers.

Funding

IHP conducts the SLOTS survey to track changes in health and social conditions, and public opinion in the country. IHP is solely responsible for conceiving, commissioning and designing the survey, and it takes full responsibility for it. Interviews are done daily by phone by IHP employees, with respondents recruited by a national field survey or by randomly dialling phone numbers. SLOTS fieldwork since 2021 has been supported by a range of funders, who play no role in question design, data analysis, or reporting. Past funders have included the Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust, Asia Foundation, European Commission, UK National Institute for Health and Care Research, the Foundation Open Society Institute, and others. Current fieldwork is supported by funding from the Velux Stiftung foundation, New York University Abu Dhabi, USAID, and the IHP Public Interest Research Fund. The survey findings and IHP reporting do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of past and present funders. Interested parties can contact IHP for more detailed data and results.