

Latin American Presidents

4/16/2015

	Country	President	Years in Office	Ideology	Party	Comments
1	Argentina	<u>Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner</u>	2007-2011, 2011-2015	left-of-center	FPV/Justicialist/Peronist	Succeeded her husband (Nestor Kirchner, 2003-07--did not seek re-election despite high approval ratings--died of heart attack 2010). Elected by 22% margin in 2007 and 37% margin in 2011. President terms: unlimited of 4 years each; but only two terms consecutively
2	Bolivia	<u>Evo Morales</u>	2006-2009, 2009-2014	left-of-center	Movement Towards Socialism	Aymara. Coca grower. Head of coca growers' union. First ran for President in 2002 (Our Brand is Crisis). Non-traditional. New Constitution 2009. Margin of victory 25% in 2005, 37% in 2009, and 40% in 2014. President terms: two of 5 years each.
3	Brazil	<u>Dilma Rousseff</u>	2010-2014	left-of-center	Labor Party	Fought against military governments. Imprisoned, 1970-72--reportedly tortured. Close supporter of previous President da Silva (Lula). Margin of victory: 12% in 2010; 3% in 2014 run-off. President terms: unlimited 4 years; but only two terms consecutive
4	Chile	<u>Sebastian Pinera</u>	2010-2014	right-of-center	National Renewal	Follows several decades of leftist rule. Very wealthy (TV network, financing/investments, airline, and others). Harvard Economics PhD. Economics Prof. 2010 rescue of 33 miners. Won with 4% margin. President terms: 4 yrs.; unlimited but not consecutive
4a	Chile	<u>Michelle Bachelet</u>	2006-2010, 2014-2018	left-of-center	Socialist	Father died under arrest by Pinochet. She and her mother were political prisoners in 1975. Tortured "but not like the others." 4 years in exile. First female President in Chile. First President in Chile to be elected twice in competitive elections. 2014--sworn in by Isabel Allende (President of Senate and daughter of President Salvador Allende--not the author of <i>The House of Spirits</i> who is a distant cousin of Salvador Allende). Margin of 21% in 1st round; 24% in run-off. Second-place was another female candidate.
5	Colombia	<u>Juan Manuel Santos</u>	2010-2014, 2014-2018	moderate	Social Party of National Unity	Overtures to FARC? Raid against FARC. Economist and journalist. Degrees from Univ. of Kansas and London School of Economics. From very wealthy family (media). Many relatives served high political offices. 42% margin of victory in 2010. Only 6% in run-off in 2014--opposition due to his perceived conciliatory approach to the FARC. Presidential terms: 4 years; maximum of two terms.

6a	Costa Rica	Laura <u>Chinchilla</u>	2010-2014	moderate	National Liberation Party	Socialist International, but social conservative. 22% margin of victory. First female president of Costa Rica. Presidential terms: Unlimited non-consecutive four-year terms.
6b	Costa Rica	Luis Guillermo <u>Solis</u> Rivera	2014-2018	left-of-center	Citizens' Action Party	Leftist academic. Tulane MA. Fulbright Univ. of Michigan. New 3rd party breaks 2 party tradition. Priorities are anti-corruption environment, and social programs. Very close general election, but opposition candidates quits in primary.
7	Cuba	<u>Raul Castro</u>	2006-2008 (temporary), 2008-2013, 2013-2018	left-of-center	Communist Party	Some economic reforms. Pres. terms are 5 yrs. Currently no limits on # of terms. Fidel: Prime Minister, 1959-76; Pres., 1976-2008. R. Castro in Jan. 2012 announces intention to limit terms to 2.
8a	Dominican Republic	Leonel <u>Fernandez</u> Reyna	1996-2000, 2004-2008, 2008-2012	moderate	Dominican Liberation Party	Focus on technological growth. Charges of corruption. Constitutional change allowed re-election in 2008. 14% margin of victory.
8b	Dominican Republic	Danilo <u>Medina</u> Sánchez	2012-2016	moderate	Dominican Liberation Party	Great, great, ... grandson of founding father of DR. Defeated Hipolito Mejia. 5% margin of victory. 2 four-year terms.
9	Ecuador	Rafael <u>Correa</u>	2007-2009, 2009-13, 2013-2017	left-of-center	PAIS Alliance	Economist. First Ecuadorian president re-elected in the past 30 years . Constitutional reforms regarding presidential terms. "Socialist revolution." "End poverty." Three 4-year terms. 24% margin of victory in 2017. 35% in 2013.
10a	El Salvador	Mauricio <u>Funes</u>	2009-2014	left-of-center	FMLN	First FMLN leader not to have fought in the Civil War. Journalist. Margin of victory 2%. One 5-yr. term.
10b	El Salvador	Salvador <u>Sanchez</u> Ceren	2014-2019	left-of-center	FMLN	Working-class background. 1980s pseudonym "Commander Leonel González." 1984-1992, Commanding General of the FMLN.
11	Guatemala	Oscar <u>Perez</u> Molina	2012-2016	right-of-center	Patriotic Party	Military background. Accused of serious human rights violations dating to 1980s. Family members and associates have been attacked and some killed. Has supported decriminalization of drugs. One 4-year term. <u>Margin of victory was 8%</u>
12	Haiti	Michel <u>Martelly</u>	2011-2016	moderate	Farmers' Response	Former musician and businessman. Concerns over human rights violations over plans of reinstating the military. Former associate of Duvaliers and anti-Aristede. Two non-consecutive five-year terms. Margin of victory was 36%.
13a	Honduras	Porfirio <u>Lobo</u> Sosa	2010-2014	right-of-center	National Party	Wealthy rancher. Election followed Constitutional Crisis of 2009 ("coup" removes Manuel Zelaya). Human rights continue to suffer. One four-year term. 18% margin of victory.

13b	Honduras	Juan Orlando <u>Hernandez</u>	2014-2018	right of center	National Party	Businessman (coffee, radio, TV, and hotels). Previously head of the National Congress. Some see him as dictatorial (widespread use of military and police force). Defeated Xiomara Castro (wife of Zelaya) by 9% margin.
14a	Mexico	Felipe <u>Calderon</u>	2006-2012	right-of-center	National Action Party	2nd consecutive PANista President after many decades of PRI dominance. War on drug cartels. One 6-year term. "No re-election." Margin of victory was 0.6%.
14b	Mexico	Enrique <u>Peña Nieto</u>	2012-2018	moderate	PRI	First PRI (dominant Party for nearly a century) President since before 2000. Former Governor of the State of Mexico (and member of Chamber of Deputies). Educated solely in Mexico. Wife is former model and actress. 7% margin of victory (39% of the total vote in a 3 person race).
15	Nicaragua	Daniel <u>Ortega</u>	1979-90, 2007-2012, 2012-2017	left-of-center	Sandinista Front for National Liberation	Leader of the Sandinista revolution. Won "free and fair" elections in 1984 (margin of victory over 50%), 2006 (margin of 10%), and 2011 (margin of 31%). Lost in 1990, 1996, and 2001. Two five-year terms.
16a	Panama	Ricardo <u>Martinelli</u>	2009-2014	right-of-center	Democratic Change	BBA and close relations with University of Arkansas. Head of a Panamanian super market chain. Two non-consecutive five-year terms. Margin of victory was 22%.
16b	Panama	Juan Carlos <u>Varela</u>	2014-2019	right of center	Panamenista	Engineering BS from Georgia Tech. From one of Panama's richest families (rum). Described as "free market conservative." Was VP under Martinelli, though they moved apart during the term. Defeated Martinelli's hand-picked successor by 7%.
17a	Paraguay	Fernando <u>Lugo</u>	2008-2013	left-of-center	Patriotic Alliance for Change	Former Roman Catholic Bishop. Impeached and removed from office in 2012. Some Latin American governments called it a coup. One five-year term. Margin of victory in 2008 was 11%.
17b	Paraguay	Horacio <u>Cartes</u>	2013-2018	right-of-center	Colorado Party	Businessman. Owner of dozens of companies. Imprisoned on charges of currency fraud (cleared of charges) in 1986. Entered politics in 2009. Margin of victory was 9%.
18	Peru	Ollanta <u>Humala</u>	2011-2016	left-of-center	Gana Peru (Peruvian Nationalist)	Son of communist activist. Former army officer (in war against Shining Path). Unsuccessful 2000 coup against Fujimori (who was soon impeached and Humala was pardoned by Congress). Fighting poverty is a major goal. "More Lula than Chavez." Defeated Keiko Fujimori (Alberto Fujimori's daughter). Unlimited non-consecutive five-year terms. Margin of victory 3%.

19a	Uruguay	Jose Mujica	2010-2015	left-of-center	Broad Front	Former guerrilla fighter (Tupamaros). Served 14 yrs. in prison. Freed in mid-80s and joined civilian party Broad Front. "Pauper" President. Unlimited non-consecutive five-year terms. 9% margin of victory
19b	Uruguay	Tabare Vasquez	2005-2010, 2015-2020	left-of-center	Broad Front	Physician. 2nd term (having sat out one term). Drastically reduced poverty in 1st term. Supported "delisting" coca leaves as a "dangerous drug." 13% margin of victory in 2014.
20a	Venezuela	Hugo Chavez	1998-2000, 2000-2006, 2006-2013	left-of-center	United Socialist/Fifth Republic Movement	Career military. Led 1992 failed coup. Elected President, 1998 (56%). New Constitution, 1999, two terms (72%). Elected President, 2000 (60%). Failed coup against him, 2002. Recall vote fails, 2004 (59%). Elected President, 2006 (63%). Referendum to end term limits fails, 2007 (49%) but wins 2009 (54%). Margin of victory in 2006 was 23%. Margin of victory in Parliamentary Electins, 2010, for Chavez' party was 1%. Won Presidential election in 2012 by 11%, but never sworn in. Died of cancer in 2013. Press freedom? Rule by decree? Support for FARC? Unlimited six-year terms.
20b	Venezuela	Nicolas Maduro	2013-2019	left-of-center	United Socialist	Vice President under Chavez. Former bus driver and union leader. Began political career in 2000. Margin of victory in 2013 was 2%.

Sources for Electoral Data	http://electionresources.org/	http://psephos.adam-carr.net/	http://www.electionguide.org/
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