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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 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 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 I. Election Results in South America**

Country	Independence Date	Head of Government	Last Election	Next Election
Argentina	July 9, 1816	FERNANDEZ DE KIRCHNER, Cristina	Oct. 23, 2011	Oct. 25, 2015
Bolivia	Aug. 6, 1825	MORALES-AYMA, Juan Evo	Oct. 12, 2014	Oct. 2019
Brazil	Sept. 7, 1822	ROUSSEFF, Dilma	Oct. 5, 2014/ Oct. 26, 2014	Oct. 2018
Chile	Sept. 18, 1810	BACHELET, Michelle	Nov. 17, 2013/ Dec. 15, 2013	Nov. 2017
Colombia	July 20, 1810	SANTOS, Juan Manuel	May 25, 2014/ June 15, 2014	2018
Ecuador	May 24, 1822	CORREA, Rafael	Feb. 17, 2013	Feb. 2017
Guyana	May 26, 1966	RAMOTAR, Donald	Nov. 28, 2011	May 11, 2015 <sup>a</sup>
Paraguay	May 14, 1811	CARTES, Horacio	Apr. 21, 2013	2018
Peru	July 28, 1821	HUMALA, Ollanta	Apr. 10, 2011/ June 5, 2011	Apr. 2016
Suriname	Nov. 25, 1975	BOUTERSE, Desiré Delano	July 19, 2010	May 2015
Uruguay	Aug. 25, 1825	VÁZQUEZ, Tabaré	Oct. 26, 2014/ Nov. 30, 2014	2019
Venezuela	July 5, 1811	MADURO, Nicolás <sup>b</sup>	Apr. 14, 2013	Dec. 2018

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

- a. President Ramotar scheduled elections for May 11, 2015, after suspending parliament in November 2014.
- b. In the aftermath of the death of President Hugo Chávez in March 2013, Venezuela held a special election on April 14, 2013, with Nicolás Maduro winning 50.7% of the votes versus 49.1% for opposition candidate Henrique Capriles. Maduro was sworn in on April 19, 2013.

**Table 2. Election Results in Mexico and Central America**

Country	Independence Date	Head of Government	Last Election	Next Election
Mexico	Sept. 16, 1810	PEÑA NIETO, Enrique	July 1, 2012	July 2018
Belize	Sept. 21, 1981	BARROW, Dean	Mar. 7, 2012	by June 2017
Costa Rica	Sept. 15, 1821	SOLÍS, Luís Guillermo	Feb. 2, 2014/ Apr. 6, 2014	Feb. 2018
El Salvador	Sept. 15, 1821	SÁNCHEZ CERÉN, Salvador	Feb. 2, 2014/ Mar. 9, 2014	Feb. 2019
Guatemala	Sept. 15, 1821	PÉREZ MOLINA, Otto	Sept. 11, 2011/ Nov. 6, 2011	Sept. 13, 2015
Honduras	Sept. 15, 1821	HERNÁNDEZ, Juan Orlando	Nov. 24, 2013	Nov. 2017
Nicaragua	Sept. 15, 1821	ORTEGA, Daniel	Nov. 6, 2011	Nov. 2016
Panama	Nov. 3, 1903	VARELA, Juan Carlos	May 4, 2014	May 2019

Source: CRS.

**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	June 12, 2014	by Mar. 2019
Bahamas	July 10, 1973	CHRISTIE, Perry	May 7, 2012	by May 2017
Barbados	Nov. 30, 1966	STUART, Freundel	Feb. 21, 2013	by Feb. 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 20, 2012	May 15, 2016
Grenada	Feb. 7, 1974	MITCHELL, Keith	Feb. 19, 2013	by Feb. 2018
Haiti	Jan. 1, 1804	MARTELLY, Michel	Nov. 28, 2010/ Mar. 20, 2011	Oct. 25, 2015
Jamaica	Aug. 6, 1962	SIMPSON MILLER, Portia	Dec. 29, 2011	by Dec. 2016
St. Kitts and Nevis	Sept. 19, 1983	HARRIS, Timothy	Feb. 16, 2015	by 2020
St. Lucia	Feb. 22, 1979	ANTHONY, Kenny	Nov. 28, 2011	by Dec. 2016
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Oct. 27, 1979	GONSALVES, Ralph	Dec. 13, 2010	by Dec. 2015
Trinidad and Tobago	Aug. 31, 1962	PERSAD-BISSESSAR, Kamla	May 24, 2010	by Sept. 2015

Source: CRS.

- 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.

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