

CRS Report for Congress

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

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This fact sheet tracks the current heads of government in Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean, and provides the dates of the last and next election for head of government. It also provides the national independence date for each country.

South America

Country	Independence Date	Head of Government	Last Election	Next Election
Argentina	July 9, 1816	KIRCHNER, Néstor	April 27, 2003	2007
Bolivia	Aug. 6, 1825	RODRÍGUEZ, Eduardo ^a	June 2002 ^a	Dec. 4, 2005 ^a
Brazil	Sept. 7, 1822	DA SILVA, Luis Inácio Lula	October 2002	October 2006
Chile	Sept. 18, 1810	LAGOS, Ricardo	December 1999/ January 2000	Dec. 14, 2005
Colombia	July 20, 1810	URIBE, Alvaro	May 2002	May 2006
Ecuador	May 24, 1822	PALACIO, Alfredo ^b	Oct./Nov. 2002	October 2006
Paraguay	May 14, 1811	DUARTE FRUTOS, Nicanor	April 27, 2003	April 2008
Peru	July 28, 1821	TOLEDO, Alejandro	April/June 2001	April 2006
Uruguay	Aug. 25, 1825	VÁZQUEZ, Tabaré	Oct. 31, 2004	October 2009
Venezuela	July 5, 1811	CHAVEZ, Hugo	July 2000	December 2006

a. Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, elected in October 2002, resigned on October 17, 2003 because of political unrest and was succeeded by Vice President Carlos Mesa. Mesa subsequently resigned in June 2005 because of political unrest and was succeeded on June 9, 2005, by Eduardo Rodríguez, the president of the Supreme Court. Early elections have been set for December 4, 2005.

b. Lucio Gutierrez, elected in November 2002, was removed from office by Ecuador's Congress on April 20, 2005, following weeks of popular protests, and was succeeded by Vice President Alfredo Palacio.

Mexico and Central America

Country	Independence Year	Head of Government	Last Election	Next Election
Mexico	Sept. 16, 1810	FOX, Vicente	July 2000	July 2006
Costa Rica	Sept. 15, 1821	PACHECO, Abel	February/April 2002	February 2006
El Salvador	Sept. 15, 1821	SACA, Elías Antonio (Tony)	March 21, 2004	March 2009
Guatemala	Sept. 15, 1821	BERGER, Oscar	November/December 2003	November 2007
Honduras	Sept. 15, 1821	MADURO, Ricardo	November 2001	Nov. 27, 2005
Nicaragua	Sept. 15, 1821	BOLANOS, Enrique	November 2001	November 2006
Panama	Nov. 3, 1903	TORRIJOS, Martin	May 2, 2004	May 2009

Caribbean

Country	Independence Year	Head of Government	Last Election	Next Election
Antigua & Barbuda	Nov. 1, 1981	SPENCER, Baldwin	March 23, 2004	by March 2009
Bahamas	July 10, 1973	CHRISTIE, Perry	May 2002	by May 2007
Barbados	Nov. 30, 1966	ARTHUR, Owen	May 21, 2003	by May 2008
Belize	Sept. 21, 1981	MUSA, Said	March 5, 2003	by March 2008
Cuba	May 20, 1902	CASTRO, Fidel	^a	^a
Dominica	Nov. 3, 1978	SKERRITT, Roosevelt	May 5, 2005	by May 2010
Dominican Republic	Feb. 27, 1844	FERNANDEZ, Leonel	May 16, 2004	May 2008
Grenada	Feb. 7, 1974	MITCHELL, Keith	Nov. 27, 2003	by Nov. 2008
Guyana	May 26, 1966	BHARRAT, Jagdeo	March 2001	March 2006
Haiti	Jan. 1, 1804	ALEXANDRE, Boniface ^b	November 2000 ^b	November 2005
Jamaica	Aug. 6, 1962	PATTERSON, Percival James	October 2002	by October 2007
St. Kitts & Nevis	Sept. 19, 1983	DOUGLAS, Denzil	Oct. 25, 2004	by October 2009
St. Lucia	Feb. 22, 1979	ANTHONY, Kenny	December 2001	by December 2006
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Oct. 27, 1979	GONSALVES, Ralph	March 2001	by March 2006
Suriname	Nov. 25, 1975	VENETIAAN, Ronald	May 25, 2005 ^c	May 2010
Trinidad & Tobago	Aug. 31, 1962	MANNING, Patrick	October 7, 2002	by October 2007

a. Castro has served as head of government since the 1959 Cuban Revolution. Since that time, there have been no elections for head of government.

b. Alexandre became interim president February 29, 2004, following the departure of President Jean Bertrand Aristide.

c. Legislative elections were held May 25, 2005. Since the legislature could not elect a national president by the two-thirds vote needed, an 891-member People's Assembly re-elected Venetiaan on Aug. 3, 2005.