

# *Latin Americans to the polls*

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By Roberto Morejón

Latin America has a marathon electoral schedule in 2024 and already in the six countries planned there is talk the campaigns, candidates and variables.

Some 80 elections, including general, legislative or local elections will take place in the world in 2024, in what some analysts call a wave or tsunami.

However, in the region south of the Bravo River, the focus is on El Salvador, Panama, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela.

In El Salvador, the first race is scheduled for February, when President Nayib Bukele will seek to remain in office.

To his credit, he and his supporters point to a reduction in the homicide rate by confronting powerful gangs, although critics attribute excesses to what they call *mano dura* (iron fist) politics.

Panamanians will go to the polls on May 5, in an unusual climate of massive protests, in rejection of a mining investment contract with a Canadian company, finally declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

In May, Dominicans are also called to vote, who will decide whether to give their approval to the current president, Luis Abinader, in his dispute with former president Leonel Fernandez.

Mexico will follow in June the steps of the previous countries, to elect the successor of the Head of State Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who could give way to the former head of government of the capital city, Claudia Sheinbaum, of the MORENA party, according to polls.

For the second semester there is a not totally defined chronogram, since the date of the election in Uruguay is known, October 27, although there is no precision in Venezuela, although it is indicated in the period.

Uruguayans are reflecting on the alternatives in sight, so any prediction is complex.

The leftist coalition Frente Amplio aspires to return to power in Uruguay against the parties of the government of the right-wing neoliberal Luis Lacalle Pou, who is prevented by the Magna Carta from being reelected immediately.

In Venezuela, the ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela continues to be popular, although the South American nation continues to face a tough economic situation due to sanctions from the United States and European countries.

For all the countries called to elect new authorities, the adverse international situation is common, with a predominance of geostrategic tensions and inflationary impacts, factors to be taken into account when voting.



**Radio Habana Cuba**