



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

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**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/<br>Oct. 31, 2010                     | Oct. 2014     |
| Chile     | Sept. 18, 1810    | PIÑERA, Sebastián               | Dec. 13, 2009/<br>Jan. 17, 2010                    | Nov. 17, 2013 |
| 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      | FRANCO, Federico <sup>a</sup>   | Apr. 20, 2008                                      | Apr. 21, 2013 |
| Peru      | July 28, 1821     | HUMALA, Ollanta                 | Apr. 10, 2011/June 5, 2011 (2 <sup>nd</sup> round) | Apr. 2016     |
| Suriname  | Nov. 25, 1975     | BOUTERSE, Desic <sup>b</sup>    | May 25, 2010                                       | May 2015      |
| Uruguay   | Aug. 25, 1825     | MUJICA, José                    | Oct. 25, 2009/<br>Nov. 29, 2009                    | Oct. 2014     |
| Venezuela | July 5, 1811      | MADURO, Nicolás <sup>c</sup>    | Oct. 7, 2012                                       | April 14 2013 |

**Source:** The Congressional Research Service (CRS).

- a. Fernando Lugo, elected Paraguay's President on April 20, 2008, was impeached by Paraguay's Congress on June 22, 2012, and succeeded by Vice President Federico Franco. The rapid impeachment process raised concern about President Lugo's due process, and created tensions with several countries in the region. Two regional bodies, the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) and the Union of South American Nations (Unasur), suspended Paraguay's participation.
- b. 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.
- c. President Hugo Chávez died on March 5, 2013. His term lasted February 2, 1999 - March 5, 2013. Vice President Nicolás Maduro was sworn in as acting president on March 8. The country's constitution calls for an election within 30 day. Venezuela will hold a special election on April 14, 2013.

**Table 2. Mexico and Central America**

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

| Country   | Independence Date | Head of Government  | Last Election                   | Next Election |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Guatemala | Sept. 15, 1821    | PÉREZ MOLINA, Otto  | Sept. 11, 2011/<br>Nov. 6, 2011 | Sept. 2015    |
| Honduras  | Sept. 15, 1821    | LOBO SOSA, Porfirio | Nov. 29, 2009                   | Nov. 10, 2013 |
| 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. He took office on Dec. 1, 2012.

**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 <sup>a</sup> | Feb. 21, 2013                   | by Feb. 2018     |
| Cuba                           | May 20, 1902      | CASTRO RUZ, Raúl              | <sup>b</sup>                    | <sup>b</sup>     |
| 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/<br>Mar. 20, 2011 | late 2015        |
| Jamaica                        | Aug. 6, 1962      | SIMPSON MILLER, Portia        | Dec. 29, 2011                   | by December 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     | CARMONA, Anthony              | Feb. 15, 2013                   | by Feb. 2018     |

**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 Feb. 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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