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Javier Calderón Castillo And Sergio Pascual 10.01.2022

Colombia: Election Year Starts

Candidacies and coalitions for the upcoming presidential elections.



- On May 29, 2022, Colombia will hold presidential elections. It will be necessary to exceed 50% of the votes to avoid the *ballotage*, which if necessary would be held on June 19.
- Once the registration period for independent candidates has closed, the parties that choose to participate in coalition must register their pre-candidates with the National Registry of Civil Status before February 11, 2022. Parties that choose to stand alone must register their presidential candidate throughout the month of February.
- The interparty primaries in which the coalitions exclusively choose their candidate for president will be held on March 13, coinciding with the electoral

process that will renew all the seats in Congress (108 in the Senate and 188 in the House of Representatives).

1. Presidential electoral coalitions

1.1 Historical (progressive) Pact:

- According to the rules of the Historical Pact, the winner of the primaries which in all probability will be Gustavo Petro– will be the candidate for president, while whoever comes in second place will be the candidate for the Vice Presidency (the best placed for this position is at the moment is Francia Márquez, of the Alternative Democratic Pole \u2012PDA\u2012).
- The Historical Pact includes forces with representation such as The Human Colombia (of Petro), the PDA, the Patriotic Union and MAIS. It has also incorporated the entire arc of small and medium-sized parties of the Colombian left, such as that of former presidential candidate Clara López or the Colombian Communist Party and, finally, independent sectors linked to the Green Party (such as the former governor of Nariño, Camilo Romero), the Liberal Party (such as Senator Luis Fernando Velasco) or even To Santismo (such as Senator Roy Barreras).
 - Fuerza Ciudadana, the movement led by the governor of Magdalena, Carlos Caicedo, and the Commons Party, of the former FARC combatants (with 5 senators and 5 representatives to the House), support GP but do not align for the congressional elections.

1.2 Hope Center Coalition (center):

- It is immersed in a deep dispute over the definition of its candidate. At this moment and at the expense of the primaries of March 13 Sergio Fajardo (SF) appears first in voting intention with 43.5%, followed by Juan Manuel Galán (of the New Liberalism, son of the assassinated presidential candidate) with 32.4% and, finally, Alejandro Gaviria (former minister of Juan Manuel Santos) with 9.5%. The winning candidate of the primaries will choose his vice-presidential candidate.
- This candidacy has mainly the support of the Green Alliance, New Liberalism,
 Citizen Commitment (the party of SF) and Dignity (of the senator former member

of the PDA, Jorge Robledo), in addition to important sectors of the Liberal Party (the former Minister of the Interior Juan Fernando Cristo or Humberto de la Calle, former presidential candidate for the Liberal Party in 2018, among others).

1.3 Team Colombia Coalition (right):

- It is made up of Enrique Peñalosa (the chameleon-like former mayor of Bogotá and former presidential candidate for the Green Party) along with the former mayor of Barranquilla, Alejandro Char (of the center-right Radical Change party) and the former mayor of Medellín, Federico Gutiérrez (who was mayor for the Liberal Party, but is considered close to Uribe). In voting intention, Gutiérrez appears first (26.4%), followed by Char (26.1%), and in third place Peñalosa (22.7%).
- This coalition is the most solid in terms of party apparatuses, with a strong territorial implantation: Conservative Party, 14 senators and 21 representatives, Radical Change Party, 15 senators and 30 representatives and National Unity Party (Santista), with 12 senators and 25 representatives to the House.
- An alliance of this coalition with Uribe's party (Democratic Center, currently with 19 senators and 39 representatives to the House) is considered likely. According to the electoral calendar, the deadline to define it would be February 11.

1.4 Coalition Unites Us Colombia (ultraconservative):

 Coalition of the two evangelical parties with representation in Congress: MIRA and Colombia Justa Libres. The candidate will be John Milton Rodriguez, current senator.

2. Presidential parties and candidates who do not attend primaries:

- Rodolfo Hernández, businessman and former mayor of Bucaramanga. He presents himself as an independent candidate and follows an anti-political and anti-party discourse. In the Invamer Gallup poll of December it appears with a not inconsiderable 13.8% of voting intention.
- Oscar Iván Zuluaga: candidate of the Democratic Center (uribismo). He
 would compete alone if he does not finally join the Team Colombia

- Coalition. Zuluaga was Uribe's former finance minister (in 2014 he won the first presidential round with 29%).
- Liberal Party: The historic party is the party with the most territorial power in Colombia, with a majority of seats in the House of Representatives (35) and 14 senators. They participate in 15 governorates (out of 33) and control 202 mayors (out of 1,102).
- To date, however, the PL is experiencing a deep crisis. The support for Duque both in the 2018 *ballotage* and during the legislature, caused that today notable members such as Fernando Cristo or de la Calle joined the Centro Esperanza Coalition. For his part, the president of the party and former president of the Republic, César Gaviria Trujillo, initially opted for the candidacy of Alejandro Gaviria, but then he turned his back on him and decided to be a presidential candidate of the Centro Esperanza Coalition, a coalition that incorporated the rector, but that flatly rejects the support of the liberal president.
- Finally, Senator Luis Fernando Velasco is already a presidential candidate of the Historical Pact, while other sectors headed by the former governor of Antioquia, Luis Pérez, are betting on the alliance of the Liberal Party with the Historical Pact.
- In this context and in the current scenario, the most plausible thing is that the historic Colombian party does not present its own presidential candidate, although it is atomized in the three main coalitions.

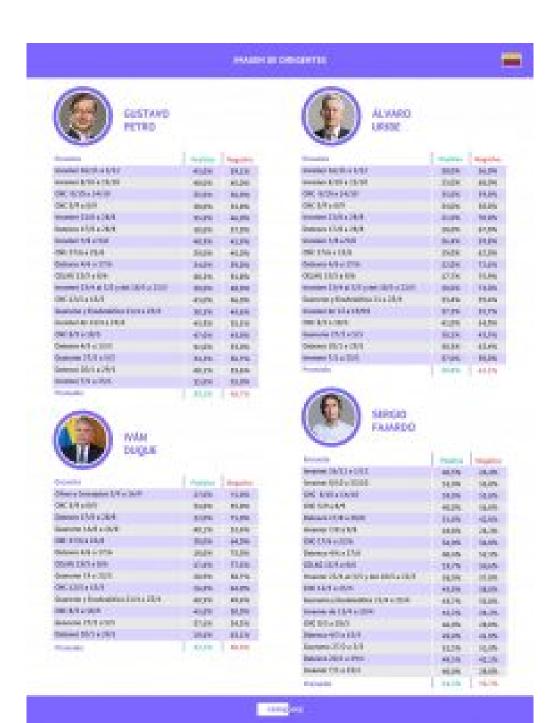


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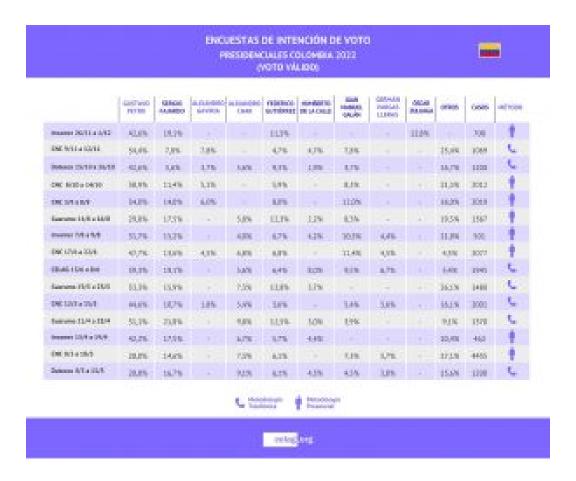
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