Latin America and the Caribbean: Fact Sheet on Leaders and Elections

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Summary

This fact sheet tracks the current heads of government in Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean, and provides the dates of the last and next election for head of government. It also provides the national independence date for each country.
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### Table 1. South America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Independence Date</th>
<th>Head of Government</th>
<th>Last Election</th>
<th>Next Election</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Aug. 6, 1825</td>
<td>MORALES, Evo</td>
<td>Dec. 18, 2005</td>
<td>Dec. 6, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>July 20, 1810</td>
<td>URIBE, Álvaro</td>
<td>May 28, 2006</td>
<td>May 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>May 24, 1822</td>
<td>CORREA, Rafael</td>
<td>Oct. 15/Nov. 26, 2006</td>
<td>Apr. 26, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>May 14, 1811</td>
<td>LUGO, Fernando</td>
<td>Apr. 20, 2008</td>
<td>Apr. 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>July 28, 1821</td>
<td>GARCÍA, Alan</td>
<td>Apr. 9, 2006/ June 4, 2006</td>
<td>Apr. 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2. Mexico and Central America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Independence Date</th>
<th>Head of Government</th>
<th>Last Election</th>
<th>Next Election</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Sept. 16, 1810</td>
<td>CALDERÓN, Felipe</td>
<td>July 2, 2006</td>
<td>July 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>Sept. 15, 1821</td>
<td>ARIAS, Oscar</td>
<td>Feb. 5, 2006</td>
<td>Feb. 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>Sept. 15, 1821</td>
<td>SACA, Elías Antonio (Tony)a</td>
<td>Mar. 15, 2009</td>
<td>March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>Sept. 15, 1821</td>
<td>ZELAYA, Manuel</td>
<td>Nov. 27, 2005</td>
<td>Nov. 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>Sept. 15, 1821</td>
<td>ORTEGA, Daniel</td>
<td>Nov. 5, 2006</td>
<td>Nov. 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>Nov. 3, 1903</td>
<td>TORRIJOS, Martin</td>
<td>May 2, 2004</td>
<td>May 3, 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*a. Mauricio Funes won the presidential election for El Salvador on March 15, 2009. He is expected to be inaugurated on June 1, 2009.*
**Table 3. Caribbean**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Independence Date</th>
<th>Head of Government</th>
<th>Last Election</th>
<th>Next Election</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>Nov. 1, 1981</td>
<td>SPENCER, Baldwin</td>
<td>March 12, 2009</td>
<td>by March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>July 10, 1973</td>
<td>INGRAHAM, Hubert</td>
<td>May 2, 2007</td>
<td>by May 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>Sept. 21, 1981</td>
<td>BARROW, Dean</td>
<td>Feb. 7, 2008</td>
<td>February 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>May 20, 1902</td>
<td>CASTRO RUZ, Raúl</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>Nov. 3, 1978</td>
<td>SKERRITT, Roosevelt</td>
<td>May 5, 2005</td>
<td>by May 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>Feb. 27, 1844</td>
<td>FERNANDEZ, Leonel</td>
<td>May 16, 2008</td>
<td>May 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>Feb. 7, 1974</td>
<td>THOMAS, Tillman</td>
<td>July 8, 2008</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suriname</td>
<td>Nov. 25, 1975</td>
<td>VENETIAAN, Ronald</td>
<td>May 25, 2005</td>
<td>May 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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a. On February 24, 2008, Raúl Castro was selected by Cuba’s legislature as President of the Council of State, a position that makes him head of state and government. Raúl had been serving as acting President since July 31, 2006, when Cuba’s long-serving communist leader, Fidel Castro, stepped down provisionally because of poor health. Since the 1959 Cuban Revolution, there have been no elections for head of government.

b. Stephenson King was sworn in as Prime Minister on September 10, 2007, following the death of Prime Minister John Compton, who had been elected in December 2006.

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