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Elections in Haiti

October 25 General Elections

Frequently Asked Questions

Americas

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

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Frequently Asked Questions

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Disclosure:
These FAQs reflect decisions made by the Haitian election authorities, to the best of our knowledge as of October 23, 2015. This document does not represent any IFES policy or technical recommendations.

When is Election Day?

On October 25, 2015, Haiti will hold presidential, second-round legislative and municipal elections. Also, first-round legislative elections held on August 9, 2015 will be rerun in 24 constituencies.

Who are citizens voting for on Election Day?

On Election Day, Haitians will elect the President, members of Parliament (Senators and Deputies) and Mayors.

Who can vote in the country?

Haitians who are 18 years old of age or older; registered in the electoral register; and hold a national identification card are eligible to vote, and have the full enjoyment of civil and political rights.

How many registered voters are there?

There are 5,835,295 registered voters according to the Provisional Electoral Council.

What is the structure of the government?

Haiti is a democratic republic composed of 10 administrative divisions, also called departments. These 10 departments are further divided into arrondissements, which are further divided into communes. In total, there are 41 arrondissements and 144 communes. The Government of Haiti is based upon a Prime Minister and a President where the Prime Minister is Head of the Government and the President is Head of State.

Executive power is held by the President and the Prime Minister. The President is elected by popular vote and the Prime Minister is appointed by the President, then ratified by the National Assembly. Members of the cabinet for the executive branch are chosen by the Prime Minister with input from the President.

Legislative power is entrusted to the National Assembly, which consists of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. For this election, the Senate seats are elected by an absolute majority vote through a two-round system, and the 119 seats in the Chamber of Deputies are elected through an absolute majority vote in single-member constituencies.

How many candidates are running in the October 25 elections?

There are 54 registered presidential candidates, 232 candidates for the Senate and 1,621 candidates for the Chamber of Deputies, and 4,968 candidates to mayoral office.

What is the gender balance within the candidate list?

According to the Constitution and the electoral law, there is a 30 percent quota for women in the candidate list. However, the 30 percent quota has not been applied by political parties for presidential and legislative posts. Women only represent 8 percent of the candidates for the legislative elections.

For the presidential election, there is a total of 50 male presidential candidates and four female candidates. For the elections to candidates to municipal posts, the Provisional Electoral Council enforced the 30 percent quota during the registration of candidates. As a result, there will be at least one woman in each of the 142 municipalities.

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

The Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) is responsible for organizing and controlling with complete independence all electoral procedures throughout Haiti until the proclamation of the election results.

The CEP carries out its mission following the election cycle as defined by the Constitution. The mission of CEP is described in Article 191 of the Constitution. The CEP is responsible for the organization of all necessary elections in Haiti. Along with other state institutions, the CEP is also responsible for ensuring compliance with legislation governing the electoral process.

The Constitution gives the CEP the power to fulfill judicial functions in the event of electoral disputes. The following judicial bodies also deal with issues related to electoral disputes in accordance with the 2013 Electoral Act:

- Communal Electoral Office of Litigation
- Office of Departmental Electoral Disputes
- National Electoral Office of Litigation

How many polling places are set up on Election Day?

For the October 25 elections, a total of 1,229 polling centers will be set up across the country, which includes 13,735 polling stations.

Is out-of-country voting allowed?

Out-of-country voting is not permitted in Haiti.

How will voters with disabilities cast their ballots?

According to the 2013 Electoral Law, voters with disabilities may be accompanied by a person of their choice, who can assist them in casting their ballot. Article 58 of the Act on the Integration of Persons

with Disabilities states, “The Electoral Council must ensure that electoral facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible, easy to use and easy to understand by [persons with disabilities].”

Voters with disabilities and other groups with special needs (the elderly and pregnant women) have the priority.

Where are voting, counting and tabulation held?

After the polls close on Election Day, votes will be counted and tallied at the polling stations. The tally sheets will then be transported to the Voting Tabulation Center which is the main tabulation center located in Port-au-Prince.

When will official results be announced?

The preliminary results are expected to be announced 10 days after the elections on November 5, 2015.

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

All international and domestic observers must be accredited. The accreditation card is given by the Provisional Electoral Council to an observer organization upon request and according to established rules. International and domestic accredited observers may observe the conduct of all electoral operations throughout the country. To this end, observers can make any suggestion to improve and facilitate the conduct of all the stages of the electoral process and report any situation that would be likely to disturb electoral operations.

Resources

- CIA World Fact Book: Haiti ([English](#))
- Provisional Electoral Council ([French](#))