



**UNITED STATES-MEXICO  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**5<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTIONS  
OBSERVERS MISSION**

**PRELIMINARY REPORT**

**JUNE 29- JULY 2**

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**ESTADO DE MEXICO,  
MEXICO CITY AND MORELOS**

## 5<sup>th</sup> USMCOC Observer's Mission to Mexico's 2018 Presidential Elections



*The 2018 USMCOC Observers Delegation*

The U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce led its 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive Observers' Mission to Mexico for its Presidential election to observe the electoral process, which has earned increasingly high marks for reliability and confidence. The mission, comprised of members of the board of directors and senior staff of the Chamber, who were certified by the Mexican National Electoral Institute (*Instituto Nacional Electoral*, or "INE"). Mexico is now recognized internationally as having a national electoral process that is a comprehensive structure, reliable and fair.

The INE is an autonomous, de-centralized public entity charged with organizing and conducting all federal, state and local elections in order to ensure transparency and legality in the electoral process throughout Mexico. Specifically, it strives to ensure free, fair and reliable elections in Mexico, and guarantee political rights for its citizens.

INE's Board is comprised of 11 members that are named by the Mexican Congress ("*Cámara de Diputados*"), including a President of the Board. This Board monitors compliance with electoral laws, campaign expenditures of the candidates and parties (which are limited by law), as well as the use of unauthorized funds. A separate "Electoral Tribunal" in the Federal Government's Attorney General's office is charged with resolving violations and imposing sanctions.

Mexico has a population of 127.5 million, with approximately 89 million people officially registered to vote. On Sunday July 1, over 56.5 million people participated in the elections, which corresponds to 63.42% of registered voters.

The INE electoral organization of 1.4 million, including volunteers, manned 157,000 polling locations ("*casillas*") throughout Mexico City (now an autonomous entity) and the 31 States, for elected offices: President, 128 Federal Senators, 500 Federal Congressmen ("*Diputados*"), 8 Governors, Head of Mexico City Government, 972 State Representatives ("*Diputados*"), and 1596 Mayors throughout the country, along with over 15,000 positions in municipal administrations.

One of the highlights of this election, was the very efficient preparation and well-organized process carried out by INE. The members of the USMCOC delegation appreciated the easy and expedite procedure to obtain the accreditation as international observer. Requirements were clear, and there was support available in case of any questions.

In order to prepare and provide guidance for the official observers, both national and international, INE hosted two days of information forums in Mexico City, in addition to the online training program required to be completed prior to being certified observers. The purpose was to acquaint the observers with the general political landscape in Mexico, and the voting and counting processes at the polling locations.



*INE Conference*

This year, Mexico had the largest number of international electoral observers, with 711 visitors from 55 countries. Accredited observers included members of the academia, diplomats, representatives of political parties and legislators around the world, as well as non-profit organizations.

Prior to the election on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce Observers' Mission met with high level officials in each of the three major Parties and Coalitions, which proved very informative. The Chamber was treated respectfully which indicates, not only the impartial nature of the Chambers' mission, activities and relationships, but to its reputation as an "honest broker" in the bilateral relationship.



*The USMCOC Observers Delegation meetings with Alejandro Chanona (Coalition PAN, PRD, MC); Graciela Marquez (designated Secretary of Economy from Coalition MORENA, PT, ES); and Arnulfo Valdivia (Coalition PRI, PVEM, NA)*





*ADN40 Interview*

The Observers' Mission was invited by **Azteca TV's** Ana Maria Salazar and Agustin Barrios to participate in the **ADN 40** news live program Saturday morning, the day prior to the election. Two segments were aired, one in English and one in Spanish, and the participants included Al Zapanta, President of the U.S-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, Beth Bowman, President & CEO of the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, and Stuart Jones, President of American Brownfields Corp., based in the Dallas area. You can find the links to the news show on the Chamber's website [usmcoc.org](http://usmcoc.org).

Election Day the Observers' Mission was able to visit multiple polling locations in Mexico City, State of Morelos, and the State of Mexico. The activities included watching the organization of the polling locations, the voting process, and the counting of ballots after the polls were closed. The Mexico electoral system provides only for a paper ballot, which must be cast for each office. For security reasons, the number of ballots provided at each polling location and for each office is controlled based on projections of voting. After voting, indelible ink is applied to the right thumb to preclude voter fraud.



*Al Zapanta and Beth Bowman at polling location*

The process proved to be an inspiring experience for the Observers as the group was able to experience first-hand the orderly and patriotic manner in which the voters arrived, stood in line, cast their votes and interacted with INE officials and other voters. Many voters brought their children. Pride and respect seemed to overshadow the expected results of the election. There were a few instances where "special" polling places ran out of ballots; these polling places were set up for out-of-towners, visitors and vacationers who would not be able to

vote in their assigned polling locations. The problem of running out of ballots appeared to be isolated, but nevertheless was lamentable, as protests by those affected were seen in a few places. The number of ballots for special polling locations is established by law to 750. There was no impact on the Presidential election.

The polls opened at 8:00 AM and closed at 6:00 PM. Voters formed lines and were then given the corresponding paper ballots (Federal, State, and Local) which they then took to a booth where in

privacy they used non-erasable markers to indicate their vote in secret ballot. They then folded the ballots and inserted them in the corresponding and colored coded boxes.

At 6:00 PM access to the polling locations was closed. We witnessed one voter accompanied by a child who, unfortunately, arrived a few minutes late and was not allowed to vote. When all voters in line had finished, the manual counting process was begun by the INE officials and observed by official representatives from each Party/Coalition. On completion of the counting, INE officials sealed the ballot boxes, and all corresponding signatures affixed to the official tallies (“*Actas*”), and then taken to the corresponding regional INE office.

The President of Mexico is elected for a six-year term based on a plurality, with no reelection; there is no Electoral College. Though Mexico has multiple political parties, for almost a century the country has been governed by either the PRI Party (*Partido Revolucionario Institucional*, Revolutionary Institutional Party, 80 years) or the PAN Party (*Partido Acción Nacional*, National Action Party, 12 years). Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador ran and lost in 2006 and 2012, representing the PRD (*Partido Revolución Democrática*, Democratic Revolutionary Party). Subsequently, he went on to form his own party, MORENA (*Movimiento Regeneración Nacional*, National Regeneration Movement), which he represented in 2018, in coalition with PT (*Partido del Trabajo*, Labor Party) and PES (*Partido Encuentro Social*, Social Encounter Party). His platform, though moderated somewhat from his previous two campaigns and platform, continues to be Social-Progressive. One of the principal themes of his campaign was anti-corruption.

In the 2018 Presidential Election, Lopez Obrador was able to garner 53.2% of the vote, a landslide that benefited mostly from the peoples’ rejection of former administrations; in effect, a vote against the establishment. In unprecedented and magnanimous displays of civility and respect for democracy in Mexico, the opposition candidates conceded the election to Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador prior to 11:00 PM on Election Day, when Lorenzo Córdova, Chairman of the Board of INE was expected to announce the preliminary result.



*Newspapers in Mexico announce the results of the election the morning of July 2, 2018*

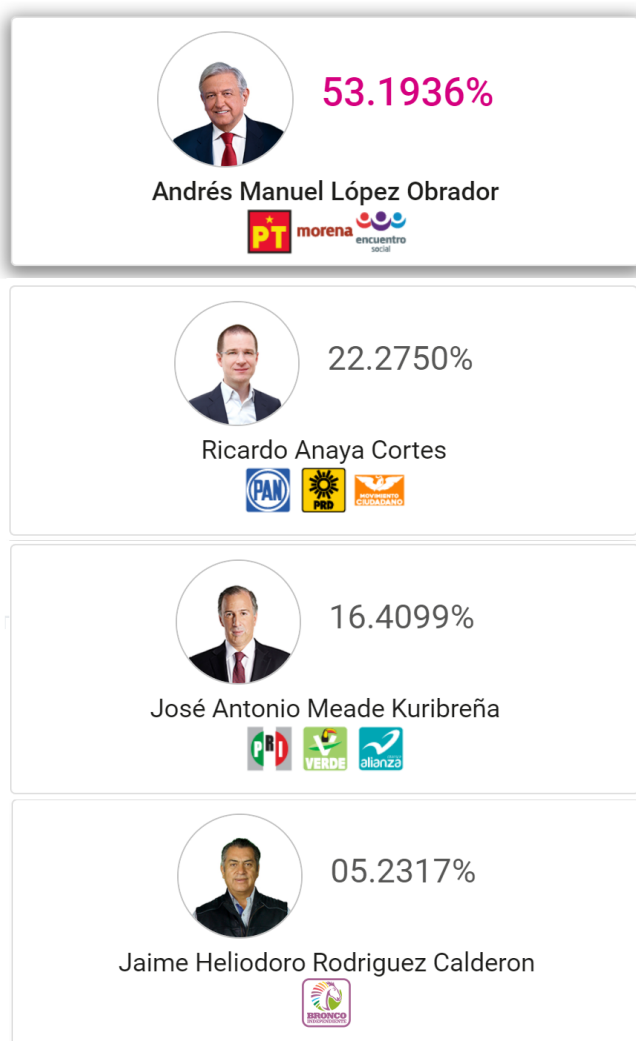
It remains to be seen whether Mr. Lopez Obrador will be able to consolidate his team to lead Mexico

into what he calls a more “fair and just” society for Mexico’s poor and aged. Also, whether he will be able to fund all the programs he has promised the Mexican people. There does appear to be some optimism and hope as signs of a more moderate Lopez Obrador have been seen in his initial contacts with Mexico’s current President. In a subsequent telephone conversation with President Donald Trump of the United States, they began a cordial dialogue.

Mr. Lopez Obrador victory is confirmed, but the election results are yet to be certified by the National Electoral Tribunal no later than September 6<sup>th</sup>, when the official transition period will begin, and Mr. Lopez Obrador would become president-elect. Officially, Mr. Lopez Obrador will become President of Mexico on December 1, 2018.

In the following chart a detail of the voting percentage for president with 100% of the tallies counted (Source: National Electoral Institute. Results as of July 6, 2018).

*Chart 1. Percentage of votes for President*



In regard to Mexico’s Federal Congress, although some candidates ran independently, the Coalition “Juntos Haremos Historia” led by Lopez Obrador, also obtained majority in the Federal Chamber of Deputies and the Chamber of Senators, which anticipates significant support from the legislative branch to Lopez Obrador’s initiatives.

It is important to mention, that members of Congress are elected in a parallel voting system. The Chamber of Deputies is composed of 500 representatives, 300 elected by direct vote, and the remaining 200 are assigned by “proportional representation”; the Chamber of Senators, is integrated by 128 senators, two from each of the 32 States elected under the principle of relative majority, one for each state elected under the principle of first minority, and 32 senator seats divided among the parties in proportion to their share of the national vote.

According to the preliminary results, the composition of the Federal Congress will be as follows (Source: National Electoral Institute and El Financiero):

Chart 2. Chamber of Deputies

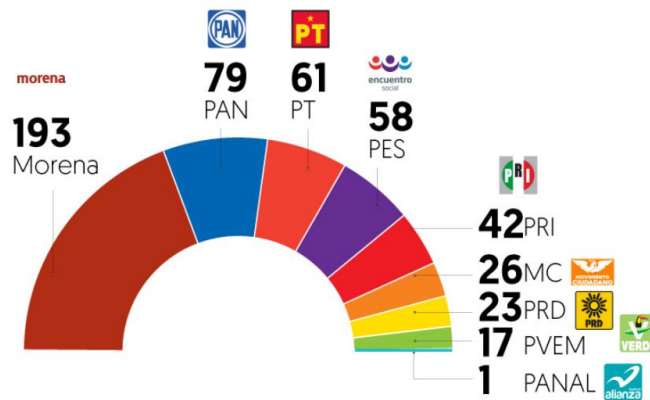
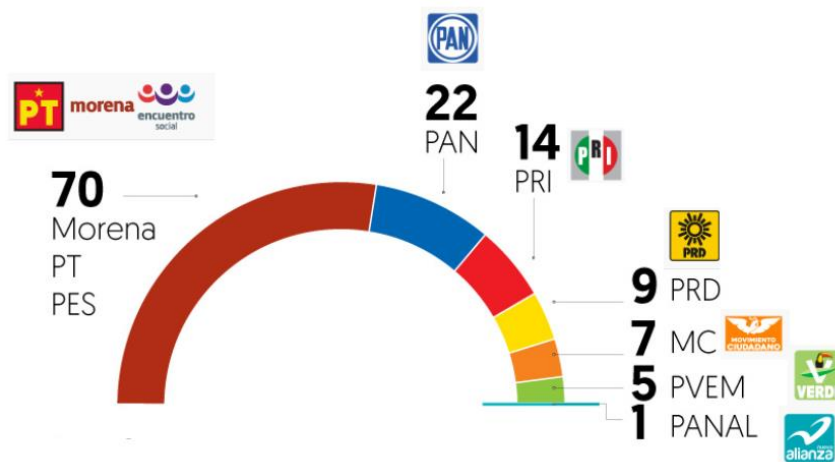


Chart 3. Senate



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## **APPENDICES**



## Appendix A. USMCOC Observers Mission Agenda



### 5<sup>th</sup> Mexico Presidential Election Observers Mission June 29 – July 2, 2018 • Mexico City

#### Activities followed by the USMCOC Delegation

<i>Friday June 29, 2018</i>	
All day	Arrival at Four Seasons (Check-in)
2:30 pm	Pick up credentials at National Electoral Institute Hotel Radisson Paraiso Perisur (Also known as Radisson Pedregal) Periferico Sur #4363, Col. Parques del Pedregal, Deleg. Tlalpan, 14010
2:45 pm to 6:00 pm	National Electoral Institute – Foreign Visitors Information Forum Hotel Radisson Paraiso Perisur (Also known as Radisson Pedregal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session 8 “Presentation of Foreign Visitor’s Missions”</li> <li>• Session 9 “Mexico towards July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018”</li> </ul> <p>*Attached the full program and list of speakers of the two-day conference offered by INE</p>
8:00 pm	Dinner at Four Seasons. Zanaya Restaurant, “San Blas” room
<i>Saturday, June 30, 2018</i>	
8:00 am	First Interview with Ana Maria Salazar and Agustin Barrios on AND40, a news TV station owned by TV Azteca. AND40 is the only television station that broadcast a news show about Mexico in English. Topics of discussion were: The USMCOC Electoral Observers Mission and the current U.S.-Mexico relationship.
9:00 am	Second Interview with Ana Maria Salazar and Agustin Barrios on AND40, a news TV station owned by TV Azteca. This segment was conducted in Spanish. Topics of discussion were: The USMCOC Electoral Observers Mission and the current U.S.-Mexico relationship.
10:00 am	National Electoral Institute – Presentation by representatives of the three major political parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movimiento de Regeneración Nacional (MORENA)</li> <li>• Partido Acción Nacional (PAN)</li> <li>• Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRI)</li> </ul>
12:00 pm	Meeting with Dr. Alejandro Chanona, Advisor of Presidential Candidate Ricardo Anaya from Coalition “Por México al Frente” (PAN, PRD, MC) PAN Headquarters Horacio 340, Piso 5, Sala “A”. Col. Polanco
3:00 pm	Meeting with Dr. Graciela Marquez Colín, designated Secretary of Economy and Advisor of Presidential Elections winner Andrés Manuel López Obrador from Coalition “Juntos Haremos Historia” (MORENA, PT, ES) MORENA Headquarters Av. Ejército Nacional 359, Col. Granada, C.P. 11520

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**Saturday, June 30, 2018**

6:00 pm Meeting with Dr. Arnulfo Valvidia, Secretary of International Affairs of Partido de la Revolución Institucional (PRI) and advisor of Presidential Candidate José Antonio Meade from Coalición “Todos por México” (PRI, PVEM, NA)  
PRI Headquarters  
Av. Insurgentes Nte. 59, Col. Buenavista, C.P. 06350

8:00 pm Dinner at Four Seasons. Zanaya Restaurant, “San Blas” room

**Sunday, July 1, 2018**

7:00 am Breakfast at Four Seasons Hotel

8:00 am Elections monitoring in Mexico City (Colonia Juárez, Roma and Condesa)

11:00 am Elections monitoring in Tepoztlan, Morelos

2:00 pm Lunch at Las Mañanitas

3:00 pm Election monitoring in Cuernavaca, Morelos

6:00 pm Elections monitoring. Closing and counting ballots in Naucalpan, Estado de México

9:00 pm Dinner at La Hacienda de los Morales  
Av. Juan Vázquez de Mella 525, Col. Del Bosque, Del. Miguel Hidalgo, 11510

**Monday July 2, 2018**

Departure



INSTITUTO NACIONAL ELECTORAL

PRESIDENCIA DEL CONSEJO GENERAL

INE/PCG/096/2018

Ciudad de México, a 26 de marzo de 2018

**SR. ALBERT ZAPANTA  
PRESIDENTE Y DIRECTOR GENERAL  
CÁMARA DE COMERCIO MÉXICO-ESTADOS UNIDOS**

Me es grato dirigirme a usted para compartirle que el 1 de julio próximo en México se realizarán comicios para elegir al Presidente de la República y renovar las dos Cámaras del Congreso de la Unión, así como diversas autoridades en 30 de los 32 entidades federativas que integran el país, sumando un total de 3,260 cargos en disputa.

Por su magnitud y dimensión, con cerca de 88 millones de electores habilitados, hará de estos comicios un acontecimiento histórico para nuestro país pues, adicionalmente, se pondrá en funcionamiento el nuevo modelo de distribución de competencias y de organización de las elecciones federales y locales, resultado de la reforma constitucional y legal aprobada en 2014.

Derivado de lo anterior, por este conducto me permito formular a una respetuosa invitación para que la Cámara de Comercio México-Estados Unidos participe en los comicios mexicanos, actualmente en curso, con una misión de acompañamiento internacional.

Como ha ocurrido en ocasiones anteriores, el Consejo General de este Instituto ha ejercido su facultad reglamentaria al aprobar las bases para atender e informar a los visitantes extranjeros, figura legal con que se reconoce al observador internacional en este país, que acudan a presenciar el desarrollo del proceso electoral en México, misma que adjuntamos.

Deseo hacer de su conocimiento que he instruido al Coordinador de Asuntos Internacionales, Manuel Carrillo Poblano, estar atento para atender cualquier comentario; siendo que para estos fines se ha habilitado el correo electrónico [visitantes.extranjeros@ine.mx](mailto:visitantes.extranjeros@ine.mx).

Haciendo votos por poder contar en nuestras elecciones con la organización que usted encabeza, manifiesto a usted la seguridad de mis distinguidas consideraciones.

**ATENTAMENTE  
El Consejero Presidente**

  
**DR. LORENZO CÓRDOVA VIANELLO**



**INSTITUTO NACIONAL ELECTORAL**  
**COORDINACIÓN DE ASUNTOS INTERNACIONALES**

**Oficio No. INE/CAI/405/2018**

Ciudad de México, a 11 de Junio de 2018

**ALBERT CHARLES ZAPANTA**  
**PRESENTE**

En nombre del Instituto Nacional Electoral de México, deseamos agradecer su interés por presenciar el desarrollo del Proceso Electoral federal y concurrente 2017-2018, en el cual se elegirán al Presidente de la República, así como a los 628 integrantes del Congreso federal bicameral, y a cerca de 2,800 cargos públicos a nivel local en 30 de las 32 entidades de este país.

Con relación a la documentación que tuvo a bien presentar para obtener su acreditación como visitante extranjero para participar en las elecciones generales referidas, toda vez que cumple con los requisitos legales establecidos, con fundamento en el párrafo 1 de la Base 5ª del Acuerdo del Consejo General del Instituto Nacional Electoral, por el que se establecen las bases y criterios con las que habrá de invitar, atender e informar a los visitantes extranjeros que acudan a conocer las modalidades del Proceso Electoral federal y concurrente 2017 – 2018, me resulta especialmente grato comunicar a usted que su solicitud ha sido aprobada, por lo cual le damos una cordial bienvenida a esta elección mexicana.

Posteriormente remitiremos información respecto del procedimiento a seguir para la obtención del gafete de acreditación correspondiente, documento esencial para que usted pueda desarrollar sus funciones de visitante extranjero. También recibirá información general sobre este proceso electoral.

En caso de requerir información adicional o algún apoyo específico, le pedimos dirigirse a la Coordinación de Asuntos Internacionales del Instituto a los teléfonos (52-55) 5449-0436 o 5628-4200, extensión 373003 y correo electrónico [visitantes.extranjeros@ine.mx](mailto:visitantes.extranjeros@ine.mx)

Reciba un respetuoso saludo.

**ATENTAMENTE**

**MANUEL CARRILLO POBLANO**  
**COORDINADOR**