

Federal Electoral Process 2012

The participation of its people is what makes a country great

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Chapter

1

50 essential questions



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1

Answers to 50 essential questions on the Mexican Political-Electoral System and the Federal Electoral Process 2012

1. HOW IS THE MEXICAN STATE POLITICALLY ORGANISED?

Mexico is a representative, democratic and federal republic. In terms of its internal governmental regime, it is formed by 32 autonomous entities (31 states and a Federal District). The way of government is Presidential. The organic structure of the federation, as well as the one of each of the 32 federal entities follows the classical scheme of division and separation of functions between the executive, legislative and judiciary powers.

2. IN AN ELECTORAL LEVEL, HOW IS THIS WAY OF POLITICAL ORGANIZATION EXPRESSED?

It is a scheme of distribution of powers. Each of the 32 federal entities and the Federation has its own electoral regulations, institutions and procedures; that is to say, there is clear difference and boundaries in electoral competence between the two levels of government.



To complement this, it is worth pointing out that the administrative competences (preparing, organizing and conducting the elections) as well as the jurisdictional ones (solving controversies and applying electoral justice) are generically distinguished and are conferred to different organisms in each level of government.

3. WHO ORGANIZES THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS?

The Federal Electoral Institute (IFE), a permanent, public organism that is autonomous in its decisions and works independently.

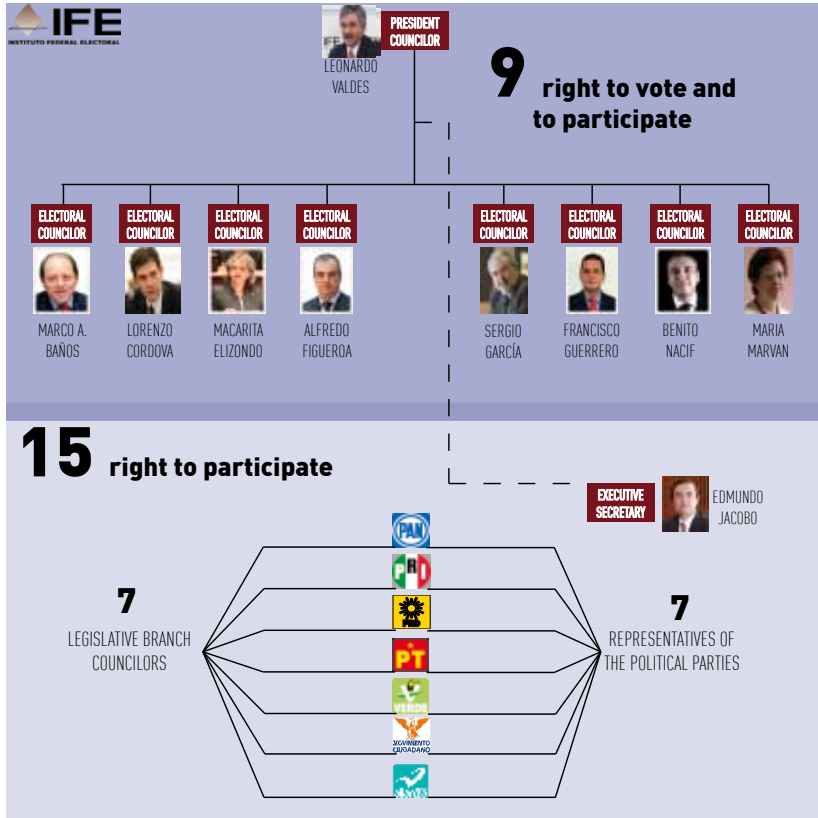


All the duties related to the preparation, organization, conduction and surveillance of federal elections are direct responsibility of IFE, from the periodical revision and adjustment of the territorial districts in which the country is divided for electoral matters to the computing of results. This also comprises the integration and updating of the electoral roll, the registration of national political parties and candidates, the design, production and distribution of documents and electoral material, the selection and training of citizens that integrate the polling sites directive boards and the giving away of preliminary results, among other things.

4. WHO DIRECTS IFE'S ACTIVITIES?

A collegiate entity called the General Council is the maximum direction body of IFE, and therefore the main responsible for invigilating that the constitutional and legal dispositions in electoral matters are enforced. The General Council is formed by nine members with a right to voice and vote and a variable number of members who have a voice but cannot vote.





The nine members with voice and vote are the President Councillor and eight Electoral Councillors. All of them are elected with the vote of two thirds of the members attending the Lower Chamber, stemming from the proposals formulated by the parliamentary groups. The President Councillor is elected to serve for a period of six years (the current period started in February 2008), and he may be re-elected once only. The eight electoral councillors are elected in a staggered way to serve a period of nine years and cannot be re-elected.

The members that have a voice but no vote are the Councillors of the Legislative Branch (currently seven as there is one for each parliamentary group); the representatives of the registered national political parties (currently seven) and the Institute's Executive Secretary, who is named and removed



with two thirds of the votes of the General Council after a proposal from the President Councillor.

5. WHO SOLVES ANY ELECTORAL CONTROVERSY?

The Federal Electoral Tribunal, a specialized organ of the Judiciary Power of the Federation, which is permanent and solves any controversy in the matter in a final, irrefutable way.



6. WHAT ARE THE FEDERAL ELECTIVE POSTS?

The President of the Republic, which changes every six years, and those of the members of the Congress of the Union, in two different chambers: 500 representatives that are renewed every three years, and 128 senators who are renewed every six years, just as the Presidency.

7. WHAT ABOUT THE LOCAL / STATE POSTS?

The State Governors and the Head of Government in the Federal District (DF) also change every six years. All the local Congresses, as well as the DF Legislative Assembly, have only one chamber and their representatives are completely renewed every three years.

The electoral organs in a state level are also in charge of the renewal of their own municipal authorities (the city council, formed by a president and a variable number of aldermen and other elected officers) or delegational authorities in the case of the Federal District, all of whom stay three years in office.

The municipality is the basic unit of the political-administrative division of the country. Each state has a different number of





municipalities, which add up to 2,440 in a national level. The Federal District is divided into 16 political delegations.

8. ARE ALL THE ELECTIONS CONDUCTED JOINTLY?

No. Even if the time of office is the same for the President of the Republic, Senators and Governors, and the rest of the posts are held for three years, the federal elections and the local ones are not necessarily conducted at the same year or date.

9. WHEN ARE FEDERAL ELECTIONS CONDUCTED?

The first Sunday of July of the corresponding year: every six years to renew at the same time the Presidency of the Republic, the 500 representatives and the 128 senators, and every three years to substitute only the 500 representatives. The polls that will take place on July 1, 2012, correspond to the first category: all the federal posts will be renewed.



Local elections in 15 states will also be conducted on that day. Seven of them will renew all the state and municipal authorities or their equivalent: the Federal District, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Morelos, Yucatán, Chiapas and Tabasco. Eight of them will only renew the local Congress and municipal authorities: Campeche,



Colima, Guerrero, State of Mexico, Nuevo León, Querétaro, San Luis Potosí and Sonora.

10. ARE THERE ANY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF FEDERAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS?

In essence, all polls in Mexico are regulated by a set of fundamental principles stated in the Mexican Constitution, even when there may be some significant differences in terms of rules and electoral procedures.

Some of the outstanding common principles are: the fact that elections are carried out through universal, free, secret and direct voting; that the electoral function is ruled by the principles of legality, impartiality, objectivity, certainty and independence; and that the authorities in charge of the administrative and jurisdictional functions have autonomy in their functioning and independency in their decisions.

In the federal and local elections that take place at the same time there is usually a great degree of coordination and normally they take place in the same sites, even if the polling booths are set and operated separately.

11. HOW IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC ELECTED?

By universal, direct and secret suffrage, and by the principle of simple or relative majority. The Constitution expressly and categorically forbids presidential re-election.

12. HOW ARE THE FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED?

Through a mixed way that combines the principles of majority and proportional representation to ensure a high correlation between the number of votes and the seats obtained by the political party. This way, 300 out of the 500 representatives are elected by relative majority (first past the post way) in a similar number of districts in which the national





territory is divided for electoral purposes. To these effects, the 300 districts are distributed among the 32 states according to their population, though no entity may choose less than two representatives by majority.



The other 200 representatives are chosen by the principle of proportional representation. For this, the states are divided into five regions, each of which is assigned 40 proportional representation seats through a system of closed and blocked party lists. That is to say, these seats are assigned to the candidates according to the order of appearance in the lists, and without the voter having any possibility to modify that order.

<i>1st Regional District</i>	<i>2nd Regional District</i>	<i>3rd Regional District</i>	<i>4th Regional District</i>	<i>5th Regional District</i>
Baja California	Aguascalientes	Campeche	Federal District	Colima
Baja California Sur	Coahuila	Chiapas	Guerrero	Hidalgo
Chihuahua	Guanajuato	Oaxaca	Morelos	State of Mexico
Durango	Querétaro	Quintana Roo	Puebla	Michoacán
Jalisco	Nuevo León	Tabasco	Tlaxcala	
Nayarit	San Luis Potosí	Veracruz		
Sinaloa	Tamaulipas	Yucatán		
Sonora	Zacatecas			



13. IS THE ELECTION OF BOTH KINDS OF REPRESENTATIVES CARRIED OUT INDEPENDENTLY?

No, it is not. The mechanics of the system, which can be classified as a variant of the German personalized proportional representation system, allows both to be carried out simultaneously. With one vote only, the voter expresses at the same time his preferences for a candidate in his district and for a party list in his boundary. His vote for one candidate is used to choose the winner in one district by simple majority and his vote for a list is added to the results in that boundary to assign the seats for proportional representation.

Possible clashes on the relation votes-seats are compensated with the assigning of majority seats; however, the law states that there may be a difference of up to eight points in that relation, that is, to set an example, a political party that gets 40% of the votes, may benefit obtaining up to 48% of the 500 seats.

In this sense, it is worth pointing out that, after constitutional mandate, no party may obtain more than 300 of the 500 seats that make up the Lower Chamber, regardless of the percentage of votes obtained.

14. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS CONSTITUTIONAL REGULATION?

To avoid one party alone holding most of the two thirds of the votes of the Chamber needed to approve any reform to the Constitution. In other terms, it is necessary for one or more parties to add up their votes in a parliamentary level so that the majority required to approve constitutional reforms is integrated.

15. HOW ARE THE SENATORS ELECTED?

Also by a mixed system, which combines majority and proportional representation principles. In this case they operate independently, thus making up a mixed, segmented





system, where the assignment of proportional representation seats does not take into consideration the first-past-the-post results.

Each of the 32 federal entities makes a trinomial district; that is, where three seats are distributed. Two of them are assigned to candidates emerging from a political institution that gets the most votes in the whole state, and a third one is assigned to the political party that gets second place in the voting. The 32 other seats are assigned according to the proportional representation principle from one list that each party had made on a national level. This list is also closed and blocked.

16. DOES THE LAW CONTEMPLATE ANY REGULATION THAT GUARANTEES A GENDER BALANCE IN THE NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES?

Yes. The current threshold is 60%, which means that the political parties cannot surpass this percentage in the number of nominations of the same sex for Representatives and Senators. The law foresees express mechanisms to guarantee the effective compliance with this legislation.

17. ARE INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES ALLOWED TO RUN FOR FEDERAL POSTS?

No, they are not. According to the current electoral legislation, it is the legally registered national parties who have exclusive right to nominate candidates to federal posts.

18. HOW MANY POLITICAL PARTIES ARE THERE?

There are currently seven national political parties:



National Action Party (Partido Acción Nacional)



Institutional Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Institucional)



Democratic Revolution Party (Partido de la Revolución Democrática)



Labour Party (Partido del Trabajo)



Green Ecological Party of Mexico (Partido Verde Ecologista de México)



Citizen Movement (Movimiento Ciudadano)



New Alliance Party (Partido Nueva Alianza)

Chart 1
Number of political parties by federal election

1994	1997	2000	2003	2006	2009
9	8	11	11	8	8

19. WILL ALL OF THEM NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR THE NEXT FEDERAL ELECTION?

Yes, although it must be pointed out that some of them will nominate common candidates through the signing of coalition agreements, which may be either full or partial. In no case can these involve Representative or Senator seats assigned by proportional majority.

In this sense, the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD), the Labour Party (PT) and Citizen Movement (MC), integrated a full coalition (called “Progressive Movement”). Therefore, they will nominate common candidates for the Presidency of the Republic, for all first-past-the-post Representatives (300) and formulas for Senators in the 32 states.

In turn, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), and the Green Ecological Party of Mexico (PVEM) integrated a partial coalition (called “Commitment with Mexico”). They will also





nominate a common candidate for the Presidency, 125 first-past-the-post representatives and formulas for Senators in 20 out of the 32 states.

The National Action Party and the New Alliance Party will be the only ones that will nominate their own candidates for all federal posts.

20. DO PARTIES LOSE THEIR REGISTRATION IF THEY DO NOT GET A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF VOTES?

Yes. In order to keep their legal registration, as well as the rights and prerogatives that come with it, the parties must get at least 2% of the total amount of the valid votes cast in any national election. More specifically, access to the seats of those representatives and Senators of proportional representation is conditioned to getting that minimum amount of votes in the corresponding national election.

It is only after a federal electoral process for the Presidency of the Republic is finished, that is, every six years, that a period is opened for organisations to apply for their registration as a political party.

21. WHAT ARE THE POLITICAL PARTIES' MAIN RIGHTS AND PREROGATIVES?

They receive public funding both for their ordinary activities and for campaign expenses, permanent and free access to radio and T.V., exemption from payment of postage and telegraphic fees, and a special fiscal regime.

22. WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF PUBLIC FUNDING?

Public funding, by Constitutional mandate, must prevail over private funding. On this basis, direct public funding is assigned following three different concepts or modalities. It is distributed following a temperate proportionate criterion that



combines an equal part (30%) and another part proportional to each political party's strength (70%).

The first funding modality is for parties to keep up their permanent ordinary activities and is calculated every year. It must be pointed out that parties have to assign 2% of this funding to training, promotion and development of women's leadership. The second is to finance campaign expenses and is only given in electoral years. The third one, which is also assigned on a yearly basis, is meant to finance specific activities, among them political education and training, political and socio-economic research and editorial.

23. ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS TO PARTY AND CAMPAIGN FUNDING ?

Yes. In order to promote equity and transparency in party funding and campaigns, the law expressly bans donations and contributions from any governmental organ, power, or office in all the levels and modalities; from any foreign individual or legal entity; from any international organisms; any ministers of religious creeds or group from whatever religion; people living or working abroad; any mercantile Mexican businesses; or any anonymous person, except when collected in meetings or the street.

24. DO POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE TO REPORT ON THEIR INCOME AND EXPENSES?

Yes. During non-electoral periods, political parties must hand in yearly financial reports along with a consolidated status of their patrimonial situation, as well as quarterly reports where the advance in the use of their resources is stated.

During electoral periods, they must hand in financial reports both for the pre-campaigns as well as for the campaigns for each pre-candidate or candidate that has been registered.





In the case of a campaign report, a preliminary one must be presented before polling day, and a final one sixty days after the election.

25. ARE CAMPAIGNS REGULATED?

Yes. The law establishes a set of rules so that parties carry out their internal processes for candidate selection. As for times for pre-campaign, the law determines that when there are elections for all federal posts, such as the one of July 1st, these will start the third week of December prior to the electoral year and cannot be any longer than 40 days.

The law forbids the pre-candidates to perform any propaganda activities before the pre-campaign starting dates. If any pre-candidate breaks this regulation, he/she cannot be registered as such, and will be eliminated from the contest as a consequence.

26. HOW LONG ARE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS?

The legislation also regulates electoral campaigns quite punctually. Their lengths vary also depending on the kind of federal election we are talking about. In the case of general elections, these last 90 days; however, if we are talking about by-elections, then they last 60 days. Campaign activities start after the candidates have been registered, but they must invariably finish three days before polling day.

27. ARE THE ACCESS AND USE OF THE MEDIA DURING CAMPAIGNS REGULATED?

Yes. The law contemplates a large number of regulations related to the use of radio and T.V. for electoral purposes, which cover campaign periods and beyond. They are designed around three fundamental axes:



The first one is that political parties have the right to free, permanent access to all radio stations and the TV channels that operate in the country. The amount of time available in this prerogative is substantially increased during electoral periods.

The second one is that not only are the political parties, their candidates, pre-candidates, leaders or members, but any individual or legal entity, legally forbidden to hire time on radio and TV for personal promotion with electoral purposes or to try to have an influence in the citizens' electoral preferences.

The third one is that IFE has the powers, as the only authority that can administer the State's airtime on radio and TV times, to guarantee both the political parties' access prerogatives in all the elections conducted in the country, and the fact that the federal and local electoral authorities do comply with their obligations.

28. HOW LONG IS THAT FREE TIME THE PARTIES HAVE FOR ELECTORAL PROPAGANDA AND HOW IS IT DISTRIBUTED?

During federal electoral processes, from the beginning of pre-campaigns until polling day, IFE is responsible for administering 48 daily minutes in each radio station's and TV channel's programming. (There are around 2,300 in the whole country).

During pre-campaigns, the political parties get 18 daily minutes of each medium's programming. During campaign periods, their times increase to 41 daily minutes for 20- and 30-second promotionals distributed along the programming between 6 am and 12 am.

30% of the time is distributed equally among all the parties; the other 70% is distributed according to the level of votes achieved in the previous election for representatives.





29. ARE THERE ANY CEILINGS TO CAMPAIGN EXPENSES?

Yes. The expenses made by the political parties, the coalitions and their candidates in campaign activities cannot overpass the limits set by IFE's General Council according to a set of rules clearly established by the law, for each electoral process and for each type of election in particular.

For each presidential election, the ceiling to campaign expenses amounts to 20% of the public funding granted to all political parties on the year of the election. This way, for the presidential election in 2012, the ceiling to campaign expenses was set in 328'608,267.50 pesos (equivalent to a little more than 24.3 million dollars, considering an average exchange rate of 13.5 pesos per dollar).

It must be pointed out that the expenses for pre-campaign activities are also subject to limits.

30. ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS FOR MAKING OPINION POLL RESULTS PUBLIC BEFORE THE ELECTIONS?

Yes. It is forbidden to broadcast or publish, on any medium, the results of any opinion or exit polls that attempt to show the citizens' electoral preferences during the three days prior to polling day and up to the official closing hour of all the polling sites found in the most-to-the-west time zone of the land (20:00 central time for practical effects).

Besides, should anyone ask for any poll or survey of this kind from the beginning of the electoral process to the official closing of the voting sites, and publish these results in any medium, a copy of the full study must be handed in to IFE.



31. IS IT COMMON FOR CANDIDATES TO HOLD DEBATES AMONG THEM?

Yes. It is becoming more usual among contenders, pre-candidates and candidates to different electoral posts to participate in debates. These should comply with the law, particularly with the prohibition to buy any times or spaces in radio or TV for their execution.

In the case of presidential elections, the law even establishes the realization of two debates among the candidates, one on the first week of May and another one on the second week of June in the year of the election, under the terms set by IFE's General Council, previous consultation with the political parties.

32. WHO QUALIFIES AS A VOTER?

In principle, every man and woman of Mexican nationality, either by birth or naturalization, who is 18 or older on polling day and makes an honest living, has the right to vote both in federal and local elections. That being said, in order to exercise their right to voting, the citizens must be registered in the voters' list and have their updated photo voting card, which is issued by IFE, and is free.

Bringing the photo voting card that is valid for ten years, is an essential requirement for the citizen to be able to vote. Even when the electoral register is permanent, on the year when there is a federal election, citizens must have asked for their enrollment in the register by January 15th at the most. In case the voting card was stolen, lost or is deteriorated, citizens can ask for a replacement up to the last day of February of the year of the election.





33. HOW MANY VOTERS ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE NEXT ELECTION?

The precise number will be made public by the second fortnight of May, 2012, once the process of revision of the citizens' and political parties' observations to preliminary lists is over, and the General Council declares the electoral roll and the voters list are valid and definite. We can foretell the number to be close to 80 million voters.

Chart 2
Voters' List in Federal Elections

	1994	1997	2000	2003	2006	2009
Voters' List	45 729 053	52 208 966	58 782 737	64 710 596	71 350 976	77 481 874
Voter Turnout	35 285 291 77.16%	30 120 221 57.69%	37 601 618 63.97%	26 968 371 41.68%	41 791 322 58.57%	34 677 923 44.76%

34. HOW IS THE VOTE CAST?

Within the national territory, the vote for national elections is cast in person, in sites specially set for the effects called 'polling booths', and in a manual way, by the marking of papers called ballots.

The law in some states, such as Coahuila and Jalisco, foresees the possibility to cast the vote electronically, yet the federal voting and counting are still made manually.

35. HOW IS THE NUMBER AND LOCATION OF POLLING BOOTHS DETERMINED?

The basic unit in which the country's territory is divided for electoral purposes is called a section. As a general rule, a section is made up by 50 voters at least and 1,500 voters at the most, grouped according to geographic closeness of their homes. On this basis, the law establishes that there must be



one polling booth or polling site for every 750 voters or less, living within a section; therefore, there will normally be two polling sites per electoral section.

Nevertheless, the exact number of polling sites set in each section (and consequently in each larger electoral jurisdiction) depends on the amount of registered voters and the enforcement of some unique rules for their setting. The estimate says that for the federal elections on July 1st, 2012, 145 thousand polling sites will be set up all over the country.

If in one section it is necessary to set up, according to the number of registered voters, two or three polling sites, it is desirable that they be installed next to each other in the same place. In such cases, voters are distributed in the tables in alphabetical order.

There are also the special polling sites, where the electors that are exceptionally out of their section on the day of the election may cast their vote, although it is worth mentioning that only five polling sites at the most can be installed in each electoral district.

Chart 3
Polling sites installed on Federal Elections

	1994	1997	2000	2003	2006	2009
Polling sites	96 415	104 716	113 423	121 367	130 488	139 181

36. HOW ARE THE POLLING SITE MEMBERS CHOSEN?

There is a directive board in each polling site that consists of four main officers (a president, a secretary and two scrutineers) and three general stand-bys. All of them are selected by a special process structured around a double draw based on the voters' lists of each section. This guarantees the randomness of the selection process and makes sure that each member of the directive board is a resident of the electoral





section. The double draw uses the month of birth and the initial letter of the last name, which are put into a draw made by the General Council of IFE.

In the first draw, which takes place in March of the year of the elections, 10% of the voters in each section are chosen according to their month of birth, and they are offered a training course. After the course, those that are more suitable for the job are selected and registered in a new list, which is taken to a second draw in the month of May, based on the initial letter of the last name. The members of the board are finally chosen according to alphabetical order and the fact that the voters did in fact take the training course and have no impediment to perform the task. Their scholarly level is taken into consideration to decide each member's role.

37. DO THE POLITICAL PARTIES INVIGILATE THE CORRECT OPERATION OF THE POLLING SITES?

Yes. Each political party or coalition has the right to register up to two main representatives and one substitute in each polling site, with the purpose to invigilate its correct operation and watch over their own interest. Parties' representatives have the right to receive legible copies of all the acts issued in the voting sites and to present written statements of incidents that took place during the voting and/or of protest when the counting has finished.

38. CAN ELECTORAL OBSERVERS BE THERE?

Yes. The law recognizes the Mexican citizens' right to participate as observer all along the electoral process and anywhere within the national territory, in the way and terms determined by IFE's General Council for each federal election, after obtaining the necessary accreditation.



Chart 4
Electoral Observers in Federal Elections

	1994	1997	2000	2003	2006	2009
Electoral observers	81 620	24 391	32 401	11 522	25 321	18 123

Likewise, the law contemplates the possibility that foreign citizens may get to know and get informed about the development of the federal processes in all their stages as ‘foreign visitors’.

Chart 5
Foreign Visitors in Federal Elections

	1994	1997	2000	2003	2006	2009
Foreign visitors	943	397	860	180	693	424

39. CAN THE VOTER CAST HIS VOTE IN ANY VOTING SITE?

The voters have to vote in the polling site that corresponds to the section of their addresses. The votes for president and senators of proportional representation are the only ones that, when talking about general federal elections such as the one of July 1, are guaranteed for all the ones who vote in the special booths, since the casting of votes for first-past-the-post representatives or senators could be conditioned by geographical factors related to the correspondence between the area where the polling site is set in and the registration of each individual voter.

40. CAN MEXICANS VOTE ABROAD?

Yes, they can, but only for presidential elections via post office; that is, through a different procedure to the one used for federal elections in national territory. No polling sites are set abroad.

In order to vote abroad, the Mexican citizen must have a photo voting card and ask for, previously (January 15th of the year of elections at the most), their provisional register as voter





abroad. Around six weeks prior to the election, the registered voter receives (via the post) a package with all the papers and information required to cast his/her vote in a confidential, secret way. In order for the vote cast abroad to be considered in the counting, it has to be received 24 hours prior to the beginning of polling day.

41. CAN THE SOLDIERS AND THOSE IN CONFINEMENT IN HOSPITAL OR PRISON VOTE?

Within the national territory, the vote is cast in person; that is, going personally to the polling sites set for such effect. On these terms, there is no impediment for the people in the army or the police to cast their vote.

The punishment that deprives of freedom implies the withdrawal of political rights, amongst them the one to vote and to be voted. Therefore, those sentenced in prison cannot vote. Formally, prisoners awaiting sentence from a judge or those citizens in hospitals or assistance centers have no legal impediment to vote, yet there are no mechanisms for them to do so if they are in confinement.

42. WHAT TIME ARE VOTING SITES OPEN?

On polling day, at 8:00, the setting of polling sites begins. Voting is over at 18:00. The polling site can only be closed earlier than that if all the voters registered in the corresponding voting list have already voted. If at 18:00 there are still voters in line to cast their vote, it will close until all of them have cast their vote.

43. WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE FOR VOTING?

The electors vote in order of arrival in their corresponding polling site. The first thing they have to do is bring and show their photo voting card. Once it has been verified that the voter is indeed in the voting list, which also includes the picture of



the voter, the president hands him/her a ballot for each of the posts in contest (for the federal election on July 1, each voter will receive 3 ballots: one for president, one for representatives and one for senators, each of a distinctive color), so that in a free and secret way, inside the polling booth, each can mark their preferences.

Once the ballot has been marked, the voter has to fold it and put it inside the corresponding ballot box (there is one for each election, which is also clearly identified). When they return to the polling site, the officers have to print a stamp with the word 'voted' in the voters' list, mark the voting card in the corresponding frame, put indelible ink in the voter's right thumb and give him back his voting card, which is the end of the voting process.

44. IS THE VOTING PROCESS DIFFERENT IN SPECIAL POLLING SITES?

Yes, there are some significant variations that stem out from the fact that special polling sites do not have a determined voters' list; that is, it does not have a full, exhaustive relation of the voters that are able to vote in them, as the others do.

It is also essential here that the voter shows his/her photo voting card in order to be able to vote. The first thing is to check the voter's right thumb, in order to verify that he/she has not already voted in another polling site. Then, officers have to check in an automated database found in all the special polling sites, if the voter is indeed registered in the electoral roll.

The data in the voting card is then written in an act for voters in transit. According to the geographical correspondence between the location of the polling site and the voter's address, it is determined what kind of vote, besides the one for president and the one for senators of proportional representation, the voter has a right to cast.





No more than 750 electors can vote in special polling sites. These can be closed earlier than 18:00 if that amount has been reached.

45. DOES THE COUNTING START IN THE POLLING SITES?

Yes. Immediately after the closing of the site starts what in Mexico is called the ‘scrutiny’ and counting of the votes, which is the procedure through which the number of electors that voted in each site is determined, as well as the number of votes in favor of each party or candidate of a coalition, non-registered candidates, the number of invalid and void votes and any extra ballots, so that the total amount of citizens in the voters’ list and the accredited representatives of the political parties can also vote. Every polling site is assigned 750 voting ballots.

Those representing the political parties have the right to invigilate all the operations of scrutiny and counting, to present writings in protest and to receive an official copy of the act of results from each polling site. These operations can also be watched by electoral observers and accredited foreign visitors.

46. WHAT TIME DO FIRST ELECTORAL RESULTS BECOME KNOWN?

The last polling sites, those that are more to the west and have a different time zone, close at 20:00 central time. This is when the ban imposed for public broadcasting of any information related to the elections ceases.

Therefore, it is common that at that time, the different media start the spreading of results coming from exit polls, quick countings or any other instrument to measure public opinion used to know or foresee the electorate’s preferences. These are not official numbers.

At the same time, IFE starts transmitting to the public the information generated by the informatics program operated by



IFE to know and spread the preliminary results of the elections in real time. This is done both in a national center fit out expressly for this, where there is all kind of facilities for the media, and by the use of a wide net of free-access portals. The results that are given away via this program are based on the data stated in the acts that were filled in and validated in each of the voting sites, although, rigorously speaking, they are not official.

47. WHEN DOES THE OFFICIAL TALLY TAKE PLACE?

On Wednesday after polling day (July 4 in the case of the federal elections of 2012), at 8:00 sharp, starts the official counting process of the results of federal elections on a district level (district councils). This stage culminates the counting related to the election of the 300 first-past-the-post representatives, and provides the added data for the presidential election.

On Sunday after the elections, the process is taken to IFE's office on a state level (local councils) in order to consolidate the results in that level, and finish the official counting for the election of senators of both principles and representatives of proportional representation.

48. ARE THESE RESULTS DEFINITE?

These countings produce official, yet not definite, results. Final, definite results are given only after the Electoral Tribunal has solved, if such were the case, the objections or legal challenges (called trials of dispute in first instance and reconsideration trials in second and last instance) presented by the political parties and candidates, that are related to the results of the election.

The resolution of these resources takes place within periods that are strictly foreseen by the law, but it is important to point out that these trials of dispute that activate all the litigious





process on this matter can only be presented within four days after the conclusion of the countings made by IFE on a district and local levels.

49. CAN SOMEONE ASK FOR A RECOUNTING OF THE VOTES?

Yes. The electoral legislation expressly states the possibility to carry out a recounting of the votes when the countings on a district level take place. District recounting can be partial or total. The partial one refers to the votes cast in a set number of polling sites under certain hypotheses foreseen by the law.

The total recounting of the votes comprehends the ones cast in all the polling sites in a district. It can be done equally in the elections for representatives, senators or President of the Republic. It is carried out if an explicit application has been made, given any trace of the difference between the supposed winner of the district and the second place being equal to or lower than one percent.

50. WHEN DOES THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL PROCESS END?

When the federal elections include the renovation of the Presidency of the Republic, such as the ones of July 2012, the process ends when the Superior Court of the Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch of the Federation (who has the powers to solve, in an only instance and in a definite, non-objectionable way the contests to the election and do the final counting) approves the ruling and declares the election valid and the president elect.

In those cases when there is only an election for representatives, the elections end when all the certificates have been given out to the elected representatives both on the principles of relative majorities and of proportional representation, and once all the controversies have been solved by the Electoral Tribunal.

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Chapter

2

Mexican Electoral Regime



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2. Overview of the Mexican Political Electoral Regime

I. BASIC DATA

Official name: Estados Unidos Mexicanos (United Mexican States)

State type: Federal

Political division: 2440 municipalities, distributed in 31 states and one federal district

Government type: Presidential

Surface area: 1 964 375 km²

Population: 112 336 538 (2010 census)

Voters: 79 454 813 (May, 2012)

National political parties: 7





II. POLÍTICAL ORGANIZATION

Mexico is a representative, democratic republic conformed by thirty-two autonomous states (thirty-one states and one Federal District) regarding its internal government regime. The government system is presidential. Both the federation and each of the thirty-two states adjust to the traditional model for the division of powers and separation of functions divided into Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branch.

The Executive Branch of the Union is integrated by one representative, the President, who is elected by direct election and universal suffrage of all citizens to serve for a period of six years. Under no circumstance the President may be re-elected. In the thirty-one states the Executive is vested upon the Governors, and in an analogous manner, in the Federal District, on the Chief of Government. They also serve a six-year term and may not be re-elected.

The Legislative Branch of the Federation is vested upon the Congress of the Union, formed by a Lower Chamber of 500 members and an Upper Chamber conformed by 128 members. The Legislative Branch of the thirty-two states is single chambered. It is called Local Congress in the thirty-one states and Legislative Assembly in the Federal District. All Deputies serve for a period of three years and all Senators serve for six years.

The Judicial Branch of the Federation is vested upon the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, made up by eleven ministers elected by the vote of two thirds of the present members of the Upper Chamber, based on a list put forward by the President of the Republic. The Judicial Branch of each one of the thirty-two states is vested upon their corresponding Supreme Court of Justice.

The Political Constitution of the United Mexican States establishes that all states of the Federation adopt as the basis of their territorial division and political and administrative division, the free municipality. The country comprises a total of 2440 municipalities, which are administered by a directly elected Council. Each Council consists of a Major and a variable number of Councillors and Trustees.





Table 6. Population and voters by state

State	Capital City	Population	Voters	Districts
Aguascalientes	Aguascalientes	1 184 996 (1.1%)	812 675	3
Baja California	Mexicali	3 155 070 (2.8%)	2 323 238	8
Baja California Sur	La Paz	637 026 (0.6%)	430 342	2
Campeche	Campeche	822 441 (0.7%)	563 812	2
Chiapas	Tuxtla Gutiérrez	4 796 580 (4.3%)	3 016 693	12
Chihuahua	Chihuahua	3 406 465 (3.0%)	2 500 643	9
Coahuila	Saltillo	2 748 391 (2.4%)	1 901 825	7
Colima	Colima	650 555 (0.6%)	471 897	2
Distrito Federal	Ciudad de México	8 851 080 (7.9%)	7 217 936	27
Durango	Durango	1 632 934 (1.5%)	1 145 132	4
Estado de México	Toluca	15 175 862 (13.5%)	10 396 544	40
Guanajuato	Guanajuato	5 486 372 (4.9%)	3 860 235	14
Guerrero	Chilpancingo	3 388 768 (3.0%)	2 343 150	9
Hidalgo	Pachuca	2 665 018 (2.4%)	1 861 640	7
Jalisco	Guadalajara	7 350 682 (6.5%)	5 261 003	19
Michoacán	Morelia	4 351 037 (3.9%)	3 144 298	12
Morelos	Cuernavaca	1 777 227 (1.6%)	1 311 364	5
Nayarit	Tepic	1 084 979 (1.0%)	749 693	3
Nuevo León	Monterrey	4 653 458 (4.1%)	3 324 143	12
Oaxaca	Oaxaca	3 801 962 (3.4%)	2 594 998	11
Puebla	Puebla	5 779 829 (5.1%)	3 915 965	16
Querétaro	Querétaro	1 827 937 (1.6%)	1 280 215	4
Quintana Roo	Chetumal	1 325 578 (1.2%)	925 089	3
San Luis Potosí	San Luis Potosí	2 585 518 (2.3%)	1 765 188	7
Sinaloa	Culiacán	2 767 761 (2.5%)	1 912 288	8
Sonora	Hermosillo	2 662 480 (2.4%)	1 872 320	7
Tabasco	Villahermosa	2 238 603 (2.0%)	1 530 135	6
Tamaulipas	Ciudad Victoria	3 268 554 (2.9%)	2 445 526	8
Tlaxcala	Tlaxcala	1 169 936 (1.0%)	813 598	3
Veracruz	Xalapa	7 643 194 (6.8%)	5 330 353	21
Yucatán	Mérida	1 955 577 (1.7%)	1 357 420	5
Zacatecas	Zacatecas	1 490 668 (1.3%)	1 075 455	4
32 entities		112 336 538 inhabitants	79 454 813	300 districts



III. INTEGRATION AND RENEWAL OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE POWERS

The Federal Constitution acknowledges the elections as the only legitimately valid method to integrate and renew the Federal Executive and Legislative Branches of the Federation.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH: Unitary, President, 6 years

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH: Congress of the Union, Bicameral (Lower Chamber, 500 members, 3 years; Upper Chamber, 128 members, 6 years).

JUDICIAL BRANCH: Supreme Court of Justice, 11 members, 15 years.

1. Executive branch

The Supreme Federal Executive Branch rests upon one single member. It is vested upon the President of the United Mexican States. Besides leading the government of the Republic, the President is also Head of State and the Army. He is elected every six years through direct election, universal suffrage, and the principle of relative or simple majority. The Political Constitution strictly forbids re-election in any modality.

2. Legislative branch

The Federal Legislative Branch is vested upon the Congress of the Union, which is divided into an Upper and a Lower Chamber. 500 members who serve for a three-year period and may not be re-elected for an immediate period compose the Lower Chamber; while 128 members who are elected for a six-year period and may only be re-elected after a midterm period, compose the Upper Chamber.

Integration of the Lower Chamber

The 500 Federal Deputies are elected by means of a variation in the system of personalized proportional representa-





tion, in which a percentage of the Deputies are elected by a system of majority and the rest by a proportional representation system within the terms that assure their interrelationship and completeness.

So, from the 500 seats that make up the Lower Chamber, 300 are elected by relative majority in single-member districts among which the national territory is divided for electoral purposes, and the other 200 are elected by proportional representation through the system of party lists in five regional districts. Federal Deputies are elected for a three-year period and may not be re-elected for an immediate period.

500 representatives:

- *300 elected by majority*
- *200 elected by proportional representation.*

No political party may have more than 300 lower chamber members elected by both principles.

No political party is allowed to have a total number of Lower Chamber members, that exceeds eight points from the percentage of national votes cast on its behalf.

On this basis, the Federal Constitution establishes two especially relevant provisions regarding the composition of the Lower Chamber:

- No political party may have more than 300 Lower Chamber members elected by both principles, that is, relative majority and proportional representation. Thus, if a political party may aspire to the absolute majority of seats (251), by which it can approve legal reforms, the law prevents it from reaching the qualified majority (two thirds of the total seats) required to approve constitutional reforms by the party itself. The constitutional reforms must be result of the agreement between the different political parties' parliamentary fractions.
- In general terms and in order to guarantee proportionality between votes-seats, no political party is allowed to have a total number of Lower Chamber members, that exceeds



eight points from the percentage of national votes cast on its behalf. For instance, if a political party wins 35 percent of the election, it will not be entitled to obtain more than 43 percent of the seats, that is, more than 215 of the 500 seats.

The Constitution also establishes that the only exception to this rule shall be in the event that a political party gains a percentage of the overall Chamber seats that exceeds the sum of the percentage of the national votes cast plus 8 percent through relative majority voting in single-member districts. For instance, if a party wins 235 of the single-member districts (amounting to 47 percent of the total), with 35 percent of the total votes cast, the proportionality rule of 8 percent would not be applicable even though the differential between votes and seats would amount to 12 percent.

The Federal Lower Chamber members may not be re-elected for the immediate following term, although this restriction does not apply to the substitute Lower Chamber members who have never been in office. In this case, they may become holder Lower Chamber members for the immediate following term. However, the holder Lower Chamber members may not be elected for the immediate following term as substitutes.

Election of the first-past-the-post representatives

The election of the 300 federal Lower Chamber members through the principle of relative majority is conducted in 300 single-member districts. The distribution of the 300 districts among the thirty-two states is established according to the percentage of the population living in each of them. Based on the results obtained in the population and dwelling census that is carried out every ten years in Mexico, the Constitution establishes that no state may have less than two federal single-member districts.





The most recent redistribution of the 300 districts among the thirty-two states in order to guarantee that each deputy represents an equivalent segment of the

- 300 deputies elected in an equal number of single-member districts all over de country.
- 200 deputies elected en five multi-member districts. 40 deputies each.

population and hence satisfies the principle of equity in the vote was verified between April 2004 and January 2005, based on the population census carried out in 2000. Nevertheless in 2010 a new population census was carried out, the electoral authority agreed, based on its attributions, to do a new district distribution after the 2012 federal elections.

Election of the proportional representation deputies

The election of the 200 Lower Chamber members through the principle of proportional representation is carried out by means of regional lists to be voted in five multi-member districts. 40 Lower Chamber members are equally elected in each of these districts.

In order to participate in the Lower Chamber member's election, a political party must demonstrate that it has registered candidates for Lower Chamber seats to be elected through the principle of relative majority in at least 200 of the 300 single-member districts. If it complies with this requirement, the political party may proceed to the registration of its regional list of candidates in the five multi-member districts. These regional lists are closed and blocked, meaning that the order of the candidacies is invariable and none of them may be eliminated.

For a party to be entitled to have members of proportional representation in the Lower Chamber, it must attain at least 2 percent of the total votes cast for these elections. The Constitution establishes that a political party that complies with the two aforementioned requirements shall be allocated a number of proportional representation Lower Chamber



members per district according to the percentage of national votes won and considering the provisions regarding the maximum amount of seats that a single party may have (300) and the rule of proportionality in the votes/ seats ratio of 8 percent, when applicable.

The electoral legislation details the applicable formulas and procedures to appoint proportional representation Lower Chamber members, considering the different hypotheses or scenarios set forth by the aforementioned provisions.

Integration of the Upper Chamber

The Upper Chamber or Senate is composed by 128 members elected through a segmented system in which a section is elected by a majority formula and another by a proportionality formula. Unlike the Lower Chamber, the two segments operate independently.

- *96 members: three senators elected in each of the 32 states: two of them by majority and the third one through the first minority principle.*
- *32 senators elected by proportional representation through voter rolls in one single national multi-member district.*

Three Senators are elected in each of the thirty-two states. For this purpose, the political parties must register a list with two formulas for their candidates. Two of the seats are allocated through the relative majority principle, that is, they belong to the party that obtained the largest number of votes, and the third one is appointed through the first minority principle, that is, to the party that obtained the second largest amount of votes.

The remaining thirty-two seats are appointed by means of the proportional representation system, according to lists voted in one single national multi-member district. The law establishes





that a pure proportionality formula (natural quotient and higher remainder) must be used for their appointment.

As earlier mentioned, the substitute Lower and Upper Chamber members may be elected for the immediate following term as holder members, provided that they had never been in office, but holder Upper and Lower Chamber members may not be elected as substitutes for the immediate following term.

IV. RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENT FEDERAL ELECTIONS

The most recent elections for renewing the presidency of the Republic and the 128 seats integrating the Upper Chamber took place on July 2, 2006.

The eight registered national political parties competed, but only three of them individually did so by nominating their own candidates: National Action Party (PAN), New Alliance (NA), and Social-democrat and Peasant Alternative (ASDyC). The other five competed through two coalitions: the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and the Mexican Green Party (PVEM), joined efforts through the “Alliance for Mexico”; meanwhile the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD), the Labor Party (PT) and Convergence (C), through the alliance “For the Wellbeing of Everyone”.

The participation average of the three federal elections (as the Deputies’ elections also took place) was of 58.5% of a universe of 71´374,373 registered voters. After the elections, all the parties kept their registry as they obtained at least the 2% threshold of the submitted votes. In a tight election, the PAN candidate, Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, won the presidential election and, after being declared President-elect by the TEPFJ, he took office on December 1, 2006. His mandate will conclude next November 30.

The next diagram shows the 2006 electoral results by political party in the Upper Chamber:



Table 7
Upper Chamber's Composition in 2006

	SENATORS ELECTED BY MAJORITY	SENATORS ASIGNED TO THE FIRST MINORITY	SENATORS ELECTED BY PROPORTIONALITY	TOTAL NUMBER OF SENATORS
PAN	32	9	11	52
PRI	8	19	6	33
PRD	16	4	6	26
PT	2	-	2	4
PVEM	2	-	4	6
C	4	-	2	6
NA	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	64	32	32	128

The most recent elections for renewing the Lower Chamber took place on Sunday 5 July, 2009. For this election, although there was a registration period for new organizations interested in competing, only the eight national political parties that competed in 2006 contended. These new organizations did not fulfill the registration requirements. By the way, as a result of the constitutional and legal reforms approved between 2007 and 2008, now, political parties' registration is solely opened every six years, after the federal elections to renew the presidency take place. Before, registration was available every three years.

Again, two coalitions for nominating common candidates formed: the PRI and the PVEM formed the coalition dubbed "Mexico First" by which they nominated common deputies for 63 of 300 single districts; and the PT and C integrated the coalition "Let's Save Mexico" by which they nominated common deputies for the 300 single districts.

The voters' participation was of 44.6%, as a little bit more than 34.5 million of the 77'470,785 voters exercised their right to vote. The PSD did not reach the 2% threshold of the valid submitted votes; hence, it lost its registry. The next diagram





shows the number of seats obtained by each of the seven national political forces that kept their registry:

Table 8
Seats distribution in 2009

	MEMBERS ELECTED BY MAJORITY	MEMBERS ELECTED BY PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION	TOTAL
PRI	184	53	237
PAN	70	73	143
PRD	39	32	71
PVEM	4	17	21
PT	3	10	13
NA	-	9	9
C	-	6	6
TOTAL	300	200	500

V. INAUGURAL ACT OF THE ELECTED FEDERAL AUTHORITIES AND ESTABLISHMENT AND SESSIONS OF THE CHAMBER

The President-elect takes office on December 1 of the year in which the elections take place through a solemn act of protest before the Congress or, in case of it being in recess, the Permanent Commission.

The Deputies and Senators take office on September 1 of the year in which the elections take place. While Senators are elected for a term of six years, as the Chamber of Deputies is renewed in its entirety every three, it is the Deputies' inauguration act the one that marks the beginning of the establishment and operation of a new Parliament every three years. The legislature that will take office on September 1, 2012 and function for the next triennium will be the LXII.

The Constitution establishes that the Chambers may not open their sessions nor exercise their duties without the presence of more than half of their total number of members. The Congress must hold two ordinary session periods per year. The first



one begins on September 1 every year and may extend until December 15 of the same year, except in the years where the President of the Republic takes office. In this case, the sessions may extend until December 31. The second period begins on February 1 and ends on April 30.

During the recess periods, a Permanent Commission consisting of 37 members is formed. Nineteen of them are Lower Chamber members, and eighteen are Upper Chamber members, appointed by their respective Chambers on the day before the closing of the ordinary session periods.

The Permanent Commission has the exclusive attribution to summon the Congress or one of the Chambers to extraordinary sessions, either on its behalf or by request of the Executive Branch. The vote of two thirds of the members who are present is mandatory in any case.

The President, the Upper and Lower Chamber members of Congress and the state legislative bodies have the exclusive right to pass laws or decrees.

The federal legal system does not acknowledge any kind of direct democracy mechanism such as plebiscite, referendum, citizen's initiative or the revocation of freely elected representatives.





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Chapter

3

The participation of its people is what
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IFE: Nature, Powers and Organization



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3. IFE: Nature, Powers and Organization

I. BASIC REFERENCES

The Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) is a public, autonomous, and independent organ in terms of its decisions and operation. It is bestowed by the State with the authority for organizing federal elections, which are those for the election of the President as well as the Upper and Lower Chambers that integrate the Federal Congress.

It was formally constituted on October 11, 1990, as a result of a series of reforms made to the Political Constitution, which were approved in late 1989 and published in August 1990. These reforms implied a new regulatory legislation on electoral matters, in the Code of Federal Institutions and Electoral Procedures (COFIPE), responding both to a serious crisis of credibility of the electoral system, and to a set of demands and expectations of democratic change claimed by large segments of society.

In fact, this package opened a cycle of constitutional and legal reforms (the most recent one was consolidated in 2007-2008), which have substantially modified and given new identity to the norms, institutions and procedures ruling the electoral organization and competition in Mexico.



Throughout this reform cycle, not only the formulas for integrating and functioning of the institution have been revised and adjusted in order to ensure full autonomy, independence and transparency, but also its powers to respond to the new rules and conditions of the electoral competition have expanded significantly.

It is worth mentioning the reforms of 1996 and 2007. The first one because it reinforced the level of independence and autonomy of IFE by completely dissociating the Executive Branch from any aspect regarding its integration and functioning, and by reserving the vote within all its directive bodies to Councilors that do not have links to any party or to any State power or body. The second, because it strengthened and extended IFE's powers, especially in terms of oversight audit and control of the funding of political parties and electoral campaigns, as well as the administration of the slots allocated to the State on radio and television to operate a new electoral advertisement scheme.

The Constitution states that the Federal Electoral Institute must be ruled by five fundamental principles: certainty, legality, independence, impartiality and objectivity. IFE is endowed with a permanent character, legal personality and patrimony of its own. Its headquarters are in the Federal District, and in order to carry out its tasks it operates in a decentralized fashion across the nation.

In order to guarantee a professional and specialized performance, the Institute relies on a special system regarding recruitment, selection, training, and evaluation of qualified staff to provide electoral services, especially in areas directly linked with the preparation and organization of elections. This system is called Professional Electoral Service.





II. FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES

The electoral legislation clearly establishes that the organization and functioning of IFE must be oriented towards the achievement of eight fundamental goals:

- To contribute to the development of democracy.
- To preserve the strengthening of the political party system.
- To integrate the Federal Registry of Voters.
- To ensure the citizens' exercise of political-electoral rights and to guard the observation of their duties.
- To guarantee periodical and peaceful elections to renew the Legislative and the Executive Branch.
- To watch for the authenticity and effectiveness of suffrage.
- To promote voting and foster civic education and democratic culture.
- To serve as the sole authority to administer the slots belonging to the State in radio and television designated to electoral bodies' objectives and to guarantee the rights of the political parties.

III. MAIN POWERS

IFE is directly responsible for all of the activities concerning the preparation, organization, conduction, and surveillance of the federal electoral processes, as well as for those regarding the goals that the law has established for it. Among its main attributions are the following:

- To periodically determine and revise the electoral geography.
- To elaborate and update the Federal Registry of Voters, and issue the photographic voting card required for casting a vote.
- To register national political groups and parties as well as guard their rights and prerogatives.
- To set the ceilings for campaign expenses.



- To oversee and audit the origin, management and application of all parties' resources regarding ordinary and campaign activities.
- To register the candidacies for federal election posts.
- To design, print, and distribute all electoral materials.
- To select and train the polling site officers.
- To regulate the electoral observation and the opinion surveys and polls.
- To count the electoral results.
- To declare the validity and grant certificates in the elections for Lower and Upper Chamber members.
- To review and sanction the electoral penalties and infringements established in the law.
- To design and implement permanent civic education programs.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

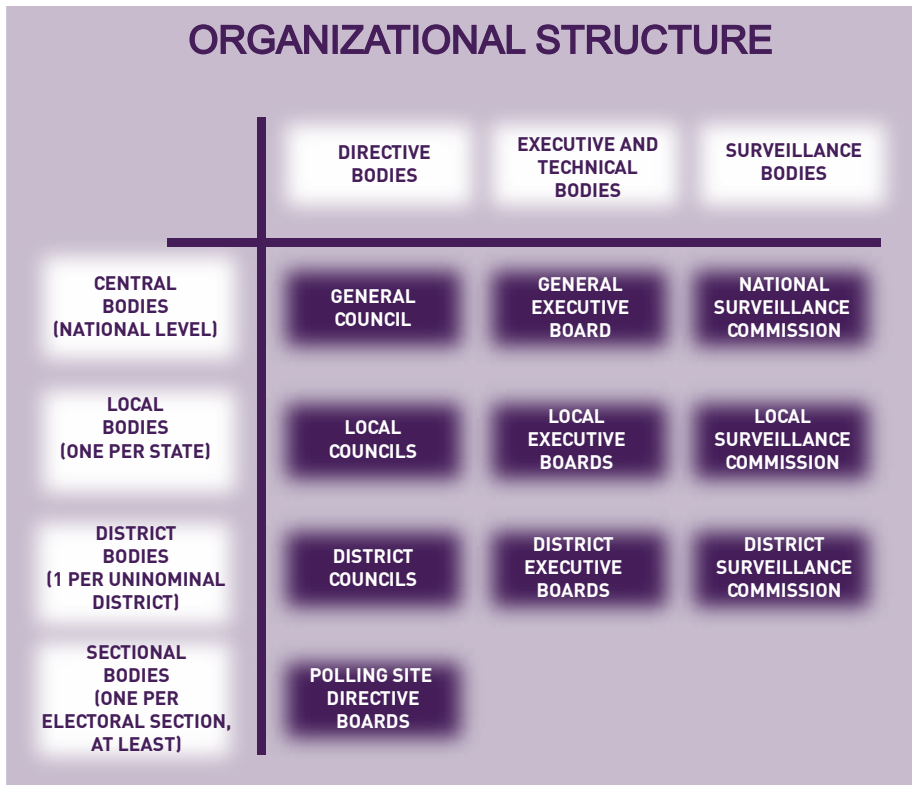
Four different kinds of bodies are relevant to the conformation and functioning of IFE:

- Directive: Formed by councils in a collegiate fashion. They are in charge of making decisions.
- Executive bodies: Composed basically by members of the Electoral Professional Service, in the shape of Executive Boards. They are in charge of implementing the policies, programs and approved resolutions agreed by IFE's General, Local and District Councils.
- Technical bodies: Specialized organs that provide technical advice to those IFE's areas who request it.
- Surveillance bodies: Formed mainly and equally by political parties and shaped as commissions in order to oversee the works related with integrating, updating and cleansing the Electoral Roll.





In compliance with the principle of decentralization in which the organization and performance of IFE is based, these bodies are represented at a central level, a state level (one delegation in each of the thirty-two states), a district level (a sub-delegation in each of the 300 single-member districts), and in some cases even at a sectional level.



Local and district councils are integrated and function during electoral periods only. All the others have a permanent character.

Directive bodies (councils)

They are in charge of enforcing the constitutional and legal provisions on the matter, as well as setting the guidelines and issuing the resolutions in all of the areas of responsibility of IFE. These bodies, which are named Councils, are structured



in a collegiate fashion and only the Councilors without partisan affiliation or links to the State powers have the right to vote.

The main directive body of IFE is the General Council and the decentralized directive bodies are the thirty-two Local Councils (one in each state) and 300 District Councils (one in each single-member electoral district). Unlike the General Council, which is a standing body, the Local and District Councils are installed and hold sessions during electoral periods only.

A) GENERAL COUNCIL

The main directive body of IFE is the General Council, consisting of nine members with a right to voice and vote, and of members who have the right to participate in debates, but are not entitled to vote (currently, 15).

The nine members of the General Council entitled to vote and participate in debates are the President Councilor and eight Electoral Councilors, all of them elected through the vote of two thirds of the members in the Lower Chamber, from among the proposals put forward by the parliamentary groups of the same Chamber, after an open consultation. However, whereas the President Councilor is elected to serve for a period of six years and may be elected once only (the current President Councilor, Leonardo Valdés, took office in February 2008), the eight Electoral Councilors are elected at regular intervals for a period of nine years, but may not be reelected.

Both the President Councilor and the Electoral Councilors must meet certain requirements to guarantee their independence and impartiality, as well as the suitability in the performance of their positions, among these are: not having been registered as a candidate for any elective post nor having performed any directive position at a national or local level for a political party during the last four years prior to the designation; be 30 years or older, hold a bachelor's degree at least five years before the designation and be knowledgeable in electoral and political matters.





The members with right to participate in debates, but not entitled to vote are:

- The representatives of the national political parties, and if applicable, of the coalitions, at a ratio of one per registered party or coalition. Currently, there are seven registered parties, and therefore, represented in the General Council of IFE.
- The Legislative Branch Councilors: each parliamentary group with party affiliation in any of the two chambers of Congress has the right to appoint a Councilor. Currently, there are also seven Councilors from the Legislative Branch, since the seven registered political parties have parliamentary representation.
- The Executive Secretary of the Federal Electoral Institute, appointed by two thirds of the General Council after his nomination by the President Councilor. He acts as the Secretary of the Council.

In short, the General Council is currently made up of 24 members, nine of which have the right to participate in debates and to vote, and 15 of which have the right to participate in debates, but are not entitled to vote.

During non-electoral periods, the General Council must gather in an ordinary session, once every three months. During electoral periods, which begin in October of the previous year and conclude two months after the election, the ordinary sessions of the General Council must take place at least once a month. The General Council can also carry out extraordinary and special sessions.

All the sessions of the General Council are public; they take place in a facility that offers conditions for media coverage and live transmission through the Institute's web page. Debates are regulated, decisions are taken by majority vote and the members entitled to vote do so openly.



The General Council has the authority to make up the number commissions considered as necessary for the execution of its attributions. The law also provides for the permanent functioning of six commissions:

- Electoral Training and Civic Education
- Electoral Organization
- Prerogatives and Political Parties
- Professional Electoral Service
- Federal Registry of Voters
- Reports and Complaints

For each federal electoral process, the law itself establishes the amalgamation of the commissions of Electoral Training and Civic Education with Electoral Organization, to create a Commission of Electoral Organization and Training. In any case, commissions must be made up by a maximum of three Electoral Councilors, and chaired by one of them in a revolving one-year period. With the exception of the Professional Electoral Service Commission, Councilors of the Legislative Branch and representatives of the national political parties may participate in their sessions and debates, but without the right to vote.

B) LOCAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS

The decentralized directive bodies are the 32 local councils (one in each state) and 300 district councils (one in each single-member electoral district). Unlike the General Council, which is a standing body, the local and district councils are installed and hold sessions only during electoral periods.

It also consists of seven members with the right to participate in debates and vote and members with the right to participate in debates but not to vote (the number varies according to the registered parties to contend in each election, currently seven).





The seven members with the right to voice and vote are:

- A President Councilor appointed by the General Council, who is also the head of the corresponding executive local or district body.
- Six Electoral Councilors, who in the case of the local councils are designated by absolute majority of the General Council, and in the case of the district councils, by absolute majority of the local council.

The members with a voice but no vote are:

- The representatives of the national political parties, in the same manner and terms in which they are represented in the General Council, that is, one for each registered party.
- The members of Electoral Organization, of the Federal Registry of Voters and of Electoral Training and Civic Education of the corresponding executive body.
- The Secretary of the corresponding executive body, who performs as the Council Secretary.

At this level, there is no representation of the Legislative Branch Councilors.

Executive bodies

They are the permanent bodies in charge of all the technical and administrative tasks required to prepare, organize, and conduct the electoral processes. It is also their duty to enforce all of the agreements and resolutions adopted by the directive bodies. The executive bodies rely on professional and permanent staff.

The central executive body is the General Executive Board, chaired by the President Councilor of IFE. It consists of the Executive Secretariat and the Executive Directors of the Federal Registry of Voters, Prerogatives and Political Parties, Electoral



Organization, Electoral Professional Service, Electoral Training and Civic Education, and Administration, which constitute the main executive areas within the institution.

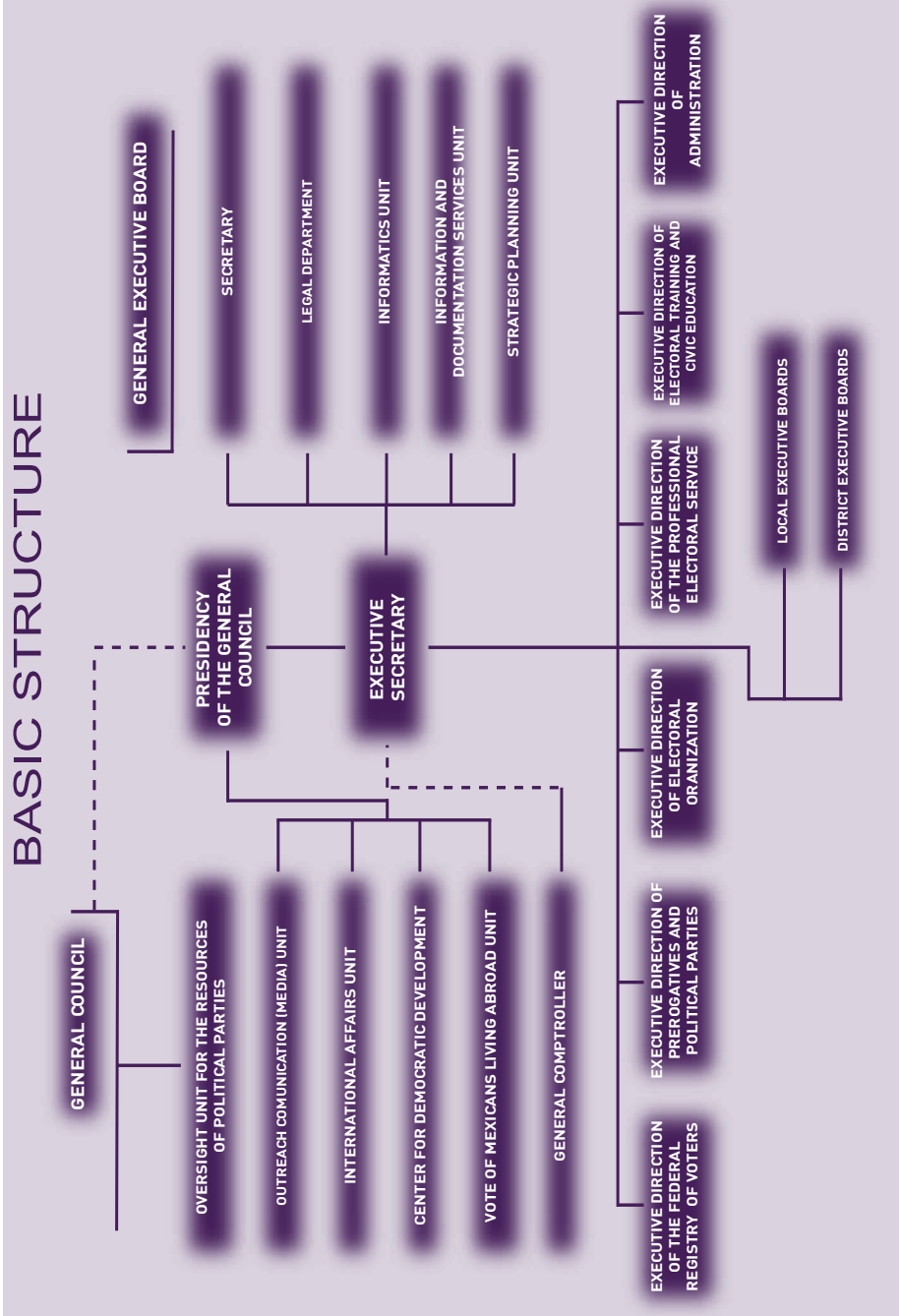
The Executive Secretariat and these six executive Directions, in fact, compose the central executive organs described by the law, which are integrated (both central level and, if it is the case, the decentralized bodies) by professional electoral service members. The heads of the six Executive Directions are the only General Board members with voice and vote.

Within the organizational structure, at central level there are two other types of agencies that also have important substantive or technical support functions for the Institute to fulfill its essential mandate. Here, their heads also participate as members, with voice but not vote, in the General Executive Board.

In the first there are two specialized bodies: the Oversight Unit for the Resources of Political Parties as a technical body of the General Council of autonomous performance, and the General Comptroller/Auditing, of technical and performance autonomy, in charge of the surveillance of all income and expenditures of the Institute.

The decentralized structure of these executive bodies comprises thirty-two Local Executive Boards (one per state), which represent IFE's state delegations; 300 District Executive Boards, organized as sub-regions in each single-member district, and which may even have district offices wherever the General Council so determines. Local and district boards have a presiding executive member, a secretary and other members for the areas of Electoral Organization, the Federal Registry of Voters, and Electoral Training and Civic Education, with officers responsible of these three central executive directions.







Technical Bodies

Within IFE's structure there are seven supportive technical units that depend from the Presidency of the Council or the Executive Secretariat: the National Social Communication Unit, the International Affairs Unit, the Center for Democratic Development, the Information Technology and Services Unit, the Legal Department, the Secretariat and the Strategic Planning Unit.

The Executive Secretary of IFE is in charge of coordinating the General Executive Board, as well as conducting the administration and supervising the adequate development of the activities of the technical-executive bodies.

Surveillance Bodies

These are collegiate bodies encompassed exclusively within the field of the Federal Registry of Voters to assist and supervise the tasks related to the conformation and updating of the Electoral Roll. They are called Surveillance Commissions.

The National Surveillance Commission is the highest authority over these bodies, with representation at a nationwide level but is not a central body of IFE, since its tasks have an ancillary nature in a clearly restricted field.

In accordance with the decentralized organizational structure of IFE, there is a Local Surveillance Commission in each of the thirty-two states, as well as a District Surveillance Commission in each one of the 300 single-member districts.





The participation of its people is what makes a country great

Chapter

4

Electoral Registry



The participation of its people is what makes a country great



4. Electoral Registry

IFE is in charge, through a specialized executive direction (Executive Direction of the Federal Registry of Voters, DERFE, by its acronym in Spanish) of one of the main activities to ensure the principles of universal suffrage, equality of the vote and integrity of the electoral process: the conformation, updating and refining of the permanent registry of citizens entitled to vote.

I. NATURE OF THE FEDERAL REGISTRY OF VOTERS

The exact and timely registration, as well as the updating and permanent refinement of the diverse instruments that contain the names and personal information of all Mexican citizens that hold the right to vote, constitutes an essential requirement to guarantee the transparency and reliability of the electoral processes.

In Mexico, the vote is universal, free, secret, direct, personal and not transferable. All persons with Mexican nationality, by birth or by naturalization, who are 18 years of age or older, and have an honest way of living, have the right to vote. However, in order to exercise this right, the law establishes certain additional requirements such as registration of the citizen in the Federal Registry of Voters and possession of a photo-voting card, which is issued free of charge by the Federal Electoral Institute.



It is important to point out that, even if it was designed for electoral purposes, since Mexican citizens do not have a unique ID card, in practice, and as a result of agreements signed by IFE with several institutions, the photo voting card has become the most common ID to carry out a series of official, bank and service paperwork throughout the country.

The electoral registry in Mexico is of an active nature, that is, it is responsibility of the citizens who fulfill the requirements, to attend, carry out and complete their registration in person before one of the field offices or modules set up for this purpose by IFE throughout the country.

The registration process is verified by an accurate geographic-electoral frame in accordance to the voters' home address within the national territory which also determines the place where, as a general rule, the citizens must vote. The specific territorial site is called electoral section, which is the basic geographical unit into which the national territory is divided for electoral purposes. According to the law, an electoral section is made up of a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 1,500 voters.

The division of the country into sections also serves as a basis for determining the number and location of polling stations that are installed in each election and to assign voters to one of them in particular. The general rule is that, within the national territory, voters cast their vote at the corresponding polling site in accordance to their affiliation and address section. According to the law, each section must install a box or polling station for every 750 registered voters, so it is usual to have two polling stations within the limits of each section.

Mexican citizens living abroad are able to vote to elect the President; they do so by means of a postal vote. In order to vote, they must be registered in the Federal Register, have their photo voting card and apply, in time, for their temporary registration as voters abroad.





It is important to point out that the registry of voters is federal, which implies that it is also used for local elections. The use of the instruments from the Federal Registry of Voters for such purpose is formalized through collaboration agreements between IFE and the local governments and electoral authorities.

II. BASIC INSTRUMENTS OF THE FEDERAL REGISTRY OF VOTERS

The Federal Registry of Voters is made up of four fundamental instruments, which are clearly differentiated: the General Catalogue of Voters, the Electoral Roll, the photo-voting card, and the voters' lists with photographs.

A) GENERAL CATALOGUE OF VOTERS

The General Catalogue of Voters is a database that includes basic information (full name; place and date of birth; age and gender; current address and time of residency; occupation; and if applicable, the number and issuing date of naturalization certificate) of Mexican men and women over the age of 18. This information is obtained and updated from the application of the census technique, that is, by means of house to house interviews in the whole national territory and with the purpose of making up a reliable database on the population entitled to vote. The last exercise of census technique was carried out in 1991.

B) ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll is a database containing the name and basic information of all Mexican citizens who besides being included in the General Catalogue of Voters, have formally and individually requested their inclusion in the Roll for electoral purposes. The application has to be presented in person before a field office of the Federal Electoral Registry's module citizen in official forms that should include the signature, fingerprint and photograph of the interested party.



The application has to be presented in person before a field office of the Federal Electoral Registry in official forms that should include the signature, fingerprint and photograph of the interested party. There is a permanent office in every district of the national territory, and during a specific period of the year, that is the intensive annual campaign from October 1, to January 15; there are complementary provisional units, both mobile and fixed, in the whole country. The interested party can go to any field office or unit that corresponds to his/her home address.

Citizens who are physically unable to go to the registration offices to enroll themselves may apply for registration in writing, attaching the documents that accredit them as handicapped. The enrollment and issuing of the voting card can only be carried out within the national territory. There is no registration or card issuing abroad.

It is worth mentioning that the documents, information and reports that citizens supply to the Federal Registry of Voters are strictly confidential and may not be disclosed, except in exceptional cases foreseen and regulated by the law.

c) PHOTO VOTING CARD

The photo voting card is an essential document to exercise the right to vote. Except for very particular cases punctually foreseen by the law, a citizen that does not show a voting card on polling day cannot cast a vote. This card is issued free of charge by IFE to all citizens who apply for registration in the Electoral Register.

In order to guarantee its reliability and inviolability, IFE produces photo voting cards using the information from the applications included in the Electoral Roll in a centralized way and taking a number of security measures. The card is delivered to citizens about 20 days after submitting their application, and contains the following information:





- State, municipal section and city, which correspond to the home address of the voter.
- Electoral section where, as a rule, the voter living within the country should vote.
- Full name, address, gender and age of the citizen.
- Population Registration Code (CURP by its acronym in Spanish).
- Year of issue and expiration.



The issuing of the photo voting card began in 1992, and the security mechanisms that guarantee its inviolability have been gradually and systematically reinforced. After the legal reforms adopted by the end of 2007, photo voting cards no longer have an unlimited validity, and are now only valid for a period of ten years after which a replacement must be requested.

D) VOTERS' LISTS

Voters' lists are the lists which contain the names and photographs of the persons who are included in the Electoral Roll, and to whom photo voting cards have been issued and delivered. Voters' lists are the basis to verify the identity of the voters attending to cast a vote. They are key instruments in the process of verifying elections, as only citizens who have been registered in these lists and who have a photo voting card may exercise their right to vote.



Voters' lists are made up and created according to geographical criteria (state, district, municipality and electoral section) and they are sorted alphabetically. The photograph included in the voters' lists is identical to that of the current card of every voter, and for this reason a voter cannot vote if he/she shows a card for which a reposition has been requested for any reason. This measure is an additional mechanism to guarantee the security and reliability of the voting.

Besides, the voters' lists with photograph are printed on a safety paper especially made for IFE, which prevents forgery. In order for them to be used on polling day, booklets containing the voters' lists with photograph are bound and delivered according to the polling site to which they correspond. The front cover of every booklet includes geographical information allowing for its proper identification, as well as the number of citizens included in the list, divided by gender.

III. PERMANENT ACTIONS FOR UPDATING AND REFINING THE FEDERAL REGISTRY OF VOTERS

The electoral legislation considers a series of procedures and actions which hold the purpose of updating and refining permanently the diverse instruments that make up the Federal Registry of Voters, in such a way as to perfect it and keep at all times its levels of accuracy, precision and trust.





The pertinence of these actions and the level of complexity of the challenges to be faced, are due to the geographic, demographic and socio-cultural characteristics of the country. Mexico has a territorial extension of 2 about million square kilometers, it displays a great diversity and contrasts in terms of its topography and climate, and has a population over 100 million people, with a distribution pattern which is characterized by concentration in urban areas and very dispersed or scattered population in rural areas which are difficult to access.

Additionally, it is important to consider that about 1.5 million Mexicans come of age each year (thus acquiring citizen status, and inherent political rights); that another two million change address, there are about 360 thousand deaths and there are 50 thousand suspensions of political rights within the universe of registered voters. All this significantly affects the making-up and the updating of the electoral instruments.

Despite the fact that the diverse instruments that make up the electoral registry are permanently conformed, revised, refined and updated, and that voters may apply for their registration or the rectification and updating of their personal information practically at all times, the law establishes certain time restrictions on this possibility according to the elections.

In a year of ordinary federal elections, citizens may apply for inclusion in the Electoral Roll, corrections of data or the renewal of the photo voting card no later than January 15. Even more so, the law demands that enrolled citizens give notice of any address change no later than 30 days after it took place, so that a new photo voting card may be issued with the updated geo-electoral data, and the corresponding movement can be done in the voting lists, so that he/she can vote in the corresponding polling site closest to their new address.

In the same way, it is foreseen that the Registry of Voters will obtain all the information required to register any changes that may affect those lists from the bodies of public management



at federal and state levels. Therefore, the Civil Registry should inform the Federal Electoral Institute of all deceased citizens within 10 days of the date of his/her death certificate's expedition. The same period has been established for the judges who determine on the suspension of political rights, declaration of absence, or presumption of a citizen's death; as well as for the Secretary of Foreign Affairs to testify for the issuing or cancellation of naturalization letters, the issuing of citizenship certificates and the reception of resignations of citizenship.

Moreover, the technological platform available for DERFE to manage its information system allows it to implement a permanent, highly effective and comprehensive detection system of duplicated records on the basis of biometric data.

In any case, citizens are offered a permanent system for electronic consultation in each one of IFE's district offices, where they can verify their proper inclusion in the electoral roll and the voters' lists and ratings, as well as a procedure for requesting specific corrections.

Political parties have permanent access to the electoral roll's database and the voters' lists for review purposes exclusively, since they cannot use this information for any other purpose. During the two years prior to federal elections, parties have a period of two months for public comment on any allegedly improperly registered or excluded citizens from the electoral roll and the voters' lists, which should be reviewed and responded to promptly by the electoral authority.

The year of the federal elections, no later than March 15, DERFE should hand in a magnetic copy of the voters' lists both in alphabetical order and by corresponding section to each one of the 300 electoral districts to each of the political parties. Political parties may present comments on the lists no later than April 14, pointing out facts and concrete individual cases. In





the same way, DERFE must make the corresponding corrections and inform the General Council and the National Surveillance Commission no later than May 15. The political parties may challenge such report before the Electoral Tribunal.

If the report is not challenged, or once the Tribunal has settled the challenge, the General Council has to hold a session to declare that the Electoral Roll and the voters' lists are valid and definite, and they are the ones to be used during the next elections.

IFE performs, since 1994, periodical sample verifications in order to have punctual indicators on the degree of coverage, precision and consistency of the electoral instruments from which they may focalize or refine the updating and purging of the Electoral Roll in a permanent way.

There have been ten audits since then, and one is on due course for the federal elections in 2012, based on probability sample methods. The main objective of such audits has been to evaluate the electoral roll, the photo voting card and the voters' list, as well as the conditions of enrolment of those citizens living in the country.

Even when the concept and statistics design of each of the audits has varied in accordance with the specific information needs, as a group they have allowed for consolidation of a sample revision scheme based on the application of two kinds of surveys: one on coverage, which has the purpose of getting to know the situation of enrolment of the citizens living in the country, and another one for updating that aims to know the situation of the registers on the register's database.

In essence, the results of the ten audits - finished by the beginning of 2012 - have confirmed the essential attributions of the Federal Electoral Roll's instruments: their high level of coverage, accuracy and reliability. In terms of coverage, even, results of the nine surveys carried out between 1996 and 2009 indicate that since the last half of the past decade, the register



indicators on the total estimate of the population in voting age are superior to 95%, and the voting card acquisition indicators have increased in a constant way, settling over 90% since 1997, as the next chart shows:

Chart 9
Evolution of the Electoral Roll and Voters' List

ELECTORAL PROCESS	ELECTORAL ROLL	VOTERS' LIST	COVERAGE
1991	39'239,117	36'676,167	93.47%
1994	47'480,159	45'729,053	96.31%
1997	53'022,198	52'208,966	98.47%
2000	59'584,542	58'782,737	98.65%
2003	65'337,047	64'710,596	99.04%
2006	71'760,868	71'350,976	99.47%
2009	77'815,606	77'481,874	99.57%

The 2012 verifying process will finish in May, and will provide IFE's General Council with enough judgement elements to give a verdict on the validity and definitiveness of the roll and the voters' list that will be used in the federal elections of July 1st.

Regarding precisely the federal elections of July 2012, the next charts show the data related to the distribution of the enrolled citizens that are also in the voters' list by gender and age, according to updated data to March 2012, that will be quite close to those that the General Council will validate:

Chart 10
Gender Distribution

ELECTORAL PROCESS	ELECTORAL ROLL	VOTERS' LIST
WOMEN	43 616 568	41 194 578
MEN	40 848 261	38 260 235
TOTAL	84 464 829	79 454 813





Chart 11
Age Distribution

Edad	ELECTORAL ROLL		VOTERS' LIST	
	ciudadanos	%	ciudadanos	%
18	1'456,705	1.72	1'446,417	1.82
19	1'983,764	2.35	1'972,335	2.48
20-24	10'450,808	12.37	10'404,509	13.09
25-29	10'318,000	12.22	10'272,924	12.93
30-34	10'107,554	11.97	9'818,191	12.36
35-39	10'081,466	11.94	9'139,009	11.50
40-44	8'780,310	10.40	7'955,305	10.01
45-49	7'412,044	8.78	6'793,339	8.54
50-54	6'142,344	7.27	5'676,480	7.14
55-59	4'882,537	5.78	4'520,030	5.69
60-64	3'733,197	4.42	3'469,498	4.37
65-more	9'116,100	10.79	7'986,776	10.05
total	84'464,829	100	79'454,813	100

It is important to remember that the difference between the electoral roll numbers and those of the voters' list can be explained because the former ones comprise all those citizens that applied for registration or asked for a correction or data updating that implied the issuing of a new photo voting card. The latter ones include only those citizens that actually finished the registration process and got their photo voting card.

In this sense, it is also relevant to point out that the voters' list used in the federal elections of 2012 will be, in terms of data updating and purging of records, one of the most accurate in the recent history of the country, since it will reflect the progress arising from the renewal process of photo voting cards whose validity has expired as a result of the 2007 legal reform process, which limited its validity to a period of 10 years.



To comply with this legal mandate, a gradual and orderly approach has been carried out, based both on a set of transitional arrangements provided by the law itself, and in a series of legal resolutions adopted by IFE's General Council. To date, in practical terms, this approach involves a massive effort to replace before January 15, 2012, millions of photo voting cards issued between 1992 and 1996 (colloquially known as 03), which ceased to have effect as official identification since 2011 and will not be valid to vote in the federal elections of 2012.

IV. REGISTER TO VOTE FROM ABROAD

As mentioned before, since 2006 Mexicans living abroad have the opportunity to vote in presidential elections by mail. To do this, Mexican citizens living abroad need to request promptly, within a period of time that starts on October 1st of the year before the elections and ends on January 15th of the year of election, their enrolment in a voters' list provided expressly for that purpose.

To apply for such registration, it is imperative that Mexican citizens living abroad have their photo voting card, since, among other requirements, applications must be accompanied by a copy of the ID and a document stating the interested citizen's address abroad.

Since photo voting cards are not issued overseas, and it would be very complex for many of the Mexican citizens living abroad to timely comply with the renewal process of the 03 photo voting cards, IFE's General Council decided that for voting from abroad in the 2012 presidential elections it would be valid to use the so-called 03 photo voting cards for the registration process and the issuing of a postal voting.

DERFE is responsible for verifying that those applications for voting from abroad meet the requirements set for such





purpose and to integrate the corresponding voter's list, which is temporary. In fact, every entry in the voter's list from abroad involves, first, a temporary removal in the voter's list used within the country and, after the electoral process, the citizen is enrolled again in the voters' list.

The procedure followed to review and validate the voters' list from abroad is analogous to the voter's list used within the country: political parties have at their disposal the voters' lists and they are able to formulate comments and changes during the period between March 15 and March 30 of the year of the election. DERFE must carry out the modifications resulting from this and report to the General Council and the National Surveillance Commission no later than May 15.

Political parties may challenge the report before the Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Power of the Federation. If the report is not challenged or, if the Tribunal has already solved the objections, IFE's General Council must hold a session to declare that the electoral roll and the voters' list of Mexicans abroad are valid and definite to be used in the presidential election.

Based on the approved voters' list, the documents and materials required for voting by post abroad are sent to all registered voters no later than May 20. In addition to the ballot paper, these documents contain elements to preserve both the safety and the secrecy of the vote.

According to available information, there were 62.294 applications for enrolment in the voters' list from abroad that had been received for the presidential elections on July 1, 2012, and of these, 59.044 had been approved up to March 31.

It is important to state that only those votes officially received by IFE up to 24 hours prior to the election are considered and counted as votes cast abroad.

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Chapter

5

The participation of its people
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Legal and Financing Regime



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5. Political Parties' Legal and Financing regime and conditions of equity in the electoral contest

I. POLITICAL PARTIES LEGAL SYSTEM

In Mexico, political parties are recognized by the Constitution. The Political Constitution conceives them as entities of public interest. Therefore, it acknowledges them as subjects to public legislation and it is the State's consequent obligation to guarantee the conditions and the assistance needed for their development.

1. CREATION AND LEGAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES

For an organization made up by citizens to become a political party and possess the rights, prerogatives and obligations established for it by the law, it is mandatory to apply and obtain legal registry before the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE). The name of national political party is exclusively awarded to those political organizations that have obtained registry as political parties, by satisfying two essential requirements:

- Submit its declaration of principles, as well as a consistent program and bylaws to regulate its activities.
- Account for three thousand members in at least twenty of the thirty-two states, or 300 in at least 200 of the 300 single-member districts into which the country is divided



for electoral purposes; although the law establishes that the total number of its members may never amount to less than 0.26 percent of the registered voters in the national Electoral Roll used in the ordinary federal election that preceded the submission of the registry application.

The process to obtain the registry as a national political party is only open every six years (in January following a federal election when the presidency of the Republic is renewed) and it is subject to the terms and procedures clearly provided by law, which are developed over a period of over four years, if applicable the registration of the new political party takes place the 1st of August of the year prior to the election.

2. RIGHTS, PREROGATIVES AND OBLIGATIONS

RIGHTS

The rights of the national political parties are grouped in two categories:

Regarding their participation in electoral processes:

- To participate in the preparation, development and surveillance of the federal electoral processes.
- To organize internal processes to select and nominate candidates in federal elections.
- To make use of the prerogatives and receive public funding for its permanent and electoral activities.
- To form coalitions, both for federal and local elections.
- To participate in state, municipal and Federal District's elections.
- To sign electoral agreements of participation with National Political Groups.





Regarding their permanent activities:

- To benefit from the guarantees to freely carry out their activities.
- To appoint representatives before the collegiate bodies of IFE (surveillance commissions and councils).
- To own, possess or administer the necessary real estate for the direct and immediate achievement of their purposes.
- To establish relations with foreign political parties or organizations provided that they maintain their absolute political and economic independence, and that the integrity and sovereignty of the Mexican State and its government agencies are respected.

PREROGATIVES

Besides receiving public funding, the law grants the following prerogatives to political parties:

- To have permanent and free access to radio and television.
- To benefit from a special fiscal system.
- To benefit from postal and telegraph exemptions from payment, whenever necessary to achieve their functions.

OBLIGATIONS

In opposition to this, the law establishes some obligations for political parties, among which are the following:

- To conduct legal activities and adjust their behavior and that of their affiliates to the principles of the democratic State.
- To maintain the number of affiliates required to preserve their registry and the effective functioning of their statutory bodies.
- To guarantee equity of gender within the directive bodies and nominations to posts of popular election.



- To avoid the use of expressions which denigrate or slander the institutions, parties or people, in political or electoral campaigns.
- To admit audits and verifications by IFE and submit the documents required regarding their income and expenses.
- To comply with their obligations in terms of transparency and information accessibility.

With regard to the obligations of the parties in terms of transparency and information accessibility, the law recognizes the right of everyone to access public information (there is of public, confidential and restricted kind) of the political parties, by means of specific requests to IFE.

Among the public information to which free access is guaranteed (and usually available through IFE's and political parties' site in the Internet), is the one regarding:

- Basic documents, regulations, general agreements and dispositions;
- Their national directory and the list of salaries of their members;
- Their electoral platforms and governing programs;
- Their summons for the election of authorities or candidates;
- The amounts of the public funding received during the last five years;
- Their annual or partial reports on income and expenses including pre-campaigns and campaigns, after the surveillance processes established by the law;
- Resolutions of their disciplinary bodies at all levels.

3. MAKING UP OF FRONTS, COALITIONS AND MERGERS

The agreements signed by two or more national political parties to appoint common candidates in the federal elections, strictly for electoral purposes, are called coalitions. Coalitions





can be made jointly or separately for the different federal elections, however this is subject to some rules and conditions, among these are the following:

- Coalitions may be created for the election of members of the Lower and Upper Chambers, but only for those elected by the majority principle. In any election of the Lower and Upper Chamber members, the coalition parties must submit their own lists by the principle of proportional representation.
- If a coalition includes all the candidates of the Lower and Upper Chamber by the principle of majority, then it must include the president candidate.
- For a coalition of Lower and Upper Chamber members not to have any impact on the presidential candidacy, it must be limited to no more than 200 of the 300 deputies by the principle of majority and to 20 of the 32 formulas of senators.

It is important to mention that for the matters of voting and scrutiny, and regardless the type and terms of the coalition, each one of the parties will display its own symbol separately on the ballot.

All coalition agreements must be submitted to the President of the General Council of IFE no later than 30 days before the beginning of the pre-campaigns for the respective election. All agreements expire automatically after the results are given and the declaration of validity of the elections is issued.

As for the fronts, Moreover, the Mexican law recognizes them as the agreements signed by two or more national political parties to attain political and social goals of non-electoral nature through specific strategies and joint actions. The agreement signed to constitute a front must state its duration, causes and purposes, as well as the manner in which the political parties will use their joint prerogatives.



The merger consists of the union of two or more national political parties to conform a new political party or to merge into one of them. The corresponding agreement must be signed and submitted to the President of the General Council of IFE, so that the General Council resolves as it deems appropriate. For electoral purposes, the agreement must be passed on the year before the election at the latest. For legal purposes, the date of effect of the new party registry is the one corresponding to the oldest of the parties that participate in the merger.

4. GROUNDS FOR THE LOST OF REGISTRY

The legislation considers six grounds for a national political party to lose its registry. Two of them refer to its electoral outcome and participation:

- Failing to participate in an ordinary federal electoral process, and;
- Failing to win at least 2 percent of the votes cast in any federal election, whether participating on its own or as part of a coalition.

The remaining four grounds specifically refer to:

- Having failed to comply with the necessary requirements to obtain its registry;
- Having incurred in serious and systematic violations to electoral rules;
- Having been declared dissolved by its members; or,
- Having merged with another political party.

It is important to say that the loss of registry has no effect on the triumphs obtained by its candidates through the principle of relative majority in federal elections.





II. FINANCING AND MONITORING OF POLITICAL PARTIES SYSTEM

In 1986, political parties achieved the constitutional right to receive public funding for the activities aimed at fulfilling their duties. Ever since then, and on that basis, the electoral legislation has established, developed and perfected provisions aimed at regulating, controlling and supervising the funding system of the political parties and electoral campaigns in a clear, accurate and integral way.

FINANCING MODALITY	
PUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Permanent ordinary activitiesb. Campaign expensesc. Specific activities as entities of public interest
PRIVATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Membersb. Supportersc. Self-financingd. Financial yields

1. PUBLIC FUNDING

By law, public funding must prevail over private sources of funding, which in practice means that no party may collect funds for an amount that equals or exceeds the one received from public funding. Public funding is granted under three differentiated concepts and the General Council of IFE is in charge of determining the amounts based on procedures provided for by law.

A) FOR PERMANENT ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

This kind of funding is assigned to support ordinary activities of the political parties and is granted permanently. The total amount is determined annually by multiplying the total number of citizens registered in the Electoral Roll in July every year by



65 percent of the minimum wage established for the Federal District.

Thirty percent is allocated in equal parts to all political parties with parliamentary representation and the other 70 percent is distributed according to the percentage of votes gained of the total sum cast for each political party with representation in Congress in the preceding election for Lower Chamber members at national level. The amount corresponding to each political party is delivered in monthly installments according to the annual budgetary timetable. According to the law, each political party must spend at least 2 percent of its public funding for its specific activities (see infra) and an additional 2 percent for the training, promoting and developing of political leadership of women.

B) FOR CAMPAIGN EXPENSES

This funding is specifically intended to finance activities to obtain votes. Therefore, it is only granted in election years. In years of general federal elections (President, Lower and Upper Chamber), each party is granted an additional amount equal to 50 percent of the funding for ordinary activities corresponding to that year. During the years when only the 500 seats of the Lower Chamber are renewed, each political party receives for campaign expenses an amount equal to 30 percent of the amount received for ordinary activities.

C) FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES AS ENTITIES OF PUBLIC INTEREST

The subsidy granted for these activities aims at supporting political parties in activities that concern political training and education, socio-economic and political research, as well as editorial tasks. With this purpose, an additional amount that equals 3 percent the amount for ordinary activities is granted and is also distributed on the same grounds, that is, 30 percent equally, and the remaining 70 percent according to the electoral performance of each party in Congress.





For political parties that obtained their registry after the last federal election or that kept their registry but do not have representation in Congress, the law establishes that each one of them must receive public funding as follows: 2 percent of the total amount that corresponds to political parties for permanent ordinary activities; the corresponding additional amount for electoral expenses and only the equalitarian part of the funding for specific activities.

2. PRIVATE FUNDING

The law specifies and regulates four sources of private funding for political parties:

A) BY MEMBERS

It comprises the ordinary and extraordinary fees of members and the contributions of their social organizations, whose amounts and frequency are freely determined by each political party. It also includes the voluntary and personal fees that the candidates of each party contribute to their own campaigns, and the internal party body in charge of its finances establishes the ceilings.

B) BY SUPPORTERS

It includes all donations and contributions, in money or goods, freely and voluntarily made by Mexican individuals or corporations that reside in the country, provided they are not comprised among the categories specifically prohibited by law (See section 3. Prohibitions and Restrictions to Party Funding).

C) SELF-FINANCING

It includes all the income obtained from promotional activities, such as conferences, shows, games, draws, cultural events, sales of publications or similar that are carried out in order to collect funds.



D) FROM FINANCIAL YIELDS

It comprises the yields generated through the funds that the political parties may create with their own patrimony in Mexican banks. The law establishes that all accounts, funds or trusteeships are not protected by bank secrecy so that IFE may supervise them at all times.

Regarding the ceilings for private funding, no political party may receive an annual amount of funding from its members (including candidates), self-financing and collections in rallies or the streets, which exceeds the 10 percent established as a limit for campaign expenses of the preceding presidential election. Besides, contributions in cash by individuals or organizations have a limit, which equals to 0.5 percent of the same ceiling for campaign expenses of the previous presidential election

3. PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS TO PARTY FUNDING

The electoral legislation specifically points out the different private and public agencies, both domestic and foreign, that may not make contributions or donations to the political parties, whether in money or goods, either by themselves or through third parties. Among them are:

- The Federal Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches; the state and town halls;
- Foreign political parties, individuals or corporations; international organizations of any nature;
- Religious ministers, and associations, churches or groups of any religion or sect;
- People who live or work abroad; and
- Mexican mercantile corporations.

Likewise, it sets forth that political parties and groups may not request credits from the development bank to finance





their activities, nor receive contributions from unidentified individuals, except for those obtained through collections in rallies or on the street.

4. ACCOUNTABILITY AND MONITORING SYSTEM

The criteria, procedures, and mechanisms for transparency and accountability on the origin and destination of financial resources collected and handled by political parties have developed simultaneously with the widening and strengthening of the provisions regarding the political parties funding system.

Control and oversight on the resources of the political parties and their campaigns is faculty of a specialized unit of IFE, the Oversight Unit for the Resources of the Political Parties, which has technical autonomy and holds important powers, specially, not being limited by bank, fiscal or fiduciary secrecy for the performance of its activities.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Political parties must appoint an internal agency in charge of receiving and administering general and campaign resources, as well as of filing annual, pre-campaign and campaign reports on the origin, amount, destination and use of the income received through any kind of funding, in the following terms:

Annual reports. Political parties and groups must file an annual report within sixty days after the last day of December of the fiscal year being reported. All income and ordinary expenses must be clearly accounted for, including a combined report of its patrimony (authorized and signed by an external auditor appointed by the party itself), as well as a report on the expenses assigned to their internal selection processes and pre-campaigns and the income obtained for their funding.

Quarterly reports. During non-electoral years, political parties must file quarterly reports on the advance of ordinary income



and expenses, within the first 30 days after the end of every quarter for informative purposes.

Pre-campaign reports. Within the first 30 days after the end of the pre-campaigns, political parties must file a report for each one of the registered pre-candidates, specifying the origin, amount, and expenses made, as well as a list of the pre-candidates who failed to file their informs according to the law.

Filing of campaign reports. Political parties must file a preliminary report per election campaign conducted within the first 15 days of June prior the election. It must contain information updated to May 30. A final report must be filed on income and expenses, within 60 days after election day.

III. CONDITIONS OF EQUITY IN THE ELECTORAL CONTEST

In accordance to the rights and prerogatives system of the political parties, one of the main concerns of the reforms to electoral legislation carried out during the nineties was to ensure equal opportunities in the electoral contest. In this matter, two fundamental provisions may be outlined:

- The guarantees and conditions of access to the mass media;
- The ceilings to campaign expenses

1. REGULATIONS ON THE ACCESS AND USE OF RADIO AND TELEVISION WITH ELECTORAL PURPOSES

Until the beginning of 2008 in Mexico, there prevailed a scheme where a component of free access was combined with a series of legal dispositions which recognized and regulated the buying of commercial time on radio and television during election periods as an exclusive right of the political parties, and banned propaganda on radio and television for or against any party or third party candidate.





Such scheme was significantly modified with the constitutional and legal reforms of 2007-2008. Nowadays, all parties (including pre-candidates and candidates) may only access the media by means of the slots in radio and television allotted to the State, that is, the use of those slots is exclusive of the political parties and entirely free.

Nowadays, neither political parties nor any person or entity can buy time or space in the media for electoral purposes. It is even prohibited to broadcast within the national territory, radio or television propaganda hired abroad with the purpose of influencing in favor or against any political party or candidate.

To this purpose and by law, IFE is the only authority in charge of administering radio and television slots belonging to the State (which is 48 minutes a day to each radio station or TV channel during the electoral processes), for the political parties to exercise their prerogative of permanent use, and for the use of the Institute itself as well as the other electoral authorities. As the single authority, IFE is also responsible of administering the time spans corresponding to the political parties for local elections and the time requested by the authorities responsible for the organization of local elections.

The integral nature of this power where political parties and electoral authorities converge with local and federal electoral processes in their different stages requires the law to clearly establish the slots to be administered by IFE for each variety and the way to distribute those slots between political parties and electoral entities.

We invite all interested readers who are willing to learn the regulations on this matter, to consult the specialized literature prepared by IFE or go directly to the references. Regarding strictly the time corresponding to the national political parties and in the case of the federal electoral processes, the following general rules apply:



- The prerogative is permanent and comprises all concessionary media (commercial) and licensed (public or social), that includes 1,800 radio stations and 500 TV channels operating within the country.
- The length and terms on which access to media is distributed between the political parties differs significantly during electoral and non electoral periods.
- During non-electoral periods, out of the daily time available to IFE (5 minutes 45 seconds on TV and 7 minutes 48 seconds on radio), 50% is equally distributed between all political parties. This means about 3 minutes on TV and about 4 minutes on radio, divided in 20-second slots each one; and a 5-minute monthly program to each political party. The other 50% is used by IFE for its own purposes or for other electoral authorities.
- During electoral periods, the distribution of time clearly distinguishes between the ones of pre-campaigns, amounting to 18 minutes a day per radio station or TV channel, and the ones of campaign, which are increased to 41 minutes to each media although not equally distributed but under the same proportionality formula used for direct public funding: 30 percent equally and 70 percent according to the number of votes obtained in the previous Lower Chamber election.
- During electoral periods (pre-campaigns and campaigns) the time is divided into 30, 60 and 120-second slots, assorted to be broadcasted between 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m

The law establishes that political or electoral advertisement broadcasted by the political parties, coalitions and candidates must avoid the use of expressions that denigrate or slander the institutions, other political parties or the people. In this regards, the General Council of IFE is entitled to command the immediate interruption of any radio or television message that violates this disposition.



It is worth noting that, during election periods, law prohibits to broadcast all government propaganda except for the information campaigns related to education and health as well as those aimed at protecting the citizenry in case of emergency, on all social communication media during federal campaigns.

The General Council of IFE must monitor the electoral pre-campaign and campaign broadcasts included in the radio and television news programs and disclose the results of the monitoring at least every two weeks. Political parties, coalitions and candidates are entitled to challenge the information presented by the media when such information is considered inaccurate.

Finally, it should be noted that IFE is entitled to coordinate two electoral debates between the candidates registered to run for the presidential election which have to be broadcast live on radio and TV, the first one during the first week of May and the second one by the second week of June, as the General Council determines the rules considering the political parties' opinions.

IV. CEILING ON CAMPAIGN EXPENSES

Since 1993, the law entitles IFE to set ceilings to the expenses in which the political parties, coalitions, or candidates may incur during the electoral campaigns for President and Chamber members. Since party plurality and competitiveness are growing, the main aim of these provisions is to offer conditions of equity in the electoral contest, in order to prevent that economic differences between political groups become a deciding factor on the outcome of the elections.

To complement the free access scheme of political parties to radio and television for electoral purposes put into operation in 2008 (that eliminated the high expenditure of hiring time



slots thus increasing the cost of campaigns), the formulas used by the General Council of IFE to determine the ceilings on campaign expenses were adjusted and tuned down to the following:

- For presidential elections the ceilings must be equal to 20 percent of the public funding for campaign expenses established for all parties on the year of presidential elections.
- For relative majority Lower Chamber members, the amount is that resulting from dividing the ceilings for the presidential election campaign into 300, that is, into the number of districts into which the national territory is divided for the election of majority Lower Chamber representatives.
- For each one of the Upper Chamber formulas elected by the majority principle (by state), the ceilings must amount the result from multiplying the ceilings for the Lower Chamber representatives by the number of districts comprised by the entity, but without considering a number of districts more than 20. Therefore, for those states that have more than 20 as the state of Mexico (40), the Federal District (27) or Veracruz (21), only 20 will be considered.

On this basis, the ceiling to campaign expenses for the 2012 federal elections, which will be held between March 30 and June 27, are as follows:

- Presidential election: 336´ 112,084.16 pesos (equal to just over 24.9 million dollars, considering an exchange rate of 13.5 pesos per dollar).
- Election of the relative majority Lower Chamber members: 1´ 120,373.61 pesos (about 83 000 dollars).
- Election of the majority senators: the amount of the result from multiplying the ceilings for the Lower Chamber representatives by the number of single member districts



comprised by each entity, but allowing a number of districts not bigger than 20, which is considered in the Federal District, the state of Mexico and Veracruz.

Pre-campaign expenses are also limited; in this case the ceiling is the equivalent to 20% of the one being set for the preceding campaigns depending on the type of election.

Thus, the limits set to the pre-campaigns of the 2012 elections, which took place between December 18, 2011 and February 15, 2012, were calculated on the basis of the 2006 (president and senators) and 2009 (deputies) elections, and amounted as the following:

- Presidential pre-campaigns: 67´222,416.83 pesos (equal to nearly \$5 million dollars also considering an exchange rate of 13.5 pesos per dollar).
- Pre-campaigns for Lower Chamber members: 162,536.12 pesos (about 12 000 dollars).
- Pre-campaigns for Upper Chamber members: 224,074.72 pesos (about 16 500 dollars)

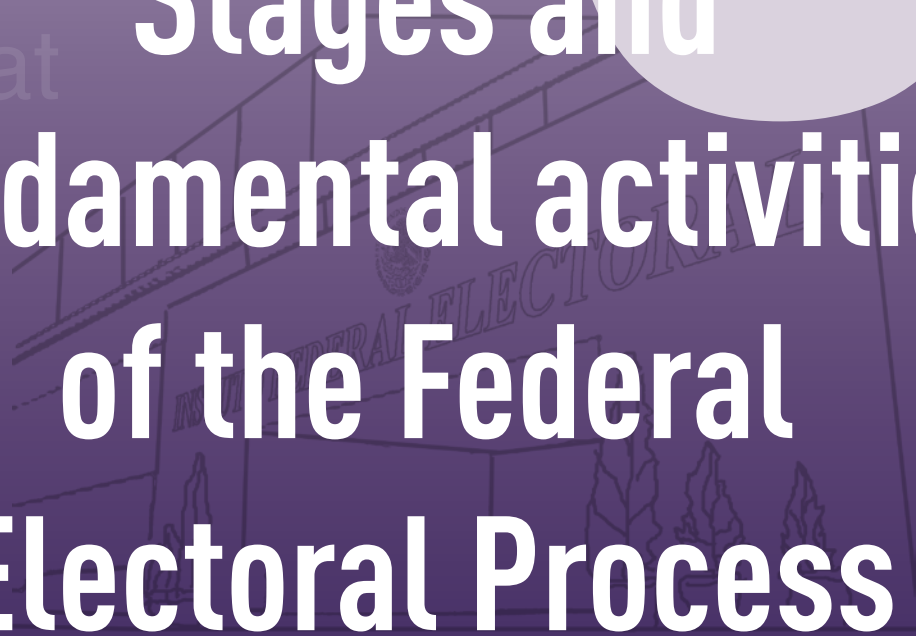
The participation of its people is what
makes a country great

Chapter

6

The participation of its people is what
is what makes a country
great

Stages and fundamental activities of the Federal Electoral Process



The participation of its people is what
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6.

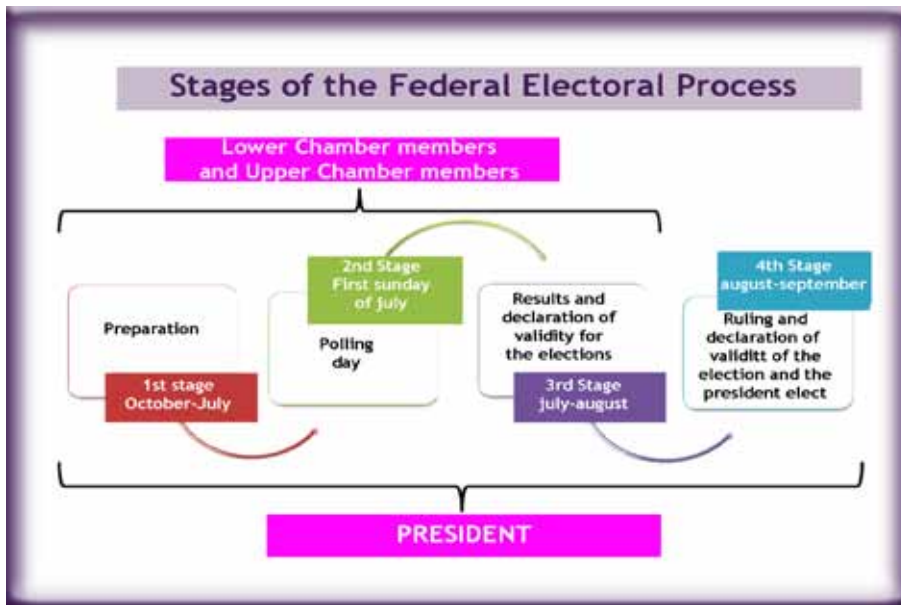
Stages and Fundamental Activities of the Federal Electoral Process

The Mexican electoral legislation is very particular about defining and regulating the wide range of acts and activities involved in electoral processes in a meticulous way. Their vast and complex framework is clearly ordered in stages, and is subject to the terms and due dates punctually foreseen by the law. The rigorous legal order of the electoral process has as a purpose not only to clearly distinguish the temporal sequence of the different acts or activities that form it, but rather and fundamentally to ensure that all of them adjust to the terms and dates stated in order to guarantee the strict observance of the principles of legal firmness and certainty.

Essentially, the division of the activities that integrate the Mexican federal election in stages adjusts itself to the conventional criterion that makes a difference between



previous or preparatory stages of the election, those related to polling day, and those after the voting and initial tallying of the votes. Nevertheless, due to the presidential nature of the Mexican political regime and the particular details that characterize the procedure to validate this election, the law states a difference, in the stage following polling day, between the stage that refers to the validity of legislative elections and another one exclusively for presidential elections.



In fact, this difference in the post-electoral phase between acts and activities related to the legislative elections and those related to presidential elections makes it possible to point out another element distinctive to the regulation of federal electoral processes. This distinctive element is the variation foreseen for the length and/or temporality of the stages and fundamental activities that distinguish the general elections (to renew the President and the two Chambers of the Congress) that are conducted every six years, from the by-elections, which renew only the 500 seats of the Lower Chamber and take place exactly half between both elections.



On this basis, it is important to mention two important differences foreseen by the law in terms of, one, the number of stages in a federal electoral process and, two, of the temporality of the acts for each stage. On the one hand, the stages are different from the three foreseen for by-elections and the four into which it is enlarged in case of a general election, to add one that refers expressly to the acts and procedures followed for the validation of the presidential election. On the other hand, the fact that the differences between the processes for federal elections and those of the legislative by-elections has effects on due dates and terms for the execution of some acts and activities, especially those that have to do with the periods foreseen for the political parties to carry out the processes of internal selection of their candidates, the pre-campaigns, the registration of candidacies and electoral campaigns.

Considering this document's informative goal, and as the elections that will take place on July 1, 2012 are general elections, the outlook that follows not only groups the fundamental acts and activities that occur during each of the four stages, but also indicates the dates and terms that apply to this kind of elections with precise reference to the exact dates that correspond to the 2011-2012 calendar.

1. PREPARATORY PHASE

It begins with the first session held by IFE's General Council, on the first week of October of the year before ordinary federal elections and finishes at the start of polling day.

For the electoral process 2011-2012, the preparatory phase started on the ordinary session conducted by the General Council on Friday, October 7, 2011, and will finish at 8:00 on July 1st, 2012.



FUNDAMENTAL ACTS AND ACTIVITIES

1.1 ESTABLISHING DIRECTIVE ORGANS ON A LOCAL AND DISTRICT LEVEL

The directive organs of IFE on a local level (32 councils), and district level (300 councils) are temporary; they only operate during the electoral processes and must session at least once a month.

Deadline to set up local councils	October 31, 2011
Deadline to set up district councils	December 31, 2011

1.2 PUTTING VOTERS' LISTS TOGETHER

Even when the different instruments that make up the electoral roll are permanent, the law states a series of temporary restrictions to enter or update paperwork in such a way as to make it possible to integrate the voters' lists on whose basis the electoral act is verified on time.

Deadline to ask for registration in the electoral roll or renewal of photo voting card due to loss or change of address	January 15, 2012
Deadline to ask for a replacement of photo voting card due to deterioration, theft or loss	February 29, 2012
Deadline to pick up new photo voting card	March 31, 2012
Deadline for IFE to give a copy of the voters' list to the political parties	March 15, 2012
Deadline for political parties to make any comments to the voters' lists	April 14, 2012
Deadline for the General Council to receive all the comments on the voters' list	May 15, 2012

The General Council receives a report on the comments, and, if it were the case, the changes in the voters' lists. This report may be contested by the political parties in the Electoral Tribunal, within the four days following its presentation. If the





report is not contested, or once the Tribunal has solved all the challenging, the General Council must session to declare the electoral roll and the voters' lists that will be used on polling day (July 1) valid and definite.

1.3 INTERNAL CANDIDATE SELECTION, PRE-CAMPAIGNS, COALITION REGISTRATION, CANDIDATE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS

The law states express resolutions and precise due dates not only for the processes of candidate registration and electoral campaigns, but even for the internal candidate selection processes carried out by political parties and the regulation of the foreseen processes for that effect, the so-called electoral pre-campaigns.

Deadline for the parties to determine, according to their own statutes, the method they will use to choose their candidates	October 19, 2011 (one month before the respective notice)
Deadline for the parties to register any coalition agreements to nominate common candidates	November 18, 2011 (one month before the beginning of the internal selection process)
Starting date of the internal selection period of candidates or pre-campaigns (in the case of general elections)	(third week of december of the year prior to the election)
Length of pre-campaign period	60 days
Date for the end of the campaigns	February 15, 2012
Deadline to verify the formal act of election or selection of candidates to majority posts (president, representatives and senators)	February 22, 2012
Deadline for the formal act of election or selection of candidates to proportional representation posts (representatives and senators)	February 29, 2012



Deadline for the parties to present reports of pre-campaign expenses	March 16, 2012
Period of registration of all candidacies	March 15 to 22, 2012
Beginning of electoral campaigns	March 26, 2012
Length of electoral campaigns	90 days
Deadline for the political parties to present preliminary income and expense reports on the campaigns	June 15, 2012
Date for the end of the electoral campaigns	June 27, 2012 (three days before polling day).

In relation to the processes of accountability and fiscalization, it is important to point out that any pre-candidate that fails to fulfill the obligation to deliver an income and expense report within the period stated for it, cannot be legally registered as a candidate. Besides, even if from a temporary perspective it is an obligation that is outside the preparatory phase of the elections, it is worth mentioning that the political parties must present a report on income and expenses for each one of the campaigns carried out within the 60 days following polling day.

1.4 SETTING UP OF POLLING SITES

Polling sites are the electoral organs set up on polling day for the reception and first scrutiny of the votes. Their number and location are determined on the basis of the division of the national territory in electoral sections. An electoral section is usually formed by a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 1,500 voters grouped according to the geographic district where their address is. By law, a polling site must be set up for every 750 voters or the corresponding fraction.

Each polling site directive board is integrated by a president, a secretary and two scrutineers, as well as three general substitutes; that is, seven officers that are actually resident citizens in the corresponding electoral section selected through a double raffle ordered by the law and based on the voters'





lists. The charges are assigned taking into consideration the last level of studies of the selected citizens that will receive a training course from IFE.

The law foresees that political parties have to register their representatives for each polling site as well as general representatives in each of the 300 districts in order to foster and guarantee their co-responsibility in the surveillance function and the exercise of their rights.

Period for the first raffle of citizens' that will make up the polling site directive boards in each electoral section to take place	1 to 20 March, 2012
Period for the training course to the selected citizens to take place	March 9 to April 30, 2012
Date for the designation of the citizens that will make up the polling site directive boards from those selected in the second raffle and assigning of a post according with their education level	May 8, 2012
Deadline for the publication of the lists of names of the members of each polling site directive board	May 16, 2012
Period for presenting the proposals of locations for the polling site directive boards in each electoral section	March 10 to March 20, 2012
Deadline for the approval of the location of each polling site directive board	May 2, 2012
Deadline for the publication of the lists of locations of the polling site directive boards	May 15, 2012
Period for the publication, if needed, of a revised list of locations of the polling site directive boards	June 15 to June 25, 2012
Deadline for the political parties to appoint their representatives, both general and at each polling site directive board	June 17, 2012 (thirteen days before election day)

It is important to stress that almost all the procedures for the composition of the polling site directive boards are done at the district level, and each district IFE body (council or board) is responsible for carrying them out.



1.5 MEXICAN CITIZENS VOTING FROM ABROAD

Mexican citizens are allowed to vote from abroad only for presidential elections using the postal service, which demands that all necessary proceedings for their temporary registration in the voters-from-abroad list for each electoral process are done well in advance.

Period for the interested citizens to send their application to be included in the voters-from-abroad list	1 October 2011 to 15 January, 2012
Deadline for receiving the applications to be included in the voters-from-abroad list	15 February, 2012
Deadline for making available the voters-from-abroad list to the political parties for them to review it	15 March, 2012
Deadline for the political parties to state observations to the voters-from-abroad list	31 March, 2012
Deadline for IFE to send the necessary documents and materials to the voters abroad for them to cast their vote	20 May, 2012
Deadline to receive and include in the counting the votes cast abroad	30 June, 2012 at 8:00 o'clock (24 hours before the election day begin)

1.6 ACCREDITATION OF ELECTORAL OBSERVERS AND INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

The electoral legislation acknowledges the exclusive right of Mexican citizens to participate as electoral observers in the conditions and terms defined by the General Council of IFE for every federal election. Also, the law authorizes IFE's General Council to define the basis and criteria to receive and provide information to the international visitors who are interested in the election in any of its stages.

For electoral observers and international visitors to perform their activities, they must apply for, and obtain, an accreditation from IFE. The observation tasks may be carried out in any part of the country and at any stage of the process.





Date when the General Council passed the agreement regarding electoral observers, their accreditation and development of their activities for the 2011-2012 federal electoral process	25 August, 2011
Deadline for the filing of applications to be accredited as electoral observers	31 May, 2012
Date when the General Council passed the agreement regarding international visitors, their accreditation and development of their activities for the 2011-2012 federal electoral process	27 September, 2011
Deadline for the filing of applications to be accredited as international visitors	20 June, 2012

It is worth emphasizing that ever since the federal elections of 1994, IFE has promoted the creation of a fund to support electoral observation, consisting of resources from the federal government as well as from the Institute and managed by the United Nations to partially finance the observation projects from the national groups fulfilling certain technical requirements, and to support them with specialized technical assistance and guidance.

Accordingly, electoral observer organizations must submit before the General Council of IFE, no later than 31 July, 2012, a report on the origin, amount and destination of the funding obtained for carrying out their activities. They may also submit reports of their activities to the electoral authority no later than August 31, 2012.

1.7 DESIGN, PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTORAL DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS

A huge effort in terms of planning, organisation and logistics is displayed by IFE for the design, production, storage, classification and distribution of the immense amount of documents and materials necessary for the elections to take place at the more than 145 thousand polling sites that will be installed on July 1, 2012.



The fact that over 251 million ballot papers (about 84 million of them for each election) and more than six million complementary electoral documents will be produced and distributed should be enough to give a clear idea of the magnitude of the required procedures.

Even though the only terms clearly stated in the law are the ones related to the time span when the ballot papers must be available at the district councils (15 days prior to the election day) and when the dossier containing all the documents and materials are to be delivered to the presidents of the polling site directive boards (within 5 days before the election), the table that follows presents some of the periods in which a number of key acts and activities in respect of the organisation and logistics pertaining the July 1, 2012 general elections.

Date when the General Council approved the template for the ballot papers and electoral documents that will be used in the 2011-2012 elections	25 August, 2011
Span for the production of the electoral documents (with the exception of ballot papers)	November 2011 to May 2012
Span for the production of ballot papers	March to May 2012
Span for the sending off and distribution of sensitive electoral documents to the 300 district councils	29 May to 11 June, 2012
Deadline for the ballot papers to be in the possession of the district councils	15 June, 2012
Period of time in which the electoral documents and materials must be delivered to the presidents of the polling site directive boards (within 5 days before the election)	26 to 30 June, 2012

2. POLLING DAY

Polling day starts at 8:00 a.m. with the installation and opening of the polling sites, and ends with the closing of the sites, after the scrutiny and tally of the votes received in each one of the sites have been carried out and the respective electoral dossiers have been put together.





2.1 KEY FACTS ON THE ORGANISATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF POLLING DAY ALONG THE COUNTRY

- The voter has to attend personally to the polling site and bring his/her updated photo voting card
- The electoral section, being the basic geographic electoral unit, is used to group the citizens within the electoral registry and to produce the voters' lists, as well as to determine the location of the polling site directive boards.
- By law, an electoral section should comprehend a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 1,500 voters and a polling site must be installed for every 750 voters or corresponding fraction. Consequently, the maximum amount of voters for each polling site is of 750 citizens.
- The law states that the voter must attend to the polling site directive board assigned according to the address given at the moment of filing the application to obtain the voting card. However, it is of great importance to point out that there are four sorts of polling sites: basic, contiguous, extraordinary and special.
- The first three abide the domiciliary rule, which is that only those voters registered in a particular electoral section and enumerated in the respective voters' list can cast their vote there. On the other hand, the special polling sites are those where voters can cast their votes under particular ordinances.
- A basic polling site is the first one installed in an electoral section, while the contiguous (as many as necessary) are set every time the number of registered citizens surpasses of 750. In those sections where one or more contiguous polling sites must be installed, the voters' list is divided alphabetically into segments to be given to each polling site. Whenever possible, basic and contiguous polling sites are located in the same place or within the same facilities.
- Extraordinary polling sites are those installed in a variety of places within the electoral section so that voters can



access them easily given geographic, infrastructure or socio-cultural circumstances that could make it difficult for voters to reach certain facilities. In these cases, and when feasibility allows it, a specific voters' list is put together for each extraordinary polling site.

- Special polling sites are those where voters that are far from the electoral section to which they belong can cast their vote, which is the reason why there are no voters' lists for them. In any case, all voters that have the intention to vote there must have with them their updated voting card.
- A maximum of five special polling sites can be installed in each electoral district. Additionally, the elections for which the voter can cast a vote will depend on the proximity between the special polling site and the one that corresponds to the electoral section and circumscription laid in the voting card. Nonetheless, every voter attending these polling sites will be allowed to vote for president and senators by proportional representation.
- Voting begins once the polling site directive board has been installed and must end at 18:00 hours. However, the polling site may close before if it is verified that all of the voters included in the corresponding voters' list have already cast their vote. On the other hand, it must remain open if at closing time there are still voters standing in line waiting to vote and until all of them have been able to do so.

2.2 SCRUTINY AND TALLYING OF THE VOTES

- Once the voting has ended, the officers of the directive board proceed to scrutinize and count the votes cast at the polling site.
- The law sets forth a set of rules for the directive board officials to strictly and accurately carry out this procedure. Thus, the results must be clearly noted down in the scrutiny and tally acts of each election.



- The directive board officials are endowed to determine in first instance the validity or annulment of the votes in the place where they are cast and counted.
- The polling site results are displayed on a visible place outside of the facilities where the site was installed through a given template.

2.3 POLLING SITE CLOSING AND DELIVERING OF THE DOSSIER

To close the polling day stage, the directive board officials must close the polling site. Once the polling sites have been closed, the electoral dossier and packages are sent to the corresponding district councils within the deadlines that the law sets forth and start as of the closing of the polling site:

- Immediately whenever the polling sites are located at the administrative centers of the single-member districts.
- Up to 12 hours for urban polling sites located outside the district administrative centers.
- Up to 24 hours for polling sites located in rural areas.

3. RESULTS AND DECLARATION OF VALIDITY FOR THE ELECTIONS

This phase comprises a wide series of activities that start with the delivery of the electoral package and dossier of each polling site to the corresponding district council, and ends with the total tallying and declaration of validity carried out by the collegiate bodies of IFE (general, local and district councils), or the final and incontestable resolutions which the Electoral Tribunal issues in case of challenge, on the validity of elections for Lower and Upper Chamber members.

This stage begins once the election day is over, and ends no later than the last week of August of the year of the election.



During this time, the Electoral Tribunal must resolve in a definite manner all challenges, if any, that might have been filed with regard to the elections of deputies and senators.

3.1 PRELIMINARY RESULTS INFORMATION

The general public, the political parties, and the candidates themselves may know the preliminary results by a number of different methods (provided by the electoral authority, and therefore, official but not definitive) or the trends (provided by other non-official means), some of which begin to operate at the closing of the voting and of the polling site, that is, the stage which immediately follows the polling day.

The prohibition of publishing or broadcasting the results of opinion polls or surveys regarding the electoral preferences is void as of 20:00 central time. Therefore, it is likely and usual that the mass media (especially the electronic ones), begin to publicize the results of poll predictions or surveys regarding the distribution of preferences among the electorate as of that time.

To abide a law mandate and to make available the preliminary results of the elections as soon as possible at a national level, since 1994, IFE has implemented and perfected the state of the art Preliminary Results Program (PREP) that allows the immediate gathering and broadcasting of this information as they are sent through a direct transmission of results from the 300 district councils to a national gathering center, by means of qualified staff devoted exclusively to capturing the information of the scrutiny and tally acts of each polling site.

Besides, the law entitles the President of the General Council to conduct pertinent studies and procedures, in order to know the electoral trends on the polling day, but the results may only be disclosed after 22:00 hours, provided that the Council





itself has previously agreed to this. It has been agreed at IFE that a quick count on the results of the presidential election will take place on July 1, and that they will be disclosed after the aforementioned hour.

It is important to emphasize that, in all cases, results are final only when the Electoral Tribunal has settled the challenges presented or when it can be certified that there were none.

3.2 DISTRICTS COUNTS AND DECLARATION OF VALIDITY OF LOWER CHAMBER CANDIDATES BY RELATIVE MAJORITY

The District Council must add the results registered in the scrutiny and tally acts of the polling sites comprised in the respective electoral district. This addition is called district count. Since the federal Lower Chamber members by relative majority are elected in each single-member district, the district count serves to determine the formula of winning candidates in each of them; therefore it has a final nature.

In the election of president, Lower Chamber members by proportional representation and Upper Chamber members in their different modalities, the district count is only a midterm stage whose results serve to carry out a total count at a wider territorial level, whatever the case may be.

The regulation sets forth that the district councils shall hold sessions as of 8:00 a.m. of the Wednesday following the polling day (which in this federal electoral process corresponds to July 4), and must complete the district count in time, so that the following Sunday (July 8) the counting corresponding to the state and multi-member levels can take place.

The law orders that a new scrutiny and tallying of the registered voting at a given polling site be done again for any election when: the results set in the acts does not match; there were evident alterations to the acts that would pose a



founded doubt upon the outcome of the voting in the polling site; there is no act of the polling site and it is not in the possession of the president of the council; there are evident mistakes or inconsistencies throughout the acts, unless they can be clarified by other means to the complete satisfaction of whoever had made the request; every single vote was cast in favour of one candidate; the number of null votes is bigger than the difference between the two most voted candidates; the dossier shows evidence of alteration.

Furthermore, the law stipulates that a recount of all the votes of every polling site in a district must take place when at the beginning of the district count for a given election there is evidence, or if it was verified at the conclusion, that the difference between the two most voted candidates is equal or inferior to 1% of the votes cast, as long as there is an express request.

As part of the counting of votes for Lower Chamber members by relative majority, the District Council must verify the compliance with the formal requirements of the election and with the eligibility requirements of the candidates who make up the formula that obtained the majority of the votes. Immediately after this verification, the District Council certifies the winning candidates' eligibility and issues the declaration of validity of the election. After the counting, and once the declaration of validity has been issued, the President of the District Council shall issue a verification document of majority and validity to whomever won the election for Lower Chamber members by relative majority, except in the case where the members of the formula are ineligible.

If the election count and the validity and majority certificate granted by the District Council to the Lower Chamber members elected by the principle of relative majority are not challenged in the periods and under the conditions set forth by the law, the election is considered valid, final, and incontestable.





3.3 STATE COUNTS AND PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION COUNTS IN EACH MULTI-MEMBER DISTRICT

The following Sunday after the polling day (July 8, 2012), the 32 Local Councils must hold a session, starting at 8:00 hours, to carry out the calculations of the state for the results of the election of senators and declare the validity of the elections for the principle of relative majority.

After adding up the results for the election of senators by relative majority and proportional representation as they are stated in the district tally acts of the corresponding geographic jurisdiction, the Local Council must verify the compliance with the formal requirements of the election and with the eligibility requirements of formulae that are to take over the three Senate seats. Afterwards, the winning candidates' eligibility must be certified and the declaration of validity of the election must be issued, unless they were deemed ineligible.

3.4 TALLYING FOR THE LOWER CHAMBER CANDIDATES BY PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Once the tally for senators by both principles is over and after the validity of the election has been issued for those elected by the principle of relative majority, the Local Councils with residency in the five capital cities designated as district administrative centers (Guadalajara, Monterrey, Jalapa, Toluca and the Federal District) must continue the session to make the calculation of multi-member districts, that is, the votes in all the districts included within their jurisdiction, with the purpose of determining the results of the winning candidates of the election for seats in the Lower Chamber by proportional representation.

When the tallying is done, these five Local Councils are responsible for sending a certified copy of the related act to the Executive Secretary of IFE.



3.5 VERIFICATION DOCUMENTS OF PROPORTIONAL APPOINTMENT

The third phase of the electoral process concludes at the latest on August 23 of election year, once the Electoral Tribunal has resolved the challenges filed against Lower and Upper Chamber members elections. The General Council then proceeds to the appointment of Lower and Upper Chamber members elected through the principle of proportional representation according to the basis, criteria, and procedures set forth by the law.

4. RULING AND DECLARATION OF VALIDITY OF THE ELECTION AND THE PRESIDENT ELECT

The fourth and last phase of the federal electoral process with which the presidency is renewed begins when the last resolution over the challenges made against the electoral results is resolved or when there is proof that no challenges have been made, and concludes when the Superior Court of the Federal Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch approves the ruling that includes the final calculation of votes and the certifications of validity of the election and the President-elect. In any case and according to the law, this last phase of the electoral process should be finished at the latest on September 6, 2012.





Lo que hace grande a un país es la
participación de su gente

Chapter

7

IFE's International Activity

Lo que hace grande a un país es la
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7.

IFE's International Activity

Since 1993, IFE has taken permanent action to approach, link and cooperate with a wide range of the international community specialized or interested in political-electoral matters. The main aim of such activity has been for foreign audiences abroad to have access to accurate and timely information that may contribute to the knowledge and appraisal of the changes suffered by the Mexican electoral regime, as well as IFE's organisation, policies and substantial programmes.

The efforts for international bonding in IFE, which at first were concentrated on institutional promotion through the preparation and distribution of informative material and the attention towards foreign delegations that were interested in getting to know or study the Mexican electoral regime, soon set the basis and opened spaces for the Institute to join and participate, ever more actively, in different cooperation networks and international technical assistance.

These actions' formulation and consistency have promoted the projection and appraisal of IFE amongst the international community nowadays. This has to do not only with the level of technical and professional development with which it complies with its function of organising the federal elections in Mexico in a transparent and impartial way, but also with its authentic commitment to participate actively in cooperation, exchange and technical assistance provision initiatives in an international level.



Here are some main aspects and actions of the liaison and cooperation strategy carried out by IFE between 1993 and 2012.

I. INSTITUTIONAL PROMOTION AND ACCREDITATION

INFORMATION AND ITS SPREADING

The main support for IFE's international action strategy lies in its effort to establish and maintain a process of permanent linking and communication with foreign organisms and institutions that specialize in political and electoral matters, through the elaboration and distribution of different information materials and prompt attention to various questions on the Mexican electoral regime.

ATTENTION TO FOREIGN DELEGATIONS OR REPRESENTATIONS

Practically since the beginning of IFE's international spreading of information, there has been recurrent interest from foreign organisms and institutions (from representatives of electoral organisations to political parties, governmental officers and legislators, to diplomats and academics) to visit and hold work meetings with officers from the institution. At first, these visits' main purpose was to get to know, verify or get detailed information on the characteristics of the electoral regime in general or on the nature, powers, organisation and functioning of IFE.

However, as IFE has been gaining a position as an avant-garde institution in an international level, both by its degree of development and technical-administrative professionalization and by the enlargement and diversification of powers, there have been significant changes in the nature of those applications for work visits, which have also served as reference to foster a new international knowledge and experience exchange mechanism to conduct and administration of electoral processes, which will be detailed in the next point.





IFE normally designs specific work agendas to attend foreign delegations. Their length and depth attempt to adjust, as much as possible, to the requirements and concrete interest of the foreign representations or delegations. From June 1993 to the beginning of 2012, IFE has had the opportunity to receive almost 360 delegations coming from 60 sixty countries from different parts of the world, and representatives from different international and regional institutions and organisations, as well as to attend diplomats from more than 90 countries accredited in Mexico.

ACCREDITATION AND ATTENTION OF FOREIGN VISITORS

Considering the international community's interest to approach and get to know the development and attributions of the federal elections directly, a reform to the 1994 electoral legislation incorporated the figure of fo-



Foreign Visitors at the polling sites in 2009.

foreign visitors with the purpose of encouraging and regulating the presence of foreign citizens during federal elections. This gave the General Council the power to regulate it, if it were the case, for each federal process.

It is important to point out that the Mexican federal electoral legislation establishes that electoral observation is exclusively for Mexican citizens. Therefore, in order to avoid going against this, legislators denominated foreign citizens who were interested in getting to know the different phases and stages of our Federal Electoral Process as Foreign Visitors.



In exercise of its powers, on all occasions when it has been appropriate, IFE's General Council has not only approved, unanimously, the agreement to establish the bases and criteria for the attention and information of foreign visitors, but has also made a systematic effort to give them greater guarantees and easier terms for their accreditation and the development of their activities.

In order to accomplish this objective, IFE displays a global campaign to spread the information and papers needed to apply for and obtain the accreditation as foreign visitor. It also designs and operates an integral strategy that allows those interested to count on all the required support to carry out their activities.

IFE has accredited a total of 3,497 foreign visitors for the six federal electoral processes between 1994 and 2009, coming from 92 countries. For the federal elections of July 1st, 2012, the General Council approved on September 27th, 2011, the Agreement that establishes the criteria for their accreditation and attention, setting a deadline for June 20th to apply for accreditation.

II. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

The process of linking that IFE has developed and consolidated with different organisms and institutions of the international community has been creating, in an almost natural way, spaces and conditions appropriate to develop projects and collaboration initiatives in areas of common interest that have, in some case, become formal cooperation and technical assistance agreements.

AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

In the federal electoral process of 1994, IFE benefitted significantly from the support and technical assistance provided by different organisms of the international community,





especially the United Nations, with whom it even signed a cooperation agreement. The actions that took place after this agreement were very useful to orient and encourage the work of several national groups for electoral observation and to evaluate the advances of the Mexican electoral regime from a technical point of view, through the work of a group of international specialists.

Since then, and on this basis, the Mexican electoral authorities on a federal level have renewed in a periodical way cooperation and technical assistance agreements with the United Nations that have been support and complement to different programmes related to the organization and promotion of the federal electoral processes, that have also allowed to project the potential of the Mexican electoral organization among the international community and to involve IFE in international technical assistance missions and of exchange of experiences.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

There are some relationships of liaison and understanding that have become formal agreements due to their level of development or specification, which have strengthened the processes of inter-institutional liaisons and imprinted greater rigour and impulse to project development and joint initiatives in areas of common interest.

In this sense, it is pertinent to point out that IFE has signed and renewed, in some cases, almost 40 agreements for exchange and cooperation that comprise a wide range of electoral management bodies and international or regional institutions specialised in the promotion of democracy or in providing technical assistance, among which we can mention the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Association of European Election Officers (ACEEEO) and the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA).



On this perspective, the entrance of the Mexican federal electoral authorities to the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE), formalised in

1996, represents a culminating point in the process of inter-institutional liaison and cooperation. UNIORE, constituted in 1991, comprehends most of the national electoral bodies of the continent, with the purpose of promoting and increasing their levels of exchange and cooperation, as well as contributing to have safe, efficient and democratic electoral systems.

PARTICIPATION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS

Since the end of 1993, and as the result of bilateral and inter-institutional measures as well as explicit invitations from international organizations and institutions (particularly UN, IFES and CAPEL) specialists and officials of IFE have collaborated in seventy technical assistance missions in thirty-five countries in the American continent, Africa, Asia and Middle East.

Much of the assistance has been focused on topics related to the making up, maintenance and updating of the Electoral Roll. However, this focus has gradually widened and diversified. Nowadays it comprises planning, logistics and electoral training; campaign funding and surveillance; electoral systems; civil education, and preliminary results programs, among others. The significance of this activity for IFE is twofold: it strengthens the Institute's cooperation links while contributing to the development of electoral projects in other countries and it encourages the sharing and exchange of experience and knowledge with its counterparts in areas of common interest.





PARTICIPATION ON ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS

As IFE has established and strengthened relations with similar institutions from other countries, it has received several invitations to participate in international technical assistance missions promoted by electoral authorities with the purpose of exchanging knowledge and experiences of a technical character that are bound to improve and innovate procedures and practices in electoral management within a frame of respect and reciprocity.

This practice is not only a common one in the American countries, already known as a privileged space for the exchange of knowledge and experiences which may result in concrete cooperation projects and technical collaboration, but it is also expressly stated in the Inter-American Union of Electoral Organizations protocol. It has also spread to other regions of the world that have established similar mechanisms.

Since 1993, representatives of IFE have participated in almost 120 electoral observation missions in more than thirty countries, integrated mainly by electoral management bodies and electoral institutions. Even though most of them have been carried out in the Americas, from Canada to Chile, and some of them in countries as different as Afghanistan, Spain, the Russian Federation, India and South Africa.

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ELECTORAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Perhaps the ultimate and most recent expression of IFE's efforts to participate in international networks of technical cooperation and exchange is its initiative, along with UNDP Mexico and the Federal Electoral Tribunal to create an International Center for Electoral Research and Training. The key purpose of this center is to support the strengthening



and professionalizing processes of the electoral management bodies through specialized training and updating programs. These programs are aimed at the directive and executive bodies of the institutions with an emphasis on medium and long term strategic planning and electoral management, through specialized exchange, training and research programs.

	Africa	America	Asia	Europe	Middle East	Total
2004		Haití			Iraq	2
2005		El Salvador (2) Guatemala				3
2008				Bosnia & Herzegovina		1
2009	Zambia South Africa	Guatemala	Timor Leste Líbano Filipinas			6
2010	Burundi Botswana Benín	Argentina (2)		Macedonia		6
2011	Etiopía Botswana Kenya	Venezuela Guatemala	Nepal Timor Leste	Ukraine Georgia	Afghanistan	10
2012	Egypt; Egypt, Libia and Tunisia; Nigeria	Costa Rica Perú El Salvador		Romania		7

28 Countries (Guatemala and El Salvador, 3 times; Argentina, Botswana, Egypt and Timor Leste, 2 times, respectively, for a total of 35 international workshops).

This initiative started operating regularly since 2006, under a very new international co-operation scheme. In 2010, it received huge impulse when IFE's General Council encouraged and supported an initiative to give it the guidelines and the resources necessary to operate with more certitude, and to give different services thus widening its coverage and range.

Following this initiative, as can be seen in the chart, up to 2012 there have been 35 specialisation workshops on electoral administration and justice to exchange knowledge and evaluate,





under a compared perspective, the specific requirements stated by the electoral authorities of 10 countries from Africa, six from Latin America, and two from the Middle East.



In 2011, the Project started giving specialized thematic workshops on a regional modality. The first one, which took place in October, focused on financing and oversight of the political parties and electoral campaigns in Latin America, and the second one, which took place one month later, to the making-up, updating and refinement of the electoral registers in Africa.

Likewise, and sheltered by the collaboration agreement signed with OAS, it is important to point out the yearly Inter-American Electoral Training Seminar held since November 2008, with the collaboration of International IDEA and the Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO by its acronym in Spanish) that reunites specialists from the electoral management bodies of the countries affiliated to OAS to exchange information and experiences of common interest by means of a new format of approach and discussion that aims at promoting the design of specific projects of institutional development in the areas subject to analysis.

III. PROMOTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CULTURE AND VALUES

The international activities of IFE also include a wide scope of research and dissemination of information intended to promote the democratic culture and values, with the purpose of contributing to knowledge, reflection or the study of matters of interest, relevant both nationally and internationally, due to either commitments made within the cooperation agreements with international bodies or institutions, or to IFE's initiatives. These projects aim at contributing to the promotion of institutions, practices and democratic values.



REFLECTION AND ANALYSIS FORUMS



International Seminar on Elections and Media: Lebanon and Mexico.

One of the most evident ways of recognition that Mexico and its electoral institutions receive in the field of generation and debate of ideas that contribute to the promotion of values and democratic practices has to do with the deference

given to the country to be venue of the most representative forums on a continental or international level to evaluate, on a compared basis, the most relevant electoral topics.

In this sense, it should be pointed out that, since 1993, IFE has organized and co-organized more than one hundred international forums, and has been asked to send institutional representatives to participate in multiple forums abroad, usually to share aspects related to the Mexican political-electoral regime.

Since some of the international forums hosted by IFE have aimed at discussing for the first time or evaluating more rigorously and deeply topics that are very significant for contemporary democracies, such as financing and oversight of political parties and electoral campaigns, the relationship between the media and the elections, the role of electoral management bodies in democratic governance or voting from abroad, it has been natural for organizing institutions to agree and cooperate quite easily with their effort to publish the work presented.

Within this line of action, an initiative that must be pointed out was displayed by OAS, UNDP and IFE to organize the Forum for Latin American Democracy in October 2010, as part of the





celebrations of the Two-hundredth Anniversary of the Mexican Independence and IFE's XX anniversary. The Second Report on Democracy in Latin America carried out jointly by UNDP and OAS, was presented in this forum, which promoted a process for reflection and debate of a very high level, using a multi-disciplinary view on the main challenges faced by democracy in the region.

The impact and reactions generated by the results of this Forum was such that the co-organising institutions committed themselves to continue this exercise and give a more integral focus to all the challenges faced for the strengthening of democracy. This commitment made possible a second edition of this Forum, and a third one is already in a preparation process, for the second semester of 2012.



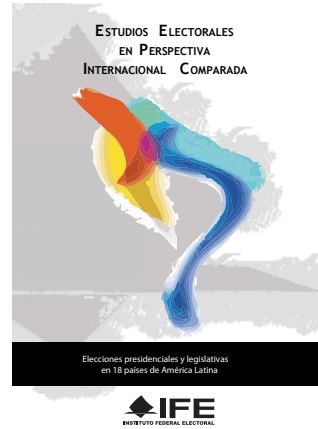
COMPARED STUDIES

IFE has developed or collaborated in several studies on relevant topics from a compared international perspective. These studies have also contributed to the strengthening of inter-institutional cooperation. Sometimes, these projects have responded to specific initiatives or institutional requests, but they may also be part of cooperation agreements with international bodies or institutions.

Among the compared studies by institutional initiative are: the Compared Study on Voting Abroad, jointly published with the UN and TEPJF in 2002 in Spanish and English; and the Compared Study on the Financing and Monitoring Systems and Equity Conditions of 19 Latin-American Countries, jointly published with the Organization of American States in 2005. Due to the nature and relevance of their contents, efforts are being made for their systematic update.



As part of the efforts of inter-institutional cooperation in this matter, IFE collaborated with International IDEA in the concept, design and preparation of the Manual on Voting Abroad, published originally in English in November 2007, the version in Spanish came out in November 2008. In 2011, a project for the preparation of a new collection of compared electoral studies was conceived. This resulted in the publication of the study on Presidential and Legislative Elections in 18 Countries of Latin America, at the beginning of 2012.



INFORMATION PRODUCTION AND SPECIALIZED ELECTORAL SERVICES

IFE participates as a partner organization of the project called ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, which is an integral concept in electoral matters that aims at bringing to all those interested a wide repertoire of informative products and services that may contribute to the knowledge of and confidence on the rules, institutions and electoral procedures, as well as to the strengthening and professionalization of the bodies responsible for electoral management all over the world.

Since 1998, IFE participated actively in the Administration and Cost of the Elections Project (ACE by its acronym in Spanish, English and French), for the development and promotion of the Project. As of 2004, IFE is one of the nine partner organizations with full right currently in force by the Project.

The creation, updating and development of ACE is a joint effort of inter-institutional collaboration, where several partner organizations collaborate, such as: International IDEA, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA)





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and Elections Canada; whereas UN is represented by three different agencies: the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the Development Program (UNDP) and the Electoral Assistance Division. The Council of Europe is an ex officio member.

Within this project, IFE has three basic functions. First, as one of the partner organizations, it participates in the activities to develop, maintain and update the products and services offered worldwide by the project. Second, it is responsible for preparing and updating the Spanish version of the project, that includes essentially the contents of the website. And third, since the end of 2007, IFE operates as the regional electoral resource center for Central America, Panama and the Caribbean.



