

CA
PE

VOTING IN DIVERSITY

#2020 EDITION



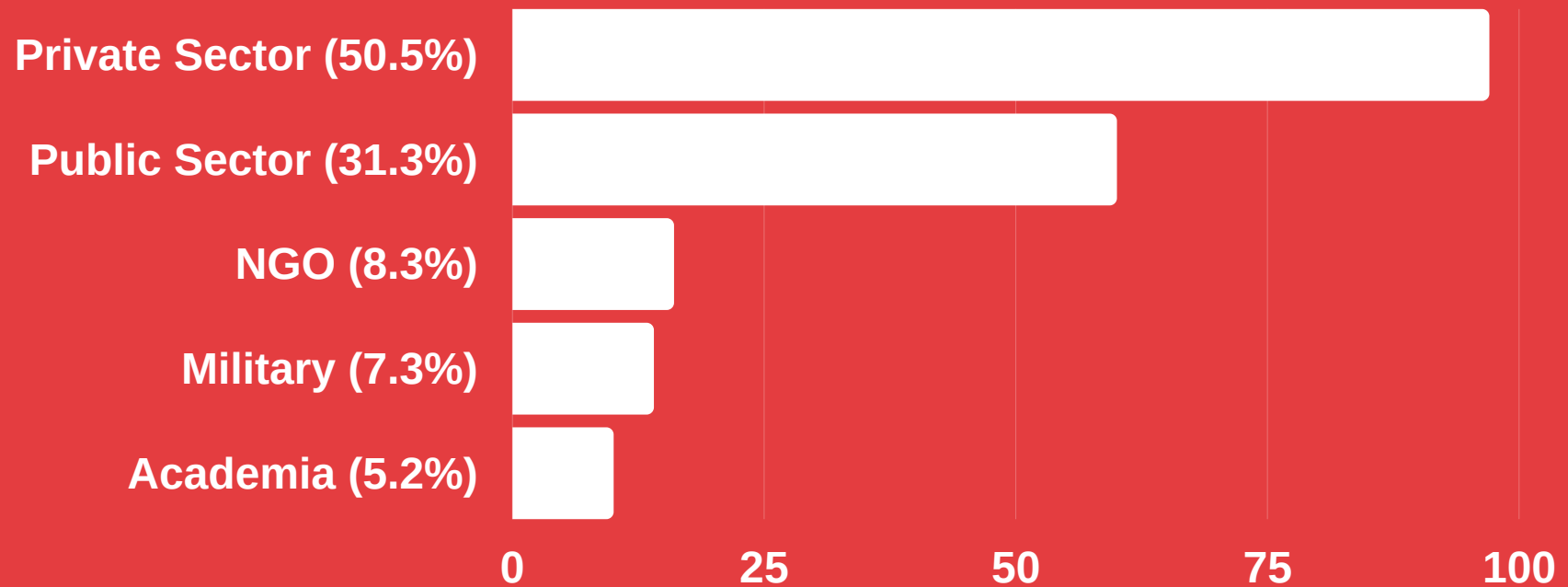
VOTING IN DIVERSITY?

Diversity in politics has always been a key concern in Singapore. In our recent history, concerns over racial representation in Parliament have been the justification for the creation of the Group Representative Constituency (GRC) system.

But do our politics truly reflect the diversities of our people? In this series, CAPE examines the diversity of election candidates, starting with the 2020 candidates.

CAREER

career experience (all candidates)



candidates who hold a **director-equivalent** position or above in their jobs

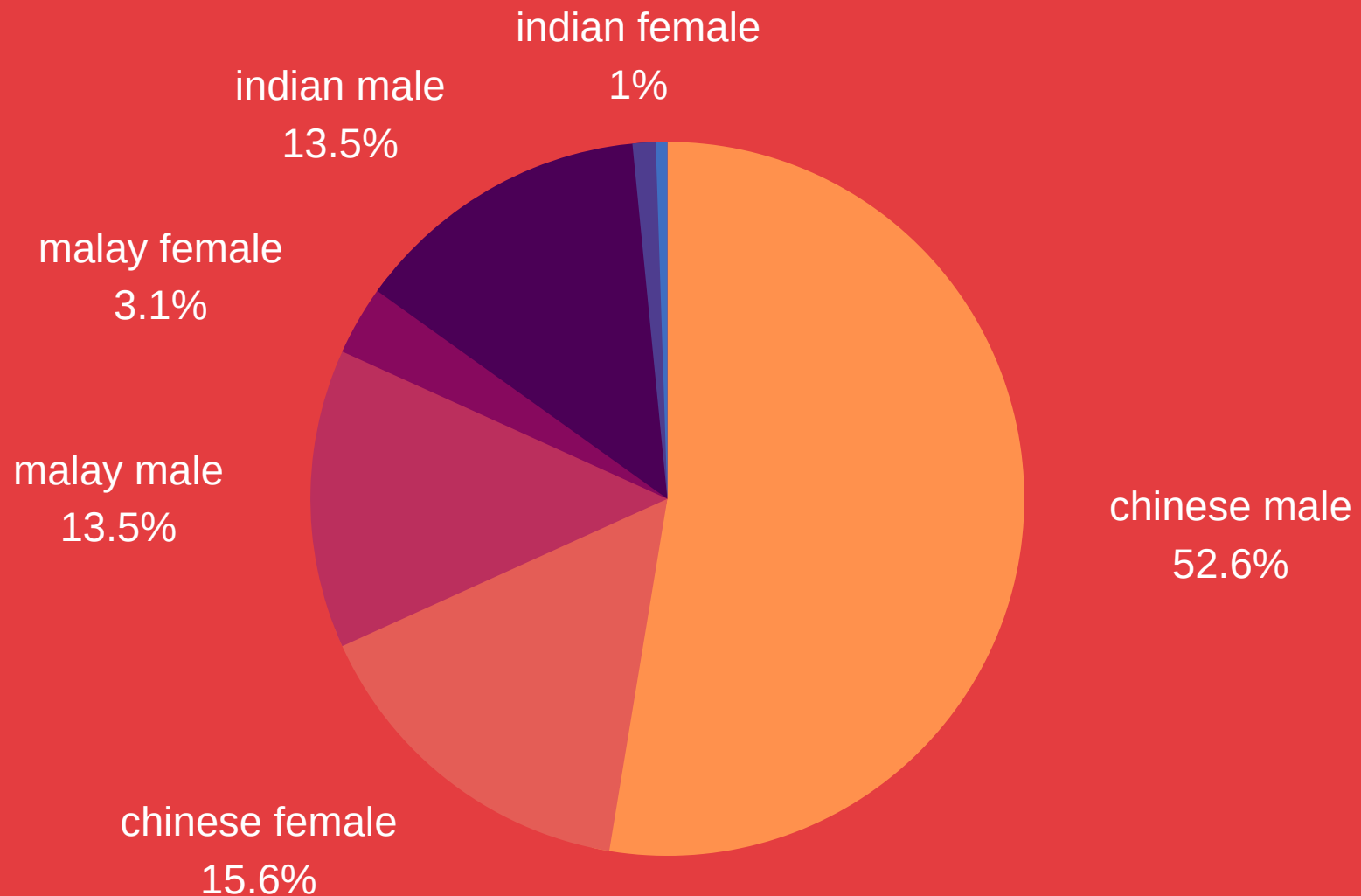
57% of all candidates

80% of PAP candidates

38% of WP candidates

42% of PSP candidates

RACE AND GENDER

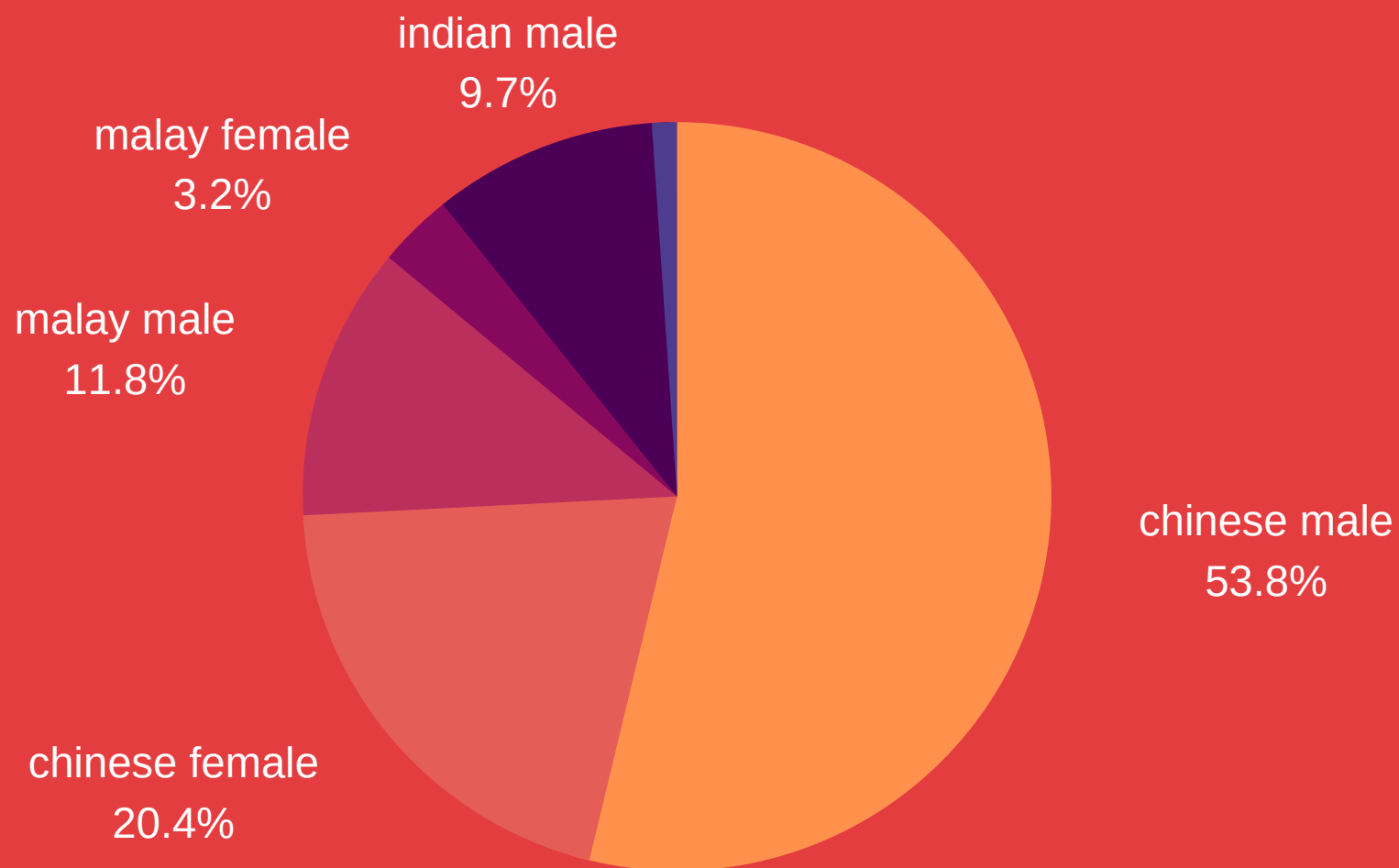


ALL PARTIES (192 candidates)

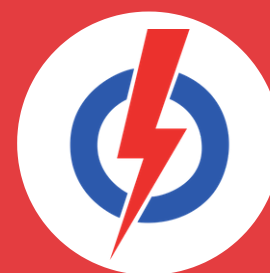
154 men: 101 chinese, 26 malay, 26 indian, 1 caucasian

38 women: 30 chinese, 6 malay, 2 indian

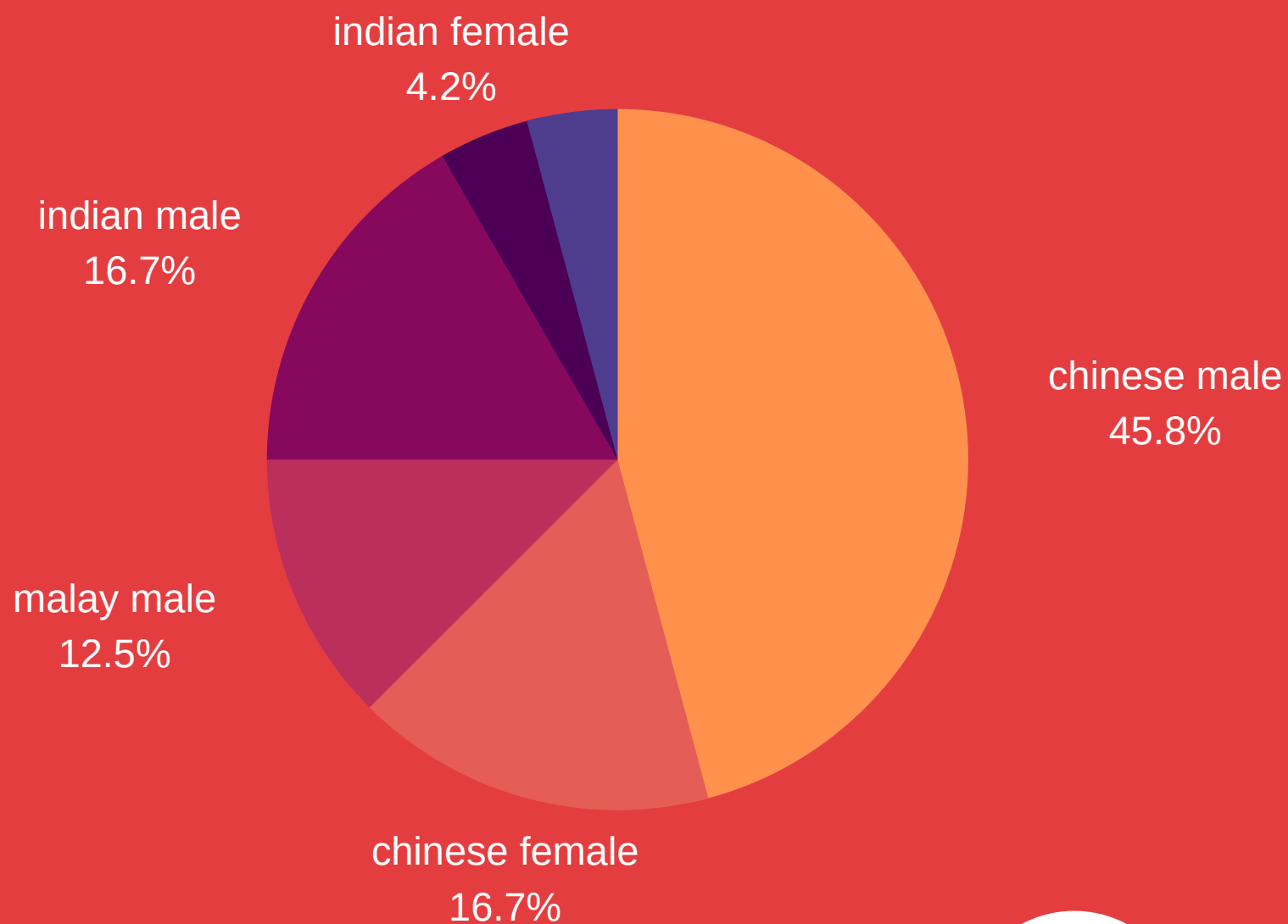
RACE AND GENDER



PAP (93 candidates)



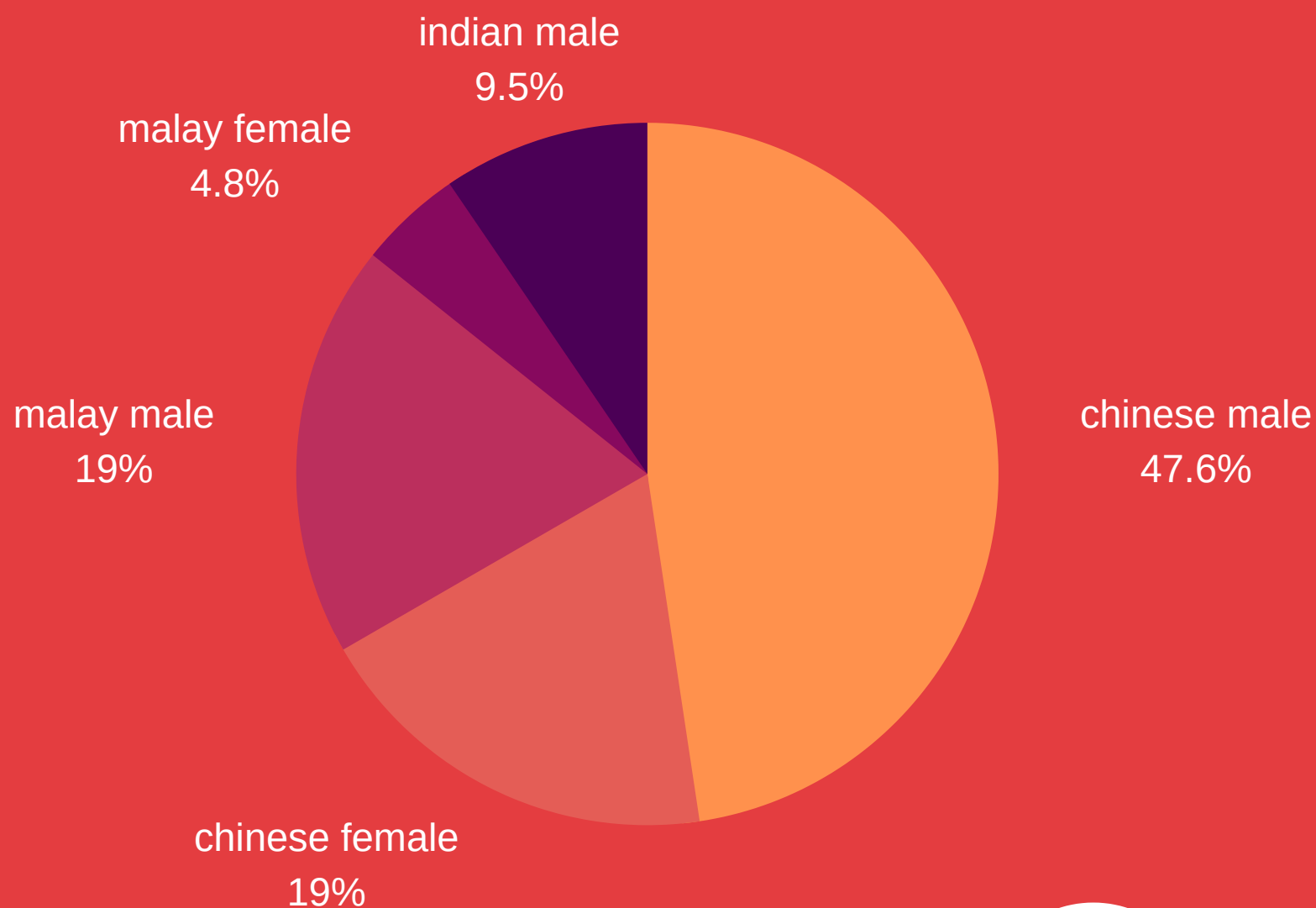
RACE AND GENDER



PSP (24 candidates)



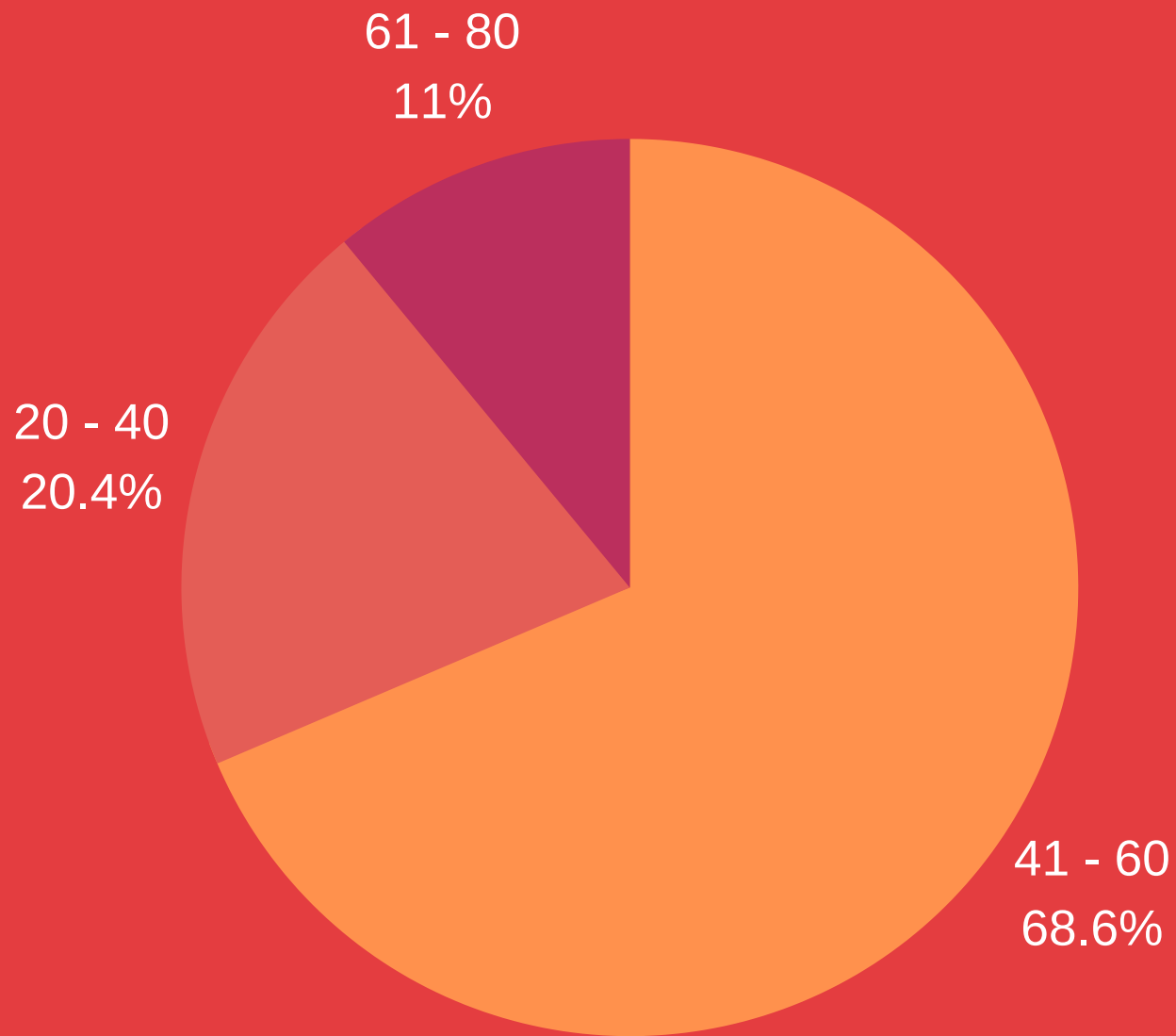
RACE AND GENDER



WP (21 candidates)



AGE



ALL CANDIDATES (192)

BUT WHY DIVERSITY?

Scholar Jane Mansbridge argues that the representation of diverse candidates improves the quality of political deliberation, helps overcome historical discrimination, and increases the legitimacy of the state in the eyes of the citizens.

AND WHICH DIVERSITIES?

Beyond the metrics we have managed to garner information on here, what about diversities in neurotypicality, disability, sexual orientation that are less represented in parliament?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- Is our parliament diverse enough?
- What could we achieve with a more diverse parliament?
- How do Singaporeans push for the diversity we want to see in our politics?
- And finally, is diversity, by itself, enough?

I am not suggesting that diversity cannot do good work, but it has to be combined **with justice**.



Angela Davis, educator and activist

For our full report, inclusive of a
methodological note, please visit:

bit.ly/votingindiversity

Reference

Mansbridge, Jane. "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent "Yes"." *The Journal of Politics* 61, no. 3 (1999): 628-57. Accessed July 2, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/2647821.

Methodological Note

We obtained the biographical information of candidates from secondary sources such as newspaper articles and the websites of political parties. The results are accurate to the best of our knowledge, but we welcome any corrections. We aim to eventually publish our dataset after the elections.

In evaluating "director-level" positions, we looked for general markers of upper management and their equivalents (e.g. Colonel and above in the SAF and Director and above in the civil service).