July 30, 2009: Social Indicator (SI), the survey research unit of the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA), in collaboration with Home for Human Rights (HHR) conducted an opinion poll amongst the people living in the Jaffna municipal area to assess their views in relation to the upcoming Municipal Council election. This poll did not intend to forecast the election results but rather to assess the views of the residents in terms of their optimism or pessimism about their future, political interest and participation, and how they view the upcoming election.

This poll was conducted amongst 880 randomly selected eligible voters in all 23 Wards in the Jaffna municipal council. A total of 36 field researchers—men and women—participated in the field data collection using a structured questionnaire. The field work of the poll was conducted from 22nd to 24th July 2009. Even though sample was distributed uniformly across all the wards, data was weighted before the analysis to reflect the actual population proportion at the ward level. The results of this poll is subject to + or - 3.3% error margin.
Views from Jaffna

Where do your immediate relatives/extended family members live at present?

- They live in and around the same area: 71.8%
- They live in other parts of Sri Lanka: 20.9%
- In OLD IDP Camps: 1.2%
- In recently established IDP Camps: 11.6%
- In Middle Eastern Countries: 5.4%
- In Other Countries: 14.4%

To what extent do you think you are aware about the candidates who are contesting in this local government election?

- Not at all: 28.5%
- Somewhat: 15.0%
- Yes, very much: 56.4%

Can you please name a political party that you think has ideas closest to your own?

- ITAK/TNA: 8.9%
- SLFP: 0.8%
- UNP: 0.9%
- TULF: 0.4%
- EPDP: 20.5%
- EPRLF: 0.1%
- Other: 3.0%
- None: 35.7%
- Do not want to reveal: 29.6%

Is the party that you support, the same party that your parents also support/supported?

- Don't know / Not sure: 14.3%
- Yes: 28.2%
- No: 57.5%

Leaving aside the period of elections, how much interest would you say you have in Sri Lankan politics?

- A great deal of interest: 13.4%
- Some interest: 39.5%
- No interest at all: 42.9%
- Don't know / Not sure: 4.1%
- No Response: 0.2%

To what extent do you think your vote matters to elect your choice of local government?

- Very much: 65.7%
- Somewhat: 19.9%
- Not at all: 3.8%
- Don't know / Not sure: 10.5%
Views from Jaffna

Do you intend to vote in the forthcoming elections on the 8th of August 2009?

- Yes: 83.2%
- No: 16.8%
- Don't know: 8.0%

If you do not intend to vote in the forthcoming elections on the 8th of August 2009, then why?

- No suitable party/candidate: 2.5%
- My vote is not going to make a difference: 2.2%
- I do not really care about voting ("Not bothered"): 9.5%
- Other: 49.7%
- No response: 36.2%

Did you register yourself as a voter in the registration process that happened in June – July last year (2008)?

- Yes: 56.4%
- No, as we didn’t receive the documents: 10.8%
- No, unaware about the process: 28.5%
- Don’t Know/Not Sure: 4.1%
- No Response: 0.2%

If the election is to be held today, which party will you vote for?

- ITAK: 7.3%
- UPFA (SLFP, EPDP): 23.8%
- UNP: 0.4%
- TULF: 1.0%
- Independent Group: 0.4%
- Not decided: 44.7%
- Refuse to answer: 22.3%
- No Response: 0.1%

When selecting your MC candidate what are the three most important factors that matter to you?

- The candidate represents my party: 6.6%
- The candidate represents the party that my family is loyal to: 7.4%
- Because my friends support him: 6.7%
- His ability to preserve the culture of our society: 51.1%
- His ability to protect my religion: 8.7%
- The candidate represents my caste: 3.8%
- There is no particular reason: 5.6%
- I received some benefits from that candidate or party: 27.5%
- Other: 5.8%
- Refuse to answer: 9.3%
- DK / Not sure: 10.8%
- No Response: 1.0%

Have you received any leaflets or phone calls providing you with information regarding the candidates contesting in this MC election?

- Yes: 93.6%
- No: 0.2%
- No Response: 0.2%
Views from Jaffna

To what extent have you participated in discussing the upcoming Jaffna MC election in August 2009 with your relatives, neighbors and friends?

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>60.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
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To what extent have you participated in pasting posters, leafleting and canvassing relating to the upcoming Jaffna MC election in August 2009?

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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>93.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
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To what extent have you participated in political meetings/discussions on the upcoming Jaffna MC election in August 2009?

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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>79.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
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Do you possess your National ID / other identification document at present?

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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>90.2%</td>
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Do you possess the ID given by the security forces at present?

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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>73.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
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Can you please tell me which party you think will win this election?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITAK</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPFA (SLFP, EPDP)</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNP</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TULF</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Group I</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refuse to answer</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know / Not sure</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Response</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
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