



International Foundation  
for Electoral Systems

# **Election FAQs: Peru**

## *Regional and Municipal Elections*

### *October 2, 2022*

Americas

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

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## **Election Snapshot**

- Election Day: Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022
- Registered voters: 24,760,062
- Polling stations: 11,299
- Candidates: 83,381
- Women candidates: 48 percent
- Youth candidates: 26.3 percent
- Political organizations: 128

## **Why are these elections important?**

The political environment in Peru is extremely fragmented and polarized, with significant lack of citizen trust in the country's electoral system and democratic institutions. While the 2021 congressional and presidential elections served as an opportunity for change and forward momentum, prolonged tension between the legislative and executive branches and high turnover within the national government have left Peruvians feeling a lack of confidence and representation.

Approval of the current president and the national legislature is very low in Peru. Therefore, it is imperative that election management bodies provide accurate, accessible information and encourage citizens to make informed decisions to elect representatives who share their interests. An element of this process is dispelling fake news and disinformation that could have a negative impact on a truly democratic and representative process.

Frequent turnover in high-level government positions has chipped away at citizens' trust in politics. Peru has had seven presidents since 2011; during that period and four former presidents were arrested or wanted on corruption charges. Only 3 percent of Peruvians trust in the government "a lot," 13 percent "somewhat," 36 percent "a little" and 45 percent "not at all."

## **Who are citizens voting for on Election Day?**

In this election, citizens will elect officials to regional and municipal offices throughout Peru's 25 regions and the capital province of Lima for 2023 through 2026. Seats to be filled include governors, vice governors and provincial and district mayors and councilors.

## **What is the electoral system?**

Provincial and district mayors and councilors are elected by a relative majority. For council members, the winning list is assigned an allocation factor for seats on the council. Governors are also elected by a relative majority. However, if no candidate receives more than 30 percent of the vote, a second round is triggered between the two candidates with the most votes.

## **What is the legal framework for conducting the elections?**

Law 31357 amends Law 26859, Organic Law of Elections, and Law 28094, Law of Political Organizations. Its purpose is to ensure the management of regional and municipal elections in 2022 within the framework of the fight against COVID-19.

Other laws regulating behavior around the elections include:

- Law 27683, Regional Election Law;
- Law 26846 Law on Municipal Elections;
- Law 30322, Single Background Information Window for Electoral Use; and
- Law 30353, Registry of Debtors of Civil Reparations.

## **Who is eligible to run as a candidate?**

Candidates for regional elections must be Peruvian by birth or have resided in the region in which they are running for office for more than three years; be at least 18 years of age (except candidates for regional vice president and regional president, who must be over 25 years of age); have the right to vote; and be registered with the National Registry of Identification and Civil Station (RENIEC).

Candidates for municipal elections must be Peruvians citizens with registered national identification documents; have resided in the province or district for at least two consecutive years; and have the right to vote. Foreigners over 18 years old residing in the municipality for two consecutive years and registered as such may also run for office, as well as vote.

Members of Peru's armed forces and police cannot run as candidates but have the right to vote.

## **Are there reserved seats for women? What is the gender balance within the candidate list?**

Peru has both gender and youth quotas in place; at least 50 percent of candidates must be women, with alternations of male and female candidates in each party list. Additionally, 20 percent of candidates must be youth (under 29 years old). For these elections, 48 percent of candidates are women and 26.3 percent are youth.

## **What is the election management body? What are its powers?**

The three election management bodies are the National Jury of Elections (*Jurado Nacional de Elecciones*, JNE), the National Office of Electoral Processes (*Oficina Nacional de Procesos Electorales*, ONPE) and the National Registry of Identification and Civil Station (*Registro Nacional de Identificación y Estado Civil*, RENIEC).

The JNE is the autonomous electoral body in charge of declaring electoral results, reviewing electoral appeals and approving the voter roll of each political organization. The JNE's highest authority is the Plenary, which consists of five members elected by the following groups:

1. The Plenary Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic;
2. The Board of Supreme Prosecutors;
3. The Lima Bar Association;
4. The deans of the faculties of law of the public universities; and
5. The deans of the faculties of law of the private universities.

The ONPE is the autonomous electoral body with the highest authority for organizing and executing electoral processes, referendums and other types of popular consultation. The ONPE provides electoral technical assistance throughout internal democratic processes, including to political organizations, representatives of civil society at the national and local levels, regional and local coordination councils and any other groups that require technical support during the electoral process.

The RENIEC is the autonomous electoral body that issues a unique national identity document to each Peruvian citizen and updates the Unique Identification Registry by registering births, marriages, deaths, divorces and other events. The RENIEC also prepares the voter registry of each political organization based on the list of members provided by the JNE.

## **How is the election management body protecting the elections and voters from COVID-19?**

The National Office of Electoral Processes revised its COVID-19 voting protocols in July 2022 to eliminate the requirement for voters to show their vaccination cards. However, other COVID-19 precautions remain in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among election officials and voters alike. These include physical distancing, commitment to handwashing and disinfection of voting areas. These precautions are described in a publicly available document. What is the election management body doing to strengthen its technology and procedures to resist vulnerabilities and counter foreign interference?

The National Office of Electoral Processes (ONPE), the election management body responsible for the running and tabulation of election results, is currently strengthening its vote counting and tabulation systems and its data security. While the ONPE piloted an electronic voting system from 2011 to 2018, it is costly to implement and continues to face technical and logistical challenges. Therefore, traditional paper ballots will be used for the upcoming elections. Vote counting will utilize the Automated Counting Support System (*Sistema de Apoyo al Escrutinio Automatizado*) and Electoral Results Computing Suite (*Suite de Cómputo de Resultados Electorales*) software, whose source code has been reviewed for external and internal security and information integrity. On Sept. 25, a counting simulation was run at the ONPE, with international observers present, to ensure the systems are ready for Election Day.

## **Who can vote in these elections?**

All Peruvian citizens over the age of 18 have the right to vote. Voting is compulsory from 18 to 70 years of age. A penalty fine for not voting ranges from 23 to 92 Peruvian sol (\$5.85 to \$23.39), depending on the economic status of the area of the voter's residence. Failure to pay the fine results in a citizen's inability to marry or divorce, enroll in social programs, engage in certain legal contracts or become a public official.

## **How many registered voters are there?**

There are 24,760,062 registered voters in Peru, of whom 50.28 percent are women, 49.71 percent are men, and 0.59 percent are people with disabilities.

## **What provisions are in place that support the equal rights of women, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups?**

In June 2020, Congress passed a law requiring full gender parity on party lists. This will be put into practice during the upcoming elections. Informational materials about this year's elections have been made available in eight Indigenous languages; videos and online materials are also available and accessible for individuals with visual impairments. On Election Day, braille guides will be available upon request, and polling stations will be accessible for individuals using wheelchairs. Polling station officials will be available to provide assistance. Services and assistance will also be available for voters with temporary disabilities who have not registered in advance.

## **Is out-of-country voting allowed?**

Peruvian citizens living abroad are ineligible to vote in regional and municipal elections. However, they may vote in presidential and congressional elections, as well as referendums, at the Peruvian consulate in their country of residence.

## **Who can observe during Election Day? How can they get accreditation?**

Accreditation is requested and processed via the National Jury of Elections (JNE); national and international observers are allowed to submit applications to the JNE for consideration and are expected to comply with certain rules around the integrity and transparency of the electoral process.

## **Who is managing security on Election Day?**

On Election Day, members of the armed forces and/or the National Police will be stationed at each polling center to protect citizens' right to vote and respond to any electoral violence.

## **Where are vote counting and tabulation held?**

Polling station workers will count votes at each polling place after voting ends at 5:00 p.m. on Election Day. All votes will then be reported to the relevant Electoral Process Decentralized Office (*Oficinas Descentralizadas de Proceso Electoral*, ODPE) for tallying; the ODPEs have 24 hours to send the counts, along with any challenges or appeals for annulment, to the Special Electoral Jury (*Jurado Especial de Elecciones*), which will process them as they arrive.

## **When will official results be announced?**

It can take several days for final, official results to be announced. The Special Electoral Jury must transfer the votes to the National Jury of Elections (JNE) within three business days, and the JNE then has three additional business days to resolve any appeals and send votes to the National Office of Electoral Processes (ONPE) for a final count. Mailed ballots usually arrive several days after the election; the ONPE counts those votes and adds them to the final tally.

## **How will election disputes be adjudicated?**

The National Jury of Elections' (JNE) Electoral Process Operations Center (*La Central de Operaciones del Proceso Electoral*) is in charge of designing, formulating and proposing guidelines, strategies and intervention mechanisms for the prevention and management of electoral disputes. The JNE ultimately adjudicates electoral disputes. There is no recount in Peru's electoral system, but candidates can request that the electoral act from certain polling stations be nullified or reexamined if they suspect fraud.

## Resources

- [Latinobarometro](#)
- [ONPE Elections Portal](#)
- [JNE Candidate Inscription Guide](#)
- [JNE Electoral Profile](#)
- [ONPE Braille Ballots](#)
- [ONPE COVID-19 Protocols](#)
- [ONPE Indigenous Training](#)
- [Voting in the Peru Elections](#)
- [Physical Security for Elections](#)
- [“Culture of Peace” Campaign](#)
- [Legal Framework](#)

## About IFES in Peru

During 2021, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) worked with the National Office of Electoral Processes (ONPE) and National Jury of Elections (JNE) to train electoral staff and support voter education campaigns and strategic communications. As part of these efforts, IFES supported the production of training and motivational materials for electoral auditors and led two post-election lessons learned exercises with the two election management bodies to identify the recommendations, challenges and achievements of the 2021 Peruvian national election. In 2022, IFES has built on this work and lessons learned to further strengthen the ONPE’s cybersecurity practices and to continue to improve training materials and processes before, during and after this year’s regional and municipal elections. Through these efforts, IFES supports the ONPE and JNE to provide Peruvian citizens with clear, reliable, transparent and accessible resources that promote engaged and informed voting in a contentious political environment.

## Disclosure

These FAQs reflect decisions made by the Peruvian election management bodies as of Sept. 27, 2022, to the best of our knowledge. This document does not represent any International Foundation for Electoral Systems policy or technical recommendations.

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