

Features of Constitution Making in Latin America, 1900–2008

Country	Change Year	Constituent Body	Type of Change	Decision Rule	Election Rule (1)	President's Party Dominant?	Part of Reform Coalition?
Argentina	1949	Congress/ Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Qualified majority (2/3)/ majority	MMD Plurality, incomplete list, 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	MMD 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
	2004	Congress	Amendment	Majority, 2 sessions	PR, open list (2)	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
Dominican 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

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 (3)	MMD Plurality, incomplete list, multiple lists	No	Yes
	1942	Constituent Congress	Replacement	Qualified majority (2/3), referendum (4)	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, ratified 2/3 legislative assemblies	PR, closed list	Yes	—
	1989	Congress	Amendment	Majority, ratified 2/3 legislative assemblies	PR, closed list	No	Yes
	1999	Constituent Assembly	Replacement	Majority, referendum	Plurality, open list	Yes	—

Notes:

- (1) PR=Proportional representation; SMD=Single-member districts; MMD=Multi-member districts.
- (2) Parties can also opt for using closed lists after the 2003 reform.
- (3) The constitution was approved by absolute majority, but the new constitution maintained the qualified majority of 2/3 of the 1830 constitution.
- (4) 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.