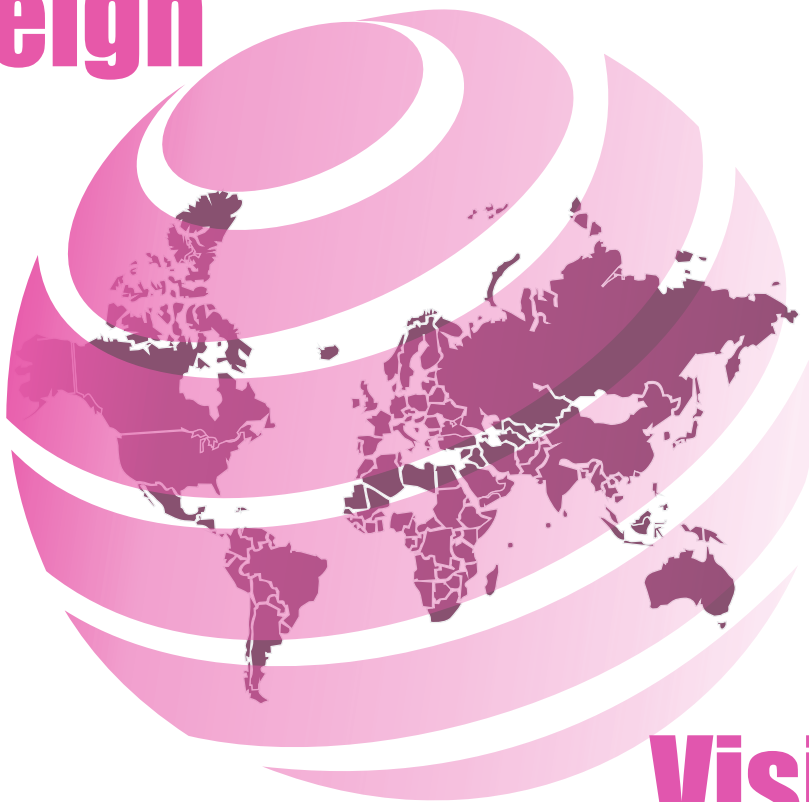


RELEVANT ASPECTS
OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

2017-2018

Foreign



Visitors

 **INE**
Instituto Nacional Electoral

MEXICO

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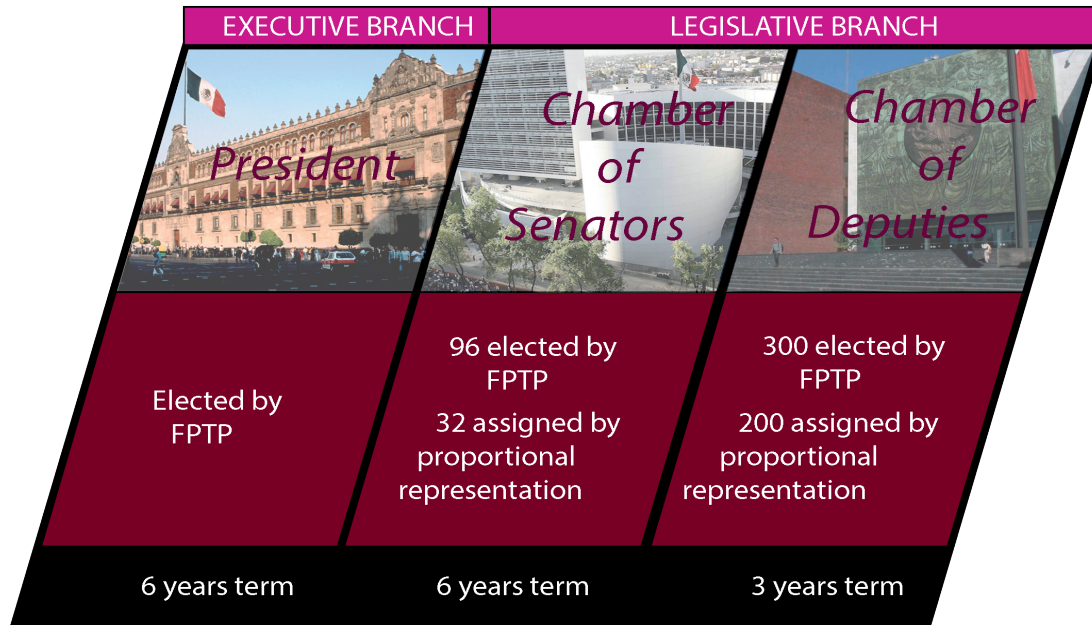
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1. The electoral universe

Mexico 2018

On Sunday, 1 July, 2018, not only will federal elections take place throughout the country, but 30 of the 32 states will also hold local elections (except for Baja California and Nayarit).

Federal elections comprise the renewal of the Executive and Legislative Branches of government.



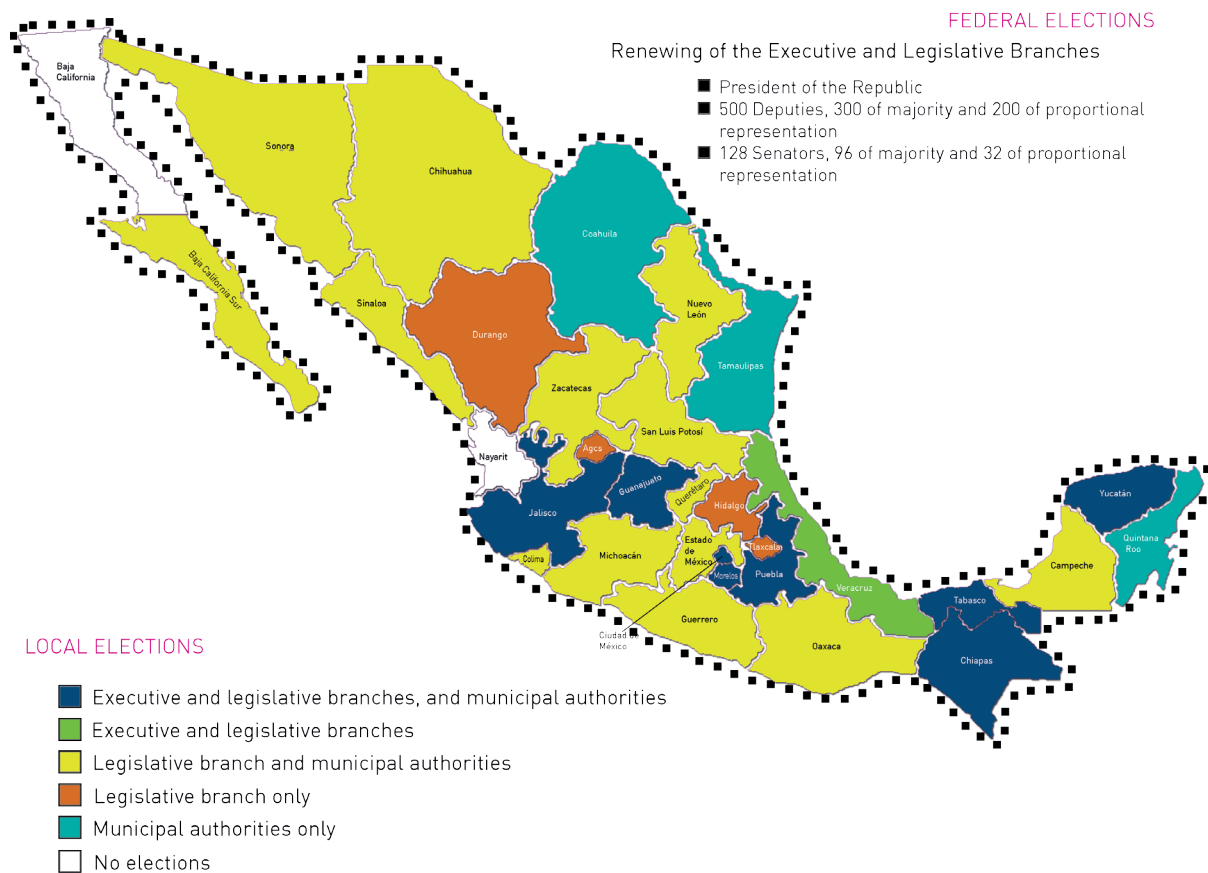
In the context of the local elections, several positions of popular election will be renewed. The following tables show, from complementary perspectives, the types of local elections that will be held in the 30 states:

Renewal of	Amount of states	States
Executive and legislative branches, and municipal authoritiesdes Municipales	8	Chiapas, México City, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Morelos, Puebla, Tabasco and Yucatán
Executive and legislative branches	1	Veracruz
Legislative Branch and municipal authorities	14	Baja California Sur, Campeche, Colima, Chihuahua, Guerrero, State of México, Michoacán, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Querétaro, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Sonora and Zacatecas
Only the legislative branch	4	Aguascalientes, Durango, Hidalgo and Tlaxcala.
Only municipal authorities	3	Coahuila, Quintana Roo and Tamaulipas.

Election of	Amount of states	States
Governorships	Nine states	Chiapas, Mexico City, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Morelos, Puebla, Tabasco, Veracruz and Yucatán
Local Congresses	27 states	Except for Coahuila, Quintana Roo and Tamaulipas
Election of Municipal Authorities	25 states	Except for Aguascalientes, Durango, Hidalgo and Tlaxcala

Relevant aspects

Of the Universe of 89'332,031 enfranchised voters for these federal and concurrent electoral processes, 89'123,355 will cast their vote within the national territory and 181,256 overseas.

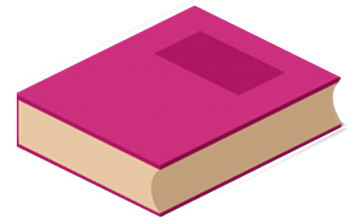


2. The National Elections' System

A constitutional amendment enacted in 2014 redistributed —within the federal State model— the political and electoral powers between the federation and the 32 states, and laid out the foundations for the shaping of an articulated and coordinated system for the organisation of elections around the country.

The electoral system

Ruled by a national law (the General Law on Electoral Institutions and Procedures, or LGIPE), which lays a number of common regulations and procedures to all elections, while setting aside regulatory spaces for the electoral legislation of the states to cover.



General Law on Electoral Institutions and Procedures (LGIPE)



Comprised of the National Electoral Institute (INE), as the governing body, and the electoral management authorities of the 32 states (generally referred to as public local electoral bodies or OPLEs)

National Electoral Institute (INE)

Sole responsible for all activities related to the organisation and management of federal elections, from the review and adjustment of the territorial division for electoral purposes (300 districts), to the granting of certificates to deputies and senators who have been elected, and passing for all the electoral organization and logistic tasks



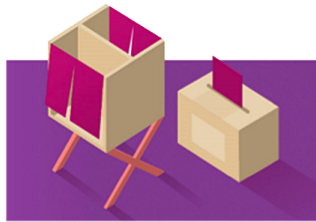
The only responsible, regarding both federal and local elections, for:



- 1. Electoral Geography
periodic review and adjustment of the country's and states' boundary delimitation for electoral purposes.



- 2. Electoral registry
the making up and maintenance of the voters' registry, along with the issuance of the photo voting card



- 3. Polling stations
Location of polling stations, as well as the designation and training of their members

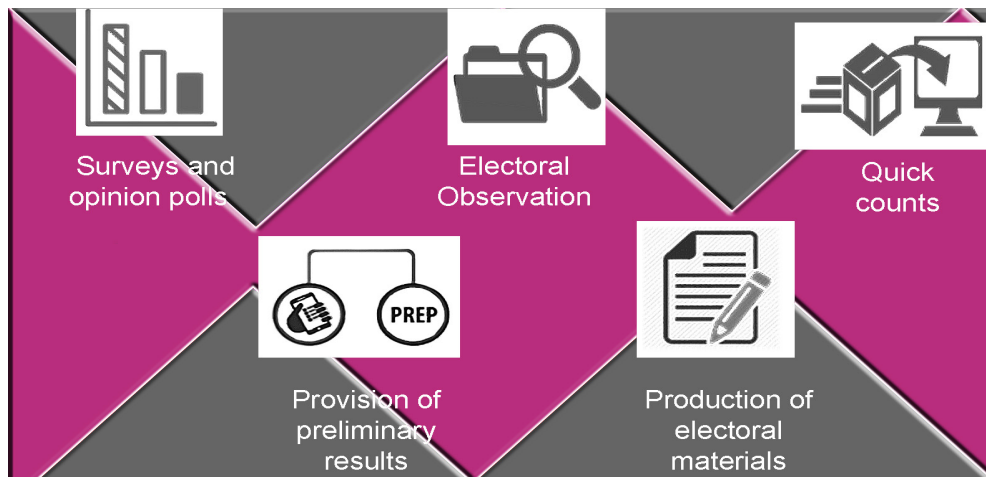


- 4. Control and oversight of the funding for political parties and electoral campaigns

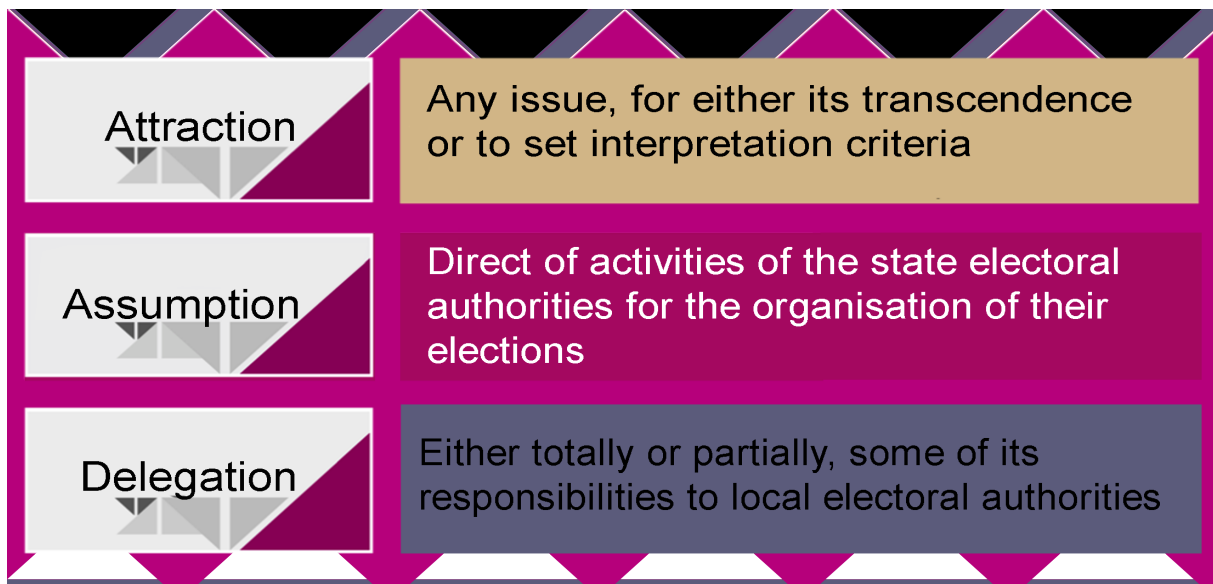


- 5. Media
Management and allotment of the free airtime to which parties and candidates are entitled to on a permanent basis

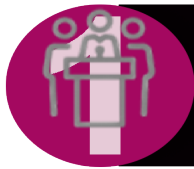
The institution with regulatory attributions, regarding local elections, for:



Moreover, in relation with local electoral processes, INE holds the powers to —as the governing institution of the system, and as long as the requirements established in the law are duly abode:



Within their jurisdiction, the state electoral authorities (OPLEs) are jointly responsible for the organisation, carrying out and supervision of local electoral processes. From among its attributions, those related with the following must be highlighted:



Registry of political parties and candidacies for local elective posts, and guaranteeing their rights and prerogatives, such as the provision of public funding;



Development of training materials for polling officers according to local prescriptions;



Preparatiois for Election Day;



Tallying and counting of the final results;



Declaring the validity of elections and issuance of certificates to the winners;



Design and implementation of civic education programmes; and,



Organising whichever direct democracy instrument is included in the local legal framework.

Electoral Justice

Resolution of controversies and upholding justice in the electoral field is responsibility of permanent and specialised courts. The maximum authority in this matter is the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch (TEPJF), although state electoral courts also exist.

All acts and resolutions by the administrative authorities (INE and OPLEs) can be contested before the respective electoral court.

3. Main features of the electoral system for federal posts

Executive Power of the Federation (Presidency of the Republic):

- It has a unitary nature, which not only means that it is vested in one single person, but also that there is no such thing as a vice-presidency in Mexico. Votes are not for a formula, but for one sole person. A replacement procedure is stated in the Constitution should, during the president's term, a definite absence come about.
- Chosen through the first-past-the-post (FPTP) system to serve only one six-year term.
- The Constitution expressly forbids re-election of anyone who has already acted as President under any circumstance.

Legislative Power is bicameral

House of Representatives

- It is composed of 500 representatives elected through a mixed complementary system, that is, a system whose components are related.
- 300 are elected through a first-past-the-post (FPTP) system.
- 200 by one of list proportional representation (PR).
- Their re-election—for up to three consecutive additional terms—will only be possible from 2021 onwards.
- It is fully renewed every three years.

The 300 FPTP members:

- * Elected in an equal amount of single-member districts.
- * The distribution of the 300 single-member districts along the 32 states is made according to their population size in relation with the national total; and it is periodically reviewed and adjusted—to guarantee the principle of equality of the vote—following the results of the population census.
- * By constitutional mandate, no state can have less than two single-member districts (seats in the House of Representatives).
- * The current distribution of the 300 districts along the 32 states is the result of an adjustment process (redistricting) that concluded in early 2017, and will be applied at the elections of 1 July, 2018.
- * Independent candidacies are applicable for this post.
- The 200 List PR members:
 - * These are elected through a system of regional party lists in five circumscriptions, among which 40 seats are equally distributed.
 - * Each circumscription comprises various states, and their composition

- is also periodically reviewed and adjusted in the interest of homogeneous electoral weight.
- * Although the allocation of seats is done in each circumscription, it is based on the votes obtained nationally by each party.
 - * Only political parties can submit lists for the allocation of these seats.
- Additional mechanisms that govern the voting system and composition of the House of Representatives:
 - * One single ballot paper is used to cast one single vote to choose both the FPTP and List PR representatives.
 - * FPTP candidates appear on the obverse side of the ballot paper, while the party lists are on the reverse.
 - * Voters mark, solely, their preference for an FPTP candidacy. When voting for a party candidate, the vote has automatic effects for that party's list. If the vote is cast for an independent candidacy, it has no effects on the PR deputyships; it does not count for any party list.
 - * By constitutional mandate, no political party can attain, regardless of their margin of votes, more than 300 of the 500 deputyships. Therefore, amendments to the Constitution—which require a qualified majority of two thirds of the representatives— can only result from agreements involving parliamentary groups of two or more parties to add up the necessary votes.
 - * Within this parameter, and as general rule meant to further high proportionality to the relation between votes and seats obtained, a political party must not sum a number of seats that surpasses by eight percentage points the amount of votes won.
 - * The procedure for allocating proportional representation deputyships is based on that rule and, hence, operates in the sense of correcting imbalances in the votes-seats ratio.
 - * Even if with its peculiarities, this system can be considered a variation of the German personalised proportional representation model.

Senate

- It is composed of 128 senators elected through a parallel system; that is, there is no relation between its components.
 - * An FPTP system is used to elect 96 of them.
 - * The rest (32) are elected through a list proportional representation system.
- Their re-election—only for one single consecutive term— will be possible from 2024 onward.
- It is fully renewed every six years.

- The election of the 96 FPTP senators:
 - * Three senatorships are directly elected in each of the 32 states.
 - * The party or coalition with the most votes wins two of them.
 - * The third is for the second most-voted party or coalition.
 - * For that purpose, each political party or coalition must nominate two candidate's formulae (each with a substitute).
 - * Independent candidates can vie for this post, but it is indispensable that two formulae are registered jointly (binomial slate) per state.
- The 32 List PR Seats:
 - * Allocated through a single national party list system.
 - * Only political parties can submit lists for the allocation of these seats.
- Additional mechanisms of the voting and composition system of the Senate:
 - * In like manner, one single ballot paper is used to cast only one vote.
 - * On the obverse of the ballot paper are the FPTP-candidates' formulae, and on the reverse are the parties' national lists.
 - * Voters only mark their preference for one of the plurality formulae blocs. If a vote is cast for one of the party's formulae, such vote has automatic effects for that party's list. When a vote is cast for an independent candidates' formulae bloc, it has no effects for proportional representation senatorships; it does not count for any party list.
 - * Proportional representation seats are distributed only between party lists according to their national share of votes and regardless of how many plurality senatorships each party wins.
 - * Proportional representation seats do not fulfil any compensatory function, nor are there limits to the total amount of seats a political party can obtain.
- Other applicable rules to deputyships' and senatorships' elections:
 - * Gender equity: political parties are compelled to observe the principle of gender parity when nominating their plurality and proportional representation candidates. For the former, both candidate and substitute of each formula must be of the same gender. With the proportional representation lists, the principles of sequence and alternation are applied.
 - * Common candidacies: political parties can make up coalitions to nominate common candidacies, but only for plurality offices. Colligated parties must submit their own lists for the PR deputyships' and senatorships' elections.

- * Simultaneous candidacies: political parties can include, simultaneously, up to 40 of their plurality deputyships candidacies in their PR deputyships lists, as well as 6 of their plurality candidacies to the Senate in their national PR lists.
- * Voting threshold: for a political party to have access to the allocation of PR deputyships or senatorships, it must obtain at least 3% of the total amount of votes cast in the corresponding election.
- Coalitions:

These are the agreements two or more political parties subscribe —and which ought to be formalised before INE— to nominate common candidacies to plurality elective posts (presidency, deputyships and senatorships).

A newly created political party must participate on its own in the first federal election following its registration. Consequently, it can only be part of a coalition from its second participation in a federal election onwards.

The law distinguishes three kinds of coalitions:

- * Total: comprises all plurality posts, that is, 300 deputyships and/or 32 binomial senatorships. Either option has binding effects on the candidacy for the presidency of the Republic. In other words, if two or more parties decide to colligate to nominate common candidates to all plurality deputyships and/or all plurality senatorships, the coalition must also cover the presidential election.
- * Partial: comprises at least half the competed posts, that is, it can have effects over at least 150 deputyship candidacies and/or 16 of the binomial senatorships.
- * Flexible: consists of at least 25% of the plurality posts in contest, which means that it can be limited to 75 plurality deputyship candidacies and/or 8 binomial senatorships

Partial and flexible coalitions have no binding effects on the presidential election. In any case, and within the electoral process, no political party can be part of more than one coalition.

All nine national political parties have decided to constitute electoral coalitions for the 2018 elections.

“Coalition For Mexico to the Front” (partial), consisting of the National Action Party (PAN), the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD) and Citizen Movement (MC). Its presidential candidate is Ricardo Anaya. It comprises 58 of the 64 senator formulas and 269 of the 300 deputyships.

“Together We Will Make History Coalition” (partial), consisting of the National Regeneration Movement (MORENA), the Labour Party (PT) and the Social Encounter Party (PES). Its presidential candidate is Andrés Manuel López Obrador. It comprises 62 senator formulas and 292 deputyships.

“Everyone For Mexico Coalition” (flexible), consisting of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), the Green Ecological Party of Mexico (PVEM) and New Alliance Party (PNA). Its presidential candidate is José Antonio Meade. It comprises 32 senatorial formulas and 133 deputyships.

4. Main features of the systems to elect local posts

The constitutions and electoral laws of the 32 states are the ones that determine the features and rules of the systems to elect their authorities at the state and municipal level, which is why there are variations or differences between some of them. Nevertheless, in general terms, the following common features and elements can be listed:

States' executives (Governorships in 31 states and Chief of Government in the case of Mexico City):

- Just like the presidency of the Republic, they are unitary.
- They are chosen by an FPTP system to serve a six-year period.
- In this case, there is an express and categorical prohibition to the re-election of the person that might have been previously voted for that post.

Local legislatures (Congresses in 31 states and Legislative Assembly in the case of Mexico City):

- The amount of their members ought to be proportional with their inhabitants, meaning it varies from one state to the other. Currently, the smallest legislature is the one of Baja California —with 21 members— and the largest is that of the State of Mexico —with 75.
- In all cases, a mixed complementary system —like the one used for the House of Representatives— is used for the elections, where one segment (of over half the total of the seats) is chosen by plurality and the other (less than half) by proportional representation.
- Even if there are variations in the procedures for the allocation of proportional representation seats amongst the different states, by mandate of the General Constitution —and as a general rule—, no party can hold a number of deputyships which surpasses by eight percentage points that of the total votes it has obtained.
- They are fully renewed every three years and provisions for re-election are already provided for in all cases, in some for up to three consecutive periods —maximum allowed by the General Constitution of the Republic.

Municipal authorities:

- The General Constitution of the Republic stipulates that each municipality (basic territorial unit into which the country is divided for political and administrative purposes) is to be governed by a municipal council [*ayuntamiento*] composed of a municipal president and a set of alderpersons (whose number is established by each of the states' legislation, although in compliance with the principle of proportional representation).
- The country is comprised of 2,460 municipalities (including 16 mayoralties in Mexico City). In most of them, authorities are elected by direct and secret suffrage, although the Constitution also recognises the indigenous peoples'

and communities' right to choose their authorities and representatives according to their traditional rules, procedures and practices. Hence, in many municipalities of various states —particularly in Oaxaca— alternative methods are used (which are generically referred to as *customs and usages*), that do not necessarily take place on Election Day.

- Besides, the laws of some states lay out the election of authorities for smaller jurisdictions or areas into which municipalities are divided (in Campeche, municipal boards; or in Tlaxcala, communities' presidencies, for instance).
- In Mexico City, what used to be the 16 delegations are now mayoralties, in which a mayor and a council, of at least 10 members, are elected.
- In any case, the General Constitution prescribes that the states' Constitutions must guarantee the one single consecutive re-election of the authorities principle, as long as their mandate is of no more than three years.

In general, and considering the particularities of each case, these regulations are applicable to local elections' coalitions, on the understanding that their extent and restrictions are restricted to the corresponding territorial jurisdiction and for the posts in competition.

Other rules applicable to the election of state and municipal elections:

- Independent candidacies: allowed for all popularly elective plurality posts.
- Re-election possibility: the provisions for each specific post establish that, in the case of party candidacies —either federal or local—, is subject to the nomination being made by the same political party —or, if that be the case, any of the originally colligated parties—, unless a resignation or loss of political party membership had come about before half the term had passed.

5. The voters' registry

In Mexico, the voter registry is of a federal nature, meaning its conformation, updating and filtering are INE's exclusive responsibility. Even if all 18-year-old, or over, Mexican persons—either born or naturalised—with an honest way of living have the right to vote, an indispensable requirement for them to exercise it is to enrol themselves in the federal registry of voters and be in possession of their photo voting card—which INE issues for free both nationally and overseas.

Mexico's voter registration is active, meaning that citizens must personally apply to be enrolled before any of INE's registration offices or mobile units around the national territory or, if that be the case, before any of the country's diplomatic missions abroad.

The federal registry of voters is made up of three fundamental instruments: the electoral roll, the photo voting card and the voters' list.

Electoral Roll:

This is the denomination by which the database holding the names and basic information of all Mexican citizens who have ever, formally and individually, requested their enrolment for electoral purposes is known.

The registration in the electoral roll is geo-referenced, which means it is correlated with the place of residence of the voter. Along the national territory, it is linked to a specific geographic area called *electoral section*, within which the address of the voter is located. The section is the basic geographic unit in which the country's territory is divided for electoral purposes. According to the electoral law, each section is comprised of a minimum of 100 and a maximum of 3 thousand voters grouped following the geographical contiguity of their domicile.

Photo Voting Card

From the due validation of a request for electoral registration follows the issuance of the photo voting card, which is an indispensable enfranchisement document whose validity is of 10 years. Aside of the exceptions foreseen by the law, any citizen who fails to bring and provide the photo voting card on Election Day will be disqualified to vote.

It is important to point out that it has not been possible to attain the objective of issuing a national identification document in Mexico. Hence, even though the photo voting card was initially conceived solely for electoral purposes, it has become, in practice, Mexicans' main identification mean, while also being the one of broadest coverage amongst the voting population—that is, those over 18 years old. Not only is this situation explained by the multiple security mechanisms embedded in



the voting card, but also because of the many facilities extended for processing and obtaining it, as well as for its great acceptance as a means of identification in multiple institutions and establishments.

It is also worth mentioning that—in order to take action towards guaranteeing the protection of personal data—, ever since January 2014, when citizens request their voting card they can decide whether they want their address

to be shown or to be encrypted and hidden. Additionally, the last generation of voting cards issued since July 2014 display the voters' photograph on the left side, in conformity with international standards for identification documents.

Voters' lists

These lists contain the name and photograph of all duly registered citizens who are part of the electoral roll and whose photo voting card has been issued and delivered. Strictly, these are the lists upon which the elections are conducted, for they are used to identify the voters attending the polling stations to cast their vote.

The voters' lists are grouped by district and section, and are ordered alphabetically. The photograph included in the voters' lists is identical to that of each voters' current voting card. This provision is an additional mechanism to guarantee the security and trustworthiness of the voting.

The photo voters' lists are printed in an especially manufactured security paper that prevents their forgery. They are bound and distributed according to the respective polling station where they are to be used. All the necessary geographical data for their correct identification is included on the cover of each booklet, as well as the amount of citizens—disaggregated by gender— contained in each list.

Updating and filtering

The law establishes a series of procedures and actions with the express intention of permanently updating and filtering the three instruments that constitute the voter registry so that they all not only preserve, but improve their accuracy, precision and trustworthiness levels. For that purpose, the Institute has been

conducting periodic sample verifications since 1994. The results of the 13 audits made so far have ratified their essential features: there has been a sustained increase throughout the last 20 years of both the enrolment and the issuance of credentials. More specifically, in the last lustrum, the enrolment index of voting population is of over 97%, of which 92% have had their photo voting card issued.

Of the Universe of 89'332,031 enfranchised voters for these federal and concurrent electoral processes, 89'123,355 will cast their vote within the national territory and 181,256 overseas.

6. The political parties' system

General Law on Political Parties (LGPP, for its initialism Spanish)



Enacted in May 2014 as a result of, and in abidance with, the provisions of the constitutional amendment passed earlier that year.

Provisions related to the constitution and legal registry of political parties, as well as their rights and duties, with which both national and local parties must comply, are established in it.

Before, those provisions depended on the legislation of each specific jurisdiction.

Differentiated jurisdictions

INE has jurisdiction over:

- 1 The registry of national political parties and the acknowledgement of their rights, and guaranteeing their access to their prerogatives.
- 2 The control and oversight of the income and expenditures of all political parties and candidates to elective posts, even at the local level.
- 3 The verification that those organisations with the intent of becoming national or local political parties have the required amount of members, as established in each level, and that they fulfil the requirements of the corresponding law.
- 4 The organisation of the election of the political parties' leaders whenever an express request is filed, whose cost ought to be deducted from their prerogatives.

Local electoral authorities (OPLs) are responsible for:

The registry of local political parties and the acknowledgement of their rights -including the access to their prerogatives-, as well as those of the candidates to local elective posts.


Rules for the constitution and registry of political parties:

- The competent authority ought to be notified during January of the corresponding year (the process is only open every six years, on the one following that when the election to the presidency of the Republic or the governorship had taken place, respectively).
- Basic documents must be presented (Declaration of Principles, Action Programme and Statutes).
- Provide proof that the law-required —whether nationally or locally— number and territorial distribution of their members is met (whose total must be of at least 0.26% of all registered voters).
- Demonstration that the required constitutive assemblies took place.

National Political Parties:

- Currently, there are nine national political parties (names and logos). They will all take part in the elections on 1 July 2018.

Party	Name
	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)
	National Regeneration Movement (Movimiento Regeneración Nacional)

Party	Name
	Social Encounter Party

- The period for new national political parties to start the process for their registration will begin in January 2019.

Local Political Parties

- There is a total of 33 local political parties registered in 18 states:

State	Political Party	Logo
Baja California	Baja California's Party (Partido de Baja California)	
	Social Encounter Party (Partido Encuentro Social)	
Baja California Sur	BCS Coherent (BCS Coherente)	
	Humanist Party of Baja California Sur (Partido Humanista de Baja California Sur)	
	Sudcalifornian Renovation Party (Partido de Renovación Sudcaliforniana)	
Chiapas	Chiapas United (Chiapas unido)	
	We can move Chiapas (Podemos Mover a Chiapas)	
Ciudad de México	Humanist Party (Partido Humanista)	

Relevant aspects

State	Political Party	Logo
Oaxaca	Partido Unidad Popular	
	Partido Social Demócrata de Oaxaca	
	Partido de Mujeres Revolucionarias	
Puebla	Compromiso por Puebla	
	Pacto Social de Integración	
Querétaro	Convergencia Querétaro	
	Querétaro Independiente	
San Luis Potosí	Partido Conciencia Popular	
Sinaloa	Sinaloense Party Partido Sinaloense	
	Partido Independiente de Sinaloa Independent Party of Sinaloa	
Sonora	Alternative Movement of Sonora Movimiento Alternativo Sonorense	

State	Political Party	Logo
Tlaxcala	Socialist Party Partido Socialista	
	Partido Alianza Ciudadana de Tlaxcala Citizen Alliance Party of Tlaxcala	

Rights, prerogatives and duties of the political parties

From amongst their main rights and prerogatives, the following stand out:

- Permanent free access to airtime on the radio and television;
- Reception of public funding;
- Appointment of representatives before the electoral authorities;
- The formation of coalitions and fronts, as well as fusing with each other; and,
- Access to the electoral justice system for the defence of their legitimate interests.

And amongst their duties:

- Rejection of all kinds of contributions from law-forbidden sources;
- Consent to audits and verifications on their income and expenditures by INE, and the provision of whichever required documents;
- Disbursement of public funding exclusively for the purposes for which it was provided;
- Refraining from using any expression in their political or electoral propaganda that denigrates either the institutions or other political parties, or which slanders persons;
- Refraining from using religious symbols in their propaganda;
- Gender equality guarantee within their candidacies to elective posts; and,
- Compliance with the duties imposed on them by law regarding transparency and access to information.

Reasons for the loss of registration:

- Failure to take part in an ordinary electoral process;
- Failure to obtain at least 3% of the votes cast in one of the ordinary elections;

Relevant aspects

- Discontinuance to comply with the necessary requirements for their registration; and,
- Grave and systematic non-compliance with the duties imposed to them by law.

7. Independent candidacies

An amendment to the General Constitution in 2012 acknowledged the figure of independent candidacies for elective posts at all levels of government, leaving to local legislatures the setting of the criteria for the regulation of their terms, rules and requirements, including:

- The amount of support-signatures needed to request the registration to each post;
- The period to gather the required support-signatures;
- The rights and duties of the applicants;
- The registration procedure; and,
- The rights, prerogatives and duties of the registered candidates.

As a general rule, the appropriate authority (INE in the case of federal posts and local EMBs in their respective jurisdiction), must issue an official call at the beginning of each process where the following is specified:

- The requirements the applicants must comply with;
- The required probative documents;
- The periods to gather the citizens' support; and,
- The expenditure ceilings.

Amount of signatures required for the 2018 federal elective posts

Federal Post	Percentage of signatures required	Amount of signatures	Period to gather the signatures*
Presidency	1% of all registered and enfranchised voters throughout the country, although distributed in a way in which that requirement is also fulfilled in terms of the registered voters in 17 of the 32 states.	866,593	127 days
Senatorship	2% of all registered and enfranchised voters of each state, although distributed in such a way that in at least half of the electoral districts of the state, 1% of the voters sign their support.	It varies from one state to another according to the amount of voters, however, it ranges between 10,013 signatures in Baja California and 224,185 in the State of Mexico.	97 days

Federal Post	Percentage of signatures required	Amount of signatures	Period to gather the signatures*
Deputyship	2% of all registered and enfranchised voters of each electoral district, although distributed in such a way that in at least half of the electoral sections of the district, 1% of the voters sign their support.	It varies from one district to another, however the range goes from 4,436 signatures in district 11 of Chiapas to 7,394 in district 10 of Mexico City.	67 days

* Seven days were added to the deadline.

Complementary relevant information

- To ease both the collection of the support-signatures and back-up documents needed by the applicants to take part in the federal electoral process, and the verification process by the electoral authority, INE designed and implemented a mobile app.
- Even when local electoral authorities establish the number of required signatures for each elective post and the period for their collection within their jurisdiction, the review and validation process of those signatures is INE's responsibility.
- All activities to obtain the citizens' support must be financed, exclusively, using lawful private resources, which are subject to a 10%-limit of the corresponding expenditure ceilings in the previous electoral campaigns.
- Applicants must present an income-and-expenditures report within 30 days after the conclusion of the period provided for the collection of citizen support.

8. Parties' and candidates' private funding regulations

In the case of national political parties, the law recognises and regulates four private funding sources:

By their members

It is composed of individual cash or in-kind contributions and compulsory fees — both ordinary and extraordinary— imposed by political parties to their members, as well as those that only pre-candidates or candidates can contribute to their own pre-campaigns or campaigns on a voluntary and personal basis.

The contributions that political parties can impose to their members are subject to a double annual limit. One to each individual of as much as 0.5% of the previous presidential election expenditure ceiling. The other is global, since the aggregation can only add up to 2% (USD 222'607,940.21) of the total amount of public funding provided to political parties for their ordinary activities.

Likewise, the candidates' campaign contributions are subject to a comprehensive limit of 10% of the expenditure ceiling set for the previous presidential election.

- Sympathisers' individual contributions, in cash or in kind, each political party can receive for the 2017-2018 Federal Electoral Process (0.5% of the previous presidential campaign expenditures ceiling). \$1'650,560.42, equivalent to 87,075.67 USD.
- Contributions each political party can receive through 2018 from their members, in cash or in kind (2% of their public funding for ordinary activities). \$85'926,664.92 equivalent to 4'452,158.80 USD.
- Contributions each political party can receive from their sympathisers during the 2017-2018 Federal Electoral Process, in cash or in kind. \$33'611,208.42 equivalent to 1'741,513.39 USD.
- Contributions from all hopefuls and candidates during the 2017-2018 Federal Electoral Process, in cash or in kind. \$33'611,208.42 equivalent to 1'741,513.39 USD.

Estimations based on the exchange rate of MXN 19.30 per USD 1 applicable on 10 January, 2018, when the corresponding General Council Agreement was approved.

By sympathisers

It includes donations by Mexican citizens residing in the country made freely, voluntarily and personally —whether in cash or in kind—, during federal and local electoral processes.

Just like the candidates' campaign contributions, these are subject to a global limit of 10% of the expenditure ceiling set for the previous presidential election.

Self-funding

These resources are obtained by political parties through promotional activities, such as conferences, shows, games or raffles, cultural events, editorial sales and any other of the kind.

Financial profits

These are the profits from the accounts, funds or trusts that political parties can establish with financial institutions in Mexico for the investment of their liquid resources, which must be devoted to accomplish their objectives and are not protected by bank or fiduciary securities.

Moreover, the law bans any donation from the following sources for all, including independent candidacies:

- Any government authority, agency or institution of any level and under any circumstance.
- Foreign political parties and natural or judicial persons.
- International organisations of any kind.
- Judicial persons.
- People living or working abroad.

The law also prevents the request of credits from development banks to finance political activities, and forbids the reception of donations from unidentified persons.

In the case of independent candidacies, in addition to the forbiddance on accepting contributions or donations from the aforementioned sources, the law demands them to reject all kinds of economic —as well as political or propagandistic— support from any foreigner or religious minister, and also from religious associations and organisations and churches.

9. Campaigns and pre-campaigns

Pre-campaigns

- The pre-campaign stage or period is that during which political parties and their members, especially those aspiring to be nominated to a popularly elective post, celebrate public events or rallies to make their proposals known and obtain the necessary support for their nomination.
- In any case, pre-campaign periods are related with the internal processes conducted by political parties to choose or select —according with their own internal rules and procedures, and the applicable legal provisions— their candidates to popularly elective posts.
- While each state determines the duration of pre-campaign periods for their local elections, there is a constitutional mandate that establishes they cannot last for more than two thirds of the period determined for their campaigns (which are, themselves, subject by constitutional mandate to minimal and maximal periods depending on the kind of election).
- In the case of federal elections, whenever the presidency of the Republic and both Chambers of the Congress are renewed at the same time, as is the case in 2018, pre-campaigns cannot last for more than 60 days, and if only legislative mid-term elections take place, their maximum duration is of 45 days.
- In any case, all political parties' pre-campaigns must take place within the same period.
- Neither aspirants, nor pre-candidates, can celebrate proselytical or propaganda activities prior to the date stated for the beginning of pre-campaigns. The breach of this provision is punished with the pre-candidate's registration rejection.
- Pre-campaign expenditures must respect ceilings, which are set in the electoral legislation of the corresponding jurisdiction.

Inter-campaigns

- This is the period between the deadline for internal processes for selecting candidates, or pre-campaigns, and the formal commencement of electoral campaigns, in their most conventional sense.
- Early campaign acts —such as public meetings or rallies, or the dissemination of propaganda promoting candidacies or calling people to vote— are prohibited during this period. Political parties are only allowed to disseminate general propaganda.
- This period includes those for the registration process of political parties' candidates, as well as, if that is the case, of those independents who might have fulfilled the requirements.
- The legislation for each territorial jurisdiction (federal and state) must also establish the periods and deadlines for the registry of candidacies for each kind of election.

- In the case of the 2018 federal elections, INE's General Council established the registration process of all candidacies —whether for the presidential or legislative elections, and either partisan, of coalitions or independent— would take place from 11 to 18 March, 2018.

Campaigns

- Electoral campaign is the set of activities that political parties, coalitions and registered candidates can celebrate with the purpose of making their programmes, proposals and ideas known, and try to convince the electorate and get its vote.
- Amongst those activities with which political parties, registered candidates and their sympathisers present and promote their candidacies before the electorate, the law makes a distinction between conventional campaign acts (like public meetings, rallies or walks) and those of propaganda (which make reference to writs, publications, images, recordings, projections and expressions).
- Each state establishes the duration of local campaign periods, but a constitutional mandate dictates that they must be of 60 to 90 days for governorship elections, and of 30 to 60 days for those of local deputies and municipalities.
- In the case of federal elections, when the presidency of the Republic and both Chambers of the Congress are renewed at the same time —as will happen in 2018—, campaigns last 90 days; while during intermediate legislative elections the duration is of 60 days.
- In any case, campaign activities must conclude three days before Election Day. No electoral public meetings or campaign acts are allowed, nor is electoral or proselytistic propaganda disseminated, on E-Day and the three days prior.
- The only restriction to the propaganda disseminated by political parties, coalitions or candidates during a campaign is the due respect to: the private life of candidates, authorities, third parties, and the democratic institutions and values. Their propaganda must abstain from mud-slinging any person.
- Expenditures disbursed by political parties, coalitions and candidates for campaign activities and electoral propaganda cannot surpass the ceilings set for each federal election by INE's General Council.

Relevant standardised dates

The dates for the development or conclusion of some key activities of the 2018 concurrent electoral processes —that is, the federal and 30 local elections— were standardised by INE's General Council in exercise of the Institution's lawful power to attract particular issues, and for the purpose of easing these elections' coordination, planning, oversight and control tasks:

Deadline for the conclusion of pre-campaigns	11 February 2018
Deadline to gather support-signatures for independent candidacies	6 February 2018
Deadline for the registration approval of candidacies to federal posts, local posts in Tabasco, and for other states' governorships	29 March 2018
Registration approval for the remaining electoral processes (without governorship)	20 April 2018

10. Prerogatives and equity conditions in the competition

Public funding

It is the prerogative of all political parties —whether national or local— and independent candidates to all popularly elective posts, to receive direct public funding.

Political parties

In the case of political parties, by constitutional mandate, public funding must prevail over any other kind of funding, and is assigned under three distinct concepts:

For their permanent ordinary activities

This is of a permanent nature.

The total amount is calculated every year, and is the result of multiplying the number of registered voters to 31 July of the previous year in the respective territorial jurisdiction by 65% of the valid minimum wage of that same circumscription. In the case of national political parties, the number of national voters and Mexico City's minimum wage are the values considered.

From that sum, 30% is divided equally between the political parties and 70% proportionally to their share of votes in the preceding election for the House of Representatives —in the case of national political parties— or for the state Congress —in the case of local parties.

Each political party ought to spend, annually, at least 3% of these resources for the women's political leadership, training, encouragement and development, and not less than 2% to carry out their specific activities as entities of public interest.

For campaign expenditures

This one is only available on electoral years.

As a general rule, during the year when the federal or local executive and legislative powers are renewed, each party is granted an additional amount equal to 50% of the public funding for ordinary permanent activities, while when only mid-term legislative elections take place, the amount will be of 30% of such funding.

For specific activities as entities of public interest

This is also of a permanent nature, and is intended to support —directly and expressly— the political education and training activities and the social and economic research, as well as the political parties' editorial tasks.

An annual pocket of resources—equal to 3% of the total amount given to political parties for their ordinary activities—is distributed for that purpose, following the same proportionality: 30% equally and 70% according to the votes in the most recent legislative election.

Independent candidacies

- The General Constitution recognises the independent candidacies' prerogative to receive public funding for their campaign expenditures.
- The terms for the materialisation of this prerogative are established in the LGIPE, in the case of candidacies to federal posts, and the states' laws, for candidacies to local posts.
- In the case of candidacies to federal posts, the provision is to grant them, as a group, with an amount equal to that given to a newly created political party, which is of 2% of the resources for the political parties' campaign expenditures.
- Out of those resources, one third is allotted to the independent candidacies that might have obtained their registration for the presidential elections, another third for those registered to compete for the senatorships, and the last third for those competing for deputyships. If only one candidacy is registered for one kind of election, it cannot receive more than 50% of the corresponding funds.

Free access to the radio and the television

The free and exclusive access to over-the-air (OTA) radio and television (commercial, public or community) is the prerogative of political parties—whether national or local—and of independent candidates to all popularly elective posts.

Free access is through the State's official airtime in the media, that add up to a little over 1,877 radio and 1,234 television broadcasters along the country. Political parties have permanent access, while for candidates is only during electoral periods.

INE is the only responsible for the management and allotment of the free official airtime meant for electoral purposes—to be used either by political parties, candidacies, or electoral authorities, to whom the right is also applicable.

Electoral official airtimes differ between:

Ordinary or non-electoral periods

- These are of at least six minutes in commercial television and a little under eight in commercial radio, but only three and a half minutes in public and community radio and television.

- Half of the total amount of airtime is equally distributed amongst political parties, and the other half between electoral authorities, in slots of at least 30 seconds for political parties and 20 seconds for electoral authorities, which are broadcasted from 6:00 to 24:00 hours.
- The messages airing order is established through a raffle, but a rotating schedule procedure is used for their allotment, so that they are all programmed during primetime.

Electoral periods

- For both federal and local processes, these are considered to go from the beginning of pre-campaigns to Election Day.
- As a general rule, they comprise 48 minutes of the daily schedule of all radio and television broadcasters.
- Three hourly minutes of electoral messages from political parties (coalitions and independent candidacies, if that be the case) and electoral authorities are programmed daily between 6:00 and 12:00 hours and from 18:00 to 24:00 hours; as well as two hourly minutes from 12:00 to 18:00 hours.
- The allotment of the 48 daily minutes amongst the various beneficiaries (parties, coalitions, candidacies and authorities) throughout the electoral period varies according to several factors, of which the kind of election — federal and/or local— and the stage of the process stand out, resulting in significant differences from one situation to the other.
- In any case, the following table shows —merely for illustrative purposes— a general and typical allotment model of the 48 daily minutes per stage and actor:

	Pre-campaign	Inter-campaign	Campaign	Reflection period and election day
Parties, coalitions and, only during campaigns, candidacies	30 minutes	24 minutes	41 minutes	---
Electoral Authorities	18 minutes	24 minutes	7 minutes	48 minutes
TOTAL	48 minutes	48 minutes	48 minutes	48 minutes

Relevant aspects

- In principle, the criteria for the airtime allotment to political parties depend on the stages of the election.
- The 24 inter-campaign minutes are distributed equally between them.
- However, both the 30 minutes during pre-campaigns and the 40 during campaigns, are divided as follows: 30% equally and 70% according with their share of votes in the previous legislative election.
- If two or more parties form a total coalition, each keep their share of the 70%-proportional time during the pre-campaign and campaign stages, although the 30%-equal share is consolidated and allotted as if they were one single political party. The original political parties' airtime allotment is not modified by partial and flexible coalitions.
- Newly-created parties only take part in the allocation of the equally-distributed airtime of all three stages of the process.
- The equivalent to the airtime of a newly created party is reserved for independent candidacies exclusively during the stage of campaigns, that is, one share of the 30% of the airtime which is equally distributed.
- As with public funding for campaign expenditures, the free airtime available for independent federal candidacies is first divided into thirds and then equally distributed amongst the registered candidacies for each federal election (presidency, senatorships and deputyships).
- The following table is merely illustrative of the method used to allocate the airtime for political parties and, if that be the case, coalitions and independent candidacies, through the different stages of the concurrent federal and local elections:

Election/ Stage	Pre-campaign	Inter-campaign	Campaign	Percentage
Federal	19 minutes	15 minutes	26 minutes	63%
Local	11 minutes	9 minutes	15 minutes	37%
TOTAL AIRTIME	30 minutes	24 minutes	41 minutes	100%

- The model for airtime allocation is more complex when federal and local electoral process are simultaneous, as is the case of those of 1 July, 2018.

Ceilings to campaign expenditures

With the purpose of guaranteeing equal conditions in the competition and to prevent that unequal access to, or availability of, resources can become a decisive factor in the likelihood of winning the citizens' vote, the General Constitution provides that limits are to be set for the expenditures political parties, coalitions and candidacies can disburse for every election and elective post.

It is the legislatures and electoral authorities of each jurisdiction who must establish the applicable ceilings to the campaigns (and pre-campaigns) of each kind of election.

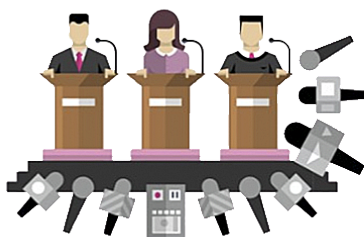
As for campaigns to federal posts, INE's General Council is responsible for determining the appropriate limits to each kind of elections according to the following bases:

- Presidential election: the ceiling shall be of 20% of the overall public funding established for the campaign expenditures of all political parties on the year of the presidential election.
- Deputyships election: the limit is by district, and is the result of dividing the ceiling set for the presidential election into 300, which is the number of single-member FPTP districts of the national territory.
- Senatorships election: the ceiling is set by state, and it is determined by multiplying the deputyships' district-limit by the number of districts of which the state is composed, although only until the amount of 20 regardless of the total of the state.

The following table shows the ceilings established for the local governanship elections in the nine states where they will take place:

Limit of electoral expenditures		Senators	Limit(\$)
Campaign		Baja California Sur, Campeche and Colima	2'864,222
		Aguascalientes, Nayarit and Tlaxcala	4'296,333
		Durango, Zacatecas and Quintana Roo	5'728,444
		Morelos, Yucatán and Querétaro	7'160,555
		Tabasco	8'592,666
		Coahuila, Hidalgo, Sinalora, San Luis Potos and Sonora	10'024,777
		Baja California	11'456,888
		Chihuahua, Guerrero and Tamaulipas	12'888,999
		Oaxaca	14'321,110
		Michoacán and Nuevo León	17'185,332
		Chiapas	18'617,443
		Puebla and Guanajuato	21'481,665
		Jalisco, Mexico City, State of Mexico and Veracruz	28'642,220

Post	Limit(\$)
President	429'633,325
Federal representative	1'432,111



Source: Agreement INE/CG505/2017

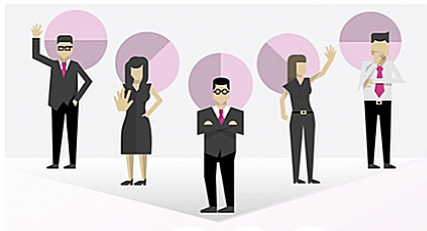
Forbiddance to broadcast government publicity during campaign periods

- All government publicity in radio and television is forbidden from the beginning of campaign periods —whether federal or local— and until the conclusion of Election Day, except for that related to health or education services or civil protection in emergency cases.

Limits of electoral expenditures

Pre-campaign

Post	Amount (\$)
President	67'222,417
Federal representative	252,008



Senators	Límit (\$)
Baja California Sur, Campeche and Colima	448,149
Aguascalientes, Nayarit, Quintana Roo and Tlaxcala	672,224
Durango, Querétaro and Zacatecas	896,299
Morelos and Yucatán	1'120,374
Tabasco	1'344,448
Coahuila, Hidalgo, San Luis Potosí and Sonora	1'568,523
Baja California, Sinaloa and Tamaulipas	1'792,598
Chihuahua and Guerrero	2'016,673
Oaxaca	2'464,822
Chiapas, Michoacán and Nuevo León	2'688,897
Guanajuato	3'137,046
Puebla	3'585,196
Jalisco	4'257,420
México City, State of Mexico and Veracruz	4'481,494

Source: Agreement INE/CG505/2017

11. Regulation of surveys and opinion polls

INE's General Council has the attribution to issue rules, guidelines and criteria to be adopted by any natural or juridical person interested in conducting surveys or opinion polls during federal and local electoral processes, based on the following legal mandates:

- The publication, dissemination or release of the results of any survey or opinion poll on electoral preferences, through any means, is strictly forbidden in the three previous days to any Election Day —whether federal or local— and until the closing of the polling sites.
- Results from exit polls or quick counts conducted during Election Day can only be released after the official polling stations' closing time, which in the case of federal elections means waiting for the most western time zones of the national territory.

In all cases:

- Natural or juridical persons with the intention of conducting survey samplings on electoral preferences or voting trends shall integrally adopt the general scientific criteria issued by INE's General Council, which is previously consulted with professionals on the matter and with organisations to which they belong.
- Whoever requests or orders the publication of any federal or local electoral survey or opinion poll —from the beginning of the process and until the polling stations' closing time—, ought to submit a copy of the whole study before INE's or the local EMB's executive secretary, respectively.
- Natural or juridical persons who disseminate surveys or opinion polls shall submit a report, before the corresponding electoral authority —INE or local EMB—, on the resources used for carrying them out.

Thirty-five different initiatives to carry out non-institutional exit polls or quick counts have been registered for the 2018 federal and concurrent federal electoral processes, of which 20 have a national scope.

12. Electoral debates

The general law on the matter recognises, and establishes, some basic rules for the organisation and celebration of **DEBATES** between candidates to all popularly elective posts. Debates can be organised either by the corresponding electoral authorities of the jurisdiction or by national or local means of communication.

Debates organised by electoral authorities

Federal posts

INE's General Council is responsible for organising, at least, two mandatory debates amongst all presidential candidacies, and for encouraging —through its local and district collegiate directive bodies— the celebration of senatorship and deputyship debates.

The faculties for the organisation of the mandatory presidential debates include INE's General Council determination of the rules, dates and venues, while respecting the equity principle between candidates. These debates —three for the 2018 elections, according with the decision of the General Council— ought to be aired by public radio and television broadcasters, although commercial operators whose coverage is of half, or more, of the national territory are also compelled to air it on at least one of their channels. The radio and television signals generated by INE for this purpose can be used, live and for free, by any interested telecommunications' operator who would also wish to broadcast them.

Local posts

The general councils of the local electoral management bodies (EMBs) are authorised to organise —according with what is established by their respective laws— debates between candidates to the different popularly elective posts. Those of the candidates to governorships or to the chief of government, in the case of Mexico City, ought to be broadcast by public radio and television stations of the corresponding state and INE must encourage its dissemination by other operators with local coverage.

Debates organised by the media

The national and local media are free to organise debates, as long as they comply with the following:

- The intention is informed to the corresponding electoral authority.
- The participation of at least two candidates to the same post.
- Equity conditions are established in the format.

Relevant aspects

In any case:

- The media's broadcast of the debates' content ought to be for free, whole and unaltered.
- Nonattendance by one or more of the invited candidates shall not result in the cancellation of the debate as scheduled.

13. Out-of-country voting

The law establishes the rules for Mexicans residing overseas to exercise their right to vote in the following elections:

- In federal elections: for the presidency and senatorships.
- In local elections, and provided that it is stated in their corresponding Constitution, for governorships or chief of government of Mexico City.
- In the 2018 elections, aside of Mexico City, the voters from Chiapas, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Morelos, Puebla and Yucatán will be able to cast a vote in the governorship election. This means that voters from seven of the nine states —except for Tabasco and Veracruz— where the governorship will be renewed could have been enfranchised. Besides, voters from Jalisco will be able to vote for local proportional representation deputyships.

Out-of-country voting requires that Mexican citizens:

- Have their valid photo voting card; and,
- Ask to be included in the List of Voters residing abroad (LNERE for its initialism in Spanish).

Even if the possibility for out-of-country votes to be cast through electronic means or at special units installed at Mexican embassies or consulates overseas is established in the law, truth is that for the 2018 elections the only available option was postal voting.

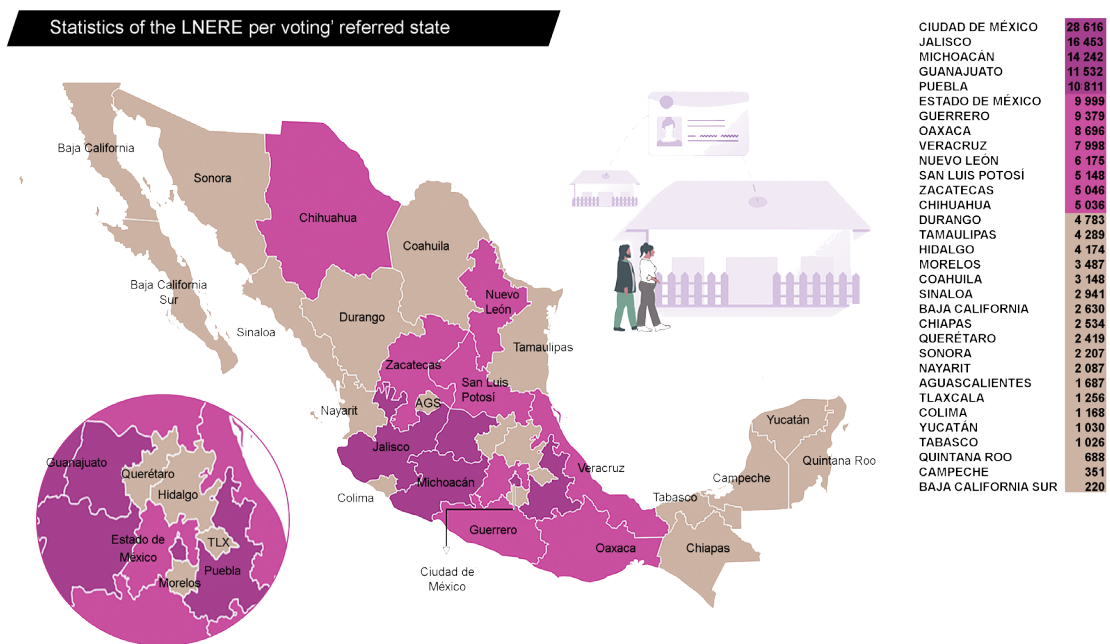
Out-of-country voters' registry

- To ease the registration of out-of-country voters —and as a consequence of both a widely extended demand from the potential beneficiaries and a legal mandate—, a programme for requesting and delivering photo voting cards through the network of Mexico's Embassies and Consulates around the world, or if that be the case, for their renewal (given their validity is of 10 years), was set in motion since February 2016 by INE in collaboration with Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE for its initials in Spanish). Before then, INE could only issue photo voting cards within national territory.
- Photo voting cards' first-time or renewal procedures must be carried out personally at the closest embassy or consulate, for it is necessary to fill in the formats and then take the fingerprints and a photograph, and to digitalise the requester's identification documents and proof of address.
- Upon the validation of the procedure, INE is responsible for the issuance of the photo voting card, its dispatch and delivery to the address of the requester within a period of three to five weeks.
- Once the requester has received the photo voting card, it ought to be activated for it to be used to vote or as a means of identification.
- In terms of the 2018 elections, citizens who were already in possession of their photo voting card ought to have expressed their intentions to

participate by registering into the LNERE —from 1 September, 2017, until 31 March, 2018. The registration could be completed either by accessing INE’s website or using a specially designed mobile app.

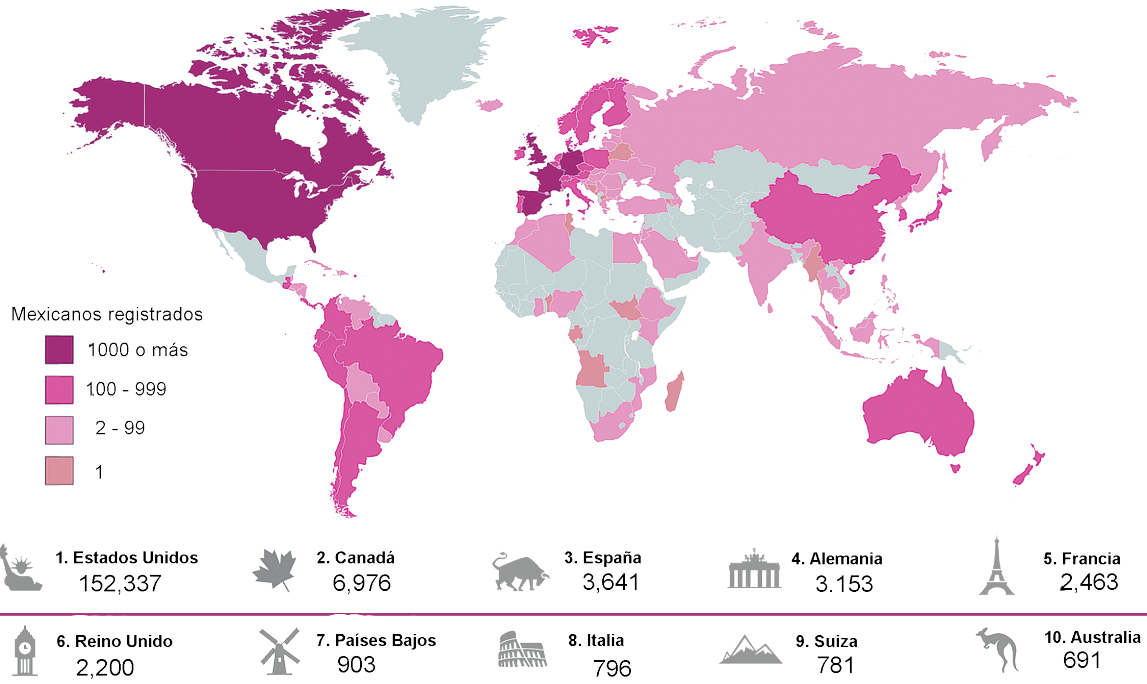
Balloting from abroad

- Duly registered out-of-country voters receive an electoral postal package at their residence with the necessary documents and materials for them to cast their votes. For security reasons, the package can only be received by the registered out-of-country voters themselves.
- In the case of concurrent local balloting from abroad, INE consolidated the electoral packages with all the necessary federal and local electoral information, materials and documents.
- For out-of-country votes to be included in the tally, they must arrive in Mexico up to one day before Election Day. For that purpose, voters must send back the envelopes containing their votes by postal service well in advance of that deadline.



LNRE statistics per country of residence

181,256 enfranchised Mexicans all over the world



14. Electoral observers and foreign visitors

According to the law, participation as electoral observers throughout the preparation and development of federal and local processes —as well as during any direct democracy process— is an exclusive right of Mexican citizens.

People from other countries interested in learning themselves about the development of electoral processes in Mexico are designated foreign visitors.

Electoral observers

Mexican citizens must comply with the following requirements to exercise their right to participate as electoral observers:

- Timely authorisation by the appropriate electoral authority (INE in the case of federal electoral processes).
- Submit —either personally or through an organisation of which they are members— an individual registration request where, aside of providing or attaching the necessary documents, they commit themselves to abide by the principles of impartiality, objectivity, certainty, legality, and non-partisanship or political bias.
- Attend the training, preparation or information courses imparted by the appropriate electoral authority or by the observer organisation to which they belong.

They are forbidden from:

- Substituting the electoral authorities or hindering their activities.
- Proselytising in any way or favouring any political party or candidate.
- Expressing any kind of offense, defamation or calumny against institutions, electoral authorities, political parties or candidates.
- Declaring the victory of any political party or candidate.

Observers can:

- Carry out their activities in any part of the national territory.
- Request the information they need for the better development of their activities from the appropriate electoral authority.
- Submit, before the electoral authority, reports on their activities according to the terms and deadlines established by INE's General Council. Under no circumstances do their reports, discretion, opinions or conclusions have any legal effects on the electoral process or its results.
- Observer organisations are compelled to declare, through a report before the General Council within 30 days of Election Day, the source, amount and destination of the funding obtained for carrying out their activities.

Foreign visitors

The presence and authorisation of other countries' nationals interested in learning about the development of federal and/or local electoral processes is governed by a set of bases and criteria established in the Elections' Regulations, and is subject to the issuance of an official call from the appropriate authority's General Council.

The attribution to establish those bases and criteria —for inviting, attending, and informing, as well as to issue the official call and carry out the authorisation procedures, which are extended to concurrent local elections— for each federal process is INE's General Council. In other words, the official call and authorisation by INE suffice to be present at and learn about local electoral processes taking place on the same date as federal elections.

For interested non-Mexican persons to obtain the authorisation, they ought to:

- Duly and timely complete the appropriate request format, which was available both on INE's website and at all its offices around the country, as well as at Mexico's diplomatic offices overseas.
- Seek no profit from the exercise associated to such authorisation.

Authorised foreign visitors can:

- Attend, learn about, and enquire about the different phases and stages of the electoral process.
- Request interviews or information meetings with the appropriate electoral authorities, of which they might obtain guidance or complementary information on the electoral rules, institutions and procedures.
- Learn about the political parties', coalitions' and candidates' plans for the electoral process, and receive the appropriate documents they deem suitable.

In addition to the compliance, at all times, with Mexican laws, some of the things they must refrain from are:

- Substituting the electoral authorities or hindering their activities.
- Proselytising in any way or favouring any political party or candidate.
- Carrying out any activity that might disturb the electoral competition's equity.
- Expressing any kind of offense, defamation or calumny against institutions, electoral authorities, political parties or candidates.
- Declaring the victory of any political party or candidate.
- Wear emblems or symbols related with any political party, coalition or candidate.

15. Location and making up of polling stations

In Mexico, polling stations are called *casillas*.

The division of the national territory into electoral sections is key to establish the number and location of the polling stations to be installed for each election. One electoral section is a geo-referenced territorial unit which encompasses a minimum of 100 and a maximum of 3 thousand voters. Currently, the country is divided into 67,946 sections.

It must be highlighted that, by constitutional mandate, INE is the sole responsible—both for federal and local elections—for deciding everything related with the location of polling stations, as well as with the selection and training of polling officers. Therefore, the following rules and procedures are applicable, in essence, to all kinds of elections. However, it is worth keeping in mind that, whenever federal and local elections are simultaneous in one state, a variation takes place in terms of the designation and composition of the polling stations. Such variation is known as *joint polling site*, and will operate in 30 of the 32 states where the 2018 elections will take place.

Location

By law, one polling station must be installed for every 750 voters, so the installation of one to four polling stations is usual within one section. Whenever two or more polling stations are installed in one section, they must be located contiguously and the voters' list must be alphabetically divided. Each registered voter in the country is assigned to a specific electoral section and, in general, must vote at one predetermined polling station located within that section.

The law establishes the precise procedure by which the number and location of the polling stations is determined, stating that they are installed in places that meet the following requirements:

- The voters' free and easy access is allowed;
- The installation of the booths or modular equipment that ensure the secrecy when the vote is cast is guaranteed;
- The property is not inhabited by second-level public servants;
- The property is not inhabited or owned by political parties' leaders or registered candidates;
- The property must not be a factory, a temple or religious venue, or political offices;
- The location must not be a saloon, vice centre or the similar.

Additionally, it is recommended that the following considerations are factored in whenever possible:

- That security conditions are guaranteed;
- Easily identifiable by the citizenship;
- Well ventilated and well lighted spaces;
- Providing protection against unfavourable climate conditions; and,
- Without obstacles for easy access and transit of persons with disabilities.

Under this logic, while the installation of polling stations take place in locations that comply with the mentioned requirements and criteria, the preference order is as follows: schools, public offices, public spaces and private residences.

Kinds of polling stations or casillas

Conventionally, polling stations used in an ordinary election are denominated as:

- Basic: the first one to be installed in a section.
- Contiguous: those additional to the basic one to be installed in a section — adjacent to the basic polling station according to the number of registered voters and in alphabetical order.
- Extraordinary: are the ones installed in different locations —although within the same section— due to geographical, infrastructural or socio-cultural conditions that make access of all voters to the same location difficult.

Although the general rule is for voters to cast their vote at one particular polling station according to their address, the law also considers —for federal and concurrent elections— the possibility that voters who are unable to do so on Election Day to attend to the *special polling stations*. Those are expressly installed to receive the votes of the so-called voters-in-transit (who need not provide any justification to access them), are limited in number —only a maximum of 10 special polling stations are allowed per electoral district— and equipped for the rigorous verification of the voters' registration and identification before admitting them to vote.

It is important to clarify that joint polling sites —those installed for concurrent local and federal elections and where voters cast their vote for both at the same polling station— can, if needed, adopt any of the previously described types.

Composition

One of the distinguishing features between any kind of ordinary polling station and joint polling sites is the amount of their members. While an ordinary polling

station is made up of four polling officers (one president, one secretary and two scrutineers), joint polling sites —where federal and local votes are received and counted— are composed of, at least, six (one secretary and one scrutineer are added to take over the local election). In any case, three general substitutes are designated to both kinds of mechanisms.

Since both the federal and local legal frameworks recognise, regulate, and —if that be the case— establish the simultaneous celebration of direct democracy mechanisms and their respective electoral processes, the electoral law provides for the possibility of increasing the number of polling officers should such circumstance arise for the expedite and easy management of those instruments.

In all cases, the procedure by which the members of the so-called polling site directive boards (*mesas directivas de casilla*) are selected relies on an absolutely random double lottery with which the utmost impartiality and transparency is sought, and whose particularities are:

- They are citizens that ought to be registered voters of the corresponding electoral section, that is, they are neighbours of the vicinity; and is usual that voters are familiar to those in charge of receiving and counting the votes.
- Hence, the double lottery used for their selection is based on the voters' lists of each electoral section.
- At the first lottery, the criterion to draw a minimum of 50 voters from each electoral district voters' list is their birth month.
- Citizens selected in the first lottery receive a training course from INE.
- A relation of the suitable citizens who passed the training course and have no impediments to be polling officers is made by INE.
- It is through the second lottery, in which the criterion is the initial letter of their first surname and where those of a higher level of education are preferred, that citizens are selected to be polling officers.
- INE notifies of the citizens' selection in person and administers an oath to them.

Representatives of political parties and independent candidates at the district level can observe the due development of this procedure, and, if they deem necessary, contest the selection of the citizens who might not comply with the lawful requirements to be polling officers.

16. Election Day

Basic references

- There is one specific ballot paper with a distinct colour for each kind of election, which makes them clearly distinguishable.
- Ballot papers —like other sensitive electoral documents— have multiple security measures that guarantee they cannot be forged.
- The order of political parties on the ballot is according to their registration date. That very order is used for all institutional or formal purposes.
- In case of electoral coalition, each colligated political parties' name and emblem are preserved and appear separately on the ballot. Coalitions made by two or more political parties have no effect in the design and format of the ballot papers, except for the name of those registered as common candidates appearing under the emblem of each colligated party.
- Although the vote for all elections is categorical or unique—in the sense that it is only valid when the preference for a party or independent candidate is express—, in the case of a common candidacy, a vote is valid even if the preference for the different colligated parties is marked.
- There is also a specific ballot box where the votes for each election are placed. While the ballot boxes are transparent, they have a stripe with a clear indication —written and by colour— of the respective election

Characteristics of the voting procedure

- One single ballot is used for each kind of election.
- The vote is unified for FPTP and PR elections (deputyships and senatorships). It cannot be divided. The FPTP vote is later used for PR purposes.
- The emblem of one or all colligated parties can be marked for common candidacies (coalitions).
- There is no such thing as an observed or reserved vote, nor can a wrongly marked ballot be replaced.

INE must deliver the electoral documents and materials to be used on Election Day to the presidents of each polling station within the six previous days to 1 July, 2018. A Braille ballot guide is included in the materials to ease that persons with visual impairment can vote.

Political parties and independent candidates have the right to appoint representatives at the polling stations. In case of a concurrent election (joint polling site), one federal and one local representatives —and their substitutes— can be appointed.

Throughout Election Day, presidents of the polling stations are the maximum authority on site, and must uphold order and secure the voters' free access and

that votes are cast in secrecy. For that purposes, they can, at all moments, request the assistance of the security forces.

Installation of polling stations

- Polling officers must arrive at the location of the polling stations by 7:30 hours, when they must begin the preparations for their installation in the presence of the representatives of political parties and independent candidacies.
- The necessary formalities for the installation of the polling station and commencement of Election Day can only take place once all members are present (four in the case of ordinary polling stations, and six for joint polling sites).
- In case the selected citizens are absent, the law provides alternative mechanisms that can be applied to guarantee that a polling station can be installed at 10:00 hours at the latest, for which, in the presence of a notary public, polling officers are designated from amongst the citizens already in line to vote who are included in the corresponding electoral section voters' list.
- Under no circumstance can the representatives of political parties or independent candidacies carry out the activities of a polling officer.
- Polling stations can only be installed in a location different to the already approved for a number of express lawful reasons. In any case —and to prevent it from being a cause for annulling the votes cast—, the alternate site ought to be located within the boundaries of the same electoral section.

Voting commencement and development

- Once all polling officers are present, a certificate containing the data common to all elections must be filled in —along with information like the amount of ballot papers received for each election and their consecutive numbers, and that ballot boxes were unfold and assembled in the presence of polling officers and representatives to verify they were empty— and signed.
- Upon the filling of the certificate, the voting begins, although not before 8:00 hours.
- Voters cast their votes in the same order they arrive to the polling station, although priority is given to persons with disabilities, the elderly and pregnant women.
- Voters must produce their photo voting card, which is collated against the voters' list.
- Voters must receive a ballot paper for each kind of election, go to the booths to mark them in secrecy, and deposit each in the corresponding ballot box.

- Voters who cannot read or who are physically unable to mark their ballots, can be accompanied and assisted by someone they trust.
- A Braille ballot guide will be available for voters with visual impairment who can use it.
- As additional measures to prevent multiple voting, a mark is made to both the voters' list and the photo voting card before returning the latter to a voter, and the voter's right thumb is impregnated with indelible ink.
- The representatives of political parties and independent candidacies can cast their vote at the polling station where they are appointed.
- Once the voting has begun, only a cause of force majeure can suspend it. The president of the polling station must immediately inform INE's district council of the situation, who is the only one with the attribution to decide whether the voting is resumed or not and to take any appropriate measures.
- Voting closes at 18:00 hours, although all voters still in line at that time must be allowed to vote.
- Voting can only be closed before that hour if all of the citizens in the voters' list have cast their vote.

17. Scrutiny and initial tally of the votes

As soon as the voting is closed, the polling officers must begin the scrutiny and tallying of the votes cast.

At joint polling sites, the federal and local scrutiny and tallying procedures are made separately, although simultaneously, in the following order:

Federal elections:

- Presidency
- Senatorships
- Deputyships
- Direct democracy mechanisms

Local elections:

- Governorship
- Deputyships
- Municipalities
- Direct democracy mechanisms

Scrutiny and tallying certificates

There must be a scrutiny and tallying certificate for each election, which has to be signed by all polling officers and the representatives of political parties and independent candidacies, and must reflect the following information:

- The amount of votes cast in favour of each political party or candidacy. If a voter marked its preference for two or more colligated parties, the already established procedure to decide for which party is the vote counted as valid must be applied.
- The amount of unused ballot papers (which must be invalidated with a double diagonal line and deposited in a separate envelope).
- The amount of null votes.
- The amount of representatives of political parties and independent candidacies who voted at the polling station and who were not in the voters' list.
- A relation of any incidents that might have arisen.
- A relation of the written objections submitted by the representatives of parties and candidates in relation with the scrutiny and tallying.
- The representatives of parties and candidates can sign the scrutiny and tallying certificates under protest, and point out their reasons for doing so. Shall they refuse to sign the certificates; it must also be recorded.

- The representatives of parties and candidates have the right to receive a copy of the scrutiny and tallying certificates.

Invalid votes

Votes are considered null if:

- There is no mark in any of the boxes containing a political party emblem or the name of an independent candidacy. This criterion includes—in addition to the conventionally called void votes—the ballot papers marked with contents (drawings, phrases or legends) that do not allow for the voter's intent or will to be established. In this regard, it is important to highlight that the jurisprudence of the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch favours an interpretation as broad as possible of the voters' intent when marking the ballots and prevent the annulment of votes.
- The boxes of two or more political parties that are not part of a coalition are marked; as well as if the boxes of a political party and an independent candidate are marked.

Polling officers have the power to decide the validity or nullity of the votes cast under their jurisdiction, for which they are provided with guidelines prepared by INE. Their verdict can be revised, and modified, in the ulterior counting sessions or as a result of electoral courts' resolutions.

Polling stations' files

Once the scrutiny and tallying of all elections is finished, a polling station file is put together with the scrutiny and tallying certificates and the written objections. In the case of joint polling sites, there are two files, one on federal elections and another on local elections. Files are then placed inside a package, along with other complementary polling station documents—amongst which are the valid and null votes, and the unused ballot papers of each election, all of them classified in different envelopes—to be immediately transported and delivered to the appropriate electoral management body.

For the inviolability of the documents inside the package to be guaranteed, its seals must be signed by the polling officers, as well as by the representatives of political parties and independent candidates who would so wish. Federal elections' packages must be sent to the corresponding district council venue.

18. Preliminary results

From the moment polling stations are closed and Election Day concludes, several tools and mechanisms begin to operate for the crucial function of attending the natural and legitimate expectations of contenders and stakeholders—as well as of any interested person and the public opinion as a whole—, of having information on the voting results and tendencies.

It is important to notice that, except for the posters and announcements—which the law establishes that must be displayed outside the polling stations after their closure— where the voting results at each polling station are published, the rest of the mechanisms to make the voting results, or tendencies, known can only start the public dissemination of their information after the legal time for the closing of all the polling stations (18:00 hours) installed for the respective election.

This means that, since federal elections take place throughout the national territory, any information on the voting results or tendencies obtained by any mechanism, can only start to be disseminated once the polling stations installed at the most western time zone of the country—which has a two-hour delay from that of the Central Standard Time— have closed, and that happens at 20:00 hours CST of the country's capital.

In the case of local elections' information, the dissemination can begin at the time set for the closure of polling stations installed within their jurisdiction, that is, at 18:00 hours of their own time zone.

Information sources on voting results and tendencies

On the understanding that the only official and lawful information on the elections' aggregated results is the one from the scrutiny and tallying sessions conducted by the electoral authorities—which in the case of the federal elections begin at the district level on the Wednesday after Election Day—, a distinction must be made between two unofficial and non-legally binding initial sources of information on voting results and tendencies.

Institutional

In addition to the legal mandate by which the voting results of a polling station must be displayed—upon its closure—in a visible place outside the station by the presiding polling officer, the electoral authorities have the power to operate two distinct mechanisms to provide, on the one hand, preliminary electoral results and, on the other, voting tendencies according to the polling stations' scrutiny and tallying certificates.

Preliminary electoral results programme (PREP, by its acronym in Spanish)

PREP is an institutional information mechanism which —using a software and the most recent developments on information technologies— allows for the data on the scrutiny and tallying certificates of each polling station to be trustworthily captured, safely stored, instantly transmitted, accurately verified, and publicly disseminated to provide preliminary electoral results. As a matter of fact, since the first copy of the scrutiny and tallying certificate is exclusively dedicated to the PREP, it is expressly labelled as “Acta PREP” (PREP Certificate).

PREP’s current design and development —for it has been operating since 1994 and has undergone changes and innovations— considers the possibility of the direct capture and transmission of an image of the PREP certificates at the polling stations using a mobile application operated by the personnel INE hires and qualifies as electoral supporting and training staff. Wherever feasible, it ought to significantly ease and speed up the operation of the subsequent phases of the programme.

Alternatively, PREP certificates are received and digitalised at the so-called Centres for Data Collecting and Transmission (CATD, by their initialism) upon the delivery of the polling stations’ files and packages at the venue of the appropriate electoral authority (district councils in the case of federal elections). It is important to mention that, from the moment when polling stations are closed —and depending on their location with respect to that of the corresponding district council—, presiding polling officers ought to deliver the files and packages —where the PREP certificates are included inside a separate envelope— within a 24-hour period.

In any case, PREP certificates’ data and images are primarily registered and reviewed at the respective collecting centres, they are then transmitted to a centre for the reception and recording of images and data —where they are readied for their publication and dissemination— so that the principles of security, transparency, trustworthiness, credibility and integrity are guaranteed.

For these purposes:

- PREP’s dissemination of the results of federal elections —the data and images from the individual polling stations, and their aggregation at different levels up to the national— starts at 20:00 hours CST, and is systematically updated throughout the 24 hours that follow.
- In the case of local elections, PREP’s operation begins at 18:00 hours, local time, and also through the subsequent 24 hours.

Quick count

Even though quick counts are usually associated with mass media consortia, groups of observers, or other electoral stakeholders, in Mexico, the electoral authority has the lawful power to conduct, if deemed viable, its own quick counts.

In terms of the 2018 elections, not only has INE's General Council decided to carry out a quick count for the presidential election, but —making use of its lawful power to attract functions from the local electoral authorities— has also agreed to undertake the quick counts for governors and Mexico City's chief of government; all of which are expected to be disclosed on Election Night.

Quick counts conducted by electoral authorities —INE in the case of the 2018 presidential and governorship elections— to estimate the results' tendencies, are based on a very robust probabilistic sample of the data stated in the selected polling stations' computation booklet where the initial counting of the votes is made and on which the filling out of the scrutiny and tallying certificates is supported.

Non-institutional

- The possibility for natural or juridical persons to disseminate their forecasts or estimations on the results of the elections is opened from the moment stated by the law for the closing of the polls —invariably on 18:00 hours local time, although a two-hour difference with the polling stations at the most-western time zone of the country must be considered for federal elections, and, therefore at 20:00 hours CST.
- Natural or juridical persons interested in carrying out any kind of exit poll or quick count must register their intention, not later than 10 days prior to Election Day, by submitting a written document before the appropriate electoral authority —in the case of concurrence between local and federal elections, like 2018's, INE's executive secretary. They must also integrally adopt the general scientific criteria issued for that purpose by INE's General Council.
- A list of the registered natural and juridical persons to conduct exit polls or quick counts must be published at the website of the appropriate electoral authority before Election Day.
- Additionally, natural or juridical persons who publish, request or order the publication of any exit poll or quick count from the official closure of the polling stations and until three days after the corresponding Election Day, must submit, within 5 days of its issuance and before the appropriate authority —either INE's or the respective local electoral management body's executive secretary—, a complete copy of the study supporting the published information.

19. Official tally and recount of the votes

In the case of federal elections —and almost all local elections—, the results are official and legally valid after the formal review, validation and aggregation procedure, which begins on the Wednesday following Election Day. The federal procedure starts at the district level and, according to the kind of election, is extended to the state or circumscription. The procedure for local elections start at the municipal or district level, and its extension to other levels depend on the kind of election.

It is important to note that, even if the reception of votes and initial scrutiny and tallying of the concurrent local and federal elections are parallel and happen in the same place —the joint polling site—, the procedures that follow —starting with the delivery and safekeeping of the polling stations’ files and packages— take place separately and at the venues of or by the appropriate electoral authorities: INE for federal elections, and the respective OPLE for the local ones.

Moreover, even though it is generally true that the procedures applicable through the federal and local post-electoral stage —from the official tallying to the elections’ declaration of validity, and the contestation system— are inspired by the same principles, pursue the same purposes, and are notably affinitive, so is that they are governed by distinct legal frameworks with some variations or differences.

Therefore, unless otherwise is expressly noted, all mentions to regulations and procedures in this section —and those related with it in the following— will essentially refer to those applicable to federal elections. Should the characteristics and details of the regulations and procedures of a given local electoral process be of our readers’ interest, we would advise the consultation of the appropriate legislation.

It is important to make mention that, according to the kind and principle of the federal elections, the tallying of their results —which implies, from the administrative point of view, their formal aggregation, review and validation—, and safeguarding the resources that representatives of parties and candidates might submit to contest them, can occur in up to three differentiated moments and levels as follows:

- District tally: final for FPTP deputyships and presidential.
- State tally: final for FPTP senatorships.
- Circumscription tally: final for PR deputyships and senatorships.

In the case of FPTP deputyships and senatorships, the appropriate INE council —district for the former, and local for the latter— ought to verify, during the respective final tally sessions, that all electoral legal requirements were met and

that all winning candidates —and their substitutes— comply with the eligibility qualifications.

Furthermore, upon the verification of such qualifications, the council's chairperson has to issue the corresponding declaration of validity, as well as the majority and validity certificates to the winning formula —FPTP deputyship's candidate and substitute— or formulae —FPTP and/or first minority senatorships' candidates and substitutes—, unless any of them would turn out to be ineligible. The declarations and certificates issued by INE can be modified as a result of resolutions by the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch on the contestations presented by the parties' and candidates' representatives against the tallies.

In the case of proportional representation deputyships and senatorships, it is only after the resolution of the contestations that INE's General Council issue the corresponding certificates to political parties.

The case of the presidential election is different, for it is the Superior Courtroom of the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch which, directly, issues both the report and the declaration of validity of the election, and the president-elect certificate. Notwithstanding that, INE's executive secretary must report to the General Council on the aggregate of the voting —per party and candidate— based on the certified copies of this election's district tally on the next Sunday to Election Day.

District tallies

This is the first link in the process for the results' review, validation, and aggregation. These tallies start at 8:00 hours of the next Wednesday to Election Day at each of the 300 electoral district venues, which coincide with the constituencies into which the country is divided to elect the FPTP federal deputyships.

In rigour, district tallying is the district councils' aggregation of the results stated at the scrutiny and tallying certificates of the polling stations installed within their jurisdiction for each of the elections that took place. In consequence, should there be no discrepancies between the stated data in the certificates —or evidence of any irregularity—, the tallying is limited to the aggregation of the voting data in each of the official certificates.

Notwithstanding, there are express circumstances under which the law provides for a polling station's new scrutiny and tallying, or even for the recount of all the polling stations in a district.

New scrutiny and tallying process of the votes of a polling station

It takes place when:

- The indispensable certificates for the tallying are not available: one which ought to be in power of the council's chairperson and the one which should be part of the polling station's file.
- The results on the certificates do not match.
- Evident modifications are detected to the certificates which might cast doubts on the result.
- The amount of null votes is greater than the difference between the two most-voted candidacies.
- All the votes are cast for one single party or candidate.

Total recount of the votes at the district's polling stations

It can be decided either at the beginning or the end of the corresponding district tally session, due to the following reasons:

- At the beginning of the session: if there is any indication that the vote difference between the presumed district winner and the second most-voted candidate is equal to —or less— than one percentage point, and there is an express request from the representative of the party or candidate in the second position.
- At the end of the tallying session: if it is established that the difference between the presumed district winner and the second most-voted candidate was equal to —or less than— one percentage point, and there is an express request from the party or candidate in the second place.

Additional information about district tallies

- The tallying of the federal elections ought to follow a specific order: firstly, the presidential; then that for deputyships; and lastly, the one of senatorships.
- At each election's tally, the votes cast at special polling stations and the out-of-country postal votes are also added.
- The law orders district tallies to be conducted uninterruptedly and to, in all cases, be concluded before the next Sunday to Election Day. Given the volume and time needed for a districtwide total recount (an average of 500 polling stations are installed in one district), due provisions —like working groups to distribute the workload— are taken to comply with those legal conditions.
- During the tally sessions, parties' and candidates' representatives before the district council can raise objections to their development and their consequent legal effects —which are duly registered in the corresponding

circumstantial certificate to safeguard their right to file the impugments they deem relevant before the Electoral Court. However, under no circumstance can the Electoral Court be asked to undertake a vote recount of the polling stations that have already been subject to this procedure at the district tallies.

Upon the conclusion of the tallying session, the chairperson of the district council must:

- Put together a file for each of the elections, although differentiating between the FPTP- and PR-deputyships and senatorships, and refer them to the appropriate authorities.
- Display the results of each election's tallies outside the councils' venues.

State tallies

They take place at 8:00 hours on the next Sunday to Election Day at the 32 INE's local councils' venues.

The state tally is the aggregation by INE's local councils of the results reported on the tally district certificates under their jurisdiction—from a minimum of two in the states of Baja California Sur, Campeche, and Colima, up to the forty of the State of Mexico—in relation with FPTP- and PR-senatorships.

In this case, unlike districtwide tallies, the procedure is simpler because it is carried out upon the certificates issued at the district level, and because any possible anomaly or disparity in these elections' scrutiny and tally that might have happened at the polling stations should have been repaired in the previous phase, so no scrutiny and tally procedure needs to be repeated. Notwithstanding that, the law does provide for the possibility of a vote recount, although it would be partial and automatic.

Partial and automatic recount

If, once the tally of the FPTP-senatorship certificates sent by the district councils is completed, it is determined that the difference between the winning and the second most-voted formulae is of one percentage point—or less—, the law orders the recount of only the senatorship votes from up to 10% randomly-selected—through the application of a statistical method—polling stations, for which the arrangements on INE's General Council agreement on the matter must be abode.

Since the polling stations' electoral packages are kept and safeguarded at the district level, the recount is carried out by the district councils at their own venues. In the meantime, a recess is called at the state tally session, and is resumed once the recount is concluded.

Additional information on state tallies

- Parties' and candidates' representatives can also raise objections — which must be set down in writing on the corresponding circumstantial certificate— during these tally sessions, while safeguarding their right to submit the impugnments they deem relevant before the Electoral Court against the FPTP-senatorships tallies and their respective legal effects.
- Since three FPTP senatorships —the two most-voted party, coalition, or independent formulae, and the second most-voted party, coalition, or independent formula— are elected at each state, local councils ought to verify they all comply with the eligibility qualifications and, if that be the case, issue the appropriate declarations of majority and validity.

At the end of the tallying session, the local council's chairperson must:

- Post a visible announcement outside the council's venue with the results of the senatorships elections by both principles.
- Dispatch certified copies of the tally sessions —along with all relevant documents— to the Senate (declarations of majority), the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch (written objections and impugnments submitted), and INE's executive secretary.

Circumscription tally

For the allocation of the 200 proportional representation deputyships, the country's territory is divided into five circumscriptions or regions —composed of contiguous states with a similar electoral weight with which the equality of the vote would be guaranteed.

INE's General Council chooses one capital city in each region as the circumscription's seat, and the corresponding local council is, hence, also responsible for the regional tally —which is also carried out on the next Sunday to Election Day as soon as the state tally concludes.

In this case, the tallying procedure is strictly limited to adding up the results recorded on all the district tally certificates of the circumscription and putting together the respective file to be dispatched to INE's executive secretary.

It is INE's General Council alone who can allocate proportional representation deputyships and senatorships to the corresponding political parties and issue the appropriate certificates, although that happens only when the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch has resolved the impugnments presented against the tallies of the deputyships and senatorships elections. In terms of the 2018 elections, this ought to happen on 23 August at the latest.

20. Contestation of results from tally sessions

The General Law on the System of Impugnation Means on the Electoral Matter expressly provides for a trial —known as motion of dissent, and whose purpose is to guarantee the constitutionality and legality of INE’s actions and resolutions— which political parties’ and candidacies’ representatives can only present, in this case, at the stage of the elections’ results and their declaration of validity to contest:

At the presidential election:

- The results recorded on the district tally certificates, due to the nullity of the balloting in one —or several— polling stations, or arithmetic mistake.
- The annulment of the whole election.

At the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) deputyships election:

- The results recorded on the district tally certificates, the declarations of validity, and the issuance of the majority and validity certificates, due to the nullity of the balloting in one —or several— polling stations, arithmetic mistake, or annulment of the election.
- The decisions about the issuance of the majority and validity certificates.

At the proportional representation (PR) deputyships election:

- The results recorded on the district tally certificates, due to the nullity of the balloting in one —or several— polling stations, or arithmetic mistake.

At the elections of FPTP senatorships and allocation of the first minority:

- The results recorded on the state tally certificates, the declarations of validity, and the issuance of the certificates of majority and validity or of allocation of first minority, due to the nullity of the balloting in one —or several— polling stations, arithmetic mistake, or annulment of the election.
- The decisions about the issuance of the certificates of majority and validity or of allocation of first minority.
- The results recorded on the state tally certificates, due to arithmetic mistake.

At the PR senatorships election:

- The results recorded on the state tally certificates, due to the nullity of the balloting in one —or several— polling stations, or arithmetic mistake.

Deadlines and competence for their resolution

- Any claim for a motion of dissent ought to be presented within four days from the day following the conclusion of the respective district or state tallies.

- Even if only the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch can study and resolve the motions of dissent, it is important to specify that, while its Superior Courtroom is directly competent for resolving all trials related with the presidential elections in a single and definitive instance, its Regional Courtrooms are the first instance for those related with the elections of deputyships and senatorships by both principles.
- Regional Courtrooms' resolutions can be appealed through a motion of reconsideration before the Superior Courtroom, for which it is the second and definitive instance.
- Whether as a first or second and definitive instance, all contestations against the senatorships and deputyships elections' results must be resolved by the Electoral Court on 23 August at the latest—that is, a little under two months after Election Day, and one week before a new legislature of the Congress of the Union is installed.

21. Annulment causes

Regarding federal elections, the General Law on the System of Impugnation Means on the Electoral Matter (LGSMIME, for its initialism in Spanish) distinguishes—and expressly lists—between the causes that can lead to the annulment of the balloting of one or several polling stations and, in consequence, affect the results of the contested tally, and those which can determine the whole annulment of the election—whether it be for a district deputyship, for FPTP and first minority senatorships, or for the presidency

Of the votes received at the polling station

From amongst the 11 lawful causes, the following can be highlighted:

- If the balloting had been received by persons or bodies different from the lawfully authorised.
- If there were mistakes in the tallying of the votes—or it had been made in bad faith—and such errors had been determinant to the election's results.
- If persons—other than the lawfully exempted—were allowed to vote without producing their photo voting card or being registered in the voters' list, and such allowance had been determinant to the election's outcome.
- If parties' and/or candidates' representatives had been prevented from entering, or expelled from, the polling station without a justified reason.
- If physical violence or pressure had been exerted upon polling officers or voters, and such exertion had been determinant to the election's results.
- If grave, fully proved, and irreparable irregularities had taken place during Election Day or the scrutiny and tallying sessions which might, quite evidently, cast doubt on the balloting certainty, and had been determinant to the election's results.

Of an election

In essence—and with slight variations depending on the election—, there are three annulment causes for the elections of district FPTP deputyships, state senatorships, and president:

- That any of the polling station's annulment causes was proved in at least 20% of the polling stations installed in a district (FPTP deputyships), a state (senatorships), or, in 25% of the national territory (presidential), and that they had not been corrected during the recount.
- That up to 20% of the foresaw polling stations in the district (FPTP deputyships), state (senatorships), or 25% in the national territory (presidential), were not installed and, in consequence, the votes had not been received.
- That the members—candidate and substitute—of the formula (deputyship), or formulae (senatorships) who had obtained the majority certificate, or

the winning candidacy (presidential), were ineligible.

Of the federal and local elections

As a result of a reform in 2014, the Republic's General Constitution dictates that the law must establish a system of nullities—for both the federal and local elections—due to grave, intentional and determinant violations in the following circumstances:

- A campaign's expenditure ceiling is exceeded by 5%;
- Airtime on the radio and television or information coverage—other than those provided by law—are bought or accessed; and,
- Unlawful or public resources are received by or used in the campaigns.

The constitutional mandate also states that such transgressions ought to be objectively and materially proved, and that they will be assumed to be determinant to the election's result when the voting-difference between the first and second places is less than 5%. If an election is annulled on these grounds, an extraordinary election—in which the penalised persons will not take part—shall be convoked.

22. Oversight of political and electoral funding

Along with the generous public funding model, a sound and rigorous system has been developed in Mexico to control and audit the funds of different political and electoral subjects and activities. From amongst the various purposes of this oversight system, the following must be highlighted:

- To ensure that the sources of the funding political parties and candidates —as well as other obligated subjects— receive and use are lawful, and that the established limits are respected.
- To safeguard the pre-campaigns' and campaigns' respect for expenditure ceilings, as well as during the activities deployed to obtain the citizens' support by those interested in an independent candidacy to an elective post.

For that to be accomplished, the law demands exhaustive accountability from political parties and candidacies, as well as from other obligated subjects —including political groups, organisations seeking their registration as political parties, and electoral observation groups— about their funding's —whether public or private— source, management, and use or destination.

Ever since 2014 —following constitutional and legal reforms on the matter—, INE is not only the sole responsible for the oversight of the income-and-expenditures of national political parties, pre-candidates and candidates to federal elective posts, and aspirants to federal independent candidacies, but also of all the previously mentioned at the local level. Furthermore, exceeding the campaign expenditure limit —at both the federal and local levels—, and the presumption that such transgression had been determinant to the election's result, was also added as an annulment cause on that year.

Since the legal provision deals with the possible annulment of the election, and not with the loss of the post, it is clear that the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch (TEPJF, by its initialism in Spanish) —which is the appropriate jurisdictional authority— must learn about any claim invoking this cause, and provide a definitive resolution, within the contestation period and before the date when the candidate is sworn in. That implies that INE must provide the TEPJF with the reports reflecting where might such a cause have occurred before the deadline for the resolution of contestations.

The double exigency of conducting the oversight of local parties and campaigns, and consolidating every candidacy's campaign income and expenditure reports in just a few days after Election Day —37 days, to be exact, under the current model—, was the motivation for INE to exercise its powers and design, for its gradual operation since 2015, an integral oversight system —whose main components will be detailed ahead— that rests on an online accounting system into which all

obligated subjects must record their every financial and accounting operations within three days of them taking place.

Due to the nature of this document, the explanation will focus on the regulations and obligations related with the accountability of national political parties and candidates to federal posts, in particular with campaign income and expenditures; although the extent of the regulations on the matter and the fact that other actors are also subject to this oversight and must comply with the law, should not be left unnoticed.

Accountability

National political parties

It is through the online accountability system, and according with the regulations issued by INE's General Council on the topic, that national political parties must submit the following income-and-expenditures reports:

- *Quarterly progress reports*

These must be submitted within 30 days of the conclusion of each calendar quarter, except for the year on which elections take place. Even if they are strictly informative, they are subject to be reviewed and are precedents for the revision of the annual report. Should anomalies, errors, or omissions be identified, INE must inform the political parties of that fact for them to make the appropriate clarifications.

- *Annual reports of ordinary expenditures*

These ought to be submitted within 60 days on the ending of the calendar year. It must be accompanied of a consolidated report on the parties' resources, where their assets, liabilities, and properties, as well as a relation of its real estate, are detailed. These reports must be sanctioned and signed by an external accountant designated by the party itself.

Upon their submission, INE has 60 days for their review, although all necessary information to attest the information in the report can be requested at all times. Shall omissions or technical errors be found during the revision, the parties must be informed so that the appropriate clarifications or modifications be presented. After the revision deadline is met—or after the 15-day period for the rectification of errors or omissions expires—, INE has a little more than 40 additional days for the General Council to learn and decide on the corresponding resolution project.

- *Pre-campaign reports*

Political parties ought to submit an income-and-expenditure report for each of their registered pre-candidacies for each popular elective post, within 10 days of the conclusion of the pre-campaigns. Pre-candidates are jointly responsible for the submission of their own report.

INE has 15 days for the review of these reports from the deadline for their submission. In this case, also, INE must inform the political parties of any error or technical omission for them to present any clarification or modification within 7 days. Once those deadlines are met, INE has about 25 additional days for the General Council to learn and decide on the respective proposed resolution.

- *Campaign reports*

Political parties must submit, for every 30-day period counted from the beginning of the campaign and within three days of their completion, an income-and-expenditure report for each of their registered candidacies to every popularly elective post, where the respective regional disbursements of both the party and the candidate are specified. In this case, candidates are also jointly responsible for the submission of their own report.

A specialised unit at INE reviews and audits—in parallel with the development of the campaign and upon the online accountability process—the source and destination given by political parties to their campaign funds, and—once monthly reports are submitted—has a 10-day period to review the accounting under consideration and its supporting documents. Shall INE notice errors or technical omissions, the parties must be notified for them to present the necessary clarifications or corrections within a 5-day period.

Following this very procedure, and once the last report has been reviewed, the Institute has an additional 22-day period for the General Council to learn and decide on the respective proposals of resolution where, along with other substantial elements, a determination is made on whether—and by whom—were the expenditure ceilings exceeded.

If the date of Election Day is used as reference, the period for INE to conclude the campaign oversight procedure, and put together and vote the respective resolution proposals, is of only 37 days. These means that the oversight procedure of the 1 July, 2018, elections shall be completed in the first days of August's second week.

Independent candidates

In addition to the duty of submitting an income-and-expenditure report within 30 days of the conclusion of the period to gather the necessary support to seek

a candidacy while being aspirants, registered independent candidates must also present, through the online accounting system, the same campaign income-and-expenditures reports required to political parties.

The review and validations of those reports is made, in essence, under the same rules and deadlines as those of the political parties.

Integral Oversight System (SIF, by its acronym in Spanish)

At the beginning of 2015, INE designed and began the operation of an integral oversight system (SIF) that would allow it to face its new accounting responsibilities—and the entailed challenges— regarding, in particular, the timely conclusion of the review processes of the federal and local electoral campaign income-and-expenditures reports.

The SIF's operation relies on an online information technology, designed for obligated subjects to register their income and expenses—along with the supporting documents of each financial transaction—, which generates accounting reports, expenditures' distribution, and the automatic integration of the reports they are compelled to submit by law, including those related to the citizen support, pre-campaigns, and campaigns, and in the case of political parties, the quarterly and annual reports of their ordinary functioning.

The operation of the Oversight Technical Unit (UTF, by its initialism in Spanish)—which is in charge of reviewing the reports, conducting the audits to the resources, accountancy, and financial situation of political parties— is supervised by an Oversight Commission of the General Council composed of five electoral councillors. The General Council is responsible for learning about, and approving, the UTF's resolution projects—which are preliminarily sanctioned by its Oversight Commission.

INE authorises the access to the online accounting system to those expressly designated by the obligated subjects, so that they can register and document each of their operations within three days of their celebration.

During electoral campaigns, and for the deadlines to be met and the procedures to be completed as required for the elections' qualification, INE's special unit reviews and audits the source and destination of the resources used by parties and candidates in parallel with them taking place.

In any case, the SIF relies on the information of the following sources to accomplish its tasks:

Internal sources:

- Billboards and Printed Matter Monitoring System:

During pre-campaign and campaign periods:

- * Inspections of avenues and streets are made to identify any posted electoral propaganda, particularly on billboards. For this purpose, a mobile application was developed by INE to ease the recording and geo-referencing of such propaganda.
 - * Monitoring of electoral propaganda in print media (newspapers and magazines).
 - * Monitoring of propaganda on the Internet, particularly at websites, social media, and applications related with political parties and candidacies.
- National Suppliers' Catalogue

Companies with the intention of offering products or services to —and being hired by— political parties, candidates, or other obligated subjects with accountability responsibilities before INE, ought to enter the National Suppliers' Registry and renew it yearly. Parties, candidacies, and obligated subjects can only contract the delivery of products or services from properly registered companies who are also recognised by the Tax Administration System (SAT, by its acronym in Spanish).

- Registration of Contracts

The suppliers of products and services ought to register before INE —in a specific module— their contracts with parties, candidacies, or other obligated subjects, within 30 days of their celebration.

External sources:

For the accomplishment of its responsibilities —especially those related with the verification of the origin of the resources obtained by parties, candidacies, or other obligated subjects, through the various types of private funding— of gathering financial information of transactions under the suspicion of their illegality, or of relevant or unusual cash withdrawals made by any government agency during an electoral process, INE has the power to sign agreements —and has indeed done so— with the following agencies:

- The Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público —SHCP by its initialism in Spanish), particularly with the Unit of Financial Intelligence (Unidad de Inteligencia Financiera —UIF by its acronym in Spanish).
- The Tax Administration Service (Servicio de Administración Tributaria —SAT, by its acronym in Spanish).

- The National Banking and Securities Commission (Comisión Nacional Bancaria y de Valores —CNBV, by its initialism in Spanish).

In this regard, it is important to add that, to fulfil its delicate and complex oversight responsibilities, INE's General Council, as the highest authority on the matter, is not limited by bank, fiduciary or fiscal securities.

Main SIF's Components

The core of the oversight process conducted by INE is the direct consultation and systematic revision of the information on income and expenditures submitted online by the obligated subjects made by the auditing team of its specialised unit.

Notwithstanding, INE's probative attributions in this matter also include verifications, inspections, and other investigations with the purpose of obtaining evidence on the submitted transactions, balances, and reports to establish whether the obligated subjects complied or not with the provisions on the source and destination of resources.

Due to the relevance of the oversight's outcome to the elections' qualification, the process —especially during campaigns— includes a series of collation and verification procedures, amongst which the following can be noted:

- Monitoring of print media, billboards, and other types of street and Internet propaganda.

Not only does the outcome of this monitoring allow the collation of the information provided by parties, candidacies, or obligated subjects, but, shall it not have been reported, it is quantified and added to the respective campaign expenditure ceilings.

- Verification visits

Parties' and candidates' campaign venues or rallies are visited to confirm the duties' compliance and the truthfulness of the submitted reports. These visits are programmed following a sampling within a specific geographic area.

- Cross-reference with third parties

This is in relation with UTF's attribution to require information on transactions made with parties, candidacies, and other obligated subjects, from natural and juridical persons —whether public or private— for further collation and verification.

Deadlines for concluding the campaigns' oversight process

Regardless of the usage of the online accounting system to inform and document their income and expenditure transactions within three days of their celebration

—and their systematic review by the UTF—, parties and candidates must submit — using an automatic function of the same system— consolidated campaign reports every 30 days from the beginning of the campaign and within the next three days to the conclusion of each campaign-month.

When considering that all electoral campaigns —whether federal or local— must end three days before Election Day, the deadline for submitting the last monthly income-and-expenditure report coincides with Election Day, making it a reference to point out the subsequent activities and periods in the oversight procedures.

From the next day to Election Day, the UTF has 10 days to review the information and documents presented. Shall the UTF identify any errors, or omissions, the parties or candidates must be notified to —within 5 days— be able to make the appropriate clarifications or corrections. Upon meeting that deadline, the UTF has 10 more days to put together the respective resolution projects —where all the aforementioned elements are considered— and present them before the Oversight Commission. A six-day period then begins for this Commission to study, approve, and send them for the General Council’s analysis of UTF’s proposed resolution projects. INE’s General Council only has a six-day period, without exception, to analyse and approve these resolution projects, which can be —as any other INE’s resolution or agreement, but particularly those of its General Council— appealed before the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch.

In all cases, and resuming the topic of INE’s deadline to conclude with the whole oversight process of every campaign’s income-and-expenditures report, we find that —from the next day to Election Day until the conclusion of the oversight— INE only has a total of 37 days. This means that, in relation with the electoral processes of 1 July, 2018, this deadline is set to Tuesday, 7 August.

These resolutions are indispensable inputs for the possible configuration of annulment causes of the federal and/or local elections due to exceeding campaign expenditure ceilings, receiving or using public or illegal resources, or buying or obtaining airtime or spaces for electoral publicity on the radio or television aside of those established in the law, during the campaigns. Hence, for electoral courts, and as a last instance the TEPJF, to study and resolve the annulment claims that could be presented.

23. Elections' declaration of validity

In relation with the FPTP deputyships and senatorships, the elections' declarations of validity and majority certificates issued by INE at the end of the tally sessions are definitive, unless contestations are submitted. If that were the case, they can be modified according to the TEPJF's resolutions, and are only definitive once the contestations are solved following the respective sentences.

In relation with the PR deputyships and senatorships, INE's General Council is the appropriate authority to issue the corresponding certificates to political parties, which can only occur once the contestations submitted are resolved. In any case, all these procedures and decisions must conclude before 1 September, when the new federal Legislature is installed and the deputies- and senators-elect are sworn in.

In the case of the presidential election, it is the Superior Courtroom of the Federal Electoral Court who issues both declarations of validity of the election and president-elect once, if that be the case, all the respective contestations submitted are resolved. This process is foreseen to conclude on the first week of September, since the president-elect is sworn in on 1 December.

Schedule

2017-2018 federal electoral process basic timetable

ACTIVITY	PERIOD/DEADLINE
Commencement of the federal electoral process	8 September, 2017
Deadline to request the issuance, change, or renewal of the photo voting card (CVF)	31 March, 2018
Deadline for registering as out-of-country voters	1 September 2017 to 31 March 2018
Deadline for out-of-country voters to notify the CVF reception and its activation	30 April 2018
INE's postal dispatch of packages with electoral documents and material to out-of-country voters	May 2018
Deadline for the arrival to Mexico of the envelopes containing the out-of-country votes so that they can be included in the counting	30 June 2018, before 08:00 hours
Counting of the out-of-country votes	1 July, 18:00 hours
Deadline for aspirants to a federal deputyship independent candidacy to gather the necessary citizen support	12 October to 17 December, 2017 (67 days)
Deadline for aspirants to a senatorship candidacy to gather the necessary citizen support	17 October 2017 to 21 January 2018 (97 days)
Deadline for aspirants to a presidential independent candidacy to gather the necessary citizen support	15 October 2017 to 19 February 2018 (127 days)
Deadline for the submittal of electoral coalitions' registration requests	13 December, 2017
Deadline for the submittal of registration requests, both for party and independent candidacies, to all federal elective posts	11-18 March 2018
Deadline for INE to approve the candidacies' registration requests to all federal elective posts	20 March 2018
Pre-campaign period	14 December 2017 to 11 February 2018 (60 days)
Inter-campaign period	12 February to 29 March 2018 (46 days)
Campaign period	30 March to 27 June 2018 (90 days)
Deadline for registering as a Foreign Visitor	20 June, 2018
PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES	
First (Mexico City)	22 April, 2018
Second (Tijuana, B.C)	20 May, 2018
Third (Mérida, Yucatán)	12 June, 2018

