

## MEXICO

Date of Elections: July 4, 1976

### Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### Characteristics of Parliament

The bicameral Parliament of Mexico, the National Congress, consists of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

The Chamber of Deputies currently has 236 members, of whom 196 are elected by majority vote for 3 years and 40 are elected as " party deputies ".

The Senate comprises 64 members elected for 6 years. Two members represent each of the country's 31 States and the Federal District.

### Electoral System

All Mexican citizens who are at least 18 years of age and registered in their constituency of residence are entitled to vote. Excluded from this right are the insane, interned drug addicts, persons convicted of a crime involving liability to imprisonment and persons serving a prison sentence.

Electoral registers are continually kept up to date. Voting is compulsory, abstention leading to a fine or imprisonment.

All citizens by birth at least 21 years of age and in full possession of their political rights may stand for election to the Chamber of Deputies from their State or Territory of origin or that in which they have resided for at least six months; the age requirement for Senators is 30.

Ministers of religion, members of the federal army on active duty, police officers of a commanding rank within the district concerned, Secretaries or Under-Secretaries of State, Justices of the Supreme Court and Governors of the States are not eligible for the Congress; apart from religious ministers, such disqualification can be overridden if the officials concerned resign from their positions 90 days before the election. Governors cannot be elected in the districts of their jurisdiction during their term of office, even if they resign their position.

Neither deputies nor Senators may be re-elected for the immediately following term of Congress. While alternate Deputies and Senators — elected at the same time as titular parliamentarians to fill any vacancy which might

arise between general elections — may for their part be elected for the immediately following term as titular members (provided they have not been filling a vacancy), the latter cannot be elected for the immediately following term as alternates.

In accordance with the Constitution, deputies in the 1976 elections were chosen in the following manner:

1. 196 deputies were elected in single-member constituencies by simple majority vote, on the basis of representing a certain population (one deputy for every 250,000 inhabitants, or for a fraction exceeding 125,000, no State having fewer than two deputies and no Territory less than one);
2. 40 seats (" party deputies ") were then distributed, proportionally to the votes obtained at the national scale (five deputies for each party obtaining 1.5% of the national vote, plus one deputy for every additional 0.5%), among the political parties which had been registered as such for one year and which had gained less than 25 majority seats. In accordance with the Constitution, however, no one party could receive more than 25 such seats;
3. The designation of " party deputies " was not left to the discretion of political groups. Instead, the required number of candidates of each party having obtained the most votes were declared elected.

The 64 Senators are all elected by relative majority vote.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The 1976 congressional elections took place on the same day as the presidential election.

As in the past, the ruling *Partido Revolucionario Institucional* (PRI) was opposed by the country's three other legally recognized political parties: the *Partido Accidn Nacional* (PAN), the *Partido Popular Sotialista* (PPS), and the *Partido Autintico de la Revolucidn Mexicana* (PARM). The PRI fielded candidates for the Chamber of Deputies in all constituencies, the three other parties, led by PARM, together putting forth a total of 519.

Prior to the elections, PRI presidential candidate Jose Lopez Portillo, former Minister for Finance under outgoing President Luis Echeverria Alvarez, campaigned vigorously despite having no official opponent. He called for more efficiency, honesty, organization and productivity in the Mexican government and economy, pledging to embark on a thorough reorientation of the economy so as to gain a higher standard of living for the populace.

On election day, the PRI won all but one of the Senate and 195 general deputies seats. Allocation of the " party deputies " in the Chamber on August 26 resulted in the distribution given below.

President Lopez Portillo's new Cabinet was sworn in on December 1, 1976.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Chamber of Deputies

Number of registered voters. . . . .	25,913,215
Voters. . . . .	16,036,525 (61.88%)
Blank or void ballot papers. . . . .	872,925
Valid votes. . . . .	15,163,600

Political Group	Number of	Votes obtained	Deputies elected by majority vote	"Party Deputies"	Total number of Seats
<i>Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI)</i> . . . . .	196	12,867,985	195	—	195
<i>Partido Accidn Nacional (PAN)</i> . . . . .	137	1,361,154	—	20	20
<i>Partido Popular Socialista (PPS)</i> . . . . .	187	482,583	—	12	12
<i>Partido Autntico de la Revolucidn Mexicana (PARM)</i> . . . . .	195	405,757	—	8	8
			195*	40	235*

\* Elections in one constituency were declared invalid and rescheduled.

2. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Senate

Number of registered voters. . . . .	25,913,215
Voters. . . . .	17,761,616 (68.54%)

Political Group	Number of Seats
<i>Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI)</i> . . . . .	63
<i>Partido Popular Socialista (PPS)</i> . . . . .	1

3. *Distribution of Members of the Congress according to Professional Category*

	Chamber of Deputies	Senate
Lawyers . . . . .	73	32
Teachers . . . . .	20	1
Economists . . . . .	11	2
Doctors . . . . .	7	2
Officers of the armed forces	3	7
Architects . . . . .	2	1
Engineers . . . . .	—	3
Others . . . . .	8	1
No profession. . . . .	112	15
	<hr/> 236	<hr/> 64

4. *Distribution of Members of the Congress according to Sex*

	Chamber of Deputies	Senate
Men . . . . .	214	61
Women . . . . .	<u>22</u>	<u>3</u>
	236	64

5. *Average Age of Members of Congress*

Chamber of Deputies. . . . .	40 years
Senate. . . . .	48 years