



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

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## 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.

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**Table 1. 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. 23, 2011<br>Nov. 20, 2011<br>( potential 2 <sup>nd</sup> round) |
| Bolivia        | Aug. 6, 1825             | MORALES, Evo                    | Dec. 6, 2009  | Dec. 2014  |
| Brazil         | Sept. 7, 1822            | ROUSSEFF, Dilma                 | Oct. 3, 2010 /<br>Oct. 31, 2010                         | Oct. 2014  |
| Chile          | Sept. 18, 1810           | PIÑERA, Sebastián               | Dec. 13, 2009 /<br>Jan. 17, 2010                        | Dec. 2013  |
| Colombia       | July 20, 1810            | SANTOS, Juan Manuel             | May 30, 2010 / June<br>20, 2010                         | May 2014   |
| 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            | HUMALA, Ollanta                 | Apr. 10, 2011 / June 5,<br>2011 (2 <sup>nd</sup> round) | Apr. 2016  |
| Uruguay        | Aug. 25, 1825            | MUJICA, José                    | Oct. 25, 2009 /<br>Nov. 29, 2009                        | Oct. 2014  |
| Venezuela      | July 5, 1811             | CHÁVEZ, Hugo                    | Dec. 3, 2006  | Oct. 7, 2012   |

**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           | CHINCHILLA Miranda, Laura | Feb. 7, 2010                   | Feb. 2014  |
| El Salvador    | Sept. 15, 1821           | FUNES, Mauricio           | Mar. 15, 2009                  | Mar. 2014  |
| Guatemala      | Sept. 15, 1821           | COLOM, Alvaro             | Sept. 9, 2007/<br>Nov. 4, 2007 | Sep. 11, 2011<br>(2 <sup>nd</sup> round<br>Nov. 6, 2011) |
| Honduras       | Sept. 15, 1821           | LOBO SOSA, Porfirio       | Nov. 29, 2009                  | Nov. 2013  |
| Nicaragua      | Sept. 15, 1821           | ORTEGA, Daniel            | Nov. 5, 2006                   | Nov. 6, 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              | Mar. 12, 2009               | by July 2014         |
| Bahamas                        | July 10, 1973            | INGRAHAM, Hubert              | May 2, 2007                 | by Aug. 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              | <sup>a</sup>                | <sup>a</sup>         |
| Dominica                       | Nov. 3, 1978             | SKERRITT, Roosevelt           | Dec. 18, 2009               | by Mar. 2015         |
| 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               | Nov. 28, 2011        |
| Haiti                          | Jan. 1, 1804             | MARTELLY, Michel              | Nov. 28, 2010/Mar. 20, 2011 | late 2015            |
| Jamaica                        | Aug. 6, 1962             | GOLDING, Bruce                | Sept. 3, 2007               | by Sept. 2012        |
| St. Kitts and Nevis            | Sept. 19, 1983           | DOUGLAS, Denzil               | Jan. 25, 2010               | by Jan. 2015         |
| St. Lucia                      | Feb. 22, 1979            | KING, Stephenson <sup>b</sup> | Dec. 11, 2006               | by Dec. 2011         |
| St. Vincent and the Grenadines | Oct. 27, 1979            | GONSALVES, Ralph              | Dec. 13, 2010               | by Dec. 2015         |
| Suriname                       | Nov. 25, 1975            | BOUTERSE, Desi <sup>c</sup>   | May 25, 2010 <sup>c</sup>   | May 2015             |
| Trinidad and Tobago            | Aug. 31, 1962            | PERSAD-BISSESSAR, Kamla       | May 24, 2010                | by May 2015          |

- 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.
- c. Suriname held National Assembly elections on May 25, 2010, but under Suriname's system of government, the country's president is not elected directly by voters, but by a two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly (or failing that, by a majority of the United People's Assembly comprised of more than 800 regional and municipal officials). On July 19, 2010, the National Assembly elected Desi Bouterse as president, with 36 out of 51 votes.

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