



**Congressional  
Research Service**

Informing the legislative debate since 1914

---

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

Updated March 9, 2020

**Congressional Research Service**

<https://crsreports.congress.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, 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 Election/ Runoff	Next Election
Argentina	July 9, 1816	FERNÁNDEZ, Alberto <sup>a</sup>	Oct. 27, 2019	Oct. 2023
Bolivia	Aug. 6, 1825	ÁÑEZ, Jeanine <sup>b</sup>	Oct. 20, 2019 <sup>c</sup>	May 3, 2020
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 <sup>d</sup>	Mar. 2, 2020	2025
Paraguay	May 14, 1811	ABDO BENITEZ, Mario	Apr. 22, 2018	Apr. 2023
Peru	July 28, 1821	VIZCARRA, Martín <sup>e</sup>	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	LACALLE POU, Luis	Oct. 27, 2019/Nov.24, 2019	Oct. 2024
Venezuela	July 5, 1811	MADURO, Nicolás	May 20, 2018	May 2024 <sup>f</sup>

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

- a. CRS Insight INI1184, *Argentina’s 2019 Elections*.
- b. Evo Morales stepped down from office on November 10, 2019, following October 20, 2019, presidential elections that international election observers assert were marred by fraud. After several resignations, the highest-ranking official still in office, Second Vice President of the Senate, Jeanine Áñez, declared herself interim president on November 12, 2019. Bolivia’s Constitutional Court endorsed her as interim president. See CRS Insight INI1198, *Bolivia: Presidential Resignation and Aftermath*, by Clare Ribando Seelke.
- c. On November 23, 2019, Bolivia passed a law that annulled the results of the October 20 elections. The newly formed election tribunal set presidential elections for May 3, 2020. See Rachele Krygier, “Bolivia’s election tribunal sets May date for new presidential election,” *Washington Post*, January 3, 2020.
- d. Amid allegations of fraud, international observers issued a joint statement on March 6, 2020, calling for the transparent tabulation of results to continue in Region 4 for Guyana’s March 2, 2020 general elections. On March 8, Guyana’s highest court blocked the elections commission from announcing results, and announced that on March 10 the court would begin reviewing whether election officials need to resume verification of the vote in Region 4. See Organization of America States, “Joint Statement from International Observers in Guyana,” March 6, 2020; and Neil Marks, “Guyana Court Halts Release of Election Results Amid Fraud Accusation,” Reuters, March 8, 2020.

- e. 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.
- 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 IF10230, *Venezuela: Political Crisis and U.S. Policy*, by Clare Ribando Seelke). 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 IN11024, *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 Election/ Runoff	Next 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	GIAMMATTEI, Alejandro	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.

**Table 3. Caribbean: Heads of State and Election Schedules**

Country	Independence Date	Head of Government	Last Election	Next 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 <sup>a</sup>	May 20, 1902	DÍAZ-CANEL, Miguel	Apr. 2018	Apr. 2023
Dominica	Nov. 3, 1978	SKERRIT, Roosevelt	Dec. 6, 2019	March 2025
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 Aug. 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 2019, Cuba’s legislature selected Miguel Diaz-Canel for a five-year term. In October 2019, Cuba’s legislature appointed Diaz-Canel as president of the republic under Cuba’s new constitution.

## Author Information

Carla Y. Davis-Castro  
Research Librarian

## Acknowledgments

Nese F. DeBruyne, CRS Senior Research Librarian, was the former author of this report.

---

## **Disclaimer**

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS's institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.