

Features of Constitution Making in Latin America, 1900–2008

Country	Change Year	Constituent Body	Type of Change	Decision Rule	Election Rule	President's Party Dominant?	Part of Reform Coalition?
Argentina	1949	Congress/ Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Qualified majority (2/3)/ majority	Plurality, limited vote, open list	Yes	—
	1994	Congress/ Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Qualified majority (2/3)/ majority	PR, closed list	No	Yes
Bolivia	1961	Constituent Congress	Replacement	Qualified majority (2/3), 2 legislatures	PR, closed list	Yes	—
	1995	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3), 2 legislatures	PR, closed list	No	Yes
	2005	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3), 2 legislatures	PR, closed list/SMD	No	Yes
Brazil	1946	Constituent Congress	Replacement	Majority	PR, open list	Yes	—
	1988	Constituent Congress	Replacement	Majority	PR, open list	No	Yes
	1994	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (3/5)	PR, open list	No	Yes
	1998	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (3/5)	PR, open list	No	Yes
	2001	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (3/5)	PR, open list	No	Yes
Chile	1943	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	PR, open list	No	Yes
	1970	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	PR, open list	No	Yes
	1991	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	Binomial, open list	No	Yes
	1997	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	Binomial, open list	No	Yes
	2005	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	Binomial, open list	No	Yes
Colombia	1910	Constituent Congress	Amendment	Majority, 2 sessions	Plurality, limited vote, open list	Yes	—
	1936	Congress	Amendment	Majority, 2 sessions	PR, multiple lists	Yes	—
	1945	Congress	Amendment	Majority, 2 sessions	PR, multiple lists	Yes	—
	1968	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3), 2 sessions	Fixed shares, multiple lists	No	Yes
	1978	Congress	Amendment	Majority, 2 sessions	PR, multiple lists	Yes	—
	1986	Congress	Amendment	Majority, 2 sessions	PR, multiple lists	No	Yes
	1991	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, multiple lists	No	Yes
	2003	Congress	Amendment	Majority, 2 sessions	PR, multiple lists	No	Yes
Costa Rica	1913	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	Indirect elections	No	Yes
	1926	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	PR, closed list	No	Yes
	1936	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	PR, closed list	No	Yes
	1949	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, closed list	Yes	—
	1969	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	PR, closed list	No	Yes
Dom. Republic	1963	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, closed list	Yes	—
	1966	Constituent Congress	Replacement	Qualified majority (2/3)	PR, closed list	Yes	—
	1994	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	PR, closed list	No	Yes
	2002	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	PR, flexible list	No	Yes
Ecuador	1946	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, closed list	Yes	—
	1983	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	PR, closed list	No	Yes
	1998	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	Plurality, open list	No	Yes
	2008	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, open list	Yes	—
El Salvador	1983	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, closed list	No	No

Table 2 (cont.)

Guatemala	1945	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, open list	Yes	—
	1965	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, closed list	No	Yes
	1985	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, closed list	No	Yes
	1993	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	PR, closed list	No	Yes
Honduras	1957	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, closed list	Yes	—
	1965	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, closed list	Yes	—
	1982	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, closed list	No	Yes
Mexico	1917	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	Plurality, no lists	Yes	—
	1993	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	PR closed list/SMD	No	Yes
	1994	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	PR closed list/SMD	No	Yes
	1996	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3)	PR closed list/SMD	No	Yes
Nicaragua	1987	Constituent Congress	Replacement	Qualified majority (3/5)	PR, closed list	Yes	—
	1995	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (3/5)	PR, closed list	No	Yes
	2000	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (3/5)	PR, closed list	No	Yes
	2005	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (3/5)	PR, closed list	No	Yes
Panama	1946	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, closed list	No	Yes
Paraguay	1992	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, closed list	Yes	—
Peru	1979	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, open list	No	Yes
	1993	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority, referendum	PR, open list	Yes	—
	2000	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3), 2 legislatures	PR, open list	No	Yes
	2002	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3), 2 legislatures	PR, open list	No	Yes
Uruguay	1917	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority, referendum (1)	Plurality, limited vote, multiple lists	No	Yes
	1942	Constituent Congress	Replacement	Qualified majority (2/3), referendum (2)	PR, multiple lists	No	Yes
	1952	Constituent Congress	Replacement	Qualified majority (2/3), referendum	PR, multiple lists	No	Yes
	1967	Constituent Congress	Replacement	Qualified majority (2/3), referendum	PR, multiple lists	No	Yes
	1996	Congress	Amendment	Qualified majority (2/3), referendum	PR, multiple lists	No	Yes
Venezuela	1947	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority	PR, closed list	Yes	—
	1961	Constituent Congress	Replacement	Majority, ratif. 2/3 legislative assemblies	PR, closed list	Yes	—
	1989	Congress	Amendment	Majority, ratif. 2/3 legislative assemblies	PR, closed list	No	Yes
	1999	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority, referendum	Plurality, open list	Yes	—

Source: Database on constitutional change in Latin America (<http://www.la-constitutionalchange.cide.edu/>). See Appendix for sources.

- (1) The constitution was approved by absolute majority but the new constitution maintained the qualified majority of 2/3 of the 1830 constitution.
- (2) Since 1942, constitutional amendments in Uruguay could also be voted on by an absolute majority of the joint session of the assembly and implemented after adoption by a constituent assembly and ratified by the electorate.