



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

**Julissa Gomez-Granger**  
Information Research Specialist

**Mark P. Sullivan**  
Specialist in Latin American Affairs

January 28, 2010

Congressional Research Service

7-5700

[www.crs.gov](http://www.crs.gov)

98-684

## Summary

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

# **Contents**

## **Tables**

Table 1. South America .....	1
Table 2. Mexico and Central America.....	1
Table 3. Caribbean .....	2

## **Contacts**

Author Contact Information .....	3
----------------------------------	---

**Table I. South America**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Independence Date</b>	<b>Head of Government</b>	<b>Last Election</b>	<b>Next Election</b>
Argentina	July 9, 1816	FERNANDEZ DE KIRCHNER, Cristina	Oct. 28, 2007	Oct. 2011
Bolivia	Aug. 6, 1825	MORALES, Evo	Dec. 6, 2009	Dec. , 2014
Brazil	Sept. 7, 1822	DA SILVA, Luis Inácio Lula	Oct. 1/ Oct. 29, 2006	Oct. 3, 2010
Chile	Sept. 18, 1810	BACHELET, Michelle <sup>a</sup>	Dec. 13, 2009/ Jan. 17, 2010	Dec. 2013
Colombia	July 20, 1810	URIBE, Alvaro	May 28, 2006	May 30, 2010
Ecuador	May 24, 1822	CORREA, Rafael	Apr. 26, 2009	Apr. 2013
Paraguay	May 14, 1811	LUGO, Fernando	Apr. 20, 2008	Apr. 2013
Peru	July 28, 1821	GARCIA, Alan	Apr. 9, 2006/ June 4, 2006	Apr. 2011
Uruguay	Aug. 25, 1825	VÁZQUEZ, Tabaré <sup>b</sup>	Oct. 25, 2009/Nov. 29, 2009	Oct. 2012
Venezuela	July 5, 1811	CHÁVEZ, Hugo	Dec. 3, 2006	Dec. 2012

- a. Sebastián Piñera won the runoff presidential election on January 17, 2010, and is scheduled to be inaugurated on March 11, 2010.
- b. José Mujica won the presidential election for Uruguay on November 29, 2009. He is expected to be inaugurated on March 1, 2010.

**Table 2. Mexico and Central America**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Independence Date</b>	<b>Head of Government</b>	<b>Last Election</b>	<b>Next Election</b>
Mexico	Sept. 16, 1810	CALDERÓN, Felipe	July 2, 2006	July 2012
Costa Rica	Sept. 15, 1821	ARIAS, Oscar	Feb. 5, 2006	Feb. 7, 2010
El Salvador	Sept. 15, 1821	FUNES, Mauricio	Mar. 15, 2009	March 2014
Guatemala	Sept. 15, 1821	COLOM, Alvaro	Sept. 9, 2007/ Nov. 4, 2007	Nov. 2011
Honduras	Sept. 15, 1821	LOBO SOSA, Porfirio	Nov. 29, 2009	Nov. 2013
Nicaragua	Sept. 15, 1821	ORTEGA, Daniel	Nov. 5, 2006	Nov. 2011
Panama	Nov. 3, 1903	MARTINELLI, Ricardo	May 3, 2009	May 2014

**Table 3. Caribbean**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Independence Date</b>	<b>Head of Government</b>	<b>Last Election</b>	<b>Next Election</b>
Antigua and Barbuda	Nov. 1, 1981	SPENCER, Baldwin	March 12, 2009	by July 2014
Bahamas	July 10, 1973	INGRAHAM, Hubert	May 2, 2007	by August 2012
Barbados	Nov. 30, 1966	THOMPSON, David	Jan. 15, 2008	by May 2013
Belize	Sept. 21, 1981	BARROW, Dean	Feb. 7, 2008	by June 2013
Cuba	May 20, 1902	CASTRO RUZ, Raúl	a	a
Dominica	Nov. 3, 1978	SKERRITT, Roosevelt	Dec. 18, 2009	by July 2010
Dominican Republic	Feb. 27, 1844	FERNANDEZ, Leonel	May 16, 2008	May 2012
Grenada	Feb. 7, 1974	THOMAS, Tillman	July 8, 2008	by July 2013
Guyana	May 26, 1966	BHARRAT, Jagdeo	Aug. 28, 2006	by Dec. 2011
Haiti	Jan. 1, 1804	PRÉVAL, René	Feb. 7, 2006	2011
Jamaica	Aug. 6, 1962	GOLDING, Bruce	Sept. 3, 2007	by Sept. 2012
St. Kitts and Nevis	Sept. 19, 1983	DOUGLAS, Denzil	Oct. 25, 2004	by March 2010
St. Lucia	Feb. 22, 1979	KING, Stephenson <sup>b</sup>	Dec. 11, 2006	by April 2012
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Oct. 27, 1979	GONSALVES, Ralph	Dec. 7, 2005	by Dec. 2010
Suriname	Nov. 25, 1975	VENETIAAN, Ronald	May 25, 2005	May 25, 2010
Trinidad and Tobago	Aug. 31, 1962	MANNING, Patrick	Nov. 5, 2007	by March 2013

- a. 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.
- b. Stephenson King was sworn in as Prime Minister on September 10, 2007, following the death of Prime Minister John Compton, who had been elected in December 2006.

## **Author Contact Information**

Julissa Gomez-Granger  
Information Research Specialist  
jgomezgranger@crs.loc.gov, 7-8981

Mark P. Sullivan  
Specialist in Latin American Affairs  
msullivan@crs.loc.gov, 7-7689