



Comparing the federal systems of the Americas



Malapportionment

- A measure of the disproportionality of a district's representation in a legislative chamber.
- 0.00 would mean no malapportionment; all districts have a share of representation that is exactly equal to their share of the population
- 1.00 would mean that some districts where all the people live had no representation, while other districts with no people had all the representation

Country	Malapportionment	
	Senate	Lower House
Argentina	.46	.14
Brazil	.39	.09
Canada	.29	.06
Mexico	.23	.04
United States	.36	.01

Revenue and expenditure decentralization

- Percent of revenue raised and spent by each level of government

	Share of Total Government Tax Revenue Collected by Level of Government			Share of Total Government Expenditure by Level of Government		
	Central	Intermediate	Local	Central	Intermediate	Local
Chile, 1992	100	-	0	87.3	-	12.3
Venezuela, 1989	96.9	0.1	3.1	77.7	15.7	6.5
Mexico, 1992	82.7	13.4	3.9	87.8	9.5	2.8
Colombia, 1991	81.6	11.1	7.3	67	15.7	17.3
Argentina, 1992	80	15.4	4.6	51.9	39.5	8.6
Brazil, 1995	67.2	28	4.8	56.3	27.5	16.2



Reelection rates in national congresses (lower houses)

Country	% seeking reelection	% winning (of those seeking)	% returning to office	length of term (years)	
Argentina (1997)		26	67	17	4
Brazil (1995)		70	62	43	4
Chile (1993)		76	78	59	4
Mexico (1997)		0	-	-	3
United States (1996)		88	94	83	2



Governors in Latin American federal systems: elections and reelection

Country	When elected	How elected	Reelection
Argentina	Provincial option: Mostly during same year as president, but not on same date ¹	Provincial option (mostly plurality; some with various runoff rules)	Provincial option
Brazil	Concurrent with president, congress, and state legislatures	Majority runoff	One reelection allowed (starting in 1998)
Mexico	State option: Various dates throughout the president's <i>sexenio</i> ²	Plurality	No reelection

1. In 2003, there were thirteen dates on which at least one province held a gubernatorial election. One province had a gubernatorial election in 2005.

2. Three concurrent with presidential/congressional elections in 2000; eight with congressional elections in 2003; four scheduled concurrent with 2006 federal elections (includes DF all three years)

States/provinces as districts for national legislators, and when and how elected

	Lower house			Upper house		
Country	Districts	When elected	How elected	Districts	When elected	How elected
Argentina	Provinces	Provincial option ^[1] ; half elected every 2 years for 4-year term	Closed-list PR (2 – 18 seats per province per election)	Provinces	Provincial option; 6-year term (one third of states every 2 years)	3 per state by closed list plurality: 2 to leading party, 1 to second party
Brazil	States	Same date as first round of presidential election, 4 year term	Open-list PR (8–70 seats per state)	States	Same date as first round of presidential election, 8 year term	3 per state, plurality (staggered)
Mexico	Mixed; SSDs within states and PR districts larger than states	Concurrent with presidential election and at midterm; 3-year term (no consecutive reelection)	Plurality in SSDs; closed-list PR for list seats	States and national district	Concurrent with presidential election; 6-year term	3 per state by closed list plurality: 2 to leading party, 1 to second party; Closed-list PR for 32 national seats
United States	SSDs within states	Concurrent with presidential election and at midterm; 2-year term	Plurality or majority (state option)	States	Concurrent with presidential election and at midterm; 6-year term (one third of senators every 2 years)	2 per state, by plurality or majority (staggered)

In 2003, provinces held their elections for federal deputies (and sometimes senators) on at least seven different dates from March to November (federal presidential elections were in April). Often these elections were on the same day as the provincial gubernatorial election. In 2005, all provinces will hold their federal deputies (and some senators) elections on the same date (October 23).



Governors (or ex-governors) running for president for major parties

Argentina

- 1989 PJ: *Menem (La Rioja)
Cafiero (Buenos Aires, defeated in primary by Menem)
UCR: Angeloz (Cordoba)
- 1995 PJ: Menem (incumbent president)
UCR: Massacessi (Rio Negro)
Frepasso: Bordon (Mendoza)
- 1999 PJ: Duhalde (Buenos Aires; also was VP to Menem, and senator)
- 2003 PJ: Menem
*Kirchner (Santa Cruz)
Rodriguez Saa (San Luis)

Brazil

- 1989 *Collor (Alagoas)
(the candidates who came in 3rd, 4th, and 5th also had been governors)
- 1994 neither of the runoff contenders, but each of the next three
- 1998 neither of the runoff contenders, but the third-place candidate (Gomes)
- 2002 neither of the runoff contenders, but the next three

Mexico

- 2000 PAN: *Fox (Guanajuato)
PRD: Cárdenas (Michoacan, for PRI in 1980s; and as head of DF elected in 1997; also ran for pres. 1988, 1994)
- 2006 (candidates yet to be chosen; these are the leading pre-candidates)
PRI: Madrazo (Tabasco)
Montiel (Estado de México)
PRD: López Obrador (DF)

United States

Every president since 1976 has been a governor, except for G.H.W. Bush (incumbent vice president when elected in 1988). Defeated candidates, except for Dukakis in 1988, have not been governors.