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

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This report provides the results of recent presidential elections in Latin America and the Caribbean. Below are three tables organized by region, that include the date of each country's independence, the name of the most recently elected president or prime minister, and the projected date of the next presidential election. Information in this report was gathered from numerous sources, including the U.S. State Department, Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA's) World Fact Book, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Election Guide, Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), and other news sources.

Table 1. South America: Heads of State and Election Schedules

Country	Independence Date	Head of Government	Last Presidential Election/ Runoff	Next Presidential Election
Argentina	July 9, 1816	MACRI, Mauricio ^a	Oct. 27, 2019	Oct. 2023
Bolivia	Aug. 6, 1825	MORALES, Juan Evo ^b	Oct. 20, 2019/potential runoff Dec. 2019	Oct. 2024
Brazil	Sept. 7, 1822	BOLSONARO, Jair	Oct. 7, 2018/ Oct. 28, 2018	Oct. 2022
Chile	Sept. 18, 1810	PIÑERA, Sebastián	Nov. 19, 2017/ Dec. 17, 2017	Nov. 2021
Colombia	July 20, 1810	DUQUE, Iván	May 27, 2018/ June 17, 2018	May 2022
Ecuador	May 24, 1822	MORENO, Lenín	Feb. 19, 2017 Apr. 2, 2017	Feb. 2021
Guyana	May 26, 1966	GRANGER, David	May 11, 2015	Mar. 2, 2020 ^c
Paraguay	May 14, 1811	ABDO BENITEZ, Mario	Apr. 22, 2018	Apr. 2023
Peru	July 28, 1821	VIZCARRA, Martín ^d	Apr. 10, 2016 /June 5, 2016	Apr. 2021
Suriname	Nov. 25, 1975	BOUTERSE, Desiré Delano	May 25, 2015	May 25, 2020
Uruguay	Aug. 25, 1825	VÁZQUEZ, Tabaré	Oct. 27, 2019	Nov. 24, 2019 ^e
Venezuela	July 5, 1811	MADURO, Nicolás	May 20, 2018	May 2024 ^f

Source: Compiled by the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

- a. Alberto Fernández was elected president on October 27, 2019, and is scheduled to take office on December 10, 2019. See CRS Insight IN11184, *Argentina's 2019 Elections*.
- b. Bolivia's October 20, 2019, first-round election was marred by allegations of fraud in the vote tabulation. The country's electoral agency maintains that Evo Morales won a narrow first-round victory, but opposition candidate Carlos Mesa is rejecting the electoral agency's assertion. Morales has agreed to have the Organization of American States (OAS) audit the election results, and to participate in a second-round election later this year if recommended by the OAS. Mesa has called for the election to be redone.
- c. President Granger announced that general elections will be held on March 2, 2020. See Alexis Rodney, "Development under the Coalition continues as Guyana readies for elections," Guyana's Department of Public Information, October 2, 2019.
- d. Pedro Pablo Kuczynski was elected president of Peru in June 2016, but resigned on March 21, 2018, just ahead of a vote on impeachment. First Vice President Martín Vizcarra constitutionally succeeded him and is set to fulfill the remainder of Kuczynski's term.
- e. A runoff election is to be held on November 24, 2019, between the top two presidential candidates: Daniel Martínez and Luis Lacalle Pou. See Luisa Leme, "Three Takeaways from Uruguay's First-Round Presidential Vote," Americas Society/Council of the Americas, October 28, 2019.

- f. In a controversial move, Venezuela's presidential election was moved forward from December 2018 to May 20, 2018. Most Venezuelans and much of the international community considered the May 2018 election, in which then-President Nicolás Maduro won reelection, as illegitimate (CRS In Focus IFI0230, *Venezuela: Political Crisis and U.S. Policy*). The United States and over 50 other countries have recognized Juan Guaidó, elected president of Venezuela's National Assembly in January 2019, as Interim President of Venezuela yet Maduro remains in power (CRS Insight INI1024, *Venezuela: U.S. Recognizes Interim Government*, by Clare Ribando Seelke).

Table 2. Mexico and Central America: Heads of State and Election Schedules

Country	Independence Date	Head of Government	Last Presidential Election/ Runoff	Next Presidential Election
Mexico	Sept. 16, 1810	LÓPEZ OBRADOR, Andrés Manuel	July 1, 2018	July 1, 2024
Belize	Sept. 21, 1981	BARROW, Dean	Nov. 4, 2015	Nov. 2020
Costa Rica	Sept. 15, 1821	ALVARADO, Carlos	Feb. 4, 2018/ Apr. 1, 2018	Feb. 2022
El Salvador	Sept. 15, 1821	BUKELE, Nayib	Feb. 3, 2019	Feb. 4, 2024
Guatemala	Sept. 15, 1821	MORALES, Jimmy ^a	June 16, 2019/ Aug. 11, 2019	2023
Honduras	Sept. 15, 1821	HERNÁNDEZ, Juan Orlando	Nov. 26, 2017	Nov. 2021
Nicaragua	Sept. 15, 1821	ORTEGA, Daniel	Nov. 6, 2016	Nov. 2021
Panama	Nov. 3, 1903	CORTIZO, Laurentino	May 5, 2019	May 2024

Source: Compiled by CRS.

- a. Alejandro Giammattei was elected president in a runoff election on August 11, 2019, and is scheduled to take office on January 14, 2020.

Table 3. Caribbean: Heads of State and Election Schedules

Country	Independence Date	Head of Government	Last Presidential Election	Next Presidential Election
Antigua and Barbuda	Nov. 1, 1981	BROWNE, Gaston	Mar. 21, 2018	by Mar. 2023
Bahamas	July 10, 1973	MINNIS, Hubert	May 10, 2017	by May 2022
Barbados	Nov. 30, 1966	MOTTLEY, Mia	May 25, 2018	by May 2023
Cuba ^a	May 20, 1902	DÍAZ-CANEL, Miguel	Apr. 2018	Apr. 2023
Dominica	Nov. 3, 1978	SKERRIT, Roosevelt	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 6, 2019
Dominican Republic	Feb. 27, 1844	MEDINA, Danilo	May 15, 2016	May 2020
Grenada	Feb. 7, 1974	MITCHELL, Keith	Mar. 13, 2018	by Mar. 2023
Haiti	Jan. 1, 1804	MOÏSE, Jovenel	Nov. 20, 2016	Oct. 2021
Jamaica	Aug. 6, 1962	HOLNESS, Andrew	Feb. 25, 2016	by Feb. 2021
St. Kitts and Nevis	Sept. 19, 1983	HARRIS, Timothy	Feb. 16, 2015	by Feb. 2020
St. Lucia	Feb. 22, 1979	CHASTANET, Allen	June 6, 2016	by June 2021

St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Oct. 27, 1979	GONSALVES, Ralph E.	Dec. 9, 2015	by Dec. 2020
Trinidad and Tobago	Aug. 31, 1962	ROWLEY, Keith	Sept. 7, 2015	by Sept. 2020

Source: Compiled by CRS.

- a. Cuba does not have direct elections for its head of government. Instead, Cuba's legislature selects the members of the 31-member Council of State, with the president of that body serving as Cuba's head of government and head of state. In April 2018, Cuba's legislature selected Miguel Díaz-Canel for a five-year term. In October 2019, Cuba's legislature appointed Díaz-Canel as president of the republic under Cuba's new constitution.

Author Information

Carla Y. Davis-Castro
Research Librarian

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