

## Mexican Politics—STATE INSTITUTIONS

- Federal System
  - 31 states plus D.F.
  - 2378 municipios (more or less like counties)
  - Governors - 6 year terms; elections spread over 6 year period. State legislatures are unicameral - 3 year terms. Presidente municipal (elected) leads municipios.
  - Very centralized - federal government controls about 85% total revenues, state 12%, and municipios 3%. Prior to 2000, President or presidential nominee for PRI picked gubernatorial nominees, who in turn picked municipal presidents.
- Division of Powers - 3 branches
  - Legislature - bicameral
    - Senate - ratifies treaties and appointments. 64 members (until 1993) - 2 from each state and D.F. Increased to 128 in 1993 (4 from each state and D.F.). One of each state's four seats awarded to whichever party comes in second in that state. 6 year terms - 1/2 elected every 3 years - may not be consecutive.
    - Chamber of Deputies - approves budget, discusses taxes, and verifies elections. 500 members (300 single member and 200 p.r.) - 3 year terms - may not be consecutive.
    - Congress has a permanent committee that attends to interests of legislature when not in session.
  - Judiciary
    - 21 member Supreme Court appointed by President with Senate approval. System of federal and state courts. Renewable 9 year terms. Amparo - Mexican major contribution to jurisprudence. Similar to writ of habeas corpus or injunction - delay application of law that threatens your constitutional rights until it is heard.
  - President
    - Single 6 year term; direct population election; no re-election. Powers: appoint, control foreign relations, introduce laws, total or item veto (no override), budget control, legislation by executive decree.
    - President dominates (with cabinet). Introduces most legislation. Seldom, if ever, is over-ruled by either legislature or judicial.
    - Cabinet - 18+
      - Programming and Budget: budget, devel. planning - super minister?
      - Gobernacion - Interior - internal security, electoral process, liaison between president and other government entities.
      - Finance and Public Credit - taxes and revenues, public sector borrowing (debt), banking system.
      - Foreign Relations - foreign policy, treaties.
      - Commerce and Ind. Development - foreign and domestic commerce, foreign investment, ind. promotion.

- Energy, Mines and Parastatal Industry - government-owned industries, especially natural resources (such as oil).
- Labor and Social Welfare - labor/management
- Ag Reform
- Ag and Hydraulic Resources
- Attorney Gen.-federal cases; oversees anti-drug efforts.
- Comptroller Gen. - reduce corruption in public sector.
- National Defense - general.
- Director General, Bank of Mexico - monetary and exchange rate policy.
- Director General, PEMEX
- Director, Office of Coordination of the Presidency - Chief of Staff for President