Elections in Haiti

2015 Legislative Elections

Frequently Asked Questions

Latin America and the Caribbean

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

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Frequently Asked Questions

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Disclosure:
These FAQs reflect decisions made by the Haitian election authorities, to the best of our knowledge as of August 6, 2015. This document does not represent any IFES policy or technical recommendations.
When is Election Day?

Haiti will hold legislative elections on August 9, 2015.

Who are citizens voting for on Election Day?

On Election Day, Haitians will elect two-thirds of the 30-member Senate and all 119 members of the Chamber of Deputies.

Who can vote in the country?

In the upcoming elections, all Haitians who 18 years of age or older; registered in the electoral register; and hold a national identification card are eligible to vote.

How many parties are contesting the legislative elections?

There are a total of 128 political parties with registered candidates for the upcoming legislative elections.

How many registered voters are there?

According to the Provisional Electoral Council, there are 5,838,838 registered voters for the 2015 legislative elections.

What is the structure of the government?

Haiti is a democratic republic composed of 10 administrative divisions, also called departments. These 10 departments are further divided into arrondissements, which are further divided into communes. In total, there are 41 arrondissements and 133 communes. The government of Haiti is based upon a Prime Minister and a President where the Prime Minister is head of the government and the President is head of State.

Executive power is held by the President and the Prime Minister. The President is elected by popular vote and the Prime Minister is appointed by the President, then ratified by the National Assembly. Members of the cabinet for the executive branch are chosen by the Prime Minister with input from the President.

Legislative power is entrusted to the National Assembly, which consists of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. For this election, the Senate seats are elected by an absolute majority vote through a two-round system, and the 119 seats in the Chamber of Deputies are elected through an absolute majority vote in single-member constituencies.
Judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court (the highest court), Courts of Appeal, Civil Courts, and Magistrates’ Courts. The Supreme Court consists of a Chief Judge and an unspecified amount of other judges. Supreme Court Judges are appointed by the President to the Supreme Court to serve a ten-year term. The appointed judges are chosen from a list of candidates provided by the Senate.

**What is the gender balance within the candidate list?**

For the upcoming elections, there are a total of 129 women candidates out of total of 1,621 candidates running for the 119 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, and 23 women candidates out of a total of 232 candidates running for the 20 Senate seats.

**What is the election management body? What are its powers?**

The Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) is responsible for organizing and controlling with complete independence all electoral procedures throughout Haiti until the proclamation of the election results. The CEP carries out its mission following the election cycle as defined by the Constitution.

The mission of CEP is described in Article 191 of the Constitution. The CEP is responsible for the organization of all necessary elections in Haiti. Along with other State institutions, the CEP is also responsible for ensuring compliance with legislation governing the electoral process.

The Constitution also gives the CEP the power to fulfill judicial functions in the event of electoral disputes. The following judicial bodies also deal with issues related to electoral disputes in accordance with the 2013 Electoral Act:

- Communal Electoral Office of Litigation
- Office of Departmental Electoral Disputes
- National Electoral Office of Litigation

**How many polling places are set up on Election Day?**

For the 2015 legislative elections, a total of about 13,725 polling stations in 1,508 voting centers are expected to be set up.

**Is out-of-country voting allowed?**

Out-of-country voting is not permitted in Haiti.

**How will voters with disabilities cast their ballots?**

According to the 2013 Electoral Law in Haiti, voters with disabilities may be accompanied by a person of their choice, who can assist them in casting their ballot.
Where are counting and tabulation held?

After the polls close on Election Day, votes will be counted and tallied at the polling stations. The tally sheets will then be transported to the Voting Tabulation Center at the Sonapi Industrial Park, which is the main tabulation center located in Port-au-Prince.

When will official results be announced?

The preliminary results are expected to be announced ten days after the elections on August 19, 2015. Official Results will be announced 30 days after the elections on September 8, 2015.

Who can observe during Election Day? How can they get accreditation?

All international and national observers must be accredited. The accreditation card is given by the Provisional Electoral Council to an observer organization upon request and according to established rules. International and national accredited observers may observe the conduct of all electoral operations throughout the country. To this end, observers can make any suggestion to improve and facilitate the conduct of all the stages of the electoral process and report any situation that would be likely to disturb electoral operations.
Resources

- Haiti Libre (English)
- Provisional Electoral Council (French)
- Electoral Act (2013) (French)
- CIA World Fact Book: Haiti (English)