



**Congressional
Research Service**

Informing the legislative debate since 1914

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

Nese F. DeBruyne
Senior Research Librarian

April 11, 2018

Congressional Research Service

7-5700

www.crs.gov

98-684

This report provides the results of recent presidential elections in Latin America and the Caribbean. Below are three tables organized by region, including the date of each country's independence, the name of the newly 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. Election Results in South America

Country	Independence Date	Head of Government	Last Election/Runoff	Next Presidential Election
Argentina	July 9, 1816	MACRI, Mauricio	Oct. 25, 2015/ Nov. 22, 2015	Oct. 2019
Bolivia	Aug. 6, 1825	MORALES-AYMA, Juan Evo	Oct. 12, 2014	Oct. 2019
Brazil	Sept. 7, 1822	TEMER, Michel ^a	Oct. 5, 2014/ Oct. 26, 2014	Oct. 2018
Chile	Sept. 18, 1810	PIÑERA, Sebastián	Nov. 19, 2017/ Dec. 17, 2017	Nov. 2021
Colombia	July 20, 1810	SANTOS, Juan Manuel	May 25, 2014/ June 15, 2014	May 27, 2018
Ecuador	May 24, 1822	MORENO, Lenín	Feb. 19, 2017/ Apr. 2, 2017	Feb. 2021
Guyana	May 26, 1966	GRANGER, David	May 11, 2015	May 2020
Paraguay	May 14, 1811	CARTES, Horacio	Apr. 21, 2013	Apr. 2018
Peru	July 28, 1821	VIZCARRA, Martín ^b	April 10, 2016/ June 5, 2016	April 2021
Suriname	Nov. 25, 1975	BOUTERSE, Desiré Delano	May 25, 2015	May 25, 2020
Uruguay	Aug. 25, 1825	VÁZQUEZ, Tabaré	Oct. 26, 2014/ Nov. 30, 2014	Oct. 2019
Venezuela	July 5, 1811	MADURO, Nicolás	Apr. 14, 2013	May 20, 2018 ^c

Source: The Congressional Research Service (CRS).

- a. Former President Dilma Rousseff, elected to a second term in 2014, was impeached in 2016; Vice President Michel Temer became president and is serving the remainder of Rousseff's term.
- b. Pedro Pablo Kuczynski was elected president in June 2016, but resigned on March 21, 2018, just ahead of a vote on impeachment. He was succeeded by First Vice President Martin Vizcarra, who will fill out the remainder of Kuczynski's term.
- c. In a controversial move, Venezuela's presidential election was moved from December 2018 to May 20, 2018. See CRS InFocus CRS In Focus IF10230, *Venezuela: Political and Economic Crisis and U.S. Policy*, by Clare Ribando Seelke.

Table 2. Election Results in Mexico and Central America

Country	Independence Date	Head of Government	Last Election/Runoff	Next Election
Mexico	Sept. 16, 1810	PEÑA NIETO, Enrique	July 1, 2012	July 1, 2018
Belize	Sept. 21, 1981	BARROW, Dean	Nov. 4, 2015	by Nov. 2020
Costa Rica	Sept. 15, 1821	SOLÍS, Luís Guillermo ^a	Feb. 4, 2018/ Apr. 1, 2018	Feb. 2022
El Salvador	Sept. 15, 1821	SÁNCHEZ CERÉN, Salvador	Feb. 2, 2014/ Mar. 9, 2014	Feb. 2019
Guatemala	Sept. 15, 1821	MORALES, Jimmy	Sept. 6, 2015/ Oct. 25, 2015	Sept. 2019
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	VARELA, Juan Carlos	May 4, 2014	May 2019

Source: CRS.

- a. Carlos Alvarado was elected Costa Rica's next president on April 1, 2018, and is to be inaugurated on May 8, 2018.

Table 3. Election Results in the Caribbean

Country	Independence Date	Head of Government	Last Election	Next Election
Antigua and Barbuda	Nov. 1, 1981	BROWNE, Gaston	March 21, 2018	by March 2023
Bahamas	July 10, 1973	MINNIS, Hubert	May 10, 2017	by May 2022
Barbados	Nov. 30, 1966	STUART, Freundel	Feb. 21, 2013	by June 2018
Cuba	May 20, 1902	CASTRO, Raúl	^a	^a
Dominica	Nov. 3, 1978	SKERRIT, Roosevelt	Dec. 8, 2014	by Dec. 2019
Dominican Republic	Feb. 27, 1844	MEDINA, Danilo	May 15, 2016	May 2020
Grenada	Feb. 7, 1974	MITCHELL, Keith	March 13, 2018	by March 2023
Haiti	Jan. 1, 1804	MOISE, 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 Dec. 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: CRS.

- a. Cuba does not have direct elections for its head of government. Instead, Cuba's legislature, the National Assembly of People's Power, selects the 31-member Council of State, with the president of that body serving as Cuba's head of government and state. On April 19, 2018, Cuba's legislature is scheduled to select a new president for a five-year term; Raúl Castro has said that he will step down as president.

Author Contact Information

Nese F. DeBruyne
Senior Research Librarian
ndebruyne@crs.loc.gov, 7-8096

Acknowledgments

Carla Davis-Castro, CRS research librarian provided editorial assistance.

Barbara Salazar Torreón, CRS senior research librarian, was the former author of this report.