



Latin America and the Caribbean: Fact Sheet on Leaders and Elections

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This report provides the results of recent elections in Latin America and the Caribbean. Below are three tables organized by region, including the date of each country's independence, the name of the newly elected president or prime minister, and the projected date of the next election. Information in this report was gathered from numerous sources, including the U.S. State Department, the CIA's Open Source, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), and other news sources.

Table 1. South America

| Country | Independence Date | Head of Government | Last Election | Next Election |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Argentina | July 9, 1816 | FERNANDEZ DE KIRCHNER, Cristina | Oct. 23, 2011 | Oct. 2015 |
| Bolivia | Aug. 6, 1825 | MORALES, Evo | Dec. 6, 2009 | Dec. 2014 |
| Brazil | Sept. 7, 1822 | ROUSSEFF, Dilma | Oct. 3, 2010/ Oct. 31, 2010 | Oct. 5, 2014 |
| Chile | Sept. 18, 1810 | PIÑERA, Sebastián | Dec. 13, 2009/ Jan. 17, 2010 | Dec. 15, 2013 ^a |
| Colombia | July 20, 1810 | SANTOS, Juan Manuel | May 30, 2010/June 20, 2010 | May 2014 |
| Ecuador | May 24, 1822 | CORREA, Rafael | Feb. 17, 2013 | Feb. 2017 |
| Guyana | May 26, 1966 | RAMOTAR, Donald | Nov. 28, 2011 | by Nov. 2016 |
| Paraguay | May 14, 1811 | CARTES, Horacio ^b | Apr. 21, 2013 | April 2018 |
| Peru | July 28, 1821 | HUMALA, Ollanta | Apr. 10, 2011/June 5, 2011 (2 nd round) | Apr. 2016 |
| Suriname | Nov. 25, 1975 | BOUTERSE, Desi | May 25, 2010 | May 2015 |
| Uruguay | Aug. 25, 1825 | MUJICA, José | Oct. 25, 2009/ Nov. 29, 2009 | Oct. 26, 2014 |
| Venezuela | July 5, 1811 | MADURO, Nicolás ^c | April 14, 2013 | Oct. 2019 |

Source: The Congressional Research Service (CRS).

- a. In the first round of voting on November 17, Michelle Bachelet received 46.67 % of the vote in the first round, in comparison to Evelyn Matthei, who received 25.01% of the vote. Bachelet won the most votes but fell short of obtaining an absolute majority. The run-off election will be held on December 15, 2013. Bachelet previously served as president from 2006 to 2010.
- b. Horacio Cartes, a Paraguayan tobacco magnate, took 46 % of the vote against 37 % for his main opponent, Efraín Alegre, of the ruling Liberal Party. The president is both the chief of state and head of government and serves a five-year term.
- c. Venezuela held a special election on April 14, 2013, with Nicolás Maduro winning 50.7% of the votes versus 49.1% for opposition candidate Henrique Capriles. Maduro was sworn in on April 19, 2013.

Table 2. Mexico and Central America

| Country | Independence Date | Head of Government | Last Election | Next Election |
|---------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Mexico | Sept. 16, 1810 | PEÑA NIETO, Enrique ^a | July 1, 2012 | July 2018 |
| Belize | Sept. 21, 1981 | BARROW, Dean | Mar. 7, 2012 | by June 2017 |

| Country | Independence Date | Head of Government | Last Election | Next Election |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Costa Rica | Sept. 15, 1821 | CHINCHILLA Miranda, Laura | Feb. 7, 2010 | Feb. 2, 2014 |
| El Salvador | Sept. 15, 1821 | FUNES, Mauricio | Mar. 15, 2009 | Feb. 2, 2014 ^b |
| Guatemala | Sept. 15, 1821 | PÉREZ MOLINA, Otto | Sept. 11, 2011/ Nov. 6, 2011 | Sept. 13, 2015 |
| Honduras | Sept. 15, 1821 | LOBO SOSA, Porfirio | Nov. 24, 2013 ^c | Nov. 2017 |
| Nicaragua | Sept. 15, 1821 | ORTEGA, Daniel | Nov. 6, 2011 | Nov. 2016 |
| Panama | Nov. 3, 1903 | MARTINELLI, Ricardo | May 3, 2009 | May 2014 |

Source: CRS.

- a. Enrique Peña Nieto won Mexico's presidential election on July 1, 2012, and took office on December 1, 2012.
- b. In El Salvador, the President is elected by absolute majority vote through a two-round system to serve a five-year term. The First Round is February 2, 2014, and the Second Round is scheduled for March 9, 2014.
- c. Juan Orlando Hernandez, head of Honduras' Congress, defeated Xiomara Castro, the wife of former leader Manuel Zelaya. Castro is contesting the election results.

Table 3. Caribbean

| Country | Independence Date | Head of Government | Last Election | Next Election |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Antigua and Barbuda | Nov. 1, 1981 | SPENCER, Baldwin | Mar. 12, 2009 | by July 2014 |
| Bahamas | July 10, 1973 | CHRISTIE, Perry | May 7, 2012 | by May 2017 |
| Barbados | Nov. 30, 1966 | STUART, Freundel ^a | Feb. 21, 2013 | by Feb. 2018 |
| Cuba | May 20, 1902 | CASTRO RUZ, Raúl | ^b | ^b |
| Dominica | Nov. 3, 1978 | SKERRITT, Roosevelt | Dec. 18, 2009 | Dec. 2014 |
| Dominican Republic | Feb. 27, 1844 | MEDINA, Danilo | May 20, 2012 | May 2016 |
| Grenada | Feb. 7, 1974 | MITCHELL, Keith | Feb. 19, 2013 | Feb. 2018 |
| Haiti | Jan. 1, 1804 | MARTELLY, Michel | Nov. 28, 2010/ Mar. 20, 2011 | late 2015 |
| Jamaica | Aug. 6, 1962 | SIMPSON MILLER, Portia | Dec. 29, 2011 | by Dec. 2016 |
| St. Kitts and Nevis | Sept. 19, 1983 | DOUGLAS, Denzil | Jan. 25, 2010 | by Jan. 2015 |
| St. Lucia | Feb. 22, 1979 | ANTHONY, Kenny | Nov. 28, 2011 | by Nov. 2016 |
| St. Vincent and the Grenadines | Oct. 27, 1979 | GONSALVES, Ralph | Dec. 13, 2010 | by Dec. 2015 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | Aug. 31, 1962 | PERSAD-BISSESSAR, Kamla | May 24, 2010 | by May 2015 |

Source: CRS.

- a. Freundel Stuart was selected as prime minister on October 23, 2010, following the death of Prime Minister David Thompson. Stuart was elected on February 21, 2013.

- b. On February 24, 2008, Raúl Castro was selected by Cuba's legislature as president of the Council of State, a position that makes him head of state and government. Raúl had been serving as acting president since July 31, 2006, when Cuba's long-serving Communist leader, Fidel Castro, stepped down provisionally because of poor health. Since the 1959 Cuban Revolution, there have been no elections for head of government.

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