

10 unbeatable Reasons for #TharmanForPM

Posted by [Sanjana Subramanian](#) / 21 - May - 2018

Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam is the perfect candidate to be considered for PM in 2021, despite his categorical denial of the role. A qualified, experienced and revered figure in Singapore, Tharman is perfect to be the fourth leader of our young and growing nation, and we have compiled a list of seven reasons why:

1. Qualifications on Paper

Tharman is decked with academic credentials from major schools around the world. With degrees from London School of Economics (LSE), Cambridge and Harvard, Tharman is overly-qualified and globally informed to take on the role of PM. He studied both Economics and Public Administration and was even awarded the Lucius N. Littauer Award for his excellent performance. His education has hence given him the right background to deal with international affairs while protecting domestic interests, something he has proven over the course of his political career so far.

Having been in the ring since 2001, Tharman has collected experience navigating various portfolios, including Education, Manpower and Trade and Industry. His 8-year tenure as Finance minister is a testament to his durance during financial crises and backs the accolade he has earned from his previous stint as Chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). More importantly, he proved that he is a man with long-term vision when he launched the 2014 SkillsFuture program, encouraging Singaporeans to develop skills and learn throughout their lives. Now with 17 years of experience in a wide array of ministries, Tharman is the perfect candidate to continue envisioning the Singapore of tomorrow.

Since 2001, Tharman has held the majority seat at Jurong GRC and has been re-elected three times as their Member of Parliament (MP). Just in 2015s General Election, Jurong GRC had a vote share of 79.3%, which was not only a massive victory against their opposition but the highest winning margin in the country.

But even outside his political wins, Tharman has proved to be a level-headed voice of reason that Singaporeans have faith in. This was especially observed when Tharman stepped up after PM Lees health scare at the 2017 National Day Rally. His calm front came as a relief to the panicked crowd after the dispassionate address of

other Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean. Not only did this come as reassurance for the people, it showcased Tharmans concern and compassion for the nation and his ability to quell their fears.

There is also data to prove Tharmans popularity amongst the people. In a survey conducted by Yahoo Singapore in conjunction with the market research consultancy Blackbox, 69 percent of the readers chose to support Tharman as a suitable candidate. Additionally, 55 percent of the people also responded that he is the first choice amongst all the other potential candidates, which is far higher than the votes docked in that category by the runner-up, Teo Chee Hean (17 percent).

4. Unflinching in The Face of Hard Issues

DPM Tharman was the first MP to publicly address the uproar caused by the reserved election that led to the appointment of Singapores first female president. While acknowledging the general consensus that a public election wouldve been fairer, he brought up the bias caused by ethnicity, religion, race, and gender. His hard-hitting speech opened the public eye to the multi-faceted Singaporean demographic. The motion also gained more meaning as Tharman himself is a Ceylonese Tamilian and hence part of a minority in Singapore. The reserved election thus gained support under the reasoning that it was important to have equal representation in candidates from time to time. This isnt the first time Tharman has delivered speeches favoring the minority and we dont believe it will be the last. As PM, Tharman will be more equipped to make conscious decisions to benefit the minority, which is something we all stand to benefit from as Singaporean Indians.

Not only is Tharman respected and loved in Singapore, his sound academic background and experience in Finance have helped him gain important international titles too. He was chosen in 2011 to chair the IMFs International Monetary and Finance Committee. He is also the first Asian chair to be appointed to the Group of Thirty, a group of international economists and policymakers with a vision to change the political landscape in the upcoming future. These experiences put Tharman in a prime position to lead the country to a favorable stature in the international ring. But most importantly, they show that Tharman is a brilliant man with a vision that is informed, realistic and appealing not just domestically, but internationally too.