

CRS Report for Congress

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

Mark P. Sullivan
Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Julissa Gomez-Granger
Knowledge Services Group

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

Table 1. South America

Country	Independence Date	Head of Government	Last Election	Next Election
Argentina	July 9, 1816	KIRCHNER, Néstor	Apr. 27, 2003	October 2007
Bolivia	Aug. 6, 1825	MORALES, Evo	Dec. 18, 2005	December 2010
Brazil	Sept. 7, 1822	DA SILVA, Luis Inácio Lula	Oct. 2002	Oct. 1/Oct. 29 2006
Chile	Sept. 18, 1810	BACHELET, Michelle	Dec. 11, 2005/ Jan. 15, 2006	December 2009
Colombia	July 20, 1810	URIBE, Alvaro	May 28, 2006	May 2010
Ecuador	May 24, 1822	PALACIO, Alfredo ^a	Oct./Nov. 2002	Oct. 15/Nov. 26, 2006
Paraguay	May 14, 1811	DUARTE FRUTOS, Nicanor	Apr. 27, 2003	Apr. 2008
Peru	July 28, 1821	GARCIA, Alan	Apr. 9, 2006/ June 4, 2006	Apr. 2011
Uruguay	Aug. 25, 1825	VÁZQUEZ, Tabaré	Oct. 31, 2004	Oct. 2009
Venezuela	July 5, 1811	CHÁVEZ, Hugo	July 2000	Dec. 3, 2006

a. Lucio Gutierrez, elected in November 2002, was removed from office by Ecuador's Congress on April 20, 2005, following weeks of popular protests, and was succeeded by Vice President Alfredo Palacio.

Table 2. Mexico and Central America

Country	Independence Date	Head of Government	Last Election	Next Election
Mexico	Sept. 16, 1810	FOX, Vicente ^a	July 2, 2006	July 2012
Costa Rica	Sept. 15, 1821	ARIAS, Oscar	Feb. 5, 2006	Feb. 2010
El Salvador	Sept. 15, 1821	SACA, Elías Antonio (Tony)	Mar. 21, 2004	Mar. 2009
Guatemala	Sept. 15, 1821	BERGER, Oscar	Nov./Dec. 2003	Nov. 2007
Honduras	Sept. 15, 1821	ZELAYA, Manuel	Nov. 27, 2005	Nov. 2009
Nicaragua	Sept. 15, 1821	BOLANOS, Enrique	Nov. 2001	Nov. 5, 2006
Panama	Nov. 3, 1903	TORRIJOS, Martin	May 2, 2004	May 2009

a. Felipe Calderón of the National Action Party won just under 36% of the vote, defeating Andrés Manuel López Obrador of the Party of the Democratic Revolution by less than 234,000 votes. The presidential inauguration is to be held on December 1, 2006.

Table 3. Caribbean

Country	Independence Date	Head of Government	Last Election	Next Election
Antigua & Barbuda	Nov. 1, 1981	SPENCER, Baldwin	Mar. 23, 2004	by Mar. 2009
Bahamas	July 10, 1973	CHRISTIE, Perry	May 2002	by May 2007
Barbados	Nov. 30, 1966	ARTHUR, Owen	May 21, 2003	by May 2008
Belize	Sept. 21, 1981	MUSA, Said	Mar. 5, 2003	by Mar. 2008
Cuba	May 20, 1902	CASTRO, Fidel	^a	^a
Dominica	Nov. 3, 1978	SKERRITT, Roosevelt	May 5, 2005	by May 2010
Dominican Republic	Feb. 27, 1844	FERNANDEZ, Leonel	May 16, 2004	May 2008
Grenada	Feb. 7, 1974	MITCHELL, Keith	Nov. 27, 2003	by Nov. 2008
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	SIMPSON MILLER, Portia ^b	Oct. 2002	by Oct. 2007
St. Kitts & Nevis	Sept. 19, 1983	DOUGLAS, Denzil	Oct. 25, 2004	by Oct. 2009
St. Lucia	Feb. 22, 1979	ANTHONY, Kenny	Dec. 2001	by Dec. 2006
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Oct. 27, 1979	GONSALVES, Ralph	Dec. 7, 2005	by Mar. 7, 2010
Suriname	Nov. 25, 1975	VENETIAAN, Ronald	May 25, 2005	May 2010
Trinidad & Tobago	Aug. 31, 1962	MANNING, Patrick	Oct. 7, 2002	by Oct. 2007

a. Castro has served as head of government since the 1959 Cuban Revolution. Since that time, there have been no elections for head of government.

b. Portia Simpson Miller was sworn in as Prime Minister on March 30, 2006, after replacing outgoing Prime Minister P.J. Patterson as leader of the ruling People's National Party.