

A Singaporean Perspective

BRIDGING THE GAP: YOUTH ACTIVISM MEETS PARTY POLITICS



POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES OF YOUTHS IN SINGAPORE

- Youths perceived themselves as left-leaning, with those aged 21 to 25 being most **left-leaning** compared to those of 36 years old and above (Mak, 2024).
- An observation made whereby there may be a correlation between age and political beliefs (Mak, 2024).
 - Possible Explanation: Norwegian Studies alluded that shifts may be due to life-cycle effects (Geys et al., 2022).



3 KEY FOCUS AREAS

Alignment of Values

Pragmatism Within Idealism

Cause-Based Advocacy

Fairness & Equality

Focus on the 'Why's and the 'How's it affects Singaporeans' lives

Fore-front Initiatives that Matter to Youths

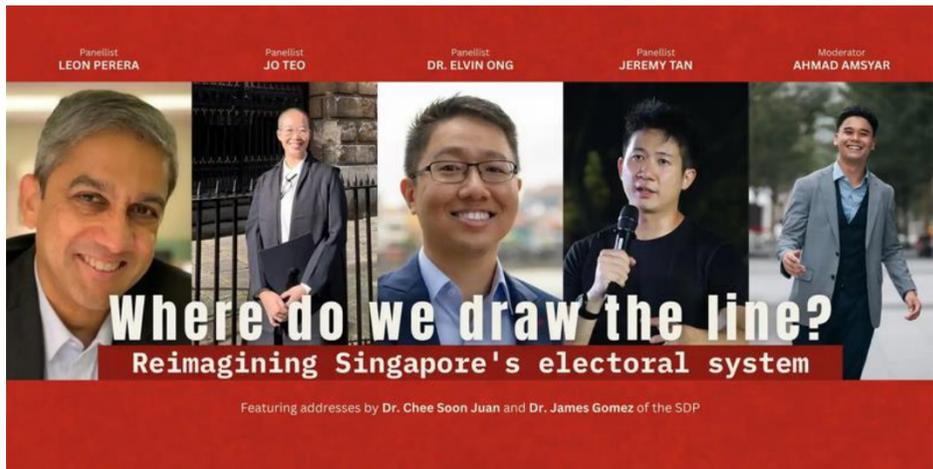
SDP INITIATIVES



Launch of Position Papers



Unbroken Circles



Electoral Reform Coalition

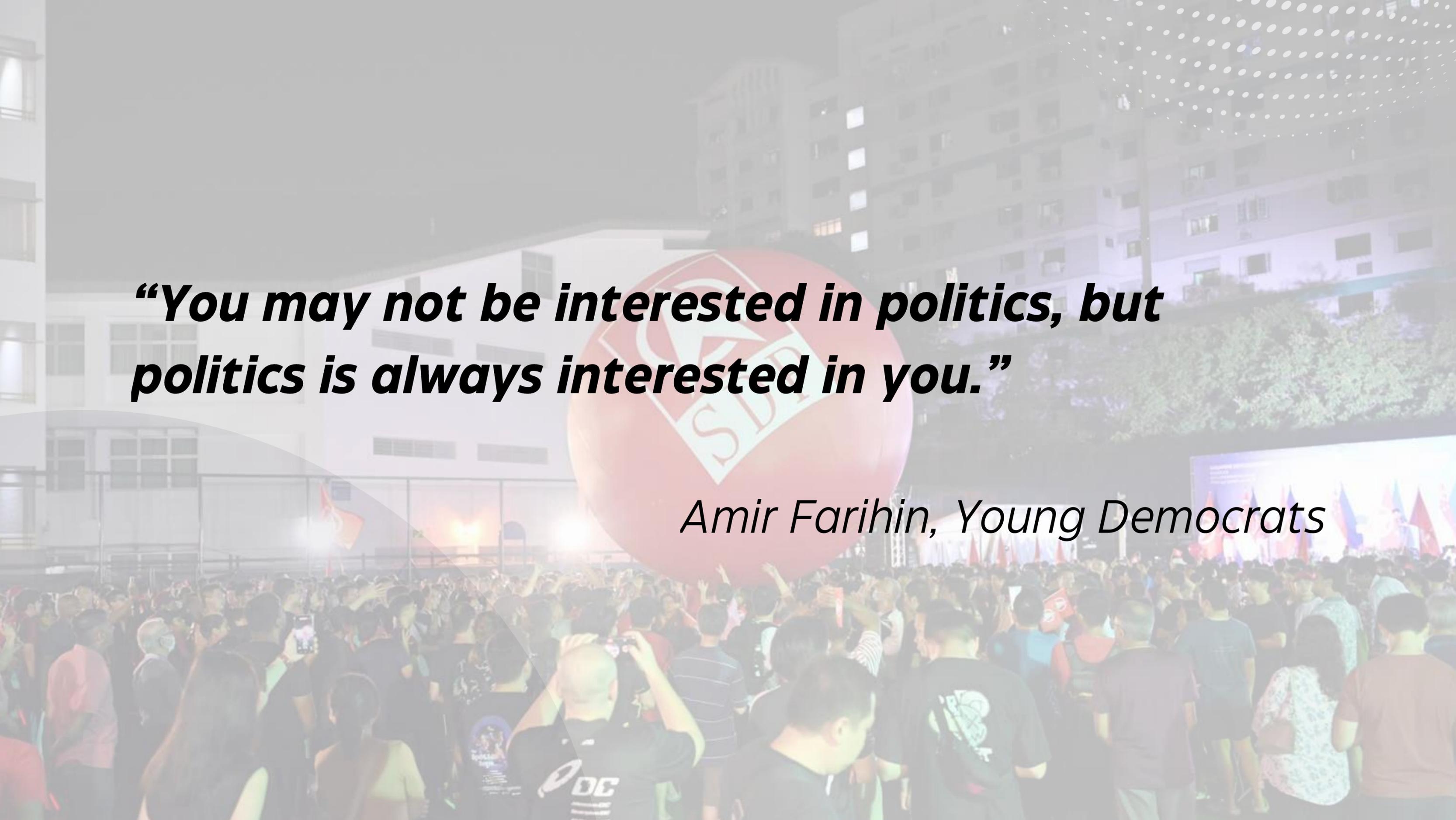
UNIQUELY SINGAPOREAN



- The two-dimensional political compass may not accurately reflect how Singaporeans define their political views (IPS, 2021).
- About **48.6%** are ‘undecided’ on taking a political stance.
- Dr Teo believed that it may be due to the lack of understanding of what is defined as left or right wing politics (IPS, 2021).
- Or possibly due to the desire to adopt a centrist stance (IPS, 2021).

OTHER ALTERNATIVE OBSERVED...

- Position the political party as a national movement (PAP, n.d)
 - PAP positioned themselves as a national movement, attributing the progress of the country to the hard work of the PAP-led government.
 - This may have successfully attained the contributions of youths who do not wish to be affiliated to any political party but would like to contribute to nation-building.
 - In reality, progress can be attributed to the professionalism of the civil servants amongst others, and not only the political leadership.



“You may not be interested in politics, but politics is always interested in you.”

Amir Farihin, Young Democrats

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Geys, B., Heggedal, T.-R., & Sørensen, R. J. (2022). Age and vote choice: Is there a conservative shift among older voters? *Electoral Studies*, 78, 102485. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2022.102485>

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