

ELECTORAL SYSTEM

- 1918 Federal Election Law restricted vote to literate married males over 18 or literate unmarried males over 21. Political parties given few prerogatives. Candidacies of individuals favored.
- 1946 Federal Election Law - next major revision - difficult for new parties to be registered. Created a Federal Election Commission dominated by the Pri to oversee the process.
- 1951 CFE created - more independence of executive branch - opposition rep on CFE strengthened.
- 1953 Women granted right to vote.
- 1963 Creation of "party deputies" under a prop. rep. system. Two means for elections deputies:
1. majority rule in single-member districts in all of 178 electoral districts
2. any party with less than 20% of national vote qualified for party deputies.
Allotted 5 deputies for 2.5% vote and an additional seat for ever 0.5% above 2.5 up to maximum of 20. Rep. of opposition parties after 1964 cong. elections increased sixfold.
- 1969 Voting age for all lowered to 18 - 1972 minimum age for deputies went from 25 to 21 and for senators from 35 to 30. Minimum percent for gaining party deputies reduced to 1.5% and maximum number of such deputies increased to 25.
- 1977 Greatest change - party registration determined by vote (any party with more than 1.5%). Senate (64 members elected for 6 year terms in single member districts) unchanged. But C of D (still elected for three year terms) increased to 400. 300 were traditional "majority" deputies. Remaining 100 were elected by prop. rep. from five regional party lists. Any party with less than 60 majority seats and with candidates in at least 100 of the single districts was eligible for the p.r. seats.
- 1986 Expanded to 200 prop. rep. seats - majority party can win a share of 200, but its total cannot exceed 350 of the 500.

Electoral Results, L & S, pp. 72-73
Story, pp. 52-53