

# MEXICO: June 6, 2021 Elections

Pre-Electoral Report  
by a  
High-Level Canada-US Observer Delegation



May 19, 2021



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I.</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>THE JUNE 6, 2021, ELECTIONS</b>	<b>10</b>
	1. A GENERAL OVERVIEW	13
	2. THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES	15
	3. THE STATE GOVERNORS AND STATE LEGISLATURES	16
	4. THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS	17
<b>IV.</b>	<b>THE ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>17</b>
	1. A GENERAL OVERVIEW	17
	2. THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE	18
	3. THE STATE-LEVEL ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES	21
	4. THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY	22
	5. THE SPECIALIZED PROSECUTOR FOR ELECTORAL CRIMES	24
<b>V.</b>	<b>THE ELECTORAL PROCESS</b>	<b>26</b>
	1. A GENERAL OVERVIEW	26
	2. ADMINISTERING ELECTIONS DURING COVID-19	27
	3. CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND OVERSIGHT	29
	4. OVERREPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS	30

5. GENDER PARITY	32
6. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION	33
7. COUNTERING MISINFORMATION AND FAKE NEWS	33
8. POLLING STATIONS AND POLLING STATION OFFICIALS	34
9. THE VOTES OF MEXICANS ABROAD	35
10. CYBERSECURITY OF THE ELECTIONS	37
<b>VI. APPENDIX 1</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>THE DELIAN PROJECT DELEGATION AGENDA</b>	<b>38</b>

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Delian Project is a Canadian nongovernmental organization (NGO) dedicated to improving the integrity of the vote count and to instilling public confidence in electoral democracy in jurisdictions throughout the world.

Given its reputation and its expertise in electoral democracy, the Delian Project was invited by Mexico's National Electoral Institute (Instituto Nacional Electoral, INE), along with other international organizations, to accompany and assess Mexico's June 6, 2021, elections.

To carry out its mission, the Delian Project assembled the following six-member electoral observation delegation comprising renowned Canadian and US election experts with decades of experience in administering and overseeing elections in their own countries and observing elections internationally. The delegation members have 60 years of cumulative experience observing federal and state-level elections in Mexico.

### **Jean-Pierre Kingsley**

Former Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Canada

### **John Hollins**

Former Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Ontario, Canada

### **Ann Ravel**

Former Chair of the US Federal Electoral Commission (FEC)

### **Richard W. Soudriette**

Founding President of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Washington, DC

### **Laura Villalba**

International elections observer and Senior Principal Consultant Politics & Policy, LLC

### **Armand Peschard-Sverdrup**

International elections observer and Senior Associate (nonresident), Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Washington, DC

The Delian Project and the delegation members participated in this mission voluntarily and at their own expense, from a commitment to uphold electoral democracy in Mexico.

Because of health concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the delegation conducted a series of virtual interviews during April 19–28, 2021, with officials from the National Electoral Institute (INE), the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary (Tribunal Electoral del Poder Judicial de la Federación, TEPJF), the Specialized Prosecutor for Electoral Crimes (Fiscalía Especializada para la Atención de Delitos Electorales, FEPADE), the electoral authorities from México State and Guerrero State, representatives of eight of the ten political parties, and prominent academics spanning a broad ideological spectrum (see Appendix 1 for the detailed list of meetings).

The Delian Project delegation was very well received by all the individuals with whom it met. Some expressed their appreciation, especially given the silence of the international community during some recent occurrences in Mexico that have threatened the democratic principles the nation's citizens have long fought to attain.

The delegation is extremely grateful to all the individuals who provided their candid assessments of the ongoing electoral process.

As part of its purview, the delegation has been accredited by the INE, as designated foreign visitors (*visitantes extranjero*) or special guests (*invitados especiales*) to attend and oversee the June 6, 2021, electoral process.

## II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Delian Project delegation conducted a wide range of virtual interviews with stakeholders and practitioners of Mexico’s electoral democracy. Data and insights garnered from those meetings inform the full report, herein.

While this summary is a thematic synopsis of the more salient aspects, the full report encompasses the delegation’s overall findings.

### The Scale of the Election

On June 6, 2021, Mexico’s National Electoral Institute (Instituto Nacional Electoral, INE) together with the Local Electoral Authorities (Organismo Publicos Locales Electorales, OPLE) will administer Mexico’s largest elections, encompassing votes cast throughout all 32 states and abroad. According to the INE’s voter registry, an estimated 94,900,827 registered voters will be eligible to cast their ballots for the following 21,368 elected offices:

500	Deputies comprising the federal Chamber of Deputies
15	Governors
1,063	State legislators in 30 states (all states with the exception of Coahuila and Quintana Roo)
1,923	Mayors and city council members in 30 states (all states with the exception of Durango and Hidalgo)
17,867	Local officials ( <i>síndicos</i> , <i>regidores</i> , municipal council members, and Mexico City borough presidents ( <i>alcaldes</i> ))

Candidates from Mexico’s 10 political parties as well as 646 independent candidates will vie for the 21,368 elected offices.

### The Institutional Capacity of Electoral Authorities

The delegation commends Mexico for the tremendous strides it has made in the past three decades to strengthen the autonomy and capacity of electoral authorities—both the National Electoral Institute (INE) and the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary (Tribunal Electoral

del Poder Judicial de la Federación, TEPJF).<sup>1</sup> This progress is the result of the hard work and often the sacrifices of countless Mexicans committed to the principles of electoral democracy.

It is therefore no surprise that the INE and the TEPJF are among the most respected institutions both in Mexico and among electoral authorities internationally.

In fact, political party representatives, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and academics conveyed to the delegation their utmost respect for the INE's autonomy, impartiality, and professionalism—a perception that is consistent with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía, INEGI) 2020 National Survey of Civic Culture (Encuesta Nacional de Cultura Cívica, ENCUCI).

## The Electoral Laws

Mexico is among a select list of countries that have undergone numerous reforms to strengthen the legal frameworks and institutions governing electoral democracy. Moreover, electoral laws have been improved through agreements and consensus among political parties, and in response to public demand and outcry.

The delegation acknowledges that Mexico has among the most comprehensive electoral laws, internationally, and supports its resolve to strengthen these laws even further.

## Natural Tensions between Electoral Authorities and Political Parties

The delegation recognizes that the objective of political parties is to win elected office and, once in office, to retain power for as long as possible. To such purpose, political parties push electoral laws to their limits, and, on occasion, violate them. This creates a natural tension with electoral authorities, who are mandated to apply electoral laws to ensure free and fair elections and, more importantly, uphold the will of the people.

The delegation also recognizes that conventionally, governments, at all levels, stay above electoral politics—a convention that has been increasingly flouted in electoral democracies, as governments attempt to discredit electoral laws and electoral institutions to serve their own partisan interests. Mexico's National Electoral Institute has not escaped such

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<sup>1</sup> Including the INE's predecessor, the Federal Electoral Institute (Instituto Federal Electoral, IFE).

government transgression during the 2021 electoral process, as the federal government has tried to secure its own advantage in the upcoming elections and create the conditions to allege fraud if the results do not favour it and the MORENA bloc .

The protection of electoral democracy is therefore the shared responsibility of political parties, the media, governments, civil society, and every single citizen.

## Budget Cuts

During interviews, all Mexican electoral authorities reported they had experienced budget cuts in the run-up to the June 6, 2021, elections. While these cuts may well be attributed to the overall contraction governments must undertake to temper the large fiscal deficits of the COVID economy, in a highly politically polarized environment, doubts are raised as to whether the budget cuts are politically motivated and, hence, being used as a political lever.

The delegation was informed that 12 OPLEs have experienced financial distress. With less than 30 days before the election, there are concerns that this could conceivably threaten the integrity of the electoral process at the state and municipal levels.

## COVID-19

Mexico's National Electoral Institute (INE) is not the first electoral authority to administer elections at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic; several other countries throughout the world have done so during this fraught period.

The delegation recognizes that the INE has drawn from those parallel experiences to formulate sanitary protocols that guarantee the political rights of citizens and candidates, while also mitigating the spread of COVID-19. An early and positive indicator in the electoral process has been citizens' enthusiasm to serve as officials in the 163,000 polling stations across the country.

## Political Violence

The delegation is concerned over the rising trend of political violence in Mexico, resulting in the assassination of political candidates and elected leaders seeking reelection. This phenomenon—which at this juncture is more prevalent at municipal and state levels—is due to a series of factors, including the following:

- Growing transactional nature of political candidacies (*la compra de candidaturas*) and the special interests behind said transactions
- Increased incursion of cartels in Mexican elections
- Absence of government control in certain parts of the country

This dynamic of political violence in Mexico is comparable to what is experienced in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Colombia, for example.

## Illicit Campaign Finance

Private donations to political parties and candidates cannot exceed 10 percent of the spending limits specified for any elected office. Moreover, all private donations must be made through the banks via check, deposit, or bank transfer. Cash donations are forbidden, as are donations in precious metals/stones or in kind. Many electoral authorities and political party representatives interviewed by the delegation expressed concern that illicit cash donations to candidates far exceeded the private donation limits.

## Gender Parity

The delegation recognizes that Mexico is one of the most progressive nations in terms of legislating the increased participation of women in elected offices. We commend the Chamber of Deputies for the passage of widespread gender parity reforms, and the INE for its commitment to ensure that 50 percent of all candidacies are women in the 2021 elections, including 7 female candidates in the 15 gubernatorial elections.

## Misinformation and Fake News

The increasing use of social media to disseminate misinformation and “fake news” pertaining to the electoral institutions, the electoral process, and the candidates for elected office is a relatively new but growing risk for elections around the world. This risk is attributed largely to the fact that governments everywhere have been slow to regulate social media platforms. Mexico is no exception.

To counter misinformation and fake news, the delegation recognizes that the INE has reached collaborative agreements with various social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok, to prevent posting of fake news, and posting instead factual electoral content.

The delegation also recognizes that the INE will implement its informational and news verification program known as Certeza # 2021, which builds on the success of Certeza # 2018, which was used during the previous election.

## Cybersecurity of the Elections

The INE is the target of about 500,000 cyberattacks every month. Most of these originate from servers located in Mexico. To prevent cyberattacks from impacting the electoral process, the INE has undertaken the following measures:

- 1) Strengthening the capacity of its information technology (IT) security division.
- 2) Contracting a specialized private company, Scitum, to protect the INE network against hackers who wish to penetrate INE "firewalls," either through external attacks or via "backdoors" using INE computers.
- 3) Utilizing more than 30 independent broadcasters/servers to disseminate the election results projected by the INE onto the Internet. This is a higher number than in the 2018 presidential elections, when it used 11, and in the 2015 midterm elections—to elect the Chamber of Deputies—when the INE used 9 broadcasters.

### III. THE JUNE 6, 2021, ELECTIONS

#### 1. A General Overview

On June 6, 2021, Mexico’s National Electoral Institute (INE) together with the Local Electoral Authorities (Organismo Publicos Locales Electorales, OPLE) will administer Mexico’s largest elections, encompassing votes cast throughout all 32 states and abroad, for 21,368 elected offices.

According to the INE’s voter registry, an estimated 94,900,827 registered voters will be eligible to cast their ballots for the following elected offices:

500	Deputies comprising the federal Chamber of Deputies
15	Governors
1,063	State legislators in 30 states (all states with the exception of Coahuila and Quintana Roo)
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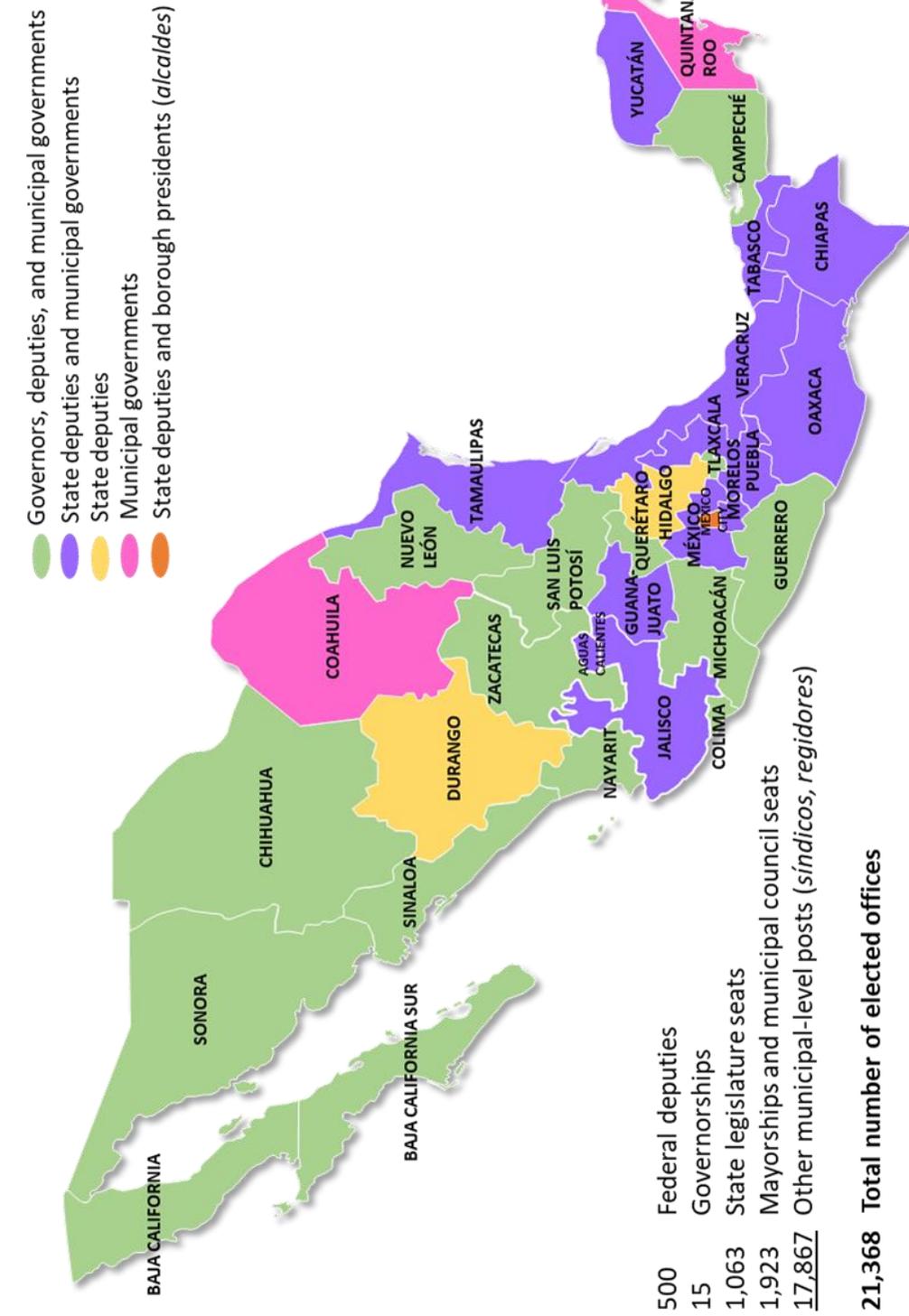
Table 1 and Map 1 provide a breakdown of the elections being held in each state.

**TABLE 1**  
**STATE ELECTIONS, JUNE 6, 2021**

State	Governor	State Legislature	Mayor/ Municipal President
Baja CA	✓	✓	✓
Baja CA Sur	✓	✓	✓
Campeche	✓	✓	✓
Chiapas		✓	✓
Chihuahua	✓	✓	✓
Coahuila			✓
Colima	✓	✓	✓
Durango		✓	
Guanajuato		✓	✓
Guerrero	✓	✓	✓
Hidalgo		✓	
Jalisco		✓	✓
Mexico City		✓	✓
Mexico State		✓	✓
Michoacán	✓	✓	✓
Morelos		✓	✓
Nayarit	✓	✓	✓
Nuevo León	✓	✓	✓
Oaxaca		✓	✓
Puebla		✓	✓
Querétaro	✓	✓	✓
Quintana Roo			✓
San Luis Potosí	✓	✓	✓
Sinaloa	✓	✓	✓
Sonora	✓	✓	✓
Tabasco		✓	✓
Tamaulipas		✓	✓
Tlaxcala	✓	✓	✓
Veracruz		✓	✓
Yucatán		✓	✓
Zacatecas	✓	✓	✓

Source: Created by the Delian Project with information from the National Electoral

## MAP 1. ELECTED OFFICES IN THE JUNE 6, 2021, ELECTIONS



Institute (INE), May 2021.

Source: Created by the Delian Project with information from the National Electoral Institute (INE), May 2021.

Candidates from Mexico's 10 political parties as well as 646 independent candidates—548 men and 98 women—will vie for 21,368 elected offices in the June 6, 2021, elections.

Table 2 below lists the 10 political parties competing in the upcoming elections.

**TABLE 2**  
**POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE 2021 ELECTIONS (AND THEIR YEAR OF FOUNDATION)**

1	Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) <i>Partido Revolucionario Institucional (1929)</i>	6	Citizens' Movement (MC) <sup>1</sup> <i>Movimiento Ciudadano (2011)</i>
2	National Action Party (PAN) <i>Partido Acción Nacional (1938)</i>	7	National Regeneration Movement (MORENA) <i>Movimiento de Regeneración Nacional (2014)</i>
3	The Ecological Green Party of Mexico (PVEM) <i>Partido Verde Ecologista de México (1986)</i>	8	Solidarity Encounter Party (PES) <sup>2</sup> <i>Partido Encuentro Solidario (2020)</i>
4	Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) <i>Partido de la Revolución Democrática (1989)</i>	9	Progressive Social Networks (RSP) <i>Redes Sociales Progresistas (2020)</i>
5	Labour Party (PT) <i>Partido del Trabajo (1993)</i>	10	Social Force for Mexico (FSM) <i>Fuerza Social por México (2020)</i>

Source: Created by the Delian Project with information from the National Electoral Institute (INE), April 2021.

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> The Convergence Party, founded in 1999, was transformed into the Citizens' Movement in 2011.

<sup>2</sup> The Social Encounter Party (Partido Encuentro Social), founded in 2006, lost its party registration in 2018, and reemerged as the Solidarity Encounter Party (Partido Encuentro Solidario) in 2020.

## 2. The Chamber of Deputies

Of the Chamber of Deputies' 500 seats, 300 are elected by relative majority or first-past-the-post electoral system, while the remaining 200 seats are elected by proportional representation from party lists for the five electoral regions (known in Mexico as *circunscripciones*) with 40 deputies per electoral region.

This is the first midterm election in which all 500 deputies—who enjoy three-year terms—will be eligible to seek reelection for three additional consecutive terms, as per the electoral

reform of 2014, which created nine-year term limits.<sup>2</sup> According to INE figures, 436 deputies have expressed interest in seeking reelection, leaving only 64 seats not contested by incumbents.

Of the ten political parties competing in these elections, the following six have opted to form two separate electoral coalitions in pursuit of congressional seats.

The “Va por México” coalition comprises the National Action Party (Partido Acción Nacional, PAN), the Institutional Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Institucional, PRI), and the Party of the Democratic Revolution (Partido de la Revolución Democrática, PRD). This coalition will run joint candidates for 171 of the 300 seats that are elected by relative majority.

The “Juntos Haremos Historia” coalition comprises the ruling National Regeneration Movement (Movimiento de Regeneración Nacional, MORENA), along with the Labor Party (Partido del Trabajo, PT), and the Ecological Green Party of Mexico (Partido Verde Ecologista de México, PVEM). This coalition will run joint candidates in 151 of the 300 seats elected by relative majority.

The Citizens’ Movement (Movimiento Ciudadano, MC), which is the only other party eligible to form a coalition, opted to compete on its own in these elections.

The remaining three political parties—Solidarity Encounter Party (Partido Encuentro Solidario, PES), Progressive Social Networks (Redes Sociales Progresistas, RSP), and Social Force for Mexico (Fuerza Social por México, FSM)—are newly registered parties, which are barred in their first year after registration from joining an electoral coalition in a federal or state-level election.<sup>3</sup>

Should any of these congressional elections face legal challenges, the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary (TEPJF) will have to complete the adjudication process in advance of September 1, 2021, when the Chamber of Deputies commences its Ordinary Session.

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<sup>2</sup>. Mexican Constitution, Article 41 V, Section A.

<sup>3</sup>. General Law of Political Parties, Article 85, Section 5.

### 3. The State Governors and State Legislatures

Voters in 15 of Mexico's 32 states will cast their ballots on June 6, 2021, to elect governors for six-year terms, as illustrated in Table 1 and Map 1 above.

Of the fifteen incumbent governors concluding their terms, eight are from the PRI, four are from the PAN, one is from the PRD, one is from MORENA, and one is an Independent, as shown in Table 3 below.

**TABLE 3**  
**THE PARTISAN AFFILIATIONS OF THE FIFTEEN OUTGOING GOVERNORS**

	State	Party
1	Baja California	MORENA
2	Baja California Sur	PAN
3	Campeche	PRI
4	Chihuahua	PAN
5	Colima	PRI
6	Guerrero	PRI
7	Michoacán	PRD
8	Nayarit	PAN
9	Nuevo León	IND
10	Queretaro	PAN
11	San Luis Potosí	PRI
12	Sinaloa	PRI
13	Sonora	PRI
14	Tlaxcala	PRI
15	Zacatecas	PRI

*Source:* The Delian Project, April 2021.

*Notes:* MORENA = Movimiento de Regeneración Nacional (National Regeneration Movement); PAN = Partido Acción Nacional (National Action Party); PRI = Partido Revolucionario Institucional (Institutional Revolutionary Party); PRD = Partido de la Revolución Democrática (Party of the Democratic Revolution); IND = Independent.

The INE is planning to conduct a quick count for the 15 elections for governor, so it can announce those results by 11 p.m. election night. This is not an uncommon practice; the INE also conducted quick counts in the 2013 and 2015 gubernatorial elections.

## 4. The Municipal Governments

Mexico has a total of 2,460 municipalities—that total includes the 16 boroughs (*alcaldías*) within Mexico City. On June 6, 2021, voters will cast their ballots for the following elected positions: (1) 16 Mexico City borough presidents (*alcaldes*), (2) municipal presidents/mayors (*presidentes municipales*), (3) commissioners (*regidores*), and (4) attorney generals (*síndicos*).

While these elections usually do not attract much national or international attention, this is the level of government that tends to have the most impact on local citizens, particularly since the municipal presidents elect the local police chiefs and carry out many of the public works projects that can impact the quality of life of local residents.

## IV. THE ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS

### 1. A General Overview

The constitutional reform of 2014 transformed the Federal Electoral Institute (Instituto Federal Electoral, IFE) into the present-day National Electoral Institute (INE).

That reform also expanded the INE's mandate, from administering only federal elections (for the president, Senate, and Chamber of Deputies) to overseeing as well the state and municipal elections administered by the 32 state-level electoral authorities, in what has been described as a “hybrid” system. The purpose of that expanded mandate was to extend to state-level electoral authorities the processes and credibility the IFE—and now the INE—had developed over the years.

These 32 state-level or Local Electoral Authorities, referred to in the Mexican Constitution as “local public electoral authorities” (Organismos Públicos Locales Electorales, OPLE), receive their financing through their respective state legislatures, rather than through the budgetary allocations the INE receives from the Chamber of Deputies.

Article 41 of the Constitution separates the powers between the INE and the OPLE; numerous articles of the General Law of Electoral Institutions and Procedures (Ley General de Instituciones y Procedimientos Electorales, LGIPE) delineate the responsibilities of each.<sup>4</sup>

The INE is financed through an allocation from the fiscal year budget, which is approved by the federal Chamber of Deputies. Conversely, the OPLE are financed through the fiscal year budget approved by each respective state legislature.

While the INE General Council has some jurisdiction over the OPLE, it does not exercise complete control over them. The INE councillors only have the authority to elect or remove the president councillor or electoral councillors of the OPLE in each of the 32 states (Articles 32.2b and 44).

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<sup>4</sup>Articles 1, 4, 5, 27, 30, 32, 44, 60, 62, and 98–119 of the General Law of Electoral Institutions and Procedures.

This hybrid system is misleading, for it creates the perception that the INE is entirely responsible for the administration of state and municipal elections, although in reality it is not.

Therefore, should any irregularities arise in state or municipal elections, the INE would most likely bear the political and reputational cost, rather than the OPLE or the Mexican legislators who voted in favor of this hybrid system.

### *Budget Cutbacks*

During our delegation's interviews, all Mexican electoral authorities reported they had experienced budget cuts in the run-up to the June 6, 2021, elections. While these cuts may well be attributed to the overall contraction governments must undertake to temper the large fiscal deficits of the COVID economy, in a highly polarized environment, questions are raised as to whether the budget cuts are, more likely, being used as a political lever.

This is the first time the INE has experienced a budget cut, forcing it to reduce its in-the-field personnel by 5 percent, from 41,008 to 38,767. Nonetheless, the INE remains confident it will be able to deliver a reliable election.

The budget cuts have impacted not just the INE but the Local Electoral Authorities (OPLE) as well. This is significant since the OPLE are responsible for various facets of the electoral process in their respective states, as outlined in a following subsection regarding the OPLE.

The delegation was informed that 12 OPLEs have experienced financial distress. With fewer than 30 days before the election, there are concerns that this situation could conceivably threaten the integrity of the electoral process at the state and municipal levels.

## 2. The National Electoral Institute

The National Electoral Institute (INE) is one of the most respected electoral authorities in the world. Its autonomy, political neutrality, and professionalism are recognized by peer electoral authorities worldwide.

**TABLE 4**  
**NATIONAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE PRESIDENT AND COUNCILLORS AND THEIR TERM PERIODS**

	Councillors	Start of term	End of term
1	Lorenzo Córdova Vianello (President)	2014	2023
2	Adriana M. Favela Herrera	2014	2023
3	Ciro Murayama Rendón	2014	2023
4	José Roberto Ruiz Saldaña	2014	2023
5	Beatriz C. Zavala Pérez	2017	2026
6	Dania P. Ravel Cuevas	2017	2026
7	Jaime Rivera Velázquez	2017	2026
8	Uuc-Kib Espadas Ancona	2020	2029
9	Carla Astrid Humphrey Jordan	2020	2029
10	Norma Irene de la Cruz Magaña	2020	2029
11	José Martín Fernando Faz Mora	2020	2029

*Source:* INE, May 9, 2021.

As mandated in Article 41 V, Section A, of the Constitution, the INE is composed of one president councillor and ten other councillors, who are elected by a two-thirds vote of the Chamber of Deputies for nine-year terms without the possibility of being reelected. The 10 councillors are assigned to any of the 10 permanent commissions or any of the 6 temporary commissions.

The work of the president and 10 councillors is supported by 17,000 professional civil service employees and complemented by an additional 60,000 temporary workers who are contracted during election cycles to help administer the elections.

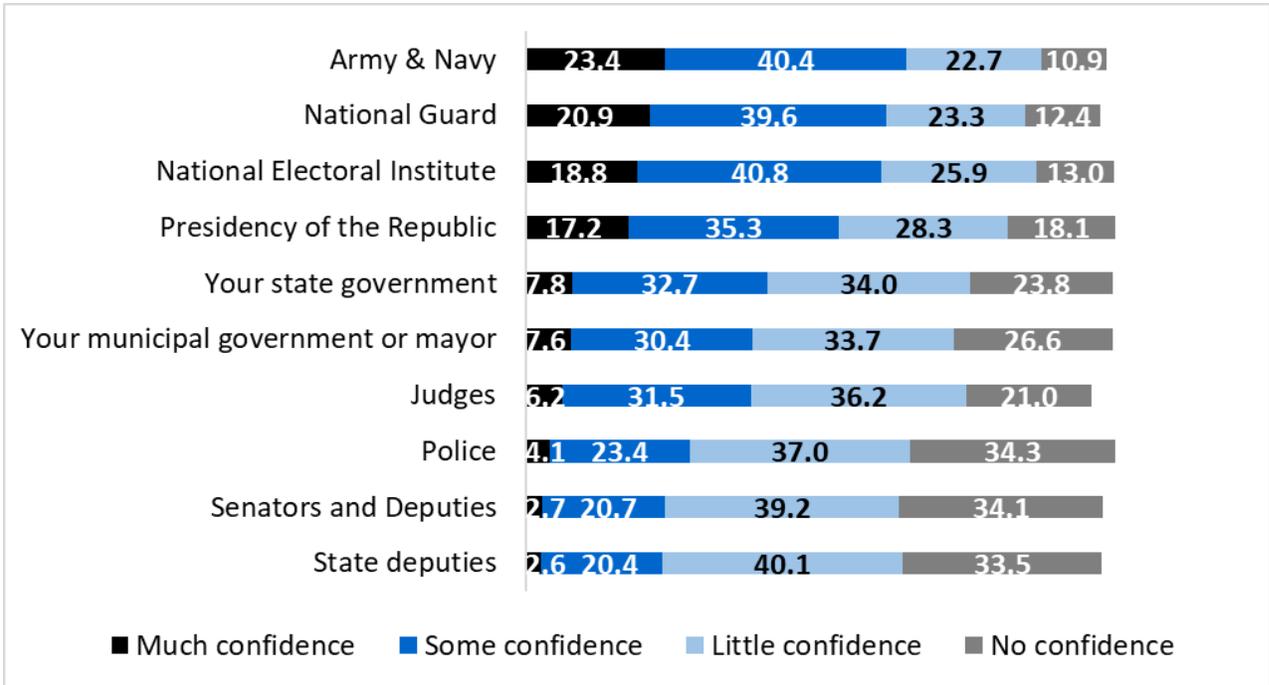
The INE's autonomy is derived from the fact that its president and councillors are selected by two-thirds of the elected members of the federal Chamber of Deputies, who represent their

respective constituents, and, moreover, that they are appointed in a staggered fashion, as illustrated in Table 4.

Moreover, its electoral processes it oversees have withstood the test of time: All poll workers are selected through a draw and trained by the INE. All political parties are permitted to appoint delegates at each polling station to oversee the electoral process. The voter registry (*padron*) contains the name, address, photograph, biometrics (fingerprints), and a unique alphanumeric code for each elector, as does the corresponding list at each poll, for control purposes. Electors in Mexico can only vote in person and on voting day itself, with voter registry cutoff before Election Day.

According to the 2020 National Survey of Civic Culture (Encuesta Nacional de Cultura Cívica, ENCUCI), which was conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía, INEGI)—the equivalent of the US Census Bureau or Statistics Canada—the INE is the third-most trusted institution, after the Army and Navy, and the National Guard, as illustrated in Figure 1.

**FIGURE 1**  
**2020 NATIONAL SURVEY OF CIVIC CULTURE: CONFIDENCE IN INSTITUTIONS, 2020**



Source: National Institute of Statistic and Geography (INEGI), National Survey of Civic Culture (ENCUCI), March 21, 2020.

Aside from its responsibilities in administering federal elections and overseeing the administration of state and municipal elections, the INE also has the authority to investigate any violations of the electoral law and prepare case files for submission to the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary (TEPJF). As part of its mandate to investigate electoral law violations, the INE may impose precautionary measures (*medidas cautelares*), as well as suspend or cancel radio and television transmission (Mexican Constitution, Article 41, Section III, D).

Insofar as coordination of the electoral process with the 32 state-level Local Electoral Authorities (Organismos Públicos Locales Electorales, OPLE) to ensure their observance of pertinent electoral laws, the INE relies on the following two organizational structures:

- The Technical Unit for Liaison (La Unidad Técnica de Vinculación) with OPLE, which is assigned to the INE's Executive Secretary; and
- The Liaison Commission (Comisión de Vinculación), which works on a permanent basis, comprises eight electoral councillors selected by the INE General Council to serve three-year terms, and has an annually rotating chairmanship.

### 3. The State-Level Electoral Authorities

According to the Constitution, the OPLE are autonomous bodies with independent decision-making authority (Article 98). Each one comprises one president councillor and six other councillors, all of whom serve seven-year terms (Article 99). They are selected through a rigorous process overseen by the INE's General Council.

The budgets for each of the 32 OPLE are approved by each state legislature's fiscal year appropriations (Article 100).

OPLE responsibilities include the following:

- Guarantee timely disbursement of public financing to political parties and independent candidates
- Carry out necessary activities in preparation for election days
- Print electoral materials

- Tabulate total vote count of the elections in the state
- Implement and operate the Preliminary Election Results Program (Programa de Resultados Electorales Preliminares, PREP) in accordance with INE guidelines
- Organize, develop, and carry out the vote count and declare the results, as per state law

## 4. The Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary

The Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary (Tribunal Electoral del Poder Judicial de la Federación, TEPJF) is—as indicated in its official title—part of the judiciary. As a result, the president of the TEPJF submits the tribunal’s proposed annual budget to the Supreme Court chief justice to include in the proposed fiscal year budget for the judiciary.

From a budgetary standpoint, the TEPJF—like all other electoral institutions—experienced a FY2021 cut of 20 percent, compared to its 2018 budget.

The TEPJF is the highest court in Mexico for all electoral matters, and, as such, its rulings are definitive and unappealable. The TEPJF is also responsible for ruling on disputes related to the popular consultation for the revocation of mandate (Article 41, Section VI; and Article 99).

The Superior Chamber of the TEPJF comprises seven magistrates who serve nine-year terms, as illustrated in Table 5. The president of the Superior Chamber of the TEPJF is selected by his peers to serve a four-year term, out of the nine-year term.

**TABLE 5**  
**COMPOSITION OF THE SUPERIOR CHAMBER OF THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY**

	Magistrates	Start of term	End of term
1	José Luis Vargas Valdez (President)	2016	2025
2	Felipe Alfredo Fuentes Barrera	2016	2025
3	Indalfer Infante Gonzáles	2016	2025
4	Felipe de la Mata Pizaña	2016	2025
5	Janine M. Otálora Malassis	2016	2025
6	Reyes Rodríguez Mondragón	2016	2025
7	Mónica Aralí Soto Fregoso	2016	2025

*Source: Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary (TEPJF), May 8, 2021.*

The TEPJF comprises a Superior Chamber (Sala Superior) that is in permanent session, along with five regional chambers and one specialized chamber. In total the TEPJF has about 1,800 employees.

The five regional chambers cover distinct states, while the specialized chamber focuses on violations to laws that regulate the following: (1) access to radio and television by the parties and candidates; (2) the impartial application of public monies; (3) the propaganda of government entities and electoral propaganda; and (4) precampaign and campaign events. The magistrates of the five regional chambers and the one specialized chamber serve nine-year terms.

The Superior Chamber can either adjudicate cases that are under the five regional and one specialized chamber or assign cases to those chambers.

In the run-up to the June 6, 2021, elections, the TEPJF has had to adjudicate several disputes within and between political parties pertaining to (1) gender parity in the nomination of party candidates; (2) the protection of minority rights (i.e., of indigenous peoples); and (3) the use of technologies, such as radio, television, and social media.

The TEPJF had to rule on several decisions taken by the INE concerning the eligibility of candidacies, displeasing the federal government and consequently pitting it against both electoral institutions in open conflict.

As of April 27, 2021, the TEPJF reported having adjudicated the following cases:

- 1,103 cases regarding candidates
- 722 cases regarding the electoral process
- 311 cases regarding electoral authorities
- 251 cases regarding independent candidates
- 172 Cases regarding customs and habits (*usos y costumbres*)

Some cases involving electoral authorities relate to OPLE complaints on budget cutbacks.

The TEPJF estimates that it may have to adjudicate between 25,000 and 33,000 cases related to the June 6, 2021, elections. As of May 11, 2021, the TEPJF had already received 6,000 election-related complaints. The number of cases the TEPJF had to adjudicate in 2018, and so far in 2021, reveal just how litigious Mexican elections have become.

One of the challenges conveyed to the delegation was the difficulty of adjudicating cases virtually because of COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. However, the delegation was also apprised that to manage proceedings online, electronic signatures are now permitted, as long as they are validated by the TEPJF. One virtue of this latest innovation is that it will allow Mexicans to file complaints before the TEPJF, regardless of where they reside in Mexico or abroad, without having to appear in person before any of the TEPJF chambers.

## 5. The Specialized Prosecutor for Electoral Crimes

According to Article 102, Section A. VI of the Constitution, the Attorney General of the Republic (Fiscal General de la República) can have, at least, two specialized prosecutors: one for electoral crimes and one to fight corruption. The specialized prosecutors are appointed and removed by the Attorney General of the Republic. The appointment and removal of specialized prosecutors may also be subject to a two-thirds vote of senators in attendance, within a period established by law. If the Senate does not vote within this period, it is understood as having no objection.

The Specialized Prosecutor for Electoral Crimes (Fiscalía Especializada para la Atención, FEPADE) has received very few and mostly anonymous complaints since September 1, 2020. According to FEPADE, it has registered some 400 complaints related to the June 6, 2021, elections, but has discarded 100 of these due to lack of evidence and will likely discard an additional 100 on the same grounds.

From a thematic standpoint, the FEPADE noted that about half of the complaints it had received pertained to changes in the voter registration list, and the other half to the misuse of social programs for electoral purposes.

The FEPADE also remarked that many of the electoral complaints that had been filed were actually accusations lodged against the political opposition.

During a virtual meeting with the delegation, the head of the FEPADE expressed overall confidence in the INE's impartiality and professionalism.

However, the head of the FEPADE did express concern about state governments' undue influence on the OPLE, and cautioned that electoral crimes may be committed in 5 of the 15 states electing governors, although it did not specify which 5 states. The head of the FEPADE did remark that it would be deploying representatives to all 32 states on Election Day to attend to any complaints of electoral crimes.

The head of the FEPADE concluded that it anticipated submitting an electoral crimes report to the Office of the President sometime around May 15, 2021.

## V. THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

### 1. A General Overview

The Delian Project delegation was pleased to learn that many of the procedural concerns of political parties at different stages in Mexico's democratic electoral history have been resolved.

The delegation acknowledges that during the past three decades, the Chamber of Deputies, the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE)—the INE's predecessor—and now the INE have made considerable strides in improving the transparency and integrity of the federal electoral process, and to a lesser extent, of the state and municipal-level electoral processes as well.

During the many virtual meetings with stakeholders of Mexican electoral democracy, delegation members were satisfied about the integrity of the following:

- Geographical configuration of electoral districts
- Accuracy of voter registration lists (*padron o lista de electores*)
- Regulation of electoral opinion polls
- Security and printing of ballots and other election materials
- Location of polling stations
- Random selection of polling station officials
- COVID-19 mitigation protocols for polling stations
- Security/integrity of preliminary results
- Vote tabulation process
- Election results reporting

## 2. Administering Elections during COVID-19

Mexico's National Electoral Institute (INE) is not alone in administering elections at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic; several other countries across the Western Hemisphere have also staged elections during this fraught period.

In Mexico, the INE was originally scheduled to hold state-level legislative elections in the northern state of Coahuila and municipal-level elections in the central state of Hidalgo on June 7, 2020, but decided to reschedule to October 18, 2020, due to concerns over COVID-19.

These two elections proceeded in adherence to the following sanitary protocols, mandated by the INE in July 2020:

- Sanitize the polling stations before and periodically during the election process
- Ensure that the setup of the polling stations provide social distancing of 1.5 meters (5 feet)
- Keep doors and windows open, if possible, to allow for ventilation
- Limit to two, the number of voters inside the polling stations at one time
- Mandate mask-wearing to enter polling stations and while in the polling station; recommend wearing of a face shield
- if a voter shows up without a mask, one will be provided. If the voter refuses to wear a mask, he or she will be prohibited from entering the polling station
- Cover mouth and nose with arm or handkerchief when coughing or sneezing
- Allow voters to bring their own pens to mark their ballots
- Disseminate election results through the Preliminary Election Results Program (PREP), to reduce the number of people congregating at polling stations during the vote count
- Wash hands, apply sanitizer, and disinfect clothing when voters exit
- Throw all masks, wipes, and other potentially hazardous materials in a provided plastic bag

Notwithstanding the mandated sanitary protocols for the Coahuila and Hidalgo elections, the delegation was told that many voters were noncompliant.

Voter turnout in the Coahuila elections was 39.44 percent; in the Hidalgo elections, it was 53.21 percent.

Even though the INE is confident that the Coahuila and Hidalgo elections served as a successful trial run for the June 6, 2021, elections, these two elections totaled roughly five million registered voters. The challenges of administering the June 6, 2021, elections, which have 19 times the number of registered voters, totaling 94,900,827, are of a different order of magnitude.

Concerns over the potential impact of COVID-19 on the upcoming June elections persist. Particularly, since Mexico, with 214,095 fatalities, has registered the third-highest total number of COVID-19–related deaths in the world, behind the United States (564,941) and Brazil (383,502), as of April 24, 2021.

On February 21, 2021, the INE issued its COVID-19 sanitary protocols for the June 6, 2021, elections, which built on the 2020 protocols and adjusted to the latest epidemiological information regarding COVID-19. Then on March 25, 2021, the INE General Council issued an ordinance mandating the use of masks.<sup>5</sup> The INE also decided to lower the age of polling station officials to under 65 years.

Although the INE did explore the possibility of prioritizing the vaccination of polling station officials with the Ministry of Health, the ministry did not support this idea under the argument that it would undermine the roll-out of the vaccination plan that was already in place.

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<sup>5</sup>. INE Agreement INE/CG323/2021 passed on March 25, 2021.

### 3. Campaign Finance and Oversight

In Mexico political parties and independent candidates receive public funding for their campaigns, in addition to private donations.<sup>6</sup> The INE's Technical Audit Unit (Unidad Técnica de Fiscalización), which falls under the Audit Commission (Comisión de Fiscalización), is responsible for regulating, overseeing, and auditing the expenditure of public and private monies by the political parties and candidates.

#### *Public Financing*

In the June 6, 2021, election, the INE will disburse Mex\$7,226,003,636 of public monies—99.6 percent to political parties and 0.4 percent to independent candidates. Some political party representatives complained to the delegation that the elections are too expensive and that taxpayer monies should not finance political parties and elections.

Some smaller party representatives also complained that campaign expenditure reporting requirements were exhaustive and complicated and that compliance was difficult while campaigning in rural areas, where hotels and restaurants do not accept credit cards or issue receipts.

These smaller party representatives remarked that the INE should help political parties—particularly newly created ones—to better understand campaign finance oversight requirements so they can be in full compliance.

While this may be an area where the INE can improve, it is also up to the political parties to read corresponding laws and regulations to ensure compliance.

The observation delegation was struck by the level of inaccurate information provided by some political parties regarding campaign finance, thus revealing that some party representatives were ill-informed on corresponding electoral laws and regulations.

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<sup>6</sup>. Article 398 of the General Law of Electoral Institutions and Procedures (Ley General de Instituciones y Procedimientos Electorales, LGIPE).

## Private Donations

Private donations to political parties and candidates cannot exceed 10 percent of the spending limits specified for any elected office.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, all private donations must be made through the banks via check, deposit, or bank transfer.<sup>8</sup> Cash donations are forbidden, as are donations in precious metals/stones or in kind.<sup>9</sup>

Many electoral authorities and political party representatives interviewed by the delegation expressed concern that the illicit cash donations to candidates far exceeded the private donation limits.

A 2019 study estimated that illicit cash donations for contested gubernatorial elections can be 11 times the official private donation limit. This same study also estimated that for every peso that a political party officially reported, 15 pesos went unreported.

Some party representatives complained that the private campaign donation limits or caps were too low, and thus responsible for the extraordinary levels of illicit donations.

While there may be some theoretical merit to this argument, the reality is that raising the caps would not prevent the injection of illicit cash donations into the campaigns, because it is difficult to identify its origin.

## 4. Overrepresentation in Congress

To prevent overrepresentation in Congress by a single party, the General Law of Electoral Institutions and Procedures mandates the following limitations:

- Political parties may not simultaneously register in the same electoral process, more than six candidates for senator, by relative majority and by proportional representation (Article 11.3).

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<sup>7</sup>. Article 399 of the General Law of Electoral Institutions and Procedures.

<sup>8</sup>. Article 376 of the General Law of Electoral Institutions and Procedures.

<sup>9</sup>. Articles 400 and 401 of the General Law of Electoral Institutions and Procedures.

- No political party may have more than 300 deputies—under the combined relative majority and proportional representation systems—that represent a percentage of the total of the chamber that exceeds by eight points its percentage of the national vote cast. This base will not apply to the political party that, due to its triumphs in single-member districts, obtains a percentage of seats of the total house, greater than the sum of the percentage of its national vote cast, plus 8 percent (Article 15.3).

Due to mounting complaints that the principle of inhibiting overrepresentation was being violated, the INE General Council issued new guidelines on March 19, 2021, to compel political parties to abide by the law pertaining to the prevention of overrepresentation.

Under the new guidelines, the INE would verify the actual partisan affiliation of the candidates elected under relative majority. The actual partisan affiliation would be based on the candidate's political party registration. In those instances where a winning candidate is not registered to a political party, the terms of the coalition agreement would apply. In those instances where a candidate is seeking reelection, his or her candidacy would be attributed to the political party under which he or she was originally elected.

On April 27, 2021, the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary (TEPJF) voted unanimously in favour of the INE General Council guidelines to prevent overrepresentation, noting that the distortion in congressional representation had occurred in the 2012, 2015, and 2018 elections, due to coalition agreements. Because of such distortion, a political party in the Chamber of Deputies has over-representation of 15.7 percent, well above the 8.0 percent the Constitution allows.

The federal government and the MORENA Party reacted very negatively to the INE guidelines and the subsequent TEPJF ruling ratifying said guidelines, further contributing to the already present tensions with the electoral authorities.

It is worth noting that concerns regarding overrepresentation in Congress were relayed to the delegation during several virtual meetings.

## 5. Gender Parity

Mexico is one of the most progressive nations in terms of legislating the increased participation of women in elected offices.

The constitutional reform of 2011 mandated political parties nominate a ratio of 60/40—60 percent men and 40 percent women candidates for all elected positions.

Constitutional articles pertaining to gender underwent two additional reforms: one on February 2, 2014, and another on June 6, 2019. The 2014 reform mandated a 50/50 gender ratio for candidates seeking to be elected as federal and state deputies. The June 6, 2019, reform went further by mandating “gender parity in everything” (*paridad en todo*), for example, in cabinet appointments at the federal and state levels (Article 41), among party candidacies for all elected offices—federal, state, and municipal (Article 41.1)—and in the judiciary (Article 94 and 100).

As a result of these reforms, political parties had to nominate women candidates for 7 of the 15 governorships that are being contested in the June 6, 2021, elections. Although Mexico has had a total of nine female governors from various political parties from 1979 to date, the reform mandates equal representation among all 32 states.

To oversee the successful implementation of the gender parity provisions of the Constitution, the INE created the Gender Equality and Nondiscrimination Unit. Moreover, Article 232 of the General Law of Electoral Institutions and Procedures grants the INE and the OPLE the authority to reject the registration of the number of candidacies of a gender that exceeds parity, and grants said party(ies) a nonextendable term for the substitution of the same ones.

With the increase in the number of women running for political office, there has been a parallel rise in political violence, including murders, against female candidates. However, this violence is also part of an upward trend in political violence in Mexico as a whole. This phenomenon is due to the growing transactional nature of political candidacies and the special interests behind them, particularly at the municipal and state levels—a dynamic that is also present in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Colombia, for example.

## 6. Affirmative Action

In compliance with the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary (TEPJF) Ruling SUP-RAP-121/2020 and subsequent related rulings, the INE modified its criteria for the registration of candidacies for the Chamber of Deputies—both by relative majority and by proportional representation—through Agreement INE/CG18/2021. The agreement approved certain quotas for specific segments of the population, as shown in Table 6.

**TABLE 6**  
**QUOTAS FOR REGISTRATION OF CANDIDACIES FOR THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES**

Segment of the population	Chamber of Deputies	
	Relative majority	Proportional representation
<b>Indigenous people</b>	21	9
<b>Disabled people</b>	6	3
<b>Afro-Mexican people</b>	3	1
<b>People of diverse sexuality</b>	2	1

Source: INE, April 2021.

## 7. Countering Misinformation and Fake News

The increasing use of social media to disseminate misinformation and “fake news” pertaining to the electoral institutions, the electoral process, and candidates for elected office is a relatively new but growing risk for elections across the world. This risk is attributed largely to the fact that governments everywhere have been slow to regulate social media platforms. Mexico is no exception.

In the 2018 presidential election, the INE countered this social media phenomenon by relying on fact-checking by civil society, media, and NGOs. One such example is the team of over 90 media outlets that banded together to fact-check information about the election. This team,

which became known as Verificado 2018, was a perfect example of collaborative journalism that was able to counter misinformation and fake news.

In the run-up to the June 6, 2021, elections, the INE has not been able to rely on the same level of civil society, media, and NGO fact-checking, given the disruption wrought by COVID-19. The disruption from shelter-in-place guidelines, not to mention the financial constraints precipitated by COVID-19, have precluded these organizations from launching fact-checking initiatives like those that thrived in 2018. Despite Verificado's success in 2018, it was unable to obtain the necessary financing in 2021 due to the economic repercussions of COVID-19.

Another way the INE countered misinformation and fake news in the 2018 presidential elections was by reaching collaborative agreements with various social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, to prevent posting of fake news, and posting instead factual electoral content.

In the run-up to the June 6, 2021, elections, the INE has again been able to reach collaborative agreements with the same social media platforms as in 2018. This time, it also collaborated with TikTok—the social media platform whose popularity exploded in 2020 and 2021 after the world's population went into COVID-lockdown.

The delegation expects the INE to implement its informational and news verification program *Certeza # 2021*, which builds on the successes of the previous election's *Certeza # 2018*.

## 8. Polling Stations and Polling Station Officials

### *Polling Stations*

The INE will be installing 162,246 polling stations in all 32 Mexican states for the June 6, 2021, elections.

The INE will install 100 electronic voting machines in the states of Coahuila and Jalisco as part of a pilot program. This builds on a 2020 pilot program in which 96 electronic voting machines were installed in the Coahuila and Hidalgo elections.

Pilot programs are common practice among electoral authorities worldwide, as they seek ways to innovate and improve the efficiency and integrity of the electoral process.

The 100 electronic voting machines that will be installed for the upcoming June elections will be used in Coahuila's municipal-level elections and Jalisco's state legislative and municipal-level elections.

### *Polling Station Officials*

According to the INE, the number of people willing to volunteer as polling station officials in the June elections is higher than in the 2018 presidential election.

The INE must randomly select and train 1,460,214 polling station officials for the June 6, 2021, elections.

As of April 27, 2021, the director of INE's unit responsible for randomly selecting and training polling station officials reported that his unit had already selected 1,121,000 (77 percent) and trained 818,000 (56 percent) of polling station officials.

It is worth noting that due to the pandemic, the INE decided to lower the age of polling stations officials to under 65 years, to mitigate their health risk, since COVID-19 affects people over 65 more severely.

Some political party representatives complained that they experienced difficulty receiving up-to-date information from the INE regarding the number of randomly selected polling station officials and the numbers that had already undergone the necessary training.

## 9. The Votes of Mexicans Abroad

Since the Mexican Congress approved legislation in 2005, permitting registered Mexican voters who reside abroad to cast their ballots in federal elections, the INE has had to figure out the voting process while protecting the secrecy and integrity of the vote. Since then, Mexicans residing abroad have voted via mail-in ballots in two federal elections—2006 and 2012.

In the June 6, 2021, elections, the 33,698 registered voters who reside abroad will be eligible to cast their ballots for the following elected offices:

- 9 Governorships (Baja California Sur, Chihuahua, Colima, Guerrero, Michoacán, Nayarit, Queretaro, San Luis Potosí, and Zacatecas)
- 1 Deputy in Mexico City representing Mexicans abroad
- 1 Federal Deputy for the State of Jalisco elected via proportional representation

### *Internet Voting Pilot Program*

For registered voters residing abroad, what distinguishes the June 2021 elections from previous elections is the pilot project, which, for the first time, will allow voters to cast their ballots via the Internet.

According to INE estimates, 33.04 percent of said voters will be casting their ballots by mail (roughly 11,100 voters), and 66.96 percent will vote via the Internet (roughly 22,500 voters).

To carry out the Internet voting pilot program, the INE put out a Request for Proposal in 2019, which was won by the Spanish company Indra Systems. To ensure the integrity of Indra Systems Internet voting program, the INE engaged the consulting firm Deloitte and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, UNAM) to conduct an audit of the system. In August 2020, Deloitte and the UNAM issued their respective reports approving the Indra Systems program.

To ensure the success of the Internet voting system during the elections, the INE conducted three separate voting simulation exercises, two in 2020 and a third during the first week of May 2021.

Internet voting will run between May 22 and June 6, 2021.

## 10. Cybersecurity of the Elections

The INE is the target of about 500,000 cyberattacks every month. Most of these originate from servers located in Mexico. To prevent cyberattacks from impacting the electoral process, the INE has undertaken the following measures:

- 1) Strengthened the capacity of its information technology (IT) security division.
- 2) Contracted a specialized private company, Scitum, to protect the INE network against hackers who wish to penetrate the INE "firewalls," either through external attacks or via "backdoors" using INE computers.
- 3) Is using more than 30 independent broadcasters/servers to disseminate the election results that the INE projects onto the Internet page. This number is higher than in the 2018 presidential elections when it used 11, and in the 2015 midterm elections—to elect the Chamber of Deputies—when the INE utilized 9 broadcasters.

## VI. APPENDIX 1

### The Delian Project Delegation Agenda

Date	Schedule	Meeting
Monday April 19	9:00–10:15	<b>Lorenzo Córdova</b> Councillor President (confirmed)
	10:30–12:00	<b>Edmundo Jacobo Molina</b> , INE Secretary General (confirmed) - Jacqueline Vargas, Head of the Oversight Unit - Carlos Ferrer, Head of the Litigation Unit
Tuesday April 20	10:00–11:00	<b>José Woldenberg Karakowski</b> Electoral Expert (confirmed)
	11:00–12:30	Meeting with INE Councillors (confirmed)
Wednesday April 21	10:00–11:00	<b>Laura Liselotte Correa de La Torre</b> Head of the Gender and Nondiscrimination Unit
	11:15–12:15	<b>José Agustín Ortiz Pinchetti</b> Head of the Specialized Prosecuting Office for Electoral Crimes of the Republic's Department of Justice (confirmed)
	12:30–13:30	<b>Federico Reyes Heroles</b> Political Analyst (confirmed)
Thursday April 22	10:00–11:30	<b>Coalition Party Chairs “Va por México”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Marko Antonio Cortés Mendoza</b>, National President of the National Action Party (PAN) (confirmed)</li> <li>▪ <b>Mariana Gómez del Campo Gurza</b>, Secretary of International Affairs (PAN)</li> <li>▪ <b>Alejandro Moreno Cárdenas</b>, National President of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) (confirmed)</li> <li>▪ <b>Jesús Zambrano Grijalva</b>, National President of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) (confirmed)</li> </ul>
	13:00–14:00	<b>John Ackerman</b> Director of the University Program of Studies on Democracy, Justice, and Society of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (confirmed)
Friday	10:00–11:30	<b>Magistrates of the Superior Chamber of the TEPJF</b> (confirmed)

April 23	11:45–12:45	<b>Vania Ávila</b> , Representative of the Citizens' Movement (MC) Party
Monday April 26	10:00– 11:00	<b>Fernando Garibay Palomino</b> , Representative of the Ecological Green Party of Mexico (PVEM) at General Council of INE (confirmed)
	11:15– 12:15	<b>Alberto Anaya Gutiérrez</b> National Coordinator of the Labor Party (PT) (confirmed)
	12:30– 13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>José Fernando González Sánchez</b>, National President of the Progressive Social Networks (RSP)</li> <li>▪ <b>Gerardo Islas Maldonado</b>, National President of Social Force for Mexico (FSM)</li> <li>▪ <b>Hugo Erick Flores Cervantes</b>, National President of the Solidarity Encounter Party (PES)</li> </ul>
Tuesday April 27	10:00– 11:00	▪ <b>Mtra. Laura Daniella Durán Ceja</b> , Councillor President of the Electoral Institute of the State of México (confirmed)
	11:15– 12:15	▪ <b>J. Nazarín Vargas Armenta</b> , Councillor President of the Electoral and Citizenship Participation Institute of Guerrero
	12:15– 13:15	▪ <b>Jorge Torres Antuñano</b> , Head of IT Services Technical Unit of INE (confirmed)

Source: The Delian Project, 2021.

Notes: INE = Instituto Nacional Electoral (National Electoral Institute); PAN = Partido Acción Nacional (National Action Party); PRI = Partido Revolucionario Institucional (Institutional Revolutionary Party); PRD = Partido de la Revolución Democrática (Party of the Democratic Revolution); MC = Movimiento Ciudadano (Citizens' Movement); PVEM = Partido Verde Ecologista de México (Ecological Green Party of Mexico); PT = Partido del Trabajo (Labor Party); RSP = Redes Sociales Progresistas (Progressive Social Networks); FSM = Fuerza Social por México (Social Force for Mexico); PES = Partido Encuentro Solidario (Solidarity Encounter Party).

The Delian Project requested meetings with the following individuals:

- The President of the ruling National Regeneration Movement (Movimiento de Regeneración Nacional, MORENA);
- The Leader of the MORENA bloc in the Senate;
- The President of the Social Force for Mexico (Fuerza Social por México, FSM); and
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs from the López Obrador administration,

but no reply was received.