

ElectionGuide Codebook

Version 1.1
July 2022

About ElectionGuide

[ElectionGuide](#) is the most comprehensive and timely source of election information available online. It provides information about national level elections in 240 countries from 1998 to the present, including snap elections and referenda. The dataset includes verified information on topics including:

- The structure of political institutions and electoral systems
- Political parties and candidates
- Voter registration deadlines and details
- Referendum provisions
- Voter turnout, and
- Election results.

ElectionGuide was created in 1998 and has since been maintained by the [International Foundation for Electoral Systems](#) (IFES), an international nonprofit dedicated to building resilient democracies that deliver for all. In 2019 we expanded ElectionGuide, adding additional data points, more frequent data updates, and higher quality verification measures. ElectionGuide now features a modern API to provide developers and researchers access to up to the minute information.

In this codebook, you will find details about the data generation process, data access options, and the definitions and availability of each data point in ElectionGuide.

Initial support from USAID and further support from Meta have made ElectionGuide possible.

Data Generation Overview

ElectionGuide is maintained by IFES' Center for Applied Research and Learning. The team forecasts elections; gathers data on candidates, parties, and processes for each one; monitors and analyzes election results; and ensures the consistency and accuracy of ElectionGuide in the period before and after an election. Our methodology relies on well-established data collection standards, objective analysis, and strict verification procedures.

Elections are identified up to one year in advance. Complete profiles of elections are typically available two weeks before an election is held. Election results and turnout information are available as early as two weeks after an election has been confirmed. The ElectionGuide team provides daily updates to the site as new information on upcoming and recent elections is announced.

ElectionGuide Verification Process

IFES takes a multifaceted approach to ensure the accuracy of the information gathered by ElectionGuide team members. Each election profile prepared ahead of an election is reviewed and verified by at least one external authority in addition to our experts. These external consultations may include:

- Country election authorities
- Other official government sources, including US-based embassies
- Civil society organizations (CSOs)
- IFES country staff
- Inter-governmental organizations (i.e., OSCE, UN)
- Reliable secondary sources

Once an election profile is compiled by our team and confirmed by any of the abovementioned actors, the profile is made public. We may post a profile with only one of these sources if dual confirmation is not possible. As the anticipated election date nears, IFES attempts to substitute all secondary sources with additional primary ones and modifies estimates with official dates; eventually, the election authority is the source of record. Given this ongoing process, election profiles should be treated as living records.

To verify election results after an election has been held, ElectionGuide uses data only from official sources (that is, a country election authority, embassy, or other government-affiliated source). In rare cases where information cannot be directly obtained, official results quoted in reputable media sources will be used, when they can be triangulated.

Data Access Options

[Open Access via ElectionGuide.org](#)

Information about upcoming and past elections is openly available on our website organized by election and by country.

Election profiles: As each election date approaches, the ElectionGuide research team compiles an election profile. Election profiles are posted approximately two weeks before an election is held and are updated in the weeks following the election as results are announced. These profiles include information on voter participation, political parties, vote breakdowns, and gender quotas and other commitments to international human rights treaties. Election profiles can be accessed from the map on the main page of ElectionGuide.org as well as from any hyperlinks for the election type or date or the body name. Please note: some past elections are missing complete profiles; it is a priority of our ongoing data collection expansion efforts to retroactively complete all historical election profiles.

Country profiles: Country profiles maintain a record of past electoral events for that country, including when elections were held and voter turnout levels. These profiles include additional information on government institutions and the country's electoral system. Country profiles and election profiles are updated simultaneously. Country profiles are accessible by clicking on the name or flag of the country across the website.

CSV Downloads via a User Portal

Registered users can download CSV files containing the full dataset for each election. They can also download CSV files containing basic datapoints for all elections held since 2018.

To register for an account, please email ElectionGuide@ifes.org with the subject line “Create User Account”. In the body of your text, please list your name and organization. The ElectionGuide team will then share secure login information.

Accessing Real-Time Data via the API

ElectionGuide’s expanded data is also available through our API, in JSON format. If this format is preferable for your organizational needs, please email ElectionGuide@ifes.org with the subject line “Accessing API”. We will then grant you an authentication token to access the API and provide the curl link.

Contact the ElectionGuide Team

If you have any questions or comments about the site, its contents, or this codebook, please contact the team at ElectionGuide@ifes.org.

Additional Notes for Users

- In most cases, the complete election date (month, day, year) is noted on the calendar on the website. For those cases where the actual date has not yet been determined but the ElectionGuide team has confirmed there will be an election, the month and year is provided. Every effort is made to provide the precise election date as soon as it can be confirmed. The API tracks these dates as “Proposed Start and End Dates” and “Official Start and End Dates.” See more in the table below.
- Former countries or former names of existing countries may not have active country profile pages. Past election profiles for these countries are available by using the [Advanced Search](#) option.
- Dates are formatted YYYY-MM-DD unless otherwise noted.

Variable	Variable ID	Content	Example	Access (Web or API)	Date Entered Dataset
Population	population	As defined by World CIA Factbook	46,934,632	Web	1998
Registered Voters	registered_voters	Based on most recent previous election	36,898,883	Web	1998
Female Population	population_female	As defined by World CIA Factbook	23,926,770	Web	1998
CEDAW signatory	CEDAW_signatory	Did the country sign the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and when, as determined by the UN Treaty Body database ?	Yes, 17 Jul 1980	Web	1998
CEDAW ratification	CEDAW_ratify	Did the country ratify the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and when?	Yes, 5 Jan 1984	Web	1998
Gender Quotas	gender_quotas	Does the county have gender quotas on its legislative candidates and what type? <i>Note: Type determined by IDEA; verified in national electoral law.</i>	Yes. Candidates for each election must be between 40-60% females.	Web	1998
Female Candidates in this election	female_candidates	Are there female candidates in this election?	Yes	Web	1998
Female Legislators	female_leg	How many females are currently serving in the legislative body, as determined by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)?	166 (47%)	Web	1998

HDI Position	hdi_position	What position is the country in the Human Development Index (HDI) and what value does it hold? <i>Note: these values are from 0 to 1 and are based on human development standards. 189 countries are ranked.</i>	25 (0.904)	Web	2014
SIGI Ranking	sigi_cat	What ranking does it have on the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)?	Very low (14%)	Web	2014
CRPD signatory	CRPD_sig	Did the country sign the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and when, as determined by the UN Treaty Body database ?	Yes, 20 March 2007	Web	2006
CRPD ratification	CRPD_ratify	Did the country ratify the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and when?	Yes, 3 Dec 2007	Web	2006
Estimated Population with a Disability	disabled_population	Estimation done by electionaccess.org , with the assumption that 15% of the population lives with a disability	3,847,900	Web	1998
Election Key	election_key	Unique identifier for an election	spain-national-congress_of_deputies_2019-0	API	1998
Election ID	election_id	Unique identifier for an election, as developed by IFES ElectionGuide Team	1	API	1998
Election Name	election_name	Name of election	Spain Congress of Deputies Election	Both	1998

Proposed Start Date for Election	election_range_start_date	The dates between which the election must fall based on their constitution, if the exact dates are not yet known. <i>Note: in YYYY-MM-DD format</i>	2019-11-10	API	2020
Proposed End Date for Election	election_range_end_date	The dates between which the election must fall based on their constitution, if the exact dates are not yet known. <i>Note: in YYYY-MM-DD format</i>	2019-11-10	API	2020
Official Start Date for Election	election_declared_start_date	Polling date(s) once it has been confirmed. <i>Note: in YYYY-MM-DD format.</i> <i>Note: Often the same start and end date if polling takes place on one day.</i>	2019-11-10	Both	1998
Official End Date for Election	election_declared_end_date	Polling date(s) once it has been confirmed. <i>Note: in YYYY-MM-DD format.</i> <i>Note: Often the same start and end date if polling takes place on one day.</i>	2019-11-10	Both	1998
Election Type	election_type	Type of election (primary, general or runoff)	General	Both	1998
Electoral System	electoral_system	How the country runs their election	List Proportional Representation	Both	1998
Election Commission Website	administering_election_commission_website	URL of the election commission body administering the election	http://www.juntaelectoralcentral.es/cs/jec/inicio	API	2020
Country Code	district.district_country	2-digit country code as defined by the Online Browsing Platform	ES	API	2020

Country Name	district.district_name	Full name of the country/district	Spain	Both	1998
Office Type	district.district_type	Type of office that the district points to (national v local, executive v legislative)	NATIONAL_EXEC	API	1998
Candidate Filing Deadline	election_candidate_filing_deadline	The date by which candidates must file for election	2019-10-07	API	2020
Voter Registration Deadline	voter_registration_deadline	The date by which voters must register to vote	2019-11-10	API	2020
Age to Vote	voting_age_minimum_inclusive	Minimum age voters must be on day of election	18	API	2020
Election Blackout End Date	election_blackout_start_date	The dates between which there is an election/campaign silence period, in which campaigns may not advertise	2019-11-09	API	2020
Election Blackout End Date	election_blackout_end_date	The dates between which there is an election/campaign silence period, in which campaigns may not advertise	2019-11-10	API	2020
Voting Methods	voting_methods.primary	Voting Method (In-Person, Early Voting, By Mail, Online)	In Person, By Mail	API	2020
In-Person Voting Start Date	in-person-voting_methods.start	Voting start time for this voting method. <i>Note: time zone is needed in time format</i>	2019-11-10 09:00 GMT+1	API	2020
In-Person Voting End Date	in-person-voting_methods.end	Voting end time for this voting method. <i>Note: time zone is needed in time format</i>	2019-11-10 20:00 GMT+1	API	2020

Early Voting Start Date	early-voting-methods.start	Voting start time for this voting method. <i>Note: time zone is needed in time format</i>	2019-11-1 09:00 GMT+1	API	2020
Early Voting End Date	early-voting-methods.end	Voting end time for this voting method. <i>Note: time zone is needed in time format</i>	2019-11-05 20:00 GMT+1	API	2020
Early Voting Excuse Required?	early-voting-methods.excuse-required	Whether or not an excuse is required to vote early	FALSE	API	2020
Early Voting Instructions	early-voting-methods.instructions	Instructions on how to vote early	Applications can be made up until the 20th day before the election, early voting takes place between the 10th and 5th prior to election day	API	2020
Mail Voting Start Date	mail-voting-methods.start	Voting start time for this voting method. <i>Note: time zone is needed in time format</i>	2019-10-14 00:00 GMT+1	API	2020
Mail Voting End Date	mail-voting-methods.end	Voting end time for this voting method. <i>Note: time zone is needed in time format</i>	2019-11-08 23:59 GMT+1	API	2020
Mail Voting Excuse Required?	mail-voting-methods.excuse-required	Whether or not an excuse is required to vote by mail	FALSE	API	2020
Mail Voting Instructions	mail-voting-methods.instructions	Instructions on how to vote by mail	Voters who will be absent from their town on election day or are ill or disabled, may request a postal vote at a post office	API	2020

Online Voting Start Date	online-voting-methods.start	Voting start time for this voting method. <i>Note: time zone is needed in time format</i>	2019-11-10 09:00 GMT+1	API	2020
Online Voting End Date	online-voting-methods.end	Voting end time for this voting method. <i>Note: time zone is needed in time format</i>	2019-11-10 20:00 GMT+1	API	2020
Online Voting Excuse Required?	online-voting-methods.excuse-required	Whether or not an excuse is needed to vote online	FALSE	API	2020
Online Voting Instructions	online-voting-methods.instructions	Instructions on how to vote online	Since 2000, all voters are able to use the electronic ballot boxes to choose their candidates. Results are tallied within minutes	API	2020
Electoral Rights Support	support-electoral-rights	Are there laws or regulations that support the electoral rights of persons with disabilities?	TRUE	API	2020
Pro-Electoral Rights Legislation	support-electoral-rights-details	Description of laws or regulations	Regulation on tactile ballots and accessible voter education documents	API	2020
Electoral Rights Restriction	restrict-electoral-rights	Are there laws or regulations that restrict the electoral rights of persons with disabilities?	TRUE	API	2020

Anti-Electoral Rights Legislation	restrict-electoral-rights-details	Description of laws or regulations	Legislation permitting the disenfranchisement of individuals with disabilities on the basis of perceived incapacity to vote	API	2020
Hate Speech Laws	hate-speech-prohibition	Description of laws or regulations	Legislation regulating or sanctioning hate speech	API	2020
Disinformation Laws	disinformation-prohibition	Description of laws or regulations	Legislation addressing, fighting, or limiting disinformation	API	2020
Voter Turnout	historical_voter_turnout	Can be found on ElectionGuide country pages, from the last three elections. <i>Note: Cross-verified by ElectionGuide team.</i>	In 2019, voter turnout was 70.27%. In 2015, voter turnout was 73.2%. In 2011, voter turnout was 68.94%.	Both	1998
Political Groups	prominent_political_groups	Historical data on major parties and coalitions who won at least 5% of the vote in the most recent elections.	Spanish Socialist Workers' Party / People's Party / Vox / United We Can	Both	1998