May 2024

General Elections in Dominican Republic
Post-election report
Election Highlights

With 99.50% of the votes counted, President Luis Abinader, representing the Partido Revolucionario Moderno (PRM in Spanish), secured his re-election in the first round with 57.46% of the valid votes. Abinader, along with the new members of the National Congress, will assume office on August 16.

The main challengers, Leonel Fernández of Fuerza del Pueblo (FP in Spanish) and Abel Martínez of the Partido de la Liberación Dominicano (PLD in Spanish), received 28.84% and 10.39% of the votes, respectively. These results signify a decline for the PLD, which has historically been a dominant force in the political arena, and highlight the FP's emergence as the primary opposition in the current political landscape.

Regarding the legislature, while the final distribution of seats is pending, early projections suggest that the ruling party could secure a substantial majority in both legislative chambers. It is expected that the PRM will increase its current majority of 110 out of 190 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 19 out of 32 seats in the Senate, enabling it to advance political reforms without the need of support from other parties.

Despite his victory, Abinader faces significant challenges in his new term, including addressing economic issues, managing the migratory situation with Haiti, improving public services, and continuing the fight against corruption. Effective and responsible governance will be crucial for his administration to tackle these issues successfully.
Abinader is reelected for a second term

Preliminary data indicates that, with 99.50% of the votes counted, President Abinader has secured a decisive victory, guaranteeing his re-election in the first round by surpassing the 50% threshold of valid votes cast.

Compared to the results of the 2020 general elections, where he obtained 52.52% of the valid votes, Abinader has seen a slight increase in his electoral base. Although the percentage of votes he received ensured a first-round victory and an increase in legislative majorities, the PRM considers this result a "loss," as the party had expected to achieve electoral support exceeding 65%.

*Own elaboration based on the results published by the Central Electoral Board (JCE in Spanish).
The next president

Luis Rodolfo Abinader
(Partido Revolucionario Moderno)

Profile

Luis Abinader holds a Bachelor’s degree in Economics from the Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC) and has furthered his academic pursuits with postgraduate studies in Project Management at the Arthur D. Little Institute in Cambridge. He has also augmented his expertise with courses in Corporate Finance and Financial Engineering at Harvard University and in Advanced Management at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, USA.

As a founding member of the PRM, Abinader assumed the presidency of the Republic in 2020. His ascent to power was grounded in a political agenda centered on combating corruption and championing governmental transparency. Throughout his tenure, he has been recognized for his pro-business stance, displaying a resolute commitment to enhancing social spending and fostering economic growth.

Government plan

Among his government proposals, the following stand out:

- Establish a national digital investment framework to optimize the digital transformation processes of state institutions.
- Modernize the legal framework for the digital economy and e-commerce to regulate and protect digital transactions.
- Strengthen the digital economy through the development of advanced digital infrastructures.
- Promote cybersecurity and technological innovation.
- Strengthen the creative industries sector, as well as create jobs and income and promote industrial innovation.
- Develop a national strategic plan for the industrialization of the creative sector for the period 2024-2028.
Challenges for the next government

Abinader's re-election indicates a likely continuity in the policies implemented during his first term, especially in critical areas such as the economy, corruption, and security. However, citizens also expect him to address the country's persistent challenges, including reducing poverty, unemployment and labor informality.

Economically, the Dominican Republic still faces challenges in terms of social and economic equality and justice. The Abinader administration is expected to implement policies aimed at stimulating economic growth, encouraging investment and improving the living conditions of the population, with special attention to rural and marginalized areas, through the implementation of popular financial support programs.

As part of his anti-corruption plan, the president will seek to promote regulations similar to the Asset Forfeiture Law, which is a national pioneer in its efforts to dismantle and dismantle criminal enterprises in order to deprive them of illegally acquired assets.

Abinader described these elections as an "institutional turning point", emphasizing the importance of strengthening democratic institutions and promoting electoral transparency. He also announced his intention to promote a constitutional reform to avoid perpetuating himself in power.

The situation between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, marked by the humanitarian and migratory crisis, presents additional challenges for the Abinader administration. In this regard, the government will continue to take measures to deport illegal Haitian immigrants and build a border wall between the two nations, seeking long-term solutions that promote regional stability.

Effective management of this crisis will be critical to maintaining the security and internal stability demanded by the citizenry, as well as maintaining popular support for the Abinader administration.
Once the new Congress is inaugurated on August 16, the PRM would achieve an absolute majority in both Chambers, which would give the ruling party the ability to push through the necessary reforms for its government plan, including those that require special majorities like constitutional reforms. This will make it easier to implement priority policies and measures for Abinader's administration.

According to current data, the PRM and the ruling alliance are projected to ensure 29 of the 32 seats at stake in the Senate, and 149 of a total of 190 seats in the Chamber of Deputies. Moreover, the PLD would have no representation in the Senate for the first time in four decades, leaving the FP party as the main opposition force.

Abinader's government is expected to prioritize a legislative agenda that addresses the main concerns of the population, such as the growth of the economy, citizen security, and improvements in the health and education systems. Economic reforms, public investment and immigration regulation could be prominent in the Congress' agenda during the next four years.
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