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Elections in Mexico

2015 Legislative and Local Elections

Frequently Asked Questions

Latin America and the Caribbean

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

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Frequently Asked Questions

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Disclosure:
These FAQs reflect decisions made by the Mexican elections authorities as of June 2, 2015, to the best of our knowledge. This document does not represent any IFES policy or technical recommendations.

When is Election Day?

On June 7, 2015, Mexico is scheduled to hold legislative elections and local elections in 17 states.

Who are citizens voting for on Election Day?

Mexicans will be voting for 500 Deputies to sit in the lower house of Congress, the Chamber of Deputies, for the 63rd congressional session. In addition, voters in the states of Baja California Sur, Campeche, Colima, Federal District (DF), Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, México, Michoacán, Morelos, Nuevo León, Queretaro, San Luis Potosí, Sonora, Tabasco, and Yucatán will elect their local authorities, including members of state legislatures, local councils and Governors in some states. Under a resolution passed by the Mexican electoral tribunal, Chiapas will hold elections on two separate dates, with the federal-level election on June 7 and local elections on July 19.

Who will vote?

All registered Mexican citizens by birth or naturalization who are 18 years of age or over on Election Day and hold an identification card are eligible to vote. For the upcoming election, there 83,563,190 registered voters who can participate in the elections.

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

The National Electoral Institute (INE) replaced the Federal Electoral Institute after the passage of the February 2014 electoral and political reform passed by the Mexican Congress. The reform expanded the electoral authorities' responsibilities from a federal level to a national level. INE is managed by an 11-member General Council (with one President Councilor and 10 Electoral Councilors) who are elected by the Chamber of Deputies. In order to ensure that its staff is appropriately trained, the INE has established a National Electoral Professional Training Service (*Servicio Profesional Electoral Nacional* [SPEN]). The new functions of the INE include:

- Organizing federal elections, and coordinating with local election management bodies for the organization of elections in federal entities. This will ensure that it is easier for citizens to participate in the electoral process and exercise their right to vote.
- Appointing the Directors of local electoral bodies and assuming the functions that correspond to these bodies in cases where the law calls for it.
- Organizing internal political party elections, at the request of the parties.
- Ensuring that independent candidates have access to airtime on the State radio and television, so that they can disseminate information about their campaigns.

How many polling places are set up on Election Day?

There will be 148,941 polling stations set up for the June 7 elections, with 1,201,338 trained poll workers to administer the vote.

What are the main political parties?

Currently, there are seven registered national parties:

- National Action Party (*Partido de Acción Nacional* [PAN])
- Democratic Revolution Party (*Partido de la Revolución Democrática* [PRD])
- Institutional Revolutionary Party (*Partido Revolucionario Institucional* [PRI])
- Green Ecological Party of Mexico (*Partido Verde Ecologista de México* [PVEM])
- Labor Party (*Partido del Trabajo* [PT])
- Citizen's Movement (*Movimiento Ciudadano*)
- New Alliance Party (*Partido Nueva Alianza* [PANAL])

What is the gender balance within the candidate list?

The 2014 electoral reforms in Mexico called for a gender parity in the candidate lists presented by political parties for both houses of the Congress. To date, there are 206 women out of 500 members of the Chamber of Deputies and 45 women out of 128 in the Senate.

Is out-of-country voting allowed?

For the June 7 elections, overseas voters from the Baja California, Chiapas, Coahuila, Colima, the Federal District, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, Michoacán, Morelos, Puebla, Yucatan, and Zacatecas will be able to vote for the governorship of their state. Eligible Mexicans will be allowed to vote either by mail or in Mexican embassies and consulates in person. An electronic voting option has also been established to expand voting choices so that Mexicans around the world can cast their vote.

How will voters with disabilities cast their ballots?

Mexican laws forbid any discrimination against people with disabilities by recognizing universal suffrage in elections and through various national legal instruments. The electoral law has provisions that allow people with disabilities to cast their ballots with assistance from a person of their choosing.

Also, the electoral authorities have progressively taken steps to promote greater inclusion of people with disabilities in the electoral process. The National Electoral Institute trains poll workers on how to administer the vote to people with disabilities; provides braille ballot guides; produces civic and voter

education materials that are inclusive of people with disabilities; and provides ballot boxes that are designed to be more accessible for people with physical disabilities and are marked in braille.

What technology will be used?

Most voters will cast their ballot by walking to polling stations. However, the National Electoral Institute has developed an online voting model that will be pilot tested in a limited number of electoral districts.

When will official results be announced?

The National Electoral Institute (INE) implements the preliminary electoral results program, which allows electronic transmission from each of the district councils to the national center. Results are posted online at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Once these preliminary results are released, disclosure of any opinion poll results is prohibited. The INE will also conduct a quick count with a random sample from the 148,941 polling stations by using three different estimation methods to verify its certainty. The results will be released on the night of June 7.

How will election disputes be adjudicated?

Mexico has a professional and independent electoral tribunal to judge election disputes. The Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judicial Branch (TEPJF) is in charge of resolving disputes derived from the elections. Under the recent electoral reform of 2014, the TEPJF also has the authority to resolve and sanction electoral disputes of an administrative nature, which were previously under the purview of the Federal Elections Institute, the National Electoral Institute's (INE) predecessor. This change clearly delineates the administrative and legal responsibilities between the INE and the TEPJF, and allows the INE to focus solely on the administration and organization of elections.

Resources

- National Electoral Institute: Electoral Role Statistics ([Spanish](#))
- National Electoral Institute: What is the National Electoral Institute? ([Spanish](#))
- [Woodrow Wilson Center's Mexico Institute: 2015 Election Guide](#)