General elections in El Salvador
Post-election report
Election summary

1 President Nayib Bukele (Nuevas Ideas - ruling party) was reelected for the period 2024-2029, after sweeping the first round of the presidential elections. With 70.25% of the votes counted, Bukele got 83.14%, about 30% more than in the 2019 elections.

2 The vote counting of the election for the Legislative Assembly is progressing much more slowly, particularly due to the complexity the voting system of the Legislative branch. However, the first projections show that Nuevas Ideas would retain its qualified majority, with a figure of around 58 seats out of a possible 60.

3 According to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE in Spanish) and international observers, the elections were carried out normally and peacefully. However, Bukele denounced that some voting centers, especially in the US, did not allow many voters to cast their ballots.

4 Although there is still no definitive data on the turnout, it is expected to be a record vote. The electoral roll, including voters from abroad, was made up of 6,214,399 people, although voting is not mandatory.

Next steps

- March 3rd: Municipal and PARLACEN Elections
- May 1st: Inauguration of the new Legislative Assembly
- June 1st: Inauguration of the President
With 70.25% of the votes counted, the preliminary data give a wide victory to President Bukele, with which he wins his reelection in the first round. In order to avoid a runoff, the president needed to surpass 50% of the valid votes cast.

With respect to 2019, when he obtained 53.10%, Bukele would be increasing his electoral flow by about 30%. Meanwhile, the FMLN and ARENA, which dominated Salvadoran politics for 30 years, are having the worst electoral results in their history.

*Own elaboration based on data provided by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal
Businessman, 42 years old. Before dedicating himself to politics he worked mostly in his father's advertising companies. Then he was mayor of Nuevo Cuscatlán (2012-2015) and San Salvador (2015-2018) for the Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN).

In 2019 he reached the Presidency with GANA, as he was unable to register his party Nuevas Ideas (NI). Thus, Bukele broke 30 years of bipartisanship of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) and the FMLN. Finally, NI was able to participate in the legislative elections of 2021, which gave it a qualified majority in the Assembly.

Bukele did not present a government plan during the campaign nor did he provide details about future lines of action in his victory speech. In that sense, his message focused on highlighting the achievements of his first term, especially in security, and on seeking to deepen his lines of government in the second term. Among them, the following stand out:

- Extension of his campaign against organized crime
- Trade facilitation and simplification measures
- Liberalization of monetary policy through Bitcoin
- Incentives for attracting investment, especially in the area of technological innovation, such as fintech and artificial intelligence
- Formation of new regulatory entities
Key points of the election day

- According to the TSE and international observers, the elections took place normally and without any incidents. However, Bukele reported that the TSE and the company in charge of the elections, Indra Company, had allegedly closed some voting centers, especially in the U.S., with Salvadorans lined up to vote. In this regard, he urged the Attorney General's Office to investigate a possible electoral crime. The TSE attributed this situation to "causes beyond its control."

- On the other hand, the opposition informed of certain irregularities in the elections, such as pressures on voters to vote for the government, proselytizing actions near the voting centers and the participation of people identified with Nuevas Ideas in the organization. The delay and difficulties in the uploading of the preliminary results were also criticized, something that the TSE admitted after issuing manual results to continue with the preliminary scrutiny.

- Bukele declared himself the winner hours before the first official results and then gave a speech at the National Palace, to a crowd of his followers. In his speech, the president ratified the direction of his government and stated that in these elections "all the records of all democracies in history" were broken. With the victory in the Assembly, he added that "the opposition was pulverized" and that they will become the first country with "a single party in a fully democratic system"
Currently, New Ideas (NI) has a qualified majority in the Legislative Assembly, thanks to the votes of its allies (GANA, PCN and PDC). With this support, the ruling party has been able to pass its initiatives, including some that require special measures such as the exception regime, without major obstacles.

However, with the first projections of the legislative results, **NI would retain this balance in its favor but with its own political force, without the need of the mentioned allies, with 58 of the 60 seats at stake.** Pending the definitive count of the TSE, the possibility of NI obtaining all the seats in the Assembly is still not excluded, giving rise to a Legislative Branch almost without discussion or dissidence.

At the moment, the counting of votes for the Legislative Branch is progressing slowly, largely because of the difficulties involved in the counting of deputies due to the different ways of voting that exist for this case. This way, the voters could vote for a complete list, for some candidates of the same party or from different parties.

In the expected scenario, the FMLN and ARENA would not have secured seats in the Assembly, so they run the risk of being left out of the legislative body for the first time in their history. However, both parties avoided their cancellation, based on the political parties law, since they obtained at least 50,000 valid votes.
The key players of the next Assembly

Within the qualified majority that the ruling party holds in the Legislative Assembly, some deputies set the pulse of the initiatives promoted by the Bukele government. Although their elections have not yet been confirmed, projections indicate that the next four legislators would be re-elected for the department of San Salvador and that they would maintain a relevant role in the next legislative period:

Ernesto Castro

He is a deputy of Nuevas Ideas and current president of the Legislative Assembly, a position he is expected to retain in the next term. From Bukele's close circle, he was his private secretary during his periods as mayor of Nuevo Cuscatlán and San Salvador and in the first two and a half years of his presidency. He also heads the Assembly’s Political Committee, one of the most important ones.

Dania González

She is a member of New Ideas and current president of the Financial Committee of the Assembly. From that position, she has promoted important financial reforms, such as the Credit Card System Law. She is expected to promote more of these types of initiatives.

Christian Guevara

He is a deputy of New Ideas, leader of the ruling party's parliamentary party in the Assembly and current president of the Treasury and Special Budget Committee. He usually pushes the bills presented by his parliamentary block.

Suecy Callejas

She is a member of New Ideas and vice-president of the Assembly. She is president of the Family Committee and belongs to the Policy and Finance Committee. She was also head of the ad hoc committee that reformed the pension system.
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