

## MEXICO

**Date of Elections:** 7 July 1985

### **Purpose of elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in the Chamber of Deputies on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of Mexico, the National Congress, consists of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

The Chamber of Deputies currently has 400 members, of whom 300 are elected by majority vote and 100 according to proportional representation. All Deputies have 3-year terms of office.

The Senate comprises 64 members elected for 6 years. Two members represent each of the country's 31 States and the Federal District.

### **Electoral System**

All Mexican citizens who are at least 18 years of age and registered in their constituency of residence are entitled to vote. Excluded from this right are the insane, interned drug addicts, persons convicted of a crime involving liability to imprisonment and persons serving a prison sentence.

Electoral registers are continually kept up to date. Voting is compulsory, abstention leading to a fine or imprisonment.

All citizens by birth at least 21 years of age and in full possession of their political rights may stand for election to the Chamber of Deputies from their State or territory of origin or that in which they have resided for at least six months; the age requirement for Senators is 30. Neither Senators nor Deputies may be re-elected for a second consecutive term, but may stand again for subsequent terms.

Ministers of religion, members of the federal army on active duty, police officers of a commanding rank within the district concerned, Secretaries or Under-Secretaries of State, Justices of the Supreme Court and Governors of the States are not eligible for the Congress; apart from ministers of religion, such disqualification can be overridden if the officials concerned resign from their positions 90 days before the election. Governors cannot be elected in the districts of their jurisdiction during their term of office, even if they resign their position.

Of the 400 Deputies, 300 are elected by simple majority vote within single-member electoral districts, and 100 are elected by a system of proportional representation from

regional party lists within multi-member constituencies; the latter are restricted to parties which have won fewer than 60 majority seats. Senators are all elected by simple majority vote.

A political party may be registered if it has at least 3,000 members in each one of at least half the States in Mexico or at least 300 members in each of at least half of the single-member constituencies. In either case the total number of members must be not less than 65,000. A party can also obtain conditional registration if it has been active for at least four years. Registration is confirmed if the party obtains at least 1.5% of the popular vote.

When a vacancy occurs among members of the Congress elected by majority vote, a by-election is called by the Chamber in question; when a vacancy occurs among members of the Chamber of Deputies elected by proportional representation, it is filled by the candidate of the same party who received the next highest number of votes at the last ordinary election.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Held simultaneously with gubernatorial and municipal elections, those for the Chamber of Deputies were contested mainly by the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), in power since its foundation in 1929, whose main opposition came from the conservative National Action Party (PAN). The pro-business PAN favoured free enterprise and criticized the PRI's handling of the economic crisis since 1982. The latter countered by claiming 56 years of political stability and social peace since in power.

On polling day, PRI once again maintained its dominant position in the Chamber of Deputies, capturing all but 10 of the 300 majority vote seats despite PAN's allegations of electoral fraud in certain instances. In accordance with the Electoral Law, the remaining 100 seats in the Chamber were proportionately allotted to other registered parties which had won fewer than 60 majority seats; PAN headed this group, being awarded 32 seats.

## Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Chamber of Deputies*

Number of registered electors. . . . . 34,000,000 (approx.)

Political Group	% of Votes obtained	Majority Seats obtained	Proportional Representation Seats obtained	Total Number of Seats
Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) . . . . .	64.8	290	—	290
National Action Party (PAN) . . .	16.7	8	32	40
United Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM). . . . .	<b>35</b>	—	12	12
Mexican Democratic Party (PDM)	<b>30</b>	—	12	12
Socialist Workers' Party (PST) . . .	1.7	—	12	12
Popular Socialist Party (PPS) . . .	2.6	—	11	11
Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM). . . . .	2.5	2	9	11
Revolutionary Workers' Party (PRT). . . . .	1.7	—	6	6
Mexican Workers' Party (PMT) . . .	—	—	6	6
		300	100	400

2. *Distribution of Seats in the Senate*

Political Group	Number of Seats
Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) . . . . .	64