

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Date of Elections: 16 May 1982

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The bicameral Parliament of the Dominican Republic, the Congress, comprises the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

The Chamber of Deputies consists of 91 members elected for 4 years by the people of the provinces and the National District in the proportion of one for every 50,000 inhabitants or fraction thereof greater than 25,000; in no case, however, are there fewer than two Deputies from a province.

The Senate consists of 27 members elected for 4 years in the proportion of one for each province and one for the National District.

Electoral System

All citizens who are at least 18 years of age or those who are or have been married have the right to vote, with the exception of members of the armed forces and the police. This right is lost in the event of an irrevocable conviction for treason, espionage or conspiracy against the Republic, or for taking up arms or lending aid or participating in any attack against it; it is suspended in cases of irrevocable sentence to criminal punishment (until rehabilitation), legally declared judicial interdiction (while it is in effect) and acceptance, while in Dominican territory, of an office or employment from a foreign Government without prior authorization from the executive power.

While the electoral register is regularly revised every 10 years, the Central Electoral Board may order a revision any time. Voting is compulsory for all citizens.

To be eligible for either Chamber, a citizen must be at least 25 years of age, have full enjoyment of his civil and political rights and be a native of the territorial district that elects him, or have resided therein for at least five consecutive years. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with any other public office or position.

Candidates must be nominated by a political party recognized by the Central Electoral Board; they are chosen by a convention of their party, which then submits these names to the competent electoral board. Independent candidates may only stand if they are backed by a political group which has an organization and a programme similar to that of a political party.

Deputies are elected in the provinces and the National District on the basis of a closed party-list system, with proportional distribution of seats according to the d'Hondt method.

Senators, on the other hand, are elected from single-member constituencies via simple majority vote.

Substitutes chosen at the same time as titular parliamentarians fill the seats of the latter which become vacant between general elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The congressional elections were held simultaneously with those for President of the Republic.

On polling day, Mr. Salvador Jorge Blanco, candidate of the moderate leftist Dominican Revolutionary Party (**PRD**), was elected President by 46.7% of the popular vote, defeating Mr. Joaquin Balaguer of the rightist Reformist Party (36.5%) and former President Juan Bosch of the leftist Dominican Liberation Party (10%). Campaign issues had generally centered on the problem of the country's worsening economy (unemployment, high energy costs, low prices for sugar—the main export earner, etc.) as well as on the personalities of the various leaders.

The PRD also won majorities in the Senate and Chamber of Deputies. President-elect Blanco was due to take office on 16 August 1982*.

•On 3 July 1982, outgoing President Guzman died and Vice-President Jacobo Majluta assumed the office until Mr. Blanco's inauguration.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections

Number of registered electors	2,600,000 (approx.)
Voters	70% (approx.)