

## MEXICO

**Date of Elections:** 4 July 1982

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

The Chamber of Deputies currently has 400 members, of whom 300 are elected by majority vote and 100 according to proportional representation. All Deputies have 3-year terms of office.

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 ministers of religion, 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.

Of the 400 Deputies, 300 are elected by simple majority vote within single-member electoral districts, and 100 are elected by a system of proportional representation from regional party lists within multi-member constituencies. Senators are all elected by simple majority vote.

A political party may be registered if it has at least 3,000 members in each one of at least half the States in Mexico or at least 300 members in each of at least half of the single-member constituencies. In either case the total number of members must be no less than 65,000. A party can also obtain conditional registration if it has been active for at least four years. Registration is confirmed if the party obtains at least 1.5% of the popular vote.

When a vacancy occurs among members of the Congress elected by majority vote, a by-election is called by the Chamber in question; when a vacancy occurs among members of the Chamber of Deputies elected by proportional representation, it is filled by the candidate of the same party who received the next highest number of votes at the last ordinary election.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Held simultaneously with presidential elections, those for both Houses of Congress were mainly contested by the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), the right-wing National Action Party (PAN), the United Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM), the Popular Socialist Party (PPS), the Socialist Workers' Party (PST) and the Mexican Democratic Party (PDM).

On a polling day marked by a record turnout, the PRI presidential candidate, Mr. Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, obtained over 74% of the vote to triumph over six opponents. At the same time, his party also captured all 64 Senate seats and all but one of the 300 directly-elected single-member constituency seats. In accordance with the 1977 electoral reform law, the remaining 100 seats in the Chamber were proportionately allotted to other registered parties; PAN headed this group, being awarded 54 seats.

The new President - who during the campaign had pledged to attack political corruption, to tackle the country's economic difficulties through austerity measures and to establish a more egalitarian society - took office on 1 December 1982.

## Statistics

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

Number of registered electors. . . . . 31,516,370

	<i>Majority vote</i>	<i>Proportional representation vote</i>
Voters. . . . .	22,221,774(70.5%)	22,061,376(70%)
Blank or void ballot papers. . . . .	1,156,162	1,094,753
Valid votes. . . . .	21,065,612	20,966,623

Political Group	Majority Seats obtained	Proportional Representation Seats obtained	Total Seats
Institutional Revolutionary Party ( <b>PRI</b> )	299	—	299
National Action Party (PAN). . . . .	1	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>
United Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM)	—	17	17
Popular Socialist Party (PPS). . . . .	—	II	II
Socialist Workers' Party (PST). . . . .	—	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
Mexican Democratic Party (PDM). . . . .	—	8	8
	300	Kio	400

2. *Distribution of Seats in the Senate*

Political Group	Number of Seats
Institutional Revolutionary Party ( <b>PRI</b> ) . . . . .	64