

The Political Representation of Women in Singapore Research Project

By

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Summary Report of Online Survey conducted with 17 Women Candidates in Singapore, 9-15 Feb 2013 using *Fluidsurvey*.

(Completion rate: 100.0%)

1. How old were you when you joined a political party?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. 20-30		28%
2. 31-40		33%
3. 41-50		22%
4. 51-60		17%
5. 61 and above		0%

2. What motivated you to join a political party?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. Desire to change and improve public policies		28%
2. Desire to improve the lives and welfare of women		0%
3. Desire to change the government in power		17%
4. All of the above		44%
5. Others, please specify,		11%

2. What motivated you to join a political party? (5. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	Change perceptions
2.	community service & help an MP who was my lecturer

¹ I would like to acknowledge the support of the American Council of Learned Societies and Chiang Ching Kuo Foundation for the conduct of this research.

3. Who supported your political aspirations?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. Family		33%
2. Spouse		28%
3. Political leader		17%
4. Women leader		17%
5. Others, please specify,		6%

3. Who supported your political aspirations? (5. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	No one

4. Who encouraged you to run for party executive position?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. Family		0%
2. Spouse		21%
3. Party leader		43%
4. Nobody		21%
5. Others, please specify,		14%

4. Who encouraged you to run for party executive position? (5. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	party members
2.	Party colleagues

5. Why did you contest in the general election?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. To effect change in society through the Parliament		54%
2. To build my party and contribute to the community		31%
3. To represent the interests of my constituency		0%
4. To improve gender equality		0%
5. Others, please specify,		15%

5. Why did you contest in the general election? (5. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	did not contest
2.	Not contest before

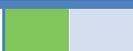
6. How many years of community or grassroots experience did you have prior to standing for election?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. less than 1		8%
2. 1 to 2 years		8%
3. 3 to 5 years		23%
4. 5 and more		31%
5. Others, please specify,		31%

6. How many years of community or grassroots experience did you have prior to standing for election? (5. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	none
2.	working with the party for nearly 2 years.
3.	27 years
4.	Management Council of condominium where I live - 3 years

7. How many years have you been a party member before being first nominated/selected/elected as a candidate to contest in the election?

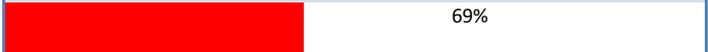
Response	Chart	Percentage
1. less than 1		15%
2. 1 to 2 years		23%
3. 3 to 5 years		8%
4. 5 and more		23%
5. Others, please specify,		31%

7. How many years have you been a party member before being first nominated/selected/elected as a candidate to contest in the election? (5. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	na

2.	Answer related to above
3.	27 years
4.	I first joined a political party in mid 2009. In 2011, a few months before before GE2011, I joined the political party for which I stood as a candidate.

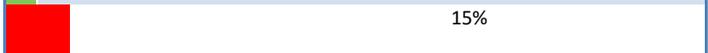
8. How were you selected/appointed as a candidate by your party to stand in the General Election?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. Self-nomination and selection by party committee		0%
2. Party nomination and selection by party leaders		69%
3. Party nomination and selection by all party members		8%
4. Won the party primary		0%
5. Others, please specify,		23%

8. How were you selected/appointed as a candidate by your party to stand in the General Election? (5. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	na
2.	Answer related to above

9. Who has the most impact in your decision to contest in the general election?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. My family		8%
2. My spouse		15%
3. A political leader		31%
4. A woman leader		8%
5. Others, please specify,		38%

9. Who has the most impact in your decision to contest in the general election? (5. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	na
2.	its not the person, but the events
3.	Party agenda
4.	The disadvantaged especially the poor and those with special-needs

5. party colleagues

10. Did your ethnicity affect your decision to contest in the general election?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. Yes		0%
2. No		85%
3. Others, please specify,		15%

10. Did your ethnicity affect your decision to contest in the general election? (3. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	na
2.	My ethnicity enhanced my decision.

11. Did your gender affect your decision to contest in the general election?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. Yes		0%
2. No		85%
3. Others, please specify,		15%

11. Did your gender affect your decision to contest in the general election? (3. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	na
2.	My feminity enhanced my decision.

12. Do you think more women should join parties and contest in elections?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. Yes		100%
2. No		0%
2. Others, please specify,		0%

12. Do you think more women should join parties and contest in elections? (2. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
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13. Do you think women view politics differently from men and can make a substantive difference in terms of policy-making in the Parliament and the Cabinet?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. Yes		88%
2. No		0%
2. Others, please specify,		12%

13. Do you think women view politics differently from men and can make a substantive difference in terms of policy-making in the Parliament and the Cabinet? (2. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	Sometimes
2.	I do not think women view politics differently from men, but I do think women can make a substantive difference in Parliament. Women comprise half the electorate.

14. If you were an elected member of parliament, do you see yourself primarily as representing the interests of _____.

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. your constituency		25%
2. women		0%
3. your constituency and women		44%
4. whoever supported my election		0%
5. Others, please specify,		31%

14. If you were an elected member of parliament, do you see yourself primarily as representing the interests of _____. (5. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	my fellow citizens
2.	my constituency, students, the elderly, women, young couples
3.	The marketable public whose resources are needed to sustain viable political visions and attainments.
4.	constituency plus other Singaporeans
5.	Singaporeans

15. Do you think there should be more elected women member of parliament and cabinet ministers in your country?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. Yes		100%
2. No		0%
2. Others, please specify,		0%

15. Do you think there should be more elected women member of parliament and cabinet ministers in your country? (2. Others, please specify,)

Response

16. What do you think is the biggest obstacle that deters women from joining parties and contesting in elections?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. Family and childcare commitments		47%
2. Work commitments		6%
3. Lack of social support		12%
4. Lack of time and funding		6%
5. Others, please specify,		29%

16. What do you think is the biggest obstacle that deters women from joining parties and contesting in elections? (5. Others, please specify,)

Response

1. All the above
2. Resources needed to overcome various obstacles perceived and actualised.
3. all of the above
4. Multiple roles in family and work
5. Singaporean women tend to prefer to let men take the lead, more comfortable to play a supportive role rather than a leadership role.

17. Do you think affirmative action such as gender quota (reserved seats, legislative provisions or informal or formal party quota) will encourage more women to join parties and contest in elections?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. Yes		47%
2. No		35%

2. Others, please specify,

18%

17. Do you think affirmative action such as gender quota (reserved seats, legislative provisions or informal or formal party quota) will encourage more women to join parties and contest in elections?
(2. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	To achieve breakthrough initially, but to sustain further functions, the persons may lack credibility.
2.	it depends on the country

18. Given your own experience, what more do you think can be done to encourage women to join political parties?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. More family and peer support		41%
2. More inclusive parties		24%
3. Offer of financial support and incentives		6%
4. Affirmative action (guaranteed seats, gender or party quotas) for women		6%
5. Others, please specify,		24%

18. Given your own experience, what more do you think can be done to encourage women to join political parties? (5. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	all of the above
2.	Just general interest on the women's part themselves.
3.	all of the above
4.	Need women to have more confidence in themselves.

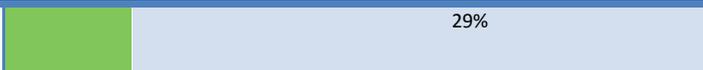
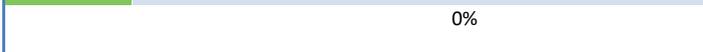
19. What do you think your party can do to field more women candidates in elections?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. Be more inclusive and gender-sensitive in elite recruitment		35%
2. Offer some financial incentives and support		6%
3. Commit informally to field a quota of women candidates		29%
4. Commit formally to field a quota of women candidates		6%
5. Others, please specify,		24%

19. What do you think your party can do to field more women candidates in elections? (5. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	Market women's benefits and rewards in politics.
2.	be more inclusive and offer family-related support
3.	Nothing. They are very open to women.
4.	The number of women candidates is not a function of anything my party is doing or not doing. It is up to women themselves to decide if they are prepared to stand as candidates.

20. What more do you think your government can do to increase the number of women politicians in your country?

Response	Chart	Percentage
1. To encourage more inclusive and gender-sensitive elite recruitment by parties		29%
2. To offer some financial incentives or childcare support		0%
3. To encourage parties to field more women candidates		29%
4. To legislate and ensure parties field a certain quota of women candidates		18%
5. Others, please specify,		24%

20. What more do you think your government can do to increase the number of women politicians in your country? (5. Others, please specify,)

#	Response
1.	Create more conducive environment culturally at home & work and pay special attention to sex crimes eg. castrate sexual offenders, terminate services of political leaders who commit adultery etc
2.	be more inclusive and offer family-related support
3.	Nothing. They are very open to women.
4.	The under-representation of women in Singapore politics may have more to do with how women perceive themselves and their role in society than with societal discouragements or restrictions imposed on women.