

CRS Report for Congress

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Latin America and the Caribbean: Fact Sheet on Leaders and Elections

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This fact sheet tracks the current heads of government in Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean, and provides the dates of the last and next election for head of government. It also provides the national independence date for each country.

South America

Country	Independence Date	Head of Government	Last Election	Next Election
Argentina	July 9, 1816	KIRCHNER, Néstor	April 27, 2003	2007
Bolivia	Aug. 6, 1825	MESA, Carlos ^a	June 2002 ^a	June 2007 ^a
Brazil	Sept. 7, 1822	DA SILVA, Luis Inácio Lula	October 2002	October 2006
Chile	Sept. 18, 1810	LAGOS, Ricardo	December 1999/ January 2000	December 2005
Colombia	July 20, 1810	URIBE, Alvaro	May 2002	May 2006
Ecuador	May 24, 1822	GUTIERREZ, Lucio	October /November 2002	October 2006
Paraguay	May 14, 1811	DUARTE FRUTOS, Nicanor	April 27, 2003	April 2008
Peru	July 28, 1821	TOLEDO, Alejandro	April/June 2001	April 2006
Uruguay	Aug. 25, 1825	BATLLE, Jorge ^b	Oct. 31, 2004 ^b	October 2009
Venezuela	July 5, 1811	CHAVEZ, Hugo	July 2000	2006

a. Vice President Carlos Mesa succeeded Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada in October 2003. Sanchez de Lozada, who had been elected in June 2002, resigned on October 17, 2003, because of political unrest.

b. Tabaré Vázquez was elected President in the October 31, 2004, election and will be inaugurated on March 1, 2005.

Mexico and Central America

Country	Independence Year	Head of Government	Last Election	Next Election
Mexico	Sept. 16, 1810	FOX, Vicente	July 2000	July 2006
Costa Rica	Sept. 15, 1821	PACHECO, Abel	February/April 2002	February 2006
El Salvador	Sept. 15, 1821	SACA, Elías Antonio (Tony)	March 21, 2004	March 2009
Guatemala	Sept. 15, 1821	BERGER, Oscar	November/December 2003	November 2007
Honduras	Sept. 15, 1821	MADURO, Ricardo	November 2001	November 2005
Nicaragua	Sept. 15, 1821	BOLANOS, Enrique	November 2001	November 2006
Panama	Nov. 3, 1903	TORRIJOS, Martin	May 2, 2004	May 2009

Caribbean

Country	Independence Year	Head of Government	Last Election	Next Election
Antigua & Barbuda	Nov. 1, 1981	SPENCER, Baldwin	March 23, 2004	by March 2009
Bahamas	July 10, 1973	CHRISTIE, Perry	May 2002	by May 2007
Barbados	Nov. 30, 1966	ARTHUR, Owen	May 21, 2003	by May 2008
Belize	Sept. 21, 1981	MUSA, Said	March 5, 2003	by March 2008
Cuba	May 20, 1902	CASTRO, Fidel	^a	^a
Dominica	Nov. 3, 1978	SKERRITT, Roosevelt ^b	January 2000	by July 2005
Dominican Republic	Feb. 27, 1844	FERNANDEZ, Leonel	May 16, 2004	May 2008
Grenada	Feb. 7, 1974	MITCHELL, Keith	Nov. 27, 2003	by Nov. 2008
Guyana	May 26, 1966	BHARRAT, Jagdeo	March 2001	March 2006
Haiti	Jan. 1, 1804	ALEXANDRE, Boniface ^c	November 2000	2005
Jamaica	Aug. 6, 1962	PATTERSON, Percival James	October 2002	by December 2007
St. Kitts & Nevis	Sept. 19, 1983	DOUGLAS, Denzil	Oct. 25, 2004	by October 2009
St. Lucia	Feb. 22, 1979	ANTHONY, Kenny	December 2001	by December 2006
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Oct. 27, 1979	GONSALVES, Ralph	March 2001	by March 2006
Suriname	Nov. 25, 1975	VENTIAAN, Ronald	May 2000	May 2005
Trinidad & Tobago	Aug. 31, 1962	MANNING, Patrick	October 7, 2002	by October 2007

a. Castro has served as head of government since the 1959 Cuban Revolution. Since that time, there have been no elections for head of government.

b. Skerritt became Prime Minister in January 2004, following the death of Prime Minister Pierre Charles.

c. Alexandre became interim president February 29, 2004, following the resignation of President Jean Bertrand Aristide.