

ECUADOR

Date of Elections: 29 January 1984

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 unicameral Parliament of Ecuador, the National Chamber of Representatives, comprises 71 members*: 12 members elected by national vote and 59 members elected by provincial vote. The latter include 2 Representatives for each of the country's provinces (except those with less than 100,000 inhabitants, which have only one Representative) and one additional Representative for every 300,000 inhabitants or fraction exceeding 200,000. All members are elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

All Ecuadorian citizens who are at least 18 years of age and in full possession of their civil rights are entitled to vote. Disqualified from voting are the insane; persons convicted for fraud in the public sector or connected with elections; those who are imprisoned or detained; drunkards, vagabonds and defrauders; tax evaders; and members of the armed and police forces.

Officials of the State Civil Registry are responsible for keeping the electoral registers up to date; they are revised every two years. Voting is compulsory, except for illiterates and persons over 65 years of age.

Ecuadorian citizens by birth who are 25 years of age or more, in full possession of their civil rights and belonging to a legally recognized political party are eligible to be candidates for Parliament. Provincial candidates must moreover be natives of, or have resided for three consecutive years prior to polling day in, the province where running. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with membership of the Government, certain posts and offices connected with the public sector, membership of the armed forces on active duty, government contractor, membership of the clergy and the function of legal representative of a foreign company.

Candidates are nominated by political parties. They are elected according to a list system of proportional representation, without preferential voting or vote splitting.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 10.

The distribution of seats is carried out as follows:

1. Where only two Representatives are to be elected in a constituency, one seat is allotted to the first candidate on the list which has received the most votes and the other one to the following list, provided that the latter has obtained at least 50% of the votes received by the winning list. If this is not the case, both seats go to the list which is leading.

2. Where more than two Representatives are to be elected in a constituency, the procedure is as follows:

- (a) The total valid votes cast are divided by the number of seats to be filled, and those lists which have not received a number of votes equal to at least 50% of the quotient thus obtained are eliminated;
- (b) The total votes won by the eligible lists are divided by the number of seats to be filled so as to obtain a second quotient. Each list obtains as many seats as this quotient is contained in its own total. Seats left unfilled after this first distribution are allocated on the basis of the system of greatest remainder.

Substitutes elected at the same time as titular members of Parliament fill seats which become vacant between general elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The polling date was set on 20 April 1983. The legislative elections were held simultaneously with those for President of the Republic and local officials on the provincial and municipal levels.

The election campaign opened on 31 October 1983. Most of the presidential candidates were critical of the centre-left Christian Democratic Government's austerity programme to fight against economic difficulties such as inflation and external debt. A total of 17 parties fielded candidates, led by the Social Christian Party (PSC), which is a member of the National Reconstruction Front, and the Democratic Left (ID). On polling day, none of the presidential candidates succeeded in gaining an absolute majority; a second ballot between the two leading contenders, Mr. Leon Febres Cordero (PSC) and Mr. Rodrigo Borja Cevallos (ID), therefore took place on 6 May, the former coming out on top. On economic issues, Mr. Febres had favoured private enterprise and free-market policies, while Mr. Borja advocated increasing the State's role, especially to raise employment. ID emerged the winner in parliamentary seats, which were shared by 12 different groups.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats
in the National Chamber of Representatives*

Number of registered electors.	3,700,000	(approx.)
Voters.80%	(approx.)

Political Group.	f	S	t
Democratic Left (ID).	24		
Social Christian Party (PSC).	9		
Concentration of Popular Forces (CFP)			
Radical Alfarista Front (FRA).	6		
Democratic Party (PD).	5		
Radical Liberal Party (PLR).	4		
Popular Democracy (DP).	4		
Democratic Popular Movement (MPD)	3		
Conservative Party.	3		
Ecuadorian Roldosista Party.	3		
Left Board Front (FADI).	2		
National Revolutionary Party (PNR).	1		
			71

2. *Distribution of Representatives according to Sex*

Men	71
Women	1
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