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SCHOOL OF GLOBAL POLICY AND STRATEGY
Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies



ELECTORAL NEWSLETTER
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Democratic Integrity: Mexico 2024

ELECTORAL ROLL AND VOTER
REGISTRY



Summary

"The electoral roll or census is the document containing the data of the persons entitled to vote in an election."

Electoral Dictionary, Ibero-American Institute of Human Rights

On April 30, the General Council of the National Electoral Institute (INE) approved the definitive electoral roll and voter registry for use in the June 2 elections. With 98,329,591 people registered, the 2024 elections have the largest number of citizens called to vote in Mexico's history. This figure represents an increase of 10.3% since 2018, with 9.2 million more Mexicans having the ability to cast a ballot.

The fundamental difference between the electoral roll and the voter registry is that the electoral roll includes all persons over 18 years who have requested their voting card, while the registry includes those who possess a non-expired voting card: these cards are valid for ten years and must be collected by the voter from an INE office.

At present, 98,472,789 people are included on the electoral roll, and 98,329,591 are listed on the voter registry, meaning that 99.85% of citizens have received their voting cards. Thus, for every 100,000 citizens registered on the electoral roll, only 15 still need to collect their voting credentials.

In the "Last Glance" section, we offer a summary of changes in the number of people who can vote from abroad. After announcing that it had excluded more than 39,000 registrations, the INE was forced to open an extraordinary review period of the excluded cases so that citizens could correct the inconsistencies and preserve their right to vote.

The Electoral Roll and the Voter Registry

Citizens called to the polls

On April 30, the National Electoral Institute (INE) finalized the electoral roll for the June 2, 2024 elections. In a press release, the INE announced that "the definitive voter registry" contained 98,329,591 voters; of those, 187,388 were registered to vote abroad, 30,391 were in pre-trial detention, and 4,002 were registered for early voting.¹

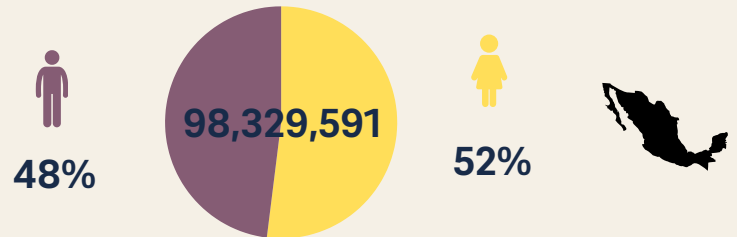
The gender composition of the registry is 51,103,424 women, 47,226,062 men, and 105 non-binary persons.

In terms of gender, it should be said that since 2015, the INE has guaranteed the right of identification for those who have requested to change the sex listed on their voting card. Until July 2023, the INE required the amended birth certificate as a prerequisite for this change, but now the expressed request of the person holding the voting credential is sufficient.

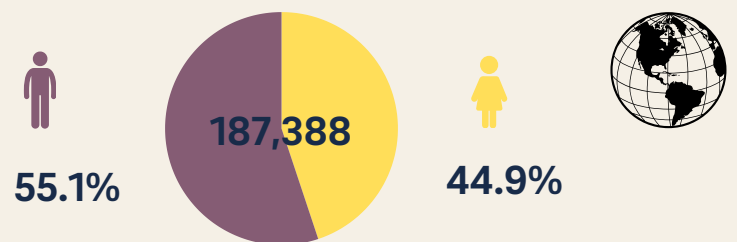
The voter registry for the last presidential election in 2018 was 89,123,355 people. In six years, the number of people eligible to vote increased by 9,206,236, or 10.3%.

This year, for the first time in federal elections, there is a registry of people in pre-trial detention, as well as for early voting.

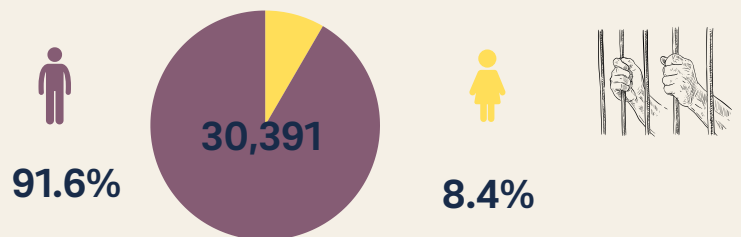
National Voter Registry



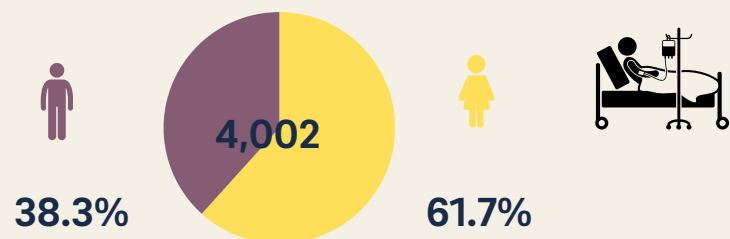
Voter Registry of Mexicans Residing Abroad



Voter Registry of Pre-Trial Detainees*



Voter Registry for Early Voting**



Source: Compiled by the authors based on information from the National Electoral Institute.

* For more information on voting by pre-trial detainees, see Issue 14 of "Democratic Integrity: Mexico 2024" at: https://usmex.ucsd.edu/_files/democratic-integrity/integridad-democratica_14_04142024.pdf

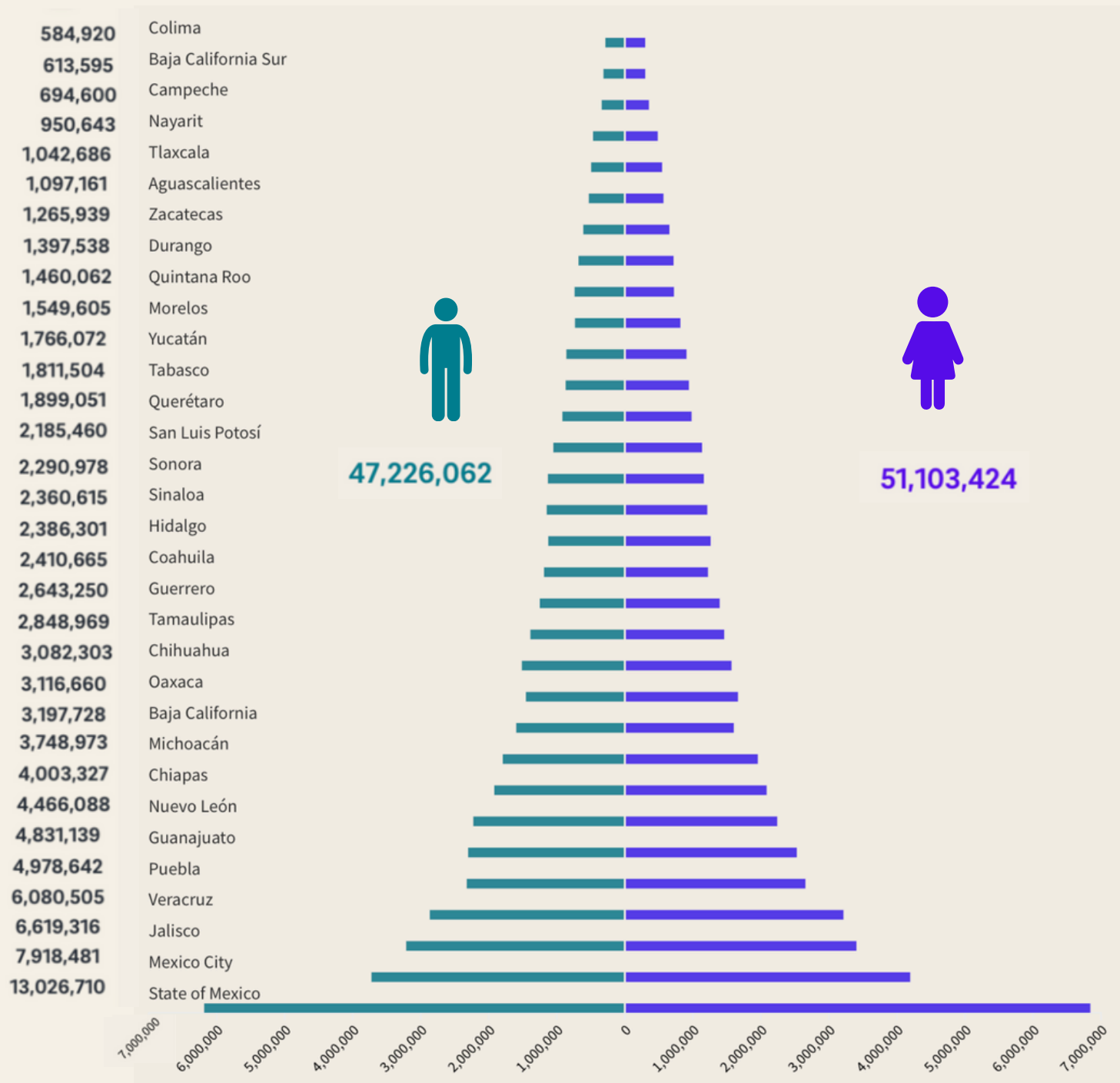
** Early Voting allows people with disabilities or physical limitations who are unable to go to the polling station to exercise their right to vote from home through the postal modality.

¹ INE Press Release No. 245 of 2024, at <https://centralectoral.ine.mx/2024/04/30/el-consejo-general-del-ine-declara-validez-y-definitividad-del-padron-electoral-y-listas-nominales-de-electores/>

Geographical distribution of the Voter Registry

In Mexico, the voter registry includes the citizens who are eligible to vote and, at the same time, locates each person at a precise physical address, which is essential to ensuring that they are able to vote for the corresponding positions at a polling place near their home.

Voter Registry by State: 2024 Elections



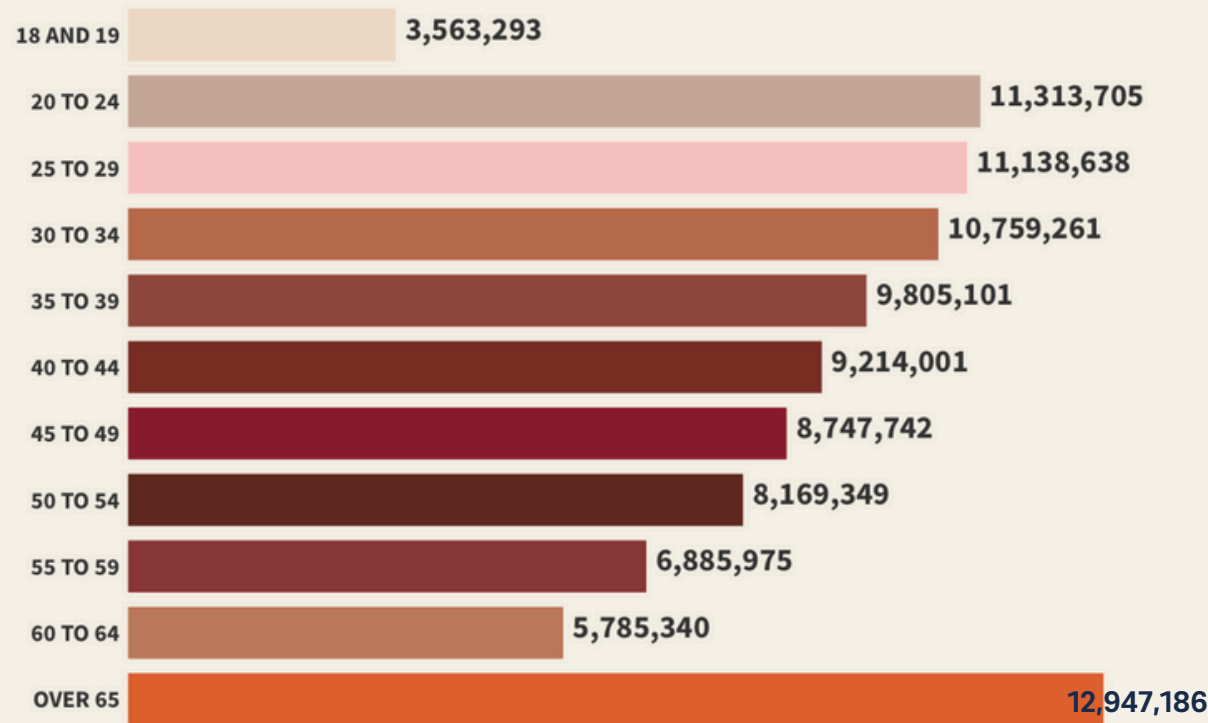
Source: Compiled by the authors based on information from the agreement declaring that the electoral roll and the voter registry to be used in the federal and local elections of June 2, 2024, are valid and definitive. INE/CG454/2024.

According to the INE's demographic evaluation of the 2023-2024 electoral roll, the highest number of reinstatements (people who had been removed from the electoral roll due to loss of validity of their card and who requested their reinstatement) occurred in the entities with high immigration on the northern border: Baja California, Sonora, and Tamaulipas. The majority of deregistrations occurred in Chiapas, reflecting the mobility of the Mexican population within the country.²

Age Distribution of the Voter Registry

Of those listed, 26.5% are under 30, and 37.4% of eligible voters are under 34. At the other end of the spectrum those 60 and older make up 19% of the registry. The electoral and voter lists thus accurately reflect the age structure of the Mexican population.

Voters Registry by Age Groups. 2023 - 2024 Electoral Process



Source: Compiled by the authors based on information from the Agreement declaring that the electoral roll and voter registry to be used in the federal and local elections of June 2, 2024, are valid and definitive. INE/CG454/2024.

2 Manuel Ordorica Mellado. Demographic evaluation of the 2023-2024 electoral roll. In "Informe del Comité Técnico del Padrón Electoral 2024". See in Annex 5 of the INE/CG454/2024 at: <https://repositoriodocumental.ine.mx/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/169916/CGor202404-30-ap-3.pdf>

The Quality of the Electoral Roll

Along with the approval of the Electoral Roll and the Voter Registry, on April 30 the INE also presented the results of the National Sample Verification (VNM). The VNM is an exercise carried out by the INE's Executive Secretariat of the Federal Electoral Registry to evaluate the quality of the electoral roll through home visits to a nationally representative random sample. This allows for an assessment of both the coverage of the registry—how many people over age 18 are registered—as well as its accuracy regarding whether citizens reside at the address they registered with.

The coverage and accuracy of the electoral roll are due to the permanent work carried out by the INE throughout the country through the 900 Citizen Attention Modules (MAC). Almost 90% of the Mexican population has a MAC within 10 kilometers of their home. The INE voting card is the only official ID with full validity that the Mexican State provides free of charge to all citizens.

The political parties are informed of the results of the National Sample Verification before each federal election and before the electoral roll and voter registry are approved.

The data for 2024 show very high coverage and quality for the electoral roll. Nationally, 98.3% of the population over 18 years is included in the electoral roll. In other words, for every 1,000 people of voting age, only 17 still need to be registered. The VNM shows no bias between women (with a registration rate of 98.42%) and men (98.16%). In addition, although young people between 18 and 19 years of age have a lower level of registration (only 90.14%) coverage for those between 20 and 24 years of age exceeds 98%.

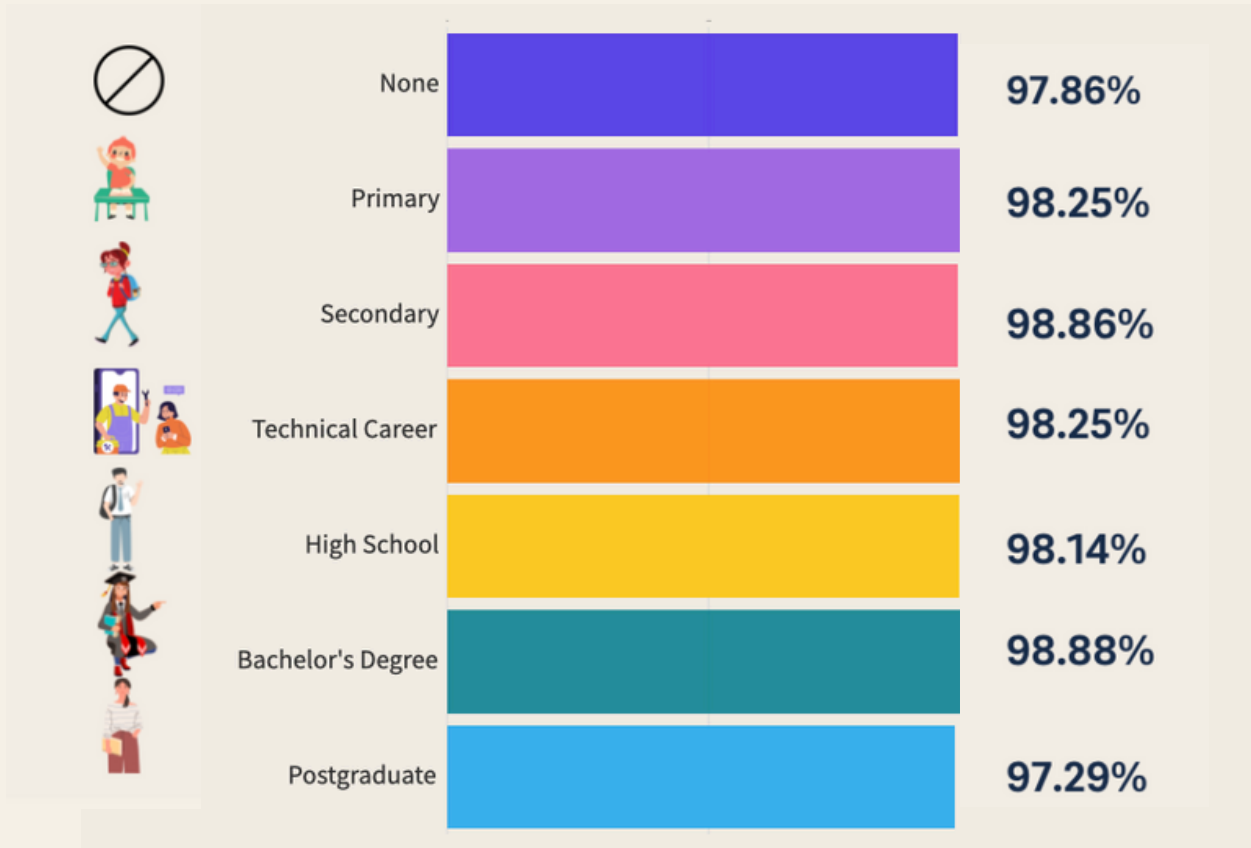
Another noteworthy fact is that thanks to a comparison with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs naturalization records, the VNM found evidence that foreigners who become naturalized Mexicans obtain their voting credentials in a timely manner and are included on the electoral roll.³

3 Victor Manuel García Guerrero. Age of Majority, Naturalization and Dual Nationality: an Analysis of the 2023-2024 Electoral Roll. In "Informe del Comité Técnico del Padrón Electoral 2024". See in Annex 5 of INE/CG454/2024 at: <https://repositoriodocumental.ine.mx/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/169916/CGor202404-30-ap-3.pdf>

According to the National Electoral Institute, 81,000 naturalized Mexican are on the electoral roll, representing 0.08% of the total. In other words, for every 10,000 Mexicans registered to vote, eight are naturalized.

The Electoral Roll: No Exclusions Based on Education

It is interesting to observe the rate of coverage by education level. Those without education are registered at only a slightly lower rate than the national average: 97.86% compared to 98.3% overall. It is striking that those with postgraduate studies have the lowest registration percentage (97.3%). This shows that in Mexico, access to the vote is not affected by educational opportunities.



Historical Coverage of the Electoral Roll

The National Sample Verification showed that in 2024, coverage of 98.3% was achieved, similar to that of 2018—the last presidential election—and higher than that of the last federal election in 2021, which registered 97.2% coverage. This year’s mark is the highest coverage in almost thirty years, demonstrating the professional work carried out by the structure of the Federal Electoral Registry directorate of the INE throughout the national territory.

Year	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018	2021	2024
% in Electoral Roll	93.4	94.2	95.4	95.2	97.6	97.7	98.3	97.2	98.3

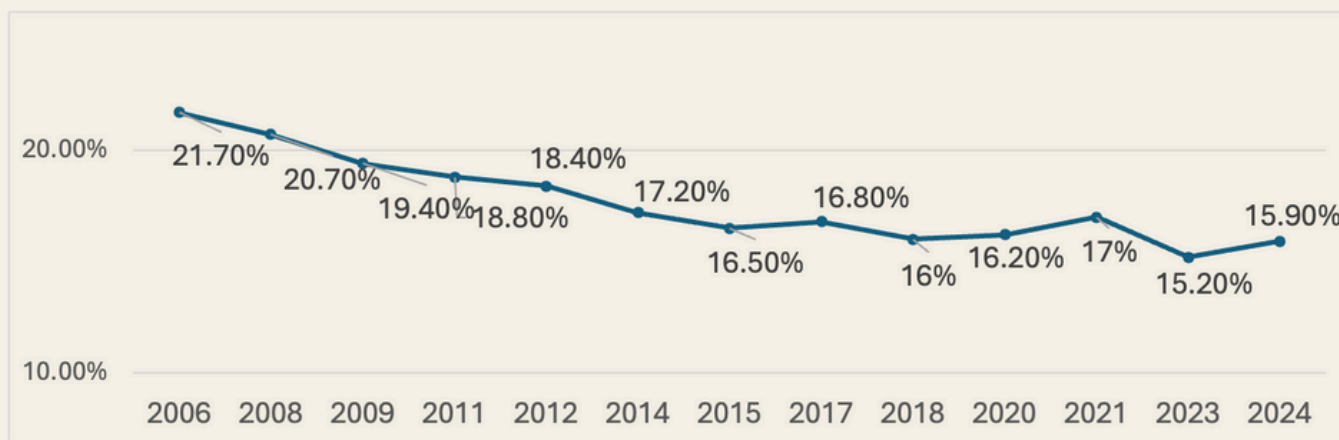
Updating of the Electoral Roll Guarantees the Right to Vote

The electoral roll is updated daily as a live database, mainly due to address changes, people turning 18, and deaths. The current electoral roll has one of the highest rates of accuracy in history, with 87.8% of voters residing at the address registered. Specialists note that the highest possible percentage would be 90%, given the dynamics of mobility in the population.

The results show that 87.8% of citizens live in the electoral section indicated on their voting card, and 78.8% continue living at the same address they declared. The Mexican territory is divided into 70,782 sections, and if a person has changed their address but still lives in their section, it does not affect their ability to vote in the polling station that corresponds to them.

The improvement in accuracy is due to decreases in the percentage of unreported address changes, which registered a level of 15.9%. Most citizens who have yet to report their change of address still reside in the same municipality, so the polling place assigned to them on June 2 will be close to their homes, allowing them to vote for their respective elected positions.

Unreported Address Changes, 2006 - 2024



Source: Compiled by the authors based on information from the Report on the Results of the National Sample Verification. 2023-2024. Annex 05 of Agreement INE/CG454/2024.

For more information on the padrón and the definitive voters registry, see the Agreement declaring that the electoral roll and the voters registry to be used in the federal and local elections of June 2, 2024 are valid and definitive.

INE/CG454/2024 en:

<https://repositoriodocumental.ine.mx/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/169916/CGor202404-30-ap-3.pdf>

Last Glance

Changes in the Voter Registry for Residents Abroad

In recent weeks, the number of Mexicans living abroad who will be able to vote has varied according to figures provided by the National Electoral Institute (INE). We'd like to offer a summary of the facts and an editorial comment.

1. In its press release #105, the INE stated that "this Sunday, February 25, the registration period for Mexicans living abroad to participate with their vote in the 2024 elections closed, with 226,661 applications received." It specified that "these applications are subject to a period of verification until March 5 to ensure that they comply with the requirements established in the law."

2. On April 13, the INE published in its press release #213: "39,724 registrations were declared inappropriate as a result of an exhaustive and detailed review aimed at guaranteeing the total reliability of the electoral roll of voters abroad."

3. In its press release #245, dated April 30, 2024, INE noted that "the ordinary session of the General Council declared the validity and definitiveness of the Electoral Roll and the Nominal List of Voters."

4. On May 1, the INE announced in its press release #248 that "of the 39,724 persons who received a notification of non-inclusion in the nominal list of voters residing abroad, the Federal Electoral Registry has determined that, as of today, 24,787 persons will be reincluded in this list," adding that "Mexicans living abroad who have been excluded have until May 5 to make any clarification."

Comment:

The nominal lists were declared valid and final on April 30. However, until May 5, citizens who were excluded from the list of those eligible to vote abroad could make clarifications to their registration to be reinstated. A person's inclusion on that list implies their removal from the national list of resident voters. These changes will be made to lists that have already been declared final.

Since the beginning of voting abroad in 2006, there is no precedent for the INE (formerly the Federal Electoral Institute) changing the number of voters from abroad once the nominal list has been declared valid and definitive, except in case of particular rulings by the Electoral Tribunal.

Understanding the magnitude of the numbers is essential: the cases under review represent only 0.04% of the total nominal list, but 20% of Mexicans who requested to vote from abroad in 2024.

The constitutional principle of certainty, to which the INE is committed, was not fully respected in this matter.

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