

MEXICO - GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE & FOREIGN POLICY

The constitution of 1917 provides for a federal republic with a separation of powers into independent executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

The executive branch is dominant. Executive power is vested in the President who promulgates and executes the laws of the Congress and, by delegation from the Congress, legislates by executive decree in certain economic and financial fields. He is elected by universal adult suffrage for a six year term and may not hold office a second time. There is no Vice-President; in case of the removal or death of the President, a provisional president is elected by the Senate. President Lopez Portillo's term is completed at the end of 1982. Elections to choose his successor take place in July.

Congress is composed of a Chamber of Senators and a Chamber of Deputies. Consecutive re-election to the Congress is prohibited. Sixty-four Senators (two from each State and the Federal District) are elected to six year terms. The Chamber of Deputies has 300 members representing districts on the basis of proportional representation and a guaranteed minimum of 100 seats to be shared among opposition parties on the basis of proportional representation calculated on their share of the popular vote. Deputies serve three year terms. The Mexican Congress is empowered to legislate on all matters pertaining to the National Government.