

MEXICO

Date of Elections: July 2, 1967

Characteristics of Parliament:

The elections were called to elect the 210 members of the Chamber of Deputies upon the normal expiry of their three-year mandate. Each of the States comprising Mexico is represented in the Lower House by at least two deputies, regardless of the size of its population.

The Upper House of the Mexican Parliament, the Senate, contains 60 seats for which elections are held every six years.

Electoral System:

Mexican citizens of both sexes, who have reached the age of 18, if married, and 21, if unmarried, and who possess full civic rights and are entered in the electoral registers, are eligible to vote. Under the terms of the electoral law, voting is compulsory.

All Mexican citizens, at least 25 years of age, who are residents of the State or Territory in which they are candidates or in which they were born, are eligible for election to the Chamber of Deputies. In addition, they must not be Church ministers, members of the armed forces or occupy certain posts specified by law. Only political parties are entitled to present candidates.

The same conditions are required for candidates to the Senate, who must, furthermore, be at least 35 years of age.

The election procedure for members of the Chamber of Deputies has certain original aspects.

1. 178 representatives are elected in the same number of constituencies, each consisting of some 200,000 inhabitants, by a single-ballot uninominal majority vote.

- 2. 32 seats ("party deputies") are then divided, proportionally to the votes collected for the whole of the country, among the political parties which have registered as such for one year and have won at least 20 seats. One party cannot, however, receive more than 20 such seats.
- 3. The designation of "party deputies" is not left to the discretion of political groups. The number of candidates, as fixed for each party, who have obtained the most votes are thus elected.

All senators, it should be noted, are elected by a simple majority ballot.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections:

For many decades, Mexican political life has been dominated by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), heir to the National Revolutionary Party (PNR) founded in 1928 by Calles. This group, which has twice changed its name, was able to maintain and increase its strength by admitting very broad tendencies into its midst. Since its creation, its candidate has always been victorious in the presidential elections. Its Acting President at the moment is Mr. Lauro Ortega.

In recent years, the PRI has made every effort to speed up agrarian reform and economic development. It has made non-alignment the pillar of the Government's foreign policy.

There are several political groupings in the opposition: the National Action Party (PAN), a Catholic conservative party headed by Mr. Adolfo Chistlieb Ibarrola; the Socialist Popular Party (PPS), of Marxist leanings; the Authentic Mexican Revolutionary Party (PARM), consisting of former members of the PRI and led by General Juan Barragan.

Statistics:

Number of registered electors	15,938,670
Number of votes cast	9,903,287

Political Group	Votes obtained	0/ 10	Number of Seats in the Chamber of Deputies
Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)	8,305,192	83.86	174 (—1)
National Action Party.	1,223,952	12.36	20 (=)
Socialist Popular Party	204,858	2.17	10 (=)
Authentic Mexican Revolutionary Party (PARM).	140,313	1.43	6(+ 1)
Non-Party Candidates	18,972	0.19	—
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