

**Business and Politics in the Muslim World
Global Election Reports
Weekly Report
February 11, 2010 to February 17, 2010**

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Presentation on February 17, 2010**

Week # 106

This report is about the presidential elections held in Chile and Srilanka. The **Chilean presidential election of 2009** was held on December 13, 2009. Based on the two-round system, since none of the candidates secured the absolute majority needed to take the presidency outright, a run-off between the two most-voted candidates —center-right Sebastián Piñera and center-left Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle— was held on, January 17, 2010. Piñera won the runoff with about 51.6% of the vote.

Chile

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Chile

Republic of Chile

Capital (and largest city)	Santiago
Official language(s)	Spanish
Demonym	Chilean
Government	Representative democracy
- President	Michelle Bachelet
- <i>President-Elect</i>	<i>Sebastián Piñera</i>
Independence	from Spain
- First National Government Junta	September 18, 1810
- Declared	February 12, 1818
- Recognized	April 25, 1844
- Current constitution	September 11, 1980
Area	
- Total	756,950 km ² 292,183 sq mi
Population	
- February 2010 estimate	17,031,873
- Density	22/km ² 57/sq mi
GDP (PPP)	2008 estimate

- Total \$243.357 billion
- Per capita \$14,529

1. INTRODUCTION

Chile, officially the **Republic of Chile** is a country in South America occupying a long, narrow coastal strip between the Andes mountains to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. It borders Peru to the north, Bolivia to the northeast, Argentina to the east, and the Drake Passage in the far south. With Ecuador it is one of two countries in South America which do not border Brazil. The Pacific coastline of Chile is 6,435 kilometres. Chilean territory includes the Pacific islands of Juan Fernández, Salas y Gómez, Desventuradas and Easter Island. Chile also claims about 1,250,000 square kilometres (480,000 sq mi) of Antarctica, although all claims are suspended under the Antarctic Treaty.

Chile's unusual, ribbon-like shape—4,300 kilometres (2,700 mi) long and on average 175 kilometres (109 mi) wide—has given it a varied climate, ranging from the world's driest desert—the Atacama—in the north, through a Mediterranean climate in the centre, to a rainy temperate climate in the south. The northern desert contains great mineral wealth, principally copper. The relatively small central area dominates in terms of population and agricultural resources, and is the cultural and political center from which Chile expanded in the late 19th century, when it incorporated its northern and southern regions. Southern Chile is rich in forests and grazing lands and features a string of volcanoes and lakes. The southern coast is a labyrinth of fjords, inlets, canals, twisting peninsulas, and islands.

Prior to arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century, northern Chile was under Inca rule while the indigenous Araucanians inhabited central and southern Chile. Although Chile declared independence in 1810, decisive victory over the Spanish was not achieved until 1818. In the War of the Pacific (1879–83), Chile defeated Peru and Bolivia and won its

present northern regions. It was not until the 1880s that the Araucanians were completely subjugated. Although relatively free of the coups and arbitrary governments that blighted South America, Chile endured a 17-year military dictatorship (1973–1990) that left more than 3,000 people dead or missing.

Currently, Chile is one of South America's most stable and prosperous nations. It leads Latin American nations in human development, competitiveness, quality of life, political stability, globalization, economic freedom, low perception of corruption and comparatively low poverty rates. It also ranks high regionally in freedom of the press and democratic development. However, it has a high income inequality, as measured by the Gini index. Chile recently became the first South American country to be invited to join the OECD. Chile is also a founding member of both the United Nations and the Union of South American Nations.

History

About 10,000 years ago, migrating Native Americans settled in fertile valleys and coastal areas of what is present day Chile. Example settlement sites from the very early human habitation are Cueva del Milodon and the Pali Aike Crater's lava tube. The Incas briefly extended their empire into what is now northern Chile, but the Mapuche successfully resisted many attempts by the Inca Empire to subjugate them, despite their lack of state organization. They fought against the Sapa Inca Tupac Yupanqui and his army. The result of the bloody three-day confrontation known as the Battle of the Maule was that the Inca conquest of the territories of Chile ended at the Maule river.

In 1520, while attempting to circumnavigate the earth, Ferdinand Magellan discovered the southern passage now named after him, the Strait of Magellan. The next Europeans to reach Chile were Diego de Almagro and his band of Spanish conquistadors, who came from Peru in 1535 seeking gold. The Spanish encountered hundreds of thousands of Native Americans from various cultures in the area that modern Chile now occupies. These cultures supported themselves principally through slash-and-burn agriculture and hunting. The conquest of Chile began in earnest in 1540 and was carried out by Pedro de

Valdivia, one of Francisco Pizarro's lieutenants, who founded the city of Santiago on February 12, 1541. Although the Spanish did not find the extensive gold and silver they sought, they recognized the agricultural potential of Chile's central valley, and.

Conquest of the land took place only gradually, and the Europeans suffered repeated setbacks at the hands of the local population. A massive Mapuche insurrection that began in 1553 resulted in Valdivia's death and the destruction of many of the colony's principal settlements. Subsequent major insurrections took place in 1598 and in 1655. Each time the Mapuche and other native groups revolted, the southern border of the colony was driven northward. The abolition of slavery by the Spanish crown in 1683 was done in recognition that enslaving the Mapuche intensified resistance rather than cowing them into submission. Despite the royal prohibitions relations remained strained from continual colonialist interference.

Cut off to the north by desert, to the south by the Mapuche (or Araucanians), to the east by the Andes Mountains, and to the west by the ocean, Chile became one of the most centralized, homogeneous colonies in Spanish America. Serving as a sort of frontier garrison, the colony found itself with the mission of forestalling encroachment by Araucanians and by Spain's European enemies, especially the British and the Dutch. In addition to the Araucanians, buccaneers and English adventurers menaced the colony, as was shown by Sir Francis Drake's 1578 raid on Valparaíso, the principal port. Because Chile hosted one of the largest standing armies in the Americas, it was one of the most militarized of the Spanish possessions, as well as a drain on the treasury of Peru. By the end of the colonial period, the population reached an estimated 500,000 (not including unsubjected Indians); approximately 300,000 were mestizos and about 150,000 were Criollos (European or European descent).

In the government of Agustín de Jáuregui between 1777 and 1778 performed the first general census indicated that the population was 259,646 habitants and was composed of 73.5% European descent, 7.9% mestizos, 8.6% indians and 9.8% blacks. In 1784, *Francisco Hurtado*, Governor of the province of Chiloe, conducted a population census

of Chiloé whereby the population was 26,703 habitants, of which 64.4% whites and 33.5% of natives.

Finally, in 1812, the Diocese of Concepción made a census of population, south of the Maule river, but not including the indigenous population (estimated at 8,000 people), nor the inhabitants of the province of Chiloé, which gave indicated a population of 210,567, of which 86.1% were Spanish and whites, 10% Indians and 3.7% of mestizos, blacks and mulattos.

The drive for independence from Spain was precipitated by usurpation of the Spanish throne by Napoleon's brother Joseph in 1808. A national junta in the name of Ferdinand—heir to the deposed king—was formed on September 18, 1810. The Government Junta of Chile proclaimed Chile an autonomous republic within the Spanish monarchy. A movement for total independence soon won a wide following. Spanish attempts to re-impose arbitrary rule during what was called the Reconquista led to a prolonged struggle.

Intermittent warfare continued until 1817, when an army led by Bernardo O'Higgins, Chile's most renowned patriot, and José de San Martín, hero of the Argentine War of Independence, crossed the Andes into Chile and defeated the royalists. On February 12, 1818, Chile was proclaimed an independent republic under O'Higgins' leadership. The political revolt brought little social change, however, and 19th century Chilean society preserved the essence of the stratified colonial social structure, which was greatly influenced by family politics and the Roman Catholic Church. A strong presidency eventually emerged, but wealthy landowners remained powerful.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, the government in Santiago consolidated its position in the south by ruthlessly suppressing the Mapuche during the Occupation of Araucanía. In 1881, it signed a treaty with Argentina confirming Chilean sovereignty over the Strait of Magellan. As a result of the War of the Pacific with Peru and Bolivia (1879–83), Chile expanded its territory northward by almost one-third, eliminating

Bolivia's access to the Pacific, and acquired valuable nitrate deposits, the exploitation of which led to an era of national affluence.

The Chilean Civil War in 1891 brought about a redistribution of power between the President and Congress, and Chile established a parliamentary style democracy. However, the Civil War had also been a contest between those who favored the development of local industries and powerful Chilean banking interests, particularly the House of Edwards who had strong ties to foreign investors.

20th century

The Chilean economy partially degenerated into a system protecting the interests of a ruling oligarchy. By the 1920s, the emerging middle and working classes were powerful enough to elect a reformist president, Arturo Alessandri Palma, whose program was frustrated by a conservative congress. In the 1920s, Marxist groups with strong popular support arose.

A military coup led by General Luis Altamirano in 1924 set off a period of great political instability that lasted until 1932. The longest lasting of the ten governments between those years was that of General Carlos Ibáñez del Campo, who briefly held power in 1925 and then again between 1927 and 1931 in what was a de facto dictatorship, although not really comparable in harshness or corruption to the type of military dictatorship that has often bedeviled the rest of Latin America and certainly not comparable to the violent and repressive regime of Augusto Pinochet decades later.

By relinquishing power to a democratically elected successor, Ibáñez del Campo retained the respect of a large enough segment of the population to remain a viable politician for more than thirty years, in spite of the vague and shifting nature of his ideology. When constitutional rule was restored in 1932, a strong middle-class party, the Radicals, emerged. It became the key force in coalition governments for the next 20 years. During the period of Radical Party dominance (1932–52), the state increased its role in the economy. In 1952, voters returned Ibáñez del Campo to office for another six years.

Jorge Alessandri succeeded Ibáñez del Campo in 1958, bringing Chilean conservatism back into power democratically for another term.

The 1964 presidential election of Christian Democrat Eduardo Frei Montalva by an absolute majority initiated a period of major reform. Under the slogan "Revolution in Liberty", the Frei administration embarked on far-reaching social and economic programs, particularly in education, housing, and agrarian reform, including rural unionization of agricultural workers. By 1967, however, Frei encountered increasing opposition from leftists, who charged that his reforms were inadequate, and from conservatives, who found them excessive. At the end of his term, Frei had not fully achieved his party's ambitious goals.

In the 1970 election, Senator Salvador Allende reached a partial majority in a plurality of votes in a three-way contest, followed by candidates Radomiro Tomic for the Christian Democrat Party and Jorge Alessandri for the Conservative Party. He was a physician and member of the Socialist Party of Chile, who headed the "Popular Unity" (UP or "Unidad Popular") coalition of the Socialist, Communist, Radical, and Social-Democratic Parties, along with dissident Christian Democrats, the Popular Unitary Action Movement (MAPU), and the Independent Popular Action. Despite pressure from the United States government, the Chilean Congress conducted a runoff vote between the leading candidates, Allende and former president Jorge Alessandri and keeping with tradition, chose Allende by a vote of 153 to 35. Frei refused to form an alliance with Alessandri to oppose Allende, on the grounds that the Christian Democrats were a workers party and could not make common cause with the right-wing.

An economic depression that began in 1967 peaked in 1970, exacerbated by capital flight, plummeting private investment, and withdrawal of bank deposits in response to Allende's socialist program. Production fell and unemployment rose. Allende adopted measures including price freezes, wage increases, and tax reforms, to increase consumer spending and redistribute income downward. Joint public-private public works projects helped reduce unemployment. Much of the banking sector was nationalized. Many enterprises within the copper, coal, iron, nitrate, and steel industries were expropriated,

nationalized, or subjected to state intervention. Industrial output increased sharply and unemployment fell during the Allende administration's first year.

Allende's program included advancement of workers' interests, replacing the judicial system with "socialist legality", nationalization of banks and forcing others to bankruptcy, and strengthening "popular militias" known as MIR. Started under former President Frei, the Popular Unity platform also called for nationalization of Chile's major copper mines in the form of a constitutional amendment. The measure was passed unanimously by Congress. As a result, the Richard Nixon administration organized and inserted secret operatives in Chile, in order to quickly destabilize Allende's government. In addition, American financial pressure restricted international economic credit to Chile. The economic problems were also exacerbated by Allende's public spending which was financed mostly by printing money and poor credit ratings given by commercial banks.

Simultaneously, opposition media, politicians, business guilds and other organizations, helped to accelerate a campaign of domestic political and economical destabilization, some of which was helped by the United States. By early 1973, inflation was out of control. The crippled economy was further battered by prolonged and sometimes simultaneous strikes by physicians, teachers, students, truck owners, copper workers, and the small business class. On 26 May 1973, Chile's Supreme Court, which was opposed to Allende's government, unanimously denounced the Allende *disruption of the legality of the nation*. Although, illegal under the Chilean constitution, the court supported and strengthened Pinochet seizure of power.

Finally, a military coup overthrew Allende on September 11, 1973. As the armed forces bombarded the presidential palace of (Palacio de La Moneda), Allende reportedly had committed suicide. A military junta, led by General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, took over control of the country. The first years of the regime were marked by human rights violations. On October 1973, at least 72 people were murdered by the Caravan of Death. According to the Rettig Report and Valech Commission, at least 2,115 were killed, and at least 27,265 were tortured (including 88 children younger than 12 years old). A new

Constitution was approved by a controversial plebiscite on September 11, 1980, and General Pinochet became president of the republic for an 8-year term.

In the late 1980s, the government gradually permitted greater freedom of assembly, speech, and association, to include trade union and political activity. The government launched market-oriented reforms, which have continued ever since. Chile moved toward a free market economy that saw an increase in domestic and foreign private investment, although the copper industry and other important mineral resources were not opened for competition. In a plebiscite on October 5, 1988, General Pinochet was denied a second 8-year term as president (56% against 44%). Chileans elected a new president and the majority of members of a two-chamber congress on December 14, 1989. Christian Democrat Patricio Aylwin, the candidate of a coalition of 17 political parties called the *Concertación*, received an absolute majority of votes (55%). President Aylwin served from 1990 to 1994, in what was considered a transition period.

In December 1993, Christian Democrat Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle, the son of previous president Eduardo Frei Montalva, led the *Concertación* coalition to victory with an absolute majority of votes (58%). Frei Ruiz-Tagle was succeeded in 2000 by Socialist Ricardo Lagos, who won the presidency in an unprecedented runoff election against Joaquín Lavín of the rightist Alliance for Chile. In January 2006 Chileans elected their first female president Michelle Bachelet Jeria, of the Socialist Party, extending the *Concertación* government for another four years.

Government and politics

The Constitution of Chile was approved in a highly irregular national plebiscite in September 1980, under the military government of Augusto Pinochet. It entered into force in March 1981. After Pinochet's defeat in the 1988 plebiscite, the constitution was amended to ease provisions for future amendments to the Constitution. In September 2005, President Ricardo Lagos signed into law several constitutional amendments passed by Congress. These include eliminating the positions of appointed senators and senators

for life, granting the President authority to remove the commanders-in-chief of the armed forces, and reducing the presidential term from six to four years.

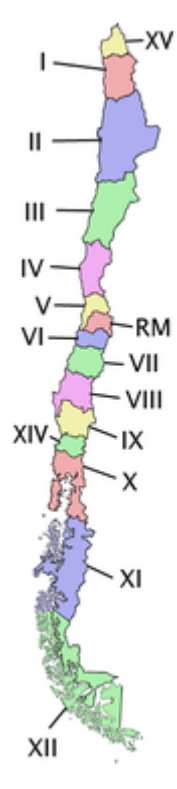
Chileans voted in the first round of presidential elections on December 11, 2005. None of the four presidential candidates won more than 50% of the vote. As a result, the top two candidates, center-left Concertación coalition's Michelle Bachelet and center-right Alianza coalition's Sebastián Piñera, competed in a run-off election on January 15, 2006, which Michelle Bachelet won. She was sworn in on March 11, 2006. This was Chile's fourth presidential election since the end of the Pinochet era. All four have been judged free and fair. The president is constitutionally barred from serving consecutive terms.

The Congress of Chile has a 38-seat Senate and a 120-member Chamber of Deputies. Senators serve for 8 years with staggered terms, while deputies are elected every 4 years. The current Senate has a 20–18 split in favor of pro-government senators. The last congressional elections were held on December 11, 2005, concurrently with the presidential election. The current lower house—the Chamber of Deputies—contains 63 members of the governing center-left coalition and 57 from the center-right opposition. The Congress is located in the port city of Valparaíso, about 140 kilometres (84 mi) west of the capital, Santiago.

Chile's congressional elections are governed by a binomial system that rewards the two largest representations. Therefore, there are only two senate and two deputy seats apportioned to each electoral district, parties are forced to form wide coalitions and, historically, the two largest coalitions (Concertación and Alianza) split most of the seats in a district. Only if the leading coalition ticket out-polls the second place coalition by a margin of more than 2-to-1 does the winning coalition gain both seats. In the 2001 congressional elections, the conservative Independent Democratic Union surpassed the Christian Democrats for the first time to become the largest party in the lower house. In the 2005 parliamentary election, both leading parties, the Christian Democrats and the UDI lost representation in favor of their respective allies Socialist Party (which became the biggest party in the Concertación block) and National Renewal in the right-wing alliance. The Communist Party again failed to gain any seats in the election.

Chile's judiciary is independent and includes a court of appeal, a system of military courts, a constitutional tribunal, and the Supreme Court of Chile. In June 2005, Chile completed a nation-wide overhaul of its criminal justice system. The reform has replaced inquisitorial proceedings with an adversarial system more similar to that of the United States.

Chile is divided into 15 regions, each headed by an intendant appointed by the president. The regions are further divided into provinces, with provincial governors also appointed by the president. Finally each province is divided into communes which are administered by municipalities, each with its own mayor and council elected for four year terms. Each region is designated by a name and a Roman numeral, assigned from north to south. The only exception is the Santiago Metropolitan Region which is designated *RM* (*Región Metropolitana*). Two new regions were created in 2006 and became operative in October 2007; Los Ríos in the south (Region XIV), and Arica y Parinacota in the north (Region XV). The numbering scheme skipped Region XIII.



Key	Name	Spanish	Capital
XV	Arica and Parinacota	Región de Arica y Parinacota	Arica
I	Tarapacá	Región de Tarapacá	Iquique
II	Antofagasta	Región de Antofagasta	Antofagasta
III	Atacama	Región de Atacama	Copiapó
IV	Coquimbo	Región de Coquimbo	La Serena
V	Valparaíso	Región de Valparaíso	Valparaiso
VI	O'Higgins	Región del Libertador General Bernardo O'Higgins	Rancagua
VII	Maule	Región del Maule	Talca
VIII	Biobío	Región del Biobío	Concepción
IX	Araucanía	Región de la Araucanía	Temuco
XIV			
XI			
X			
IX			
VIII			
VII			
VI			
RM			
V			
IV			
III			
II			
I			
XII			

XIV	Los Ríos	Región de Los Ríos	Valdivia
X	Los Lagos	Región de Los Lagos	Puerto Montt
XI	Aisén	Región Aisén del General Carlos Ibáñez del Campo	Coihaique
XII	Magallanes	Región de Magallanes y de la Punta Antártica Chilena	Arenas
RM	Santiago	Región Metropolitana de Santiago	Santiago

Elections in Chile

Chile holds nationwide presidential, parliamentary and municipal **elections**.

The electoral process is supervised by the Electoral Service (*Servicio Electoral*), which is independent from the government. Winners are officially proclaimed by the Election Qualifying Court (*Tribunal Calificador de Elecciones*).

Electorate

All citizens of Chile as well as foreigners legally residing in Chile for at least five years, who are 18 years of age or older on the day of the election, are eligible to enroll and subsequently vote in the elections. Enrollment in Chile is voluntary, however, once electors are registered, it is compulsory to vote in each and every election, except for foreigners, whose vote is always voluntary. Chileans are not allowed to vote overseas. In April 2009, the country's constitution was modified so that the vote is voluntary and registration automatic. The new system will not come into effect until the organic law regulating it is approved and published.

Women's suffrage was achieved in 1934 for municipal elections only. Before that only men were allowed to vote in every election. In 1949 voting was extended to men and women over 21 and literate. Full universal suffrage was achieved in 1970, with men and women over 18 eligible to vote, regardless of their ability to read and write.

Presidential elections

Presidential elections elect a president, who serves as chief of state and head of government for a period of four years (six years between 1994-2006 and before 1973). Perpetual non-consecutive reelection is permitted.

The President is directly-elected nationwide by the absolute majority of the valid votes (excludes nulls and blanks). If no candidate obtains such majority, a runoff between the two most voted candidates is held.

Before 1989, the president was elected by a simple majority and then a vote by Congress was necessary to confirm the winner.

An independent candidate to successfully register his/her candidacy he/she must collect a number of signatures equal to at least 0.5% of the number of people who last voted in the Chamber of Deputies election, nation-wide. For the 2009 election, the number was 36,037 signatures. This is nearly equivalent to one signature per ballot box. (There were 34,348 ballot boxes nationally in the last Chamber of Deputies election in 2009.)

According to the Constitution, presidential elections take place 90 days before the incumbent president's term expires (usually December 11). If that day is not a Sunday, the election is moved to the next Sunday. A runoff election —if necessary— takes place 30 days after the first election. The Sunday rule is also observed.

Parliamentary elections

Chile's bicameral Congress consists of a Chamber of Deputies (lower house) and a Senate (upper house). The country is divided into 60 electoral districts for the lower house and 19 senatorial constituencies for the Senate. Each electoral district or senatorial constituency elect two representatives. That is, 120 deputies and 38 senators, in total.

Deputies serve for four years and senators for eight years, with half the Senate renewed every four years (starting with senatorial constituencies from odd-numbered regions, and

then from even-numbered regions with the Santiago Metropolitan Region). Both deputies and senators may seek reelection indefinitely.

The Constitution establishes that parliamentary elections will be held in conjunction with presidential elections.

The law permits candidates to run as either independent or within a "list." A list is made up of up to two candidates per electoral district or senatorial constituency. There are single-party lists and multiple-party lists (or "pacts"). Within an electoral district or senatorial constituency, pacts may include candidates either from the same political party, two different parties, a combination of a party candidate with an independent candidate, or two independent candidates. Single-party lists are bound to include only candidates from one party and are not allowed to include independent candidates. A political party can only be part of one list, nation-wide. An independent candidate not running within a list is termed a "nominee" and to successfully register his/her candidacy he/she must collect a number of signatures equal to at least 0.5% of the number of people who last voted in that electoral district or senatorial constituency.

For a list to take both seats in an electoral district or senatorial constituency, it must outpoll the second most-voted list or nominee by a margin exceeding 2-to-1. When this fails, the two most voted lists or nominees obtain one seat each. In a winning two-candidate list, the seat is awarded to the most voted candidate of the two. The system is essentially the same as the d'Hondt method with only two seats allocated.

Criticism

This system was established by the military dictatorship that ruled the country until 1990, replacing the proportional system in place until 1973. Gerrymandering was used in the drawing of electoral districts to ensure a substantial representation of the right (one third of the vote, at least) in every electoral district. The dictatorship also made it nearly impossible to change the system without the vote of the right, as a three fifths majority in any chamber is needed to modify it.

The *Concertación* governing coalition believes the system undermines its majority in Congress, while overestimating the representation of the right. The right views the system as necessary for the country's stability and governance as it avoids the atomization of power, encouraging the creation of large coalitions. The far-left sees the system as undemocratic, because it negates representation to a substantial minority.

Another common criticism is that some voters are overrepresented while others are underrepresented, because electoral districts and, especially, senatorial constituencies vary greatly in population. For example, the vote of a voter in the scarcely populated senatorial constituency 19 (Aisén Region) is worth nearly 27 times the vote of a voter in the populous senatorial constituency 8 (eastern Santiago Metropolitan Region), as all constituencies elect two seats.

Municipal elections

Municipal elections elect one mayor and a number of councilmen per municipality. Mayors are elected by a simple majority, while councilmen seats (ranging from 6 to 10, depending on the number of registered voters in each municipality) are decided using the d'Hondt method. Mayors are elected in a separate ballot since 2004. Indefinite reelection is allowed.

The law establishes that municipal elections will take place every four years on the last Sunday of October. The newly elected authorities take office on December 6 of that same year.

New regional elections

In October 2009 the Constitution was modified to allow the direct election by universal suffrage of the regional board members, who along with the intendant (appointed by the President of the Republic) form the regional government. They will serve for four years with the possibility of reelection. The number of regional board members will be proportional to the region's population and area in relation to the country. The law

regulating regional governments has not been modified to reflect this change, thus it is not known when the first such election will take place.

Regional board members are currently elected by each region's municipal councilmen, who form electoral colleges per regional province. Each region is allotted two board members per province plus 10 more in regions with up to 1 million inhabitants or 14 more in regions with over 1 million people. These additional board members are apportioned to provinces in relation to their share of the regional population in the latest census using the d'Hondt method. The winners within each province are those who obtain the most votes. However, if within a province, two or more candidates decide to run together as a list, then the winners are decided using the d'Hondt method. The last election took place on December 21, 2008 and the elected board members took office on February 19, 2009.

Primaries

Primary elections have been used in Chile by the Concertación coalition to select its candidate for President of the Republic in 1993, 1999 and 2009. In 2005 they were cancelled, after one of two contenders quit the race.

Primaries were not established in law until January 2010, when they were added to the Constitution as an option for political parties to choose candidates to any directly elected post. The Constitution states that the primary results are legally binding for political parties that submit to them and that the losing candidates are ineligible for the same election in the respective office.

Primaries will be an option once the specific law regulating them is approved.

Voting

Men and women vote in separate voting venues with the armed forces and uniformed police (Carabineros) guarding polling stations. A national identity card is all that is

required to vote. Mixed-sex polling places do exist, but are rare, and men and women still submit their ballot in separate boxes in such cases.

The vote is secret. Ballots are pre-printed with all the candidate names, their ballot number and their party affiliation. The voter must mark his/her choice by drawing a vertical line over a printed horizontal line next to his/her candidate of choice by using a previously provided graphite pencil. The marking of two or more choices nullifies the vote. A vote is considered "blank" when no candidate was correctly marked.

Suffrage

The state of suffrage in Chile since 1925:

- From 1925: Men over 21 able to read and write. (Art. 7 of the 1925 Constitution)
[Note: The Constitution uses the ambiguous word *chilenos* which strictly means "Chilean men" but can also mean "Chilean people" in general.]
- From 1934: Men over 21 able to read and write (general registry); women over 25 able to read and write (municipal registry, i.e. limited to local elections). (Law No. 5,357)
- From 1949: Men and women over 21 able to read and write. (Law No. 9,292)
- From 1970 until today: Men and women over 18. (Art. 7 of the 1925 Constitution)

Turnout

Election turnout since 1925.

Date	Election	VAP	Registered	%	Turnout	%	T / VAP %
1925-10-24	President	N/A	302,142	N/A	N/A	86.4	N/A
1927-05-22	President	N/A	328,700	N/A	N/A	70.4	N/A

1931-10-04	President	N/A	388,959	N/A	N/A	73.5	N/A
1932-10-30	President	N/A	464,879	N/A	N/A	74.0	N/A
1938-10-25	President	N/A	503,871	N/A	N/A	88.1	N/A
1942-02-02	President	N/A	581,486	N/A	N/A	80.2	N/A
1946-09-04	President	N/A	631,257	N/A	N/A	75.9	N/A
1952-09-04	President	N/A	1,105,029	N/A	N/A	86.6	N/A
1953	Legislative	N/A	1,106,709	N/A	N/A	68.6	N/A
1957	Legislative	N/A	1,284,159	N/A	N/A	70.5	N/A
1958-09-04	President	N/A	1,497,902	N/A	N/A	83.5	N/A
1961-03-12	Legislative	N/A	1,858,980	N/A	N/A	74.5	N/A
1964-09-04	President	N/A	2,915,121	N/A	N/A	86.8	N/A
1965-03-14	Legislative	N/A	2,920,615	N/A	N/A	80.6	N/A
1969-03-16	Legislative	N/A	3,244,892	N/A	N/A	74.2	N/A
1970-09-04	President	N/A	3,539,747	N/A	N/A	81.8	N/A
1973-11-03	Legislative	N/A	4,509,559	N/A	N/A	81.8	N/A

1988-10-05	Plebiscite	N/A	7,435,913	N/A	7,251,933	97.53	N/A
1989-07-30	Plebiscite	N/A	7,556,613	N/A	7,082,084	93.72	N/A
1989-12-14	Chamber of Deputies	N/A	7,557,537	N/A	7,158,646	94.72	N/A
1989-12-14	Senate	N/A	7,557,537	N/A	7,158,442	94.72	N/A
1989-12-14	President	N/A	7,557,537	N/A	7,158,727	94.72	N/A
1992-06-28	Municipal	8,867,404	7,840,008	88.41	7,043,827	89.84	79.44
1993-12-11	Chamber of Deputies	9,135,407	8,085,439	88.51	7,385,016	91.34	80.84
1993-12-11	Senate	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,045,681	N/A	N/A
1993-12-11	President	9,135,407	8,085,439	88.51	7,376,691	91.23	80.75
1996-10-27	Municipal	9,654,796	8,073,368	83.62	7,079,418	87.69	73.33
1997-12-14	Chamber of Deputies	9,854,233	8,069,624	81.89	7,046,351	87.32	71.51
1997-12-14	Senate	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,102,906	N/A	N/A
1999-12-12	President	10,205,559	8,084,476	79.22	7,271,584	89.95	71.25
2000-01-16	President-Runoff	10,205,559	8,084,476	79.22	7,326,753	90.63	71.79
2000-10-	Municipal	10,370,011	8,089,363	78.01	7,089,886	87.64	68.37

29

2001-12-16	Chamber of Deputies	10,600,931	8,075,446	76.18	7,034,292	87.11	66.36
2001-12-16	Senate	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,975,017	N/A	N/A
2004-10-31	Council people	11,187,459	8,012,065	71.62	6,874,315	85.80	61.45
2004-10-31	Mayors	11,187,459	8,012,065	71.62	6,872,675	85.78	61.43
2005-12-11	Chamber of Deputies	11,419,104	8,220,897	71.99	7,207,351	87.67	63.12
2005-12-11	Senate	N/A	5,863,704	N/A	5,182,224	88.38	N/A
2005-12-11	President	11,419,104	8,220,897	71.99	7,207,278	87.67	63.12
2006-01-15	President-Runoff	11,419,104	8,220,897	71.99	7,162,345	87.12	62.72
2008-10-26	Council people	12,035,307	8,110,265	67.39	6,950,508	85.70	57.75
2008-10-26	Mayors	12,035,307	8,110,265	67.39	6,959,075	85.81	57.82
2009-12-13	Chamber of Deputies	12,277,915	8,285,186	67.48	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009-12-13	Senate	N/A	2,392,477	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009-12-13	President	12,277,915	8,285,186	67.48	7,264,136	87.68	59.16
2010-01-17	President-Runoff	12,277,915	8,285,186	67.48	7,203,371	86.94	58.67

Chilean presidential election, 2009–2010

Runoff election January 17, 2010

Candidate	Sebastián Piñera	Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle
Party	National Renewal	Christian Democrat Party
Alliance	Coalition for Change	Concertación
Popular vote	3,591,182	3,367,790
Percentage	51.61	48.39

Previous

Michelle
Socialist Party

President

Bachelet

President-elect

Sebastián
National Renewal

Piñera

First round December 13, 2009

Candidate	Sebastián Piñera	Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle
Party	National Renewal	Christian Democrat Party
Alliance	Coalition for Change	Concertación
Popular vote	3,074,164	2,065,061
Percentage	44.06	29.60
Candidate	Marco Enríquez-Ominami	Jorge Arrate
Party	Independent	Communist Party
Alliance	New Majority	Juntos Podemos Más
Popular vote	1,405,124	433,195

Percentage 20.14

6.21





The **Chilean presidential election of 2009** was held on December 13, 2009. Based on the two-round system, since none of the candidates secured the absolute majority needed to take the presidency outright, a run-off between the two most-voted candidates — center-right Sebastián Piñera and center-left Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle— was held on, January 17, 2010. Piñera, who won the runoff with about 51.6% of the vote, will succeed Michelle Bachelet on March 11, 2010. Parliamentary elections took place on the same day.

Chilean politics is dominated by two main coalitions: the center-left Concert of Parties for Democracy (*Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia*), composed of the Christian Democrat Party, the Socialist Party, the Party for Democracy, and the Social Democrat Radical Party; and the center-right Alliance for Chile (*Alianza por Chile*), composed of the Independent Democrat Union and National Renewal. The *Concertación* selected former president Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle as their candidate, while the *Alianza* chose former presidential candidate Sebastián Piñera, who is supported by the newly created Coalition for Change electoral group. The far-left *Juntos Podemos Más* pact selected former Socialist Party member Jorge Arrate as its candidate. Another former Socialist party member, deputy Marco Enríquez-Ominami (MEO), ran as independent.



Summary of candidates

The following four were the official candidates for President:



Candidate	Endorsement	Political affiliation




 <p>Jorge Arrate Communist Party of Chile</p>	 <p>Juntos Podemos Más New Left</p>	<p>Left</p>
 <p>Marco Enríquez-Ominami Independent</p>	 <p>New Majority for Chile Broad Social Movement</p>	<p>Center-left</p>
 <p>Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle Christian Democrat Party</p>	 <p>Concertación Country Force</p>	<p>Center-left</p>
 <p>Sebastián Piñera National Renewal</p>	 <p>Coalition for Change</p>	<p>Center-right</p>

Coalition for Change candidate

	 <p>Sebastián Piñera (RN)</p>	<p>Both Alliance for Chile parties —RN and UDI— chose Sebastián Piñera as their candidate for president, now under the banner of a larger electoral pact, the Coalition for Change, which also includes the newly formed party ChileFirst and other minor groups.</p>
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Party pre-candidates

Party	Candidate	Remarks
 <p>RN</p>	 <p>Sebastián Piñera</p>	<p>Piñera participated in Hernán Büchi's 1989 presidential campaign and was later elected to the Senate. He was a potential presidential nominee in 1993, but his chances were ruined by a conflict with Evelyn Matthei that came to be known as <i>Piñeragate</i>. In 1999 he again attempted to be the nominee, but was defeated in the convention by Joaquín Lavín. In 2005 he shook the political scene by jumping into the first round independently of the UDI. Polls show him narrowly beating Frei in a runoff scenario. He was officially proclaimed by RN on August 8, 2009. He submitted his candidacy to the Electoral Service on September 9, 2009.</p>



 <p>UDI</p>	 <p>Sebastián Piñera</p>	<p>The UDI officially proclaimed Piñera as its candidate on August 22, 2009.^[7] Piñera had been proposed as the party's candidate by the UDI's <i>Consejo Directivo</i> in December 2008.</p> <p>Pre-candidates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evelyn Matthei: She is the daughter of Air Force General Fernando Matthei, a member of the military junta that took power in the 1973 coup. She was a member of National Renewal, but in 1992 was embroiled in a conflict with Sebastián Piñera, ending with her leaving the party and joining the UDI. She has been mentioned as a potential UDI candidate, considering she is among the leading proponents of having the UDI bring its own candidate to the first round. She has said it would be "fun" to compete against Piñera. Longueira said on October 9, 2008 that she would be an excellent candidate. On October 11, 2008, she said she was willing to run for president. She announced her precandidacy on October 14, 2008. <p>Potential candidates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •  <p>Joaquín Lavín: He earned a master's degree in economics from the University of Chicago.</p>
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Afterwards, in 1992, Lavín was elected mayor of Las Condes, a stronghold of the right, with 31% of the vote and reelected in 1997 with 78% of the vote. Lavín was the presidential candidate for the UDI-RN coalition Alliance for Chile in the 1999 election. He eventually lost to PS/PPD candidate Ricardo Lagos in a runoff by 200,000 votes. Lavín again represented UDI in the 2005 presidential election, but ended in third place with 23.23% of the vote, due the presence of another right-wing candidate in the race, Sebastián Piñera, who made it to the runoff election with 25.41% of the vote. Pablo Longueira has urged him to run for a third time for the presidential elections, but he has refused and may end up running for a senate seat in the Valparaíso Region.

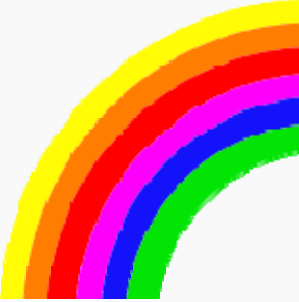

- **Hernán Larraín:** He is a senator and former president of the UDI. Longueira said on October 9, 2008 that he would be an excellent candidate.

Declined candidacies:

- **Hernán Büchi:** A possible candidacy by the 1990 presidential candidate generated buzz within the UDI in June 2007. He has however declined a candidacy.
- **Pablo Longueira:** The senator officially launched his candidacy on March 30, 2007. He had announced his plans before the 2005




		<p>election took place. He stepped down "momentarily" due to "low party support" on May 3, 2007.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacqueline van Rysselberghe: The mayor of Concepción was proclaimed, on October 11, 2006, as candidate by five UDI deputies from the Biobío Region. She has refused to campaign for the nomination, however, preferring to concentrate on her 2008 campaign for reelection as mayor. She as reelected as Concepción mayor in October 2008.
 <p>CHILE PRIMERO CH1</p>	 <p>Sebastián Piñera</p>	<p>ChileFirst decided to support Piñera on March 29, 2009 after its leader, senator Fernando Flores, declined to run for president. It officially proclaimed him on August 15, 2009.</p> <p>Declined candidacies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fernando Flores: The former minister of Salvador Allende and current senator launched a failed presidential bid for the 2005 election. He resigned from the PPD in early 2007 and launched a new party, <i>ChileFirst</i>. On March 29, 2009 ChileFirst decided to support Piñera after Flores declined to run for president.




Concertación *candidate*

	 <p>Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle (PDC)</p>	<p>The <i>Concertación</i> selected former president Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle from the Christian Democrat Party as its single candidate for president. The selection process involved a single regional primary on April 5, 2009 in the Maule and O'Higgins regions between Frei and José Antonio Gómez from the Social Democrat Radical Party. Frei won with 65% versus 35% of Gómez. Had the percentage difference between both candidates been less than 20%, the selection process would have continued with additional primaries in other regions until May 17.</p> <p>Frei was legally proclaimed as presidential candidate by the PPD on August 1, 2009 and by the PDC, PS and PRSD on August 22, 2009. He submitted his candidacy to the Electoral Service on September 12, 2009.</p>
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Party pre-candidates

Each Concertación party selected its own pre-candidate for president. Only Frei and Gómez submitted their candidacies before the January 26, 2009 deadline.

Party	Candidate	Remarks
PRSD	 José Antonio Gómez	<p>He was proclaimed by his party on November 13, 2008. He had announced his pre-candidacy two days earlier.</p>
 PDC	 Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle	<p>He was proclaimed by his party on December 13, 2008.</p> <p>Other candidates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pablo Lorenzini: On December 16, 2008, he said he was supporting Frei's candidacy. • Marcelo Trivelli: He announced his candidacy on June 10, 2007 during a television interview. Despite his lack of a support base, he declared himself the candidate of "honesty and sincerity" and respect towards the Constitution. Trivelli received heavy criticism from his own party because of his decision to run, and many party members declared it was not the appropriate time for candidacies. Trivelli has embarked on a number of trips around the country in order to create enough support to

		<p>sustain his candidacy.</p> <p>Declined candidacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  <p>Soledad Alvear: She was constantly mentioned as a potential contender in 2009 ever since she resigned from her candidacy in favor of Bachelet. Her supporters, the <i>alvearistas</i>, controlled most of the PDC institutions and she commanded widespread support in the party, despite the vocal opposition of fellow Senator Adolfo Zaldívar. On December 6, 2007, she was unofficially proclaimed a presidential candidate by Christian Democrat deputy Pablo Lorenzini.^[24] She declared herself a candidate on June 23, 2008 during a television interview. On October 28, 2008, she stepped out of the race for the presidency and resigned as PDC president after disappointing results in the municipal elections held two days earlier.</p>
 <p>PS</p>	 <p>Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle</p>	<p>The PS selected Frei as its candidate on January 17, 2009. He was the only person to submit a candidacy to the PS presidential convention.</p> <p>Declined candidacies:</p>





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José Miguel Insulza: He declared himself a candidate on December 12, 2008.^[26] He, however, declined his candidacy on January 5, 2009, and gave his support to Frei.



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Ricardo Lagos: His government was highly popular and his term ended with approval ratings around 60-70%. Various supporters urged him to run again in 2009. However, his popularity has lately seen a sharp fall due to the catastrophic new transport system (Transantiago), planned under his presidency. Lagos has declared all doors are open to him, but has refused to confirm whether he will participate. In March 2008, he said it was unbecoming as a former head of state to participate in a primary and would refuse to do so. On November 8, 2008, he was proclaimed unanimously by the PPD's National Directive as its candidate, but Lagos never accepted the nomination. On December 2, 2008, the PPD officially proclaimed Lagos as its candidate for the presidency. However, two days later, Lagos ruled out running for the presidency, stating in

		<p>a press conference "I am not, nor will I be, a presidential candidate".</p>
<p>PPD</p>	 <p>Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle</p>	<p>The PPD selected Frei as its candidate on January 24, 2009, with 296 votes from the party's National Council, against seven for PRSD candidate José Antonio Gómez.</p> <p>Other candidates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  <p>Sergio Bitar: In a May 4, 2007 interview with <i>La Tercera</i>, he said he was willing to be his party's presidential nominee if there was enough support. On November 7, 2008 he said that he is "without a doubt" willing to compete eventually for the presidency, but only if Ricardo Lagos's candidacy does not prosper. He declined his candidacy on November 10, 2008, following Lagos's proclamation by his party. Now that Lagos is out of the race, he may attempt a second run.</p> <p>Nicolás Eyzaguirre: He has said that he could participate if Lagos declines to, but he remained silent after Lagos declined his candidacy.</p> 



		<p>Ricardo Lagos: On December 4, 2008 he ruled out running for the presidency, stating in a press conference "I am not, nor will I be, a presidential candidate".</p>
Independent candidates	<i>None</i>	<p>Failed candidacies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marco Enríquez-Ominami: On December 15, 2008, he announced he was available to compete with Insulza in a Socialist Party primary. He, however, did not submit his candidacy to the PS presidential convention. On January 9, 2009, he agreed to compete in the Concertación primaries as independent after gaining the support of some council people and legislators.

Primary results

The primary was carried out on April 5, 2009 in the Maule and O'Higgins regions. Frei became the single Concertación candidate by beating Gómez with an advantage above 20%, cancelling the need for further regional primaries.

Final results.


Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Result




 Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle	DC	40,140	64.90	Concertación candidate
 José Antonio Gómez	PRSD	21,703	35.09	
Valid votes		61,843	100	
Null votes		222	0.35	
Blank votes		317	0.50	
Total votes		62,382	100	

Juntos Podemos candidate

	 <p>Jorge Arrate (Communist Party of Chile)</p>	<p>The <i>Juntos Podemos Más</i> coalition of far-left parties selected former Socialist Party member Jorge Arrate as its sole candidate for president on April 25, 2009. He was officially proclaimed as candidate on April 26, 2009. In July 2009, after his candidacy lost the support of the Humanist Party, he became a member of the Communist Party in order to comply with the law and run for president. He submitted his candidacy to the Electoral Service on September 9, 2009.</p>
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Party pre-candidates

Party	Candidate	Remarks
 <p>PCCh</p>	<p>Guillermo Teillier</p>	<p>Teillier launched his candidacy on September 26, 2008. He said he is willing to step down in order to put forward a single candidate for the <i>Juntos Podemos</i> coalition of left-parties. In November 2008 he said he would be willing to participate in a primary between him, Hirsch and Alejandro Navarro, who had quit the Socialist Party. Teillier stepped down as <i>Juntos Podemos</i> pre-candidate on April 25, 2009, giving his support to Jorge Arrate, saying he was the right person according to the</p>



		country's political moment.
 PH	 Tomás Hirsch	<p>Hirsch was among the founders of the Humanist Party and vied unsuccessfully for seats in the Chamber of Deputies as part of the <i>Concertación</i>. In 1993, the PH broke off from the coalition. In 1999 he was the Humanist presidential candidate, but lost in the first round. In 2005, he again participated in the presidential campaign, now with the additional support of the communists. He garnered a little over 5% of the vote. In an interview with Biobío Radio in September 1, 2007, Hirsch criticized the <i>Concertación</i> and the Alianza and declared that he would be "happy to be a candidate" if the members of his coalition agree. On June 7, 2008 he announced he intended to run for the presidency for the third time as the PH candidate, under the <i>Juntos Podemos</i> umbrella.</p>
Independent (politician) (Socialista- allendista)	 Jorge Arrate	<p>Arrate is a member of the more leftist faction of the PS and had been mentioned as a potential candidate in an alliance of this faction and the <i>Juntos Podemos Más</i> pact. He formally announced his candidacy on January 27, 2008, pressured by a group of socialists opposed to the Socialist Party leadership. On November 20, 2008, Arrate was proclaimed as candidate by a group of Socialist Party Central Committee members. Arrate resigned from the PS on January 14, 2009. He was proclaimed as presidential candidate on January 18,</p>

		2009 by a group of Socialist Party members, the so-called "socialistas-allendistas.
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Primary results



The election to define the sole *Juntos Podemos* candidate was carried out on April 25, 2009 in Santiago. Arrate beat Hirsch and became the single *Juntos Podemos* candidate.

Final results.

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Result
 Jorge Arrate	Ind.	1,145	77.57	<i>Juntos Podemos</i> candidate
 Tomás Hirsch	PH	331	22.42	
Valid votes		1,476	100	
Null votes		6	0.40	

Blank votes	2	0.13	
Total votes	1,484	100	

Independent candidate

	 <p>Marco Enríquez-Ominami (Ind.)</p>	<p>On December 15, 2008, he announced he was available to compete with Insulza in a Socialist Party primary.^[35] He, however, did not submit his candidacy to the PS presidential convention. On January 9, 2009, he agreed to compete in the Concertación primaries as independent after gaining the support of some council people and legislators. He did not submit his candidacy, however. Instead he is running as an independent and as of August, 2009, polling above 20% and thus threatening to displace one of the coalition-backed candidates in the expected run-off election. He was proclaimed candidate by the Humanist and Ecologist parties plus several other leftist groups under the banner of a new electoral pact, a New Majority for Chile, on September 13, 2009. He submitted his candidacy to the Electoral Service on September 10, 2009.</p>
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Declined candidacies

- **Eduardo Artés** (PC (AP)): He was proclaimed as *Juntos Podemos* pre-candidate by the Communist Party (Proletarian Action) on December 7, 2007. However, on July 26, 2008, the PC (AP) left the *Juntos Podemos* pact, accusing them of abandoning their founding principles in light of the pact's electoral deal with the *Concertación* for the upcoming October municipal elections. He quit his candidacy in July 2009. He said his candidacy was just an opportunity to present new ideas to the country, because being a candidate is something he can't afford, economically speaking.
- **Leonardo Farkas** (Ind.): He is an extravagant mining businessman. On December 5, 2008, he announced he was giving up his presidential candidacy.
- **Pamela Jiles** (Ind.): She is a journalist and television presenter. She launched her candidacy in February 2009 through a column in *The Clinic* magazine. On September 4, 2009 she stepped out of the race in support of Navarro.
- **Luis Molina Vega** (Ind.) The Civil Engineer from Tomé stepped out of the race in July 2009, due to low support.
- **Alejandro Navarro** (MAS): He has characterized himself as a leader in the "dissident" faction of the Socialist Party, which harshly criticizes what they call the "neoliberal" economic model and supports Hugo Chávez and Fidel Castro. Despite his involvement in a scandal due to his participation in a recent protest organized by the Unitary Workers Central where he attacked a policeman and the possibility of being expelled from the Senate, Navarro has already declared himself to be a presidential candidate for 2008. In November, 2008, he quit the PS to form a new party called *Movimiento Amplio Social*. He said his candidacy was necessary to "stop Piñera from winning in the first round" and still considers himself a Socialist. The MAS proclaimed him its candidate on November 11, 2008. The MAS is open to stage a primary between all leftist candidates that are not part of the *Concertación*. Navarro has proposed to hold the primary on April 2009. On May 5, 2009 Navarro said he would step out of the race and support Arrate if polls released from then to September show the *Juntos Podemos*

candidate having an advantage of seven points over him. He didn't rule out Arrate then supporting Enríquez-Ominami, if his candidacy was the strongest. Navarro was proclaimed as MAS candidate on July 25, 2009 with the support of other minor left groups. He submitted his candidacy to the Electoral Service on September 14, 2009. On September 22, 2009 Navarro announced he was stepping out of the race and gave his support to Enríquez-Ominami.

- **Adolfo Zaldívar** (PRI): The former president of the PDC and current senator lost the last internal PDC primary to Alvear. He is the brother of former senator and former Interior Minister Andrés Zaldívar. He was expelled from the PDC in December 2007. He is now part of the Regionalist Party of the Independents (PRI) and intends to run as president representing that collectivity. Zaldívar was proclaimed by the PRI on April 26, 2009. This decision was ratified on August 29, 2009. He stepped out of the race on September 14, 2009, just hours before the deadline for submission.

Opinion polls

List of opinion polls released within a year of the election. Only responses from persons registered to vote are shown.

Not in the list
Wins election
May win election
Runoff
May go to a runoff

First-round scenarios

Publisher	Field date	Date published	Arrate	MEO	Frei	Piñera	Other	DK/NR	Comments
CEP	November 19-December 11, 2008	December 30, 2008	—	—	31	41	7	21	Source
La Segunda	December 18, 2008	December 19, 2008	—	—	36	46	6	12	Source
La Segunda	April 6, 2009	April 7, 2009	1	4	33	43	7	12	Source
La Tercera	April 6-7, 2009	April 12, 2009	—	3	33	42	7	15	Source
Imaginación	April 4-26, 2009	May 11, 2009	—	10.5	32.4	38.3	7.6	11.2	Source
TNS Time	April 1-30, 2009	May 5, 2009	—	14	29	36	7	14	Source
La Tercera	April 21-23, 2009	April 26, 2009	—	10	28	35	7	20	Source

Ipsos	N/A	April N/A, 2009	0.3	5.1	25.4	43.3	0	25.9	Source
La Segunda	May 14, 2009	May 15, 2009	1	14	27	42	4	12	Source
Imaginación	May 2-30, 2009	June 11, 2009	0.5	20.9	29.9	34.9	5.6	8.2	Source
TNS Time	May 4-30, 2009	June 2, 2009	1	24	25	33	3	14	Source
CEP	May 14- June 3, 2009	June 18, 2009	1	14	30	34	3	19	Response to a questionnaire. (Source)
CEP	May 14- June 3, 2009	June 18, 2009	1	13	30	37	3	16	Ballot box vote. (Source)
Ipsos	May 18- June 1, 2009	June 9, 2009	1.4	20.6	24.9	34.4	2.5	16.2	Source
Imaginación	June 1-30, 2009	July 14, 2009	2.3	21.5	28.2	35.9	2.7	9.4	Source

Mori	June 27- July 9, 2009	July 23, 2009	1	13	21	43	3	19	Source
La Segunda	July 8, 2009	July 10, 2009	2	15	27	38	3	15	Source
Imaginación	July 1-31, 2009	August 12, 2009	3.5	21.9	26.7	36.7	1.7	9.5	Source
La Tercera	July 20- 22, 2009	July 26, 2009	2	21	25	30	2	20	Source
CERC	July 17- August 3, 2009	August 12, 2009	1	14	25	39	1	20	Source
Ipsos	July 24- August 6, 2009	August 19, 2009	1.5	20.6	22.9	35.6	2.1	17.3	Source
Direct Media	August 5- 6, 2009	August 12, 2009	1.63	15.48	21.28	34.43	1.32	25.86	Source
La Segunda	August 12, 2009	August 14, 2009	1	20	24	39	1	15	Source

Imaginación	August 1-29, 2009	September 14, 2009	2.3	20.5	28.2	37.8	2.4	10.3	Source
CEP	July 30-August 20, 2009	September 3, 2009	1	16	30	35	2	16	Response to a questionnaire. (Source)
CEP	July 30-August 20, 2009	September 3, 2009	1	17	28	37	2	15	Ballot box vote. (Source)
Imaginación	September 1-30, 2009	October 14, 2009	4.5	20.4	25.7	38.4	1.7	9.3	Source
La Segunda	September 24, 2009	September 25, 2009	4	19	23	39	0	15	Source
Ipsos	September 16-October 6, 2009	October 21, 2009	3.7	17.8	27.2	36.7	0.3	14.3	Source
UDP	September 21-October 13, 2009	October 28, 2009	4.1	17.3	23.7	30.3	0.6	24.0	Source

La Tercera	October 5-8, 2009	October 10, 2009	6	24	20	39	0	11	Source
CERC	October 2-13, 2009	October 20, 2009	3	20	20	41	0	16	Source
El Mercurio-Opina	October 10-12 2009	October 18, 2009	4.9	21.5	22.8	38.0	0	12.7	Source
Giro País-Subjetiva	October 9-20, 2009	October 31, 2009	4.7	19.3	28.6	36.9	0	10.5	Source
Imaginación	October 1-31, 2009	November 16, 2009	6.4	22.3	27.0	37.8	0	6.5	Source
CEP	October 8-30, 2009	November 11, 2009	4	17	26	35	0	18	Response to a questionnaire. (Source)
CEP	October 8-30, 2009	November 11, 2009	5	19	26	36	0	14	Ballot box vote. (Source)

El Mercurio-Opina	November 3-4, 2009	November 7, 2009	6.1	20.4	21.5	38.0	0	14.0	Ballot box vote. (Source)
La Segunda	November 18, 2009	November 20, 2009	7	20	24	38	0	11	Source
El Mercurio-Opina	December 5-6, 2009	December 9, 2009	6.8	19.5	22.6	38.2	0	12.9	Ballot box vote. (Source)

DK/NR: Don't know / No response.

Runoff scenarios

Frei vs. Piñera

Publisher	Field date	Date published	Frei	Piñera	DK/NR	Comments
CEP	November 19-December 11, 2008	December 30, 2008	34	44	22	Source
Imaginación	December 6-28, 2008	January 8, 2009	42.5	44.8	12.7	Source
La Segunda-UDD	December 18, 2008	December 19, 2008	38	46	16	Source

TNS Time	January 2009	N/A,	January 31, 2009 (unverified)	40	45	15	Source
Imaginación	January 2009	3-31,	February 6, 2009	42.3	45.6	12.1	Source
TNS Time	February 2009	2-26,	March 10, 2009 (unverified)	38	43	19	Source
Imaginación	February 2009	7-28,	March 4, 2009	43.4	46.8	9.8	Source
La Segunda-UDD	March 5, 2009		March 6, 2009	37	46	17	Source
TNS Time	March 2009	2-30,	March 31, 2009	41	39	20	Source
Imaginación	March 2009	2-31,	April 8, 2009	44.3	44.7	11.0	Source
La Segunda-UDD	April 6, 2009		April 7, 2009	39	45	16	Source

La Tercera	April 6-7, 2009	April 12, 2009	40	46	14	Source
Imaginación	April 4-26, 2009	May 11, 2009	43.2	43.8	13.0	Source
TNS Time	April 1-30, 2009	May 5, 2009	41	43	16	Source
CERC	April 13-27, 2009	May 14, 2009	33	47	20	Source
La Tercera	April 21-23, 2009	April 26, 2009	39	43	18	Source
Giro País-Subjetiva	April 30-May 10, 2009	May 16, 2009	40.8	37.9	21.3	Source
La Segunda-UDD	May 14, 2009	May 15, 2009	34	44	22	Source
Imaginación	May 2-30, 2009	June 11, 2009	43.1	44.2	12.7	Source
TNS Time	May 4-30, 2009	June 2, 2009	38	43	19	Source

CEP	May 14-June 3, 2009	June 18, 2009	39	39	22	Response to a questionnaire. (Source)
CEP	May 14-June 3, 2009	June 18, 2009	39	41	20	Ballot box vote. (Source)
Ipsos	May 18-June 1, 2009	June 9, 2009	39.6	42.3	18.1	Source
Imaginación	June 1-30, 2009	July 14, 2009	41.9	43.3	14.8	Source
MORI	June 27-July 9, 2009	July 23, 2009	30	46	24	Source
La Segunda-UDD	July 8, 2009	July 10, 2009	39	43	18	Source
Imaginación	July 1-31, 2009	August 12, 2009	42.8	44.5	12.7	Source
CERC	July 17-August 3, 2009	August 12, 2009	36	44	20	Source
Ipsos	July 24-August 19, 2009	August 19, 2009	38.1	45.5	16.4	Source

	6, 2009	2009				
Direct Media	August 5-6, 2009	August 12, 2009	30.97	40.89	28.14	Source
CEP	July 30-August 20, 2009	September 3, 2009	39	39	22	Response to a questionnaire. (Source)
CEP	July 30-August 20, 2009	September 3, 2009	39	42	19	Ballot box vote. (Source)
La Segunda-UDD	August 12, 2009	August 14, 2009	36	45	19	Source
Imaginación	August 1-29, 2009	September 14, 2009	42.6	44.6	12.8	Source
Imaginación	September 30, 2009	October 14, 2009	42.2	45.2	12.6	Source
La Segunda-UDD	September 24, 2009	September 25, 2009	38	47	15	Source
Ipsos	September 16-October 6, 2009	October 21, 2009	39.6	44.5	15.9	Source

	2009					
UDP	September 21- October 13, 2009	October 28, 2009	36.3	35.5	28.2	Source
La Tercera	October 5-8, 2009	October 10, 2009	39	48	13	Source
El Mercurio- Opina	October 10-12, 2009	October 18, 2009	38.1	42.5	19.4	Ballot box vote. (Source)
Giro País- Subjetiva	October 9-20, 2009	October 31, 2009	42.0	42.2	15.8	Source
Imaginación	October 1-31, 2009	November 16, 2009	42.1	45.8	12.1	Source
CEP	October 8-30, 2009	November 11, 2009	36	40	24	Response to a questionnaire. (Source)
CEP	October 8-30, 2009	November 11, 2009	37	43	20	Ballot box vote. (Source)
El Mercurio-	November 3-4, 2009	November	36.8	42.7	20.5	Ballot box vote.

Opina	2009	7, 2009				(Source)
La Segunda-UDD	November 18, 2009	November 20, 2009	37	47	16	Source
El Mercurio-Opina	December 5-6, 2009	December 9, 2009	34.4	42.5	23.1	Ballot box vote. (Source)
El Mercurio-Opina	December 15-17, 2009	December 19, 2009	39.7	46.2	14.1	Ballot box vote. (Source)
La Segunda-UDD	December 17, 2009	December 18, 2009	43	48	9	Source
El Mercurio-Opina	January 5-7, 2010	January 9, 2010	41.0	46.1	12.9	Ballot box vote. (Source)

DK/NR: Don't know / No response.

Enríquez-Ominami vs. Piñera

Publisher	Field date	Date published	MEO	Piñera	DK/NR	Comments
La Segunda-UDD	May 14, 2009	May 15, 2009	37	45	18	Source

MORI	June 27-July 9, 2009	July 23, 2009	23	47	30	Source
La Segunda-UDD	July 8, 2009	July 10, 2009	36	45	19	Source
La Tercera	July 20-22, 2009	July 26, 2009	22	49	29	Source
CERC	July 17-August 3, 2009	August 12, 2009	29	44	27	Source
Ipsos	July 24-August 6, 2009	August 19, 2009	40.3	43.6	16.1	Source
Direct Media	August 5-6, 2009	August 12, 2009	31.29	38.88	29.83	Source
CEP	July 30-August 20, 2009	September 3, 2009	33	40	27	Response to a questionnaire. (Source)
CEP	July 30-August 20, 2009	September 3, 2009	34	44	22	Ballot box vote. (Source)
La Segunda-	August 12,	August 14,	37	45	18	Source

UDD	2009	2009				
Imaginación	September 1-30, 2009	October 14, 2009	39.3	45.9	14.8	Source
La Segunda-UDD	September 24, 2009	September 25, 2009	40	47	13	Source
Ipsos	September 16-October 6, 2009	October 21, 2009	42.3	42.8	14.9	Source
UDP	September 21-October 13, 2009	October 28, 2009	36.4	34.0	29.6	Source
La Tercera	October 5-8, 2009	October 10, 2009	43	44	13	Source
El Mercurio-Opina	October 10-12, 2009	October 18, 2009	40.3	42.9	16.8	Ballot-box vote. (Source)
Giro País-Subjetiva	October 9-20, 2009	October 31, 2009	41.1	40.2	18.7	Source
Imaginación	October 1-31,	November	42.7	43.4	13.9	Source

	2009	16, 2009				
CEP	October 8-30, 2009	November 11, 2009	35	37	28	Response to a questionnaire. (Source)
CEP	October 8-30, 2009	November 11, 2009	37	40	23	Ballot box vote. (Source)
El Mercurio-Opina	November 3-4, 2009	November 7, 2009	37.7	41.9	20.4	Ballot-box vote. (Source)
La Segunda-UDD	November 18, 2009	November 20, 2009	40	44	16	Source
El Mercurio-Opina	December 5-6, 2009	December 9, 2009	34.8	40.7	24.5	Ballot-box vote. (Source)

DK/NR: Don't know / No response.

Arrate vs. Piñera

Publisher	Field date	Date published	Arrate	Piñera	DK/NR	Comments
La Tercera	October 5-8, 2009	October 10, 2009	33	51	16	Source

DK/NR: Don't know / No response.

Enrriquez-Ominami vs. Frei

Publisher	Field date	Date published	MEO	Frei	DK/NR	Comments
UDP	September 21-October 13, 2009	October 28, 2009	32.3	31.9	35.8	Source

DK/NR: Don't know / No response.

Debates



The four candidates attend the second debate organized by Archi.

The first debate was organized by TVN and took place in Studio #9 at the station's main headquarters in Santiago. It was broadcast live on September 23, 2009 at 10:40 p.m and included all four candidates. A poll published by Ipsos the following day, showed that Enrriquez-Ominami, Arrate and Piñera were each considered to have had the best performance over the rest, with 29-30% of support, while Frei's showing only had the support of 9%. Frei was seen by 45% as the worst performer, followed by Piñera (37%), Arrate (10%) and Enrriquez-Ominami (5%). Another poll by *La Segunda* found 23% thought Piñera had won the debate, followed by Arrate (21%), Enrriquez-Ominami (15%) and Frei (9%). 31% thought none had won the debate.

The second debate was organized by Archi (Radio Broadcasters Association) and Mayor University. It took place at 8:30 AM on October 9, 2009. It was a radio-only debate, though some local 24-hour news channels broadcast live some parts of it. A poll carried out by Mayor University showed Piñera had won the debate by 41%, followed by Enríquez-Ominami (22%), Arrate (19%) and Frei Ruiz-Tagle (17%).

There was an online debate on November 4, organized by Terra and Radio Cooperativa. Only Arrate was present after the other three candidates declined to attend. Frei and Piñera had confirmed their presence in May, while Enríquez-Ominami backed down on the same day of the debate.

A debate to discuss regional issues took place on November 6 at 9 AM in Talca's casino. It was organized by the National Press Association (ANP) and was attended by all four candidates.

A fifth debate took place on November 9 at Canal 13's studios in Santiago, which was broadcast live at 10 PM. All four candidates were present. This debate was notable because the candidates were able to ask questions to one another and freely talk to each other.

The last debate was organized by the National Television Association (Anatel) and broadcast live on November 16 at 10 PM by all terrestrial television stations. All candidates attended. There was no audience present.

First round results

Official and final results.

Ballot number	Candidate	Party/ Coalition	Votes	%	Result

1	Jorge Arrate Mac-Niven	PCCh/JPM	433,195	6.21	
2	Marco Enríquez-Ominami Gumucio	Independent (politician)	1,405,124	20.14	
3	Sebastián Piñera Echenique	RN/CFC	3,074,164	44.06	Runoff
4	Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle	PDC/CPD	2,065,061	29.60	Runoff
	Total valid votes		6,977,544	100.00	
	Null votes		200,420	2.76	
	Blank votes		86,172	1.19	
	Total votes		7,264,136	100.00	
	Total voters enrolled		8,285,186	87.68% turnout	
	Voting age population		12,277,915	67.48% registered	

Note: There are 34,348 ballot boxes in the country in 34,325 polling places (23 polling places are mixed-sex, with separate ballot boxes for men and women.)

Runoff election

Campaign

On December 20, 2009, the Juntos Podemos Más coalition gave his support to Eduardo Frei's candidacy, after the former president agreed to include a number of policies into his government program. Two days later, Jorge Arrate also gave his full support to Frei. On January 13, 2010 Enríquez-Ominami held a press conference to state he would vote for Frei, although he did not say his name. He had previously said that voting for Piñera would be a regression and voting for Frei would not be an advancement.

Debates

There was a single debate between the two candidates. It was organized by Anatel and broadcast at 10 PM by all terrestrial television stations on January 11, 2010.

Results

Official and final results.

Ballot number	Candidate	Party/ Coalition	Votes	%	Result
1	Sebastián Piñera Echenique	RN/CFC	3,591,182	51.61	President
2	Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle	PDC/CPD	3,367,790	48.39	
	Total valid votes		6,958,972	100.00	
	Null votes		189,490	2.63	

	Blank votes		54,909	0.76	
	Total votes		7,203,371	100.00	
	Total voters enrolled		8,285,186	86.94% turnout	
	Voting age population		12,277,915	67.48% registered	

Note: There are 34,348 ballot boxes in the country in 34,325 polling places (23 polling places are mixed-sex, with separate ballot boxes for men and women.)

Timeline

- September 13, 2009: Deadline to enroll to vote in the upcoming elections.
- September 14, 2009: Deadline to submit candidacies before the Electoral Service (Servel).
- September 14, 2009: Electoral campaign begins.
- October 5, 2009: Draw supervised by Servel to assign a ballot number to each candidate.
- November 13, 2009: Electoral advertisement period starts.
- December 10, 2009: Electoral advertisement period ends.
- December 13, 2009: Election day. Electoral campaigning ends.
- December 13, 2009: First preliminary results are announced by the Deputy Interior Minister at 6:30 p.m. local time (9:30 p.m. GMT), including 4,342 out of 34,348 ballot boxes (12.64%).
- December 13, 2009: Second preliminary results are announced by the Deputy Interior Minister at 8:03 p.m. local time (11:03 p.m. GMT), including 20,595 ballot boxes (59.96%).

- December 13, 2009: Third preliminary results are announced by the Deputy Interior Minister at 22:56 p.m. local time (1:56 a.m. GMT), including 33,756 ballot boxes (98.28%).
- December 14, 2009: Fourth and final preliminary results are announced by the Deputy Interior Minister at 11:05 a.m. local time (2:05 p.m. GMT), including 34,133 ballot boxes (99.37%).
- December 21, 2009: The Electoral Service (Servel) publishes preliminary results based on the examination of election certificates (*actas de escrutinio*) by the Tellers' Colleges (*Colegios Escrutadores*) meeting on December 14, 2009, including 34,263 out of 34,348 ballot boxes (99.75%).
- December 29, 2009: The Tricel publishes the final results of the first round election on the Official Gazette.
- January 3, 2009: Electoral advertisement period for runoff election starts.
- January 7, 2009: Ballot number is assigned to each candidate according to the their position in the first election.
- January 14, 2009: Electoral advertisement period ends.
- January 17, 2010: Date of presidential run-off. Electoral campaigning ends.
- January 17, 2010: First preliminary results are announced by the Deputy Interior Ministry at 6:00 p.m. local time (9:00 p.m. GMT), including results from 20,711 out of 34,348 ballot boxes (60.30%).
- January 17, 2010: Eduardo Frei concedes the election to Sebastián Piñera at 6:44 p.m. local time (9:44 p.m. GMT).
- January 17, 2010: Second preliminary results are announced by the Deputy Interior Ministry at 7:40 p.m. local time (10:40 p.m. GMT), including results from 34,056 ballot boxes (99.15%).
- January 18, 2010: Third and final preliminary results are announced by the Deputy Interior Ministry at 11:00 a.m. local time (2:00 p.m. GMT), including results from 34,252 ballot boxes (99.72%).
- January 29, 2010: The Election Qualifying Court (Tricel) officially proclaims Piñera as President-elect.

- January 30, 2010: The Tricel publishes the Act of Proclamation on the Official Gazette.
- February 3, 2010: The Tricel publishes the final results of the runoff election on its website.

SRILANKA

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Sri Lanka

Capital	Sri Jayawardenapura-Kotte 6°54'N 79°54'E
Largest city	Colombo
Official language(s)	Sinhala, Tamil
Ethnic groups (2001)	≈73.9% Sinhalese, ≈12.6% Tamil, ≈7.4% Moors, ≈5.2% Indian Tamil, ≈0.5% Others.
Demonym	Sri Lankan
Government	Democratic Socialist Republic
- President	Mahinda Rajapaksa
- Prime Minister	Ratnasiri Wickremanayake
Establishment	
- Landing of Vijaya	543 BC
- Kandyan Convention	2–18 March 1815
- Independence from the United Kingdom	February 4, 1948
- Republic	May 22, 1972
Area	
- Total	65,610 km ² (122nd) 25,332 sq mi
- Water (%)	4.4

Population

- 2009 estimate	20,238,000
- July 2008 census	21,324,791
- Density	308.4/km ² 798.9/sq MI
GDP (PPP)	2008 estimate
- Total	\$92.168 billion
- Per capita	\$4,589

1. INTRODUCTION

Sri Lanka, officially the **Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka** and known as **Ceylon** before 1972, is an island country in South Asia, located about 31 kilometres (19.3 mi) off the southern coast of India.

As a result of its location in the path of major sea routes, Sri Lanka is a strategic naval link between West Asia and South East Asia. It has also been a center of the Buddhist religion and culture from ancient times as well as being a bastion of Hinduism. The Sinhalese community forms the majority of the population; Tamils, who are concentrated in the north and east of the island, form the largest ethnic minority. Other communities include Moors, Burghers, Kaffirs, Malays and the indigenous Vedda people.

The country is famous for the production and export of tea, coffee, coconuts, rubber and cinnamon - which is native to the country. The natural beauty of Sri Lanka's tropical forests, beaches and landscape, as well as its rich cultural heritage, make it a world famous tourist destination. The island also boasts the first female Prime Minister in the world, Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

After over two thousand years of rule by local kingdoms, parts of Sri Lanka were colonized by Portugal and the Netherlands beginning in the 16th century, before control of the entire country was ceded to the British Empire in 1815. During World War II, Sri Lanka served as an important base for Allied forces in the fight against the Japanese Empire. A nationalist political movement arose in the country in the early 20th century with the aim of obtaining political independence, which was eventually granted by the British after peaceful negotiations in 1948.

History

Paleolithic human settlements have been discovered at excavations in several cave sites in the Western Plains region and the South-western face of the Central Hills region. Anthropologists believe that some discovered burial rites and certain decorative artifacts exhibit similarities between the first inhabitants of the island and the early inhabitants of Southern India. Recent bioanthropological studies have however dismissed these links, and have placed the origin of the people to the northern parts of India.

One of the first written references to the island is found in the Indian epic Ramayana, which described the emperor Ravana as monarch of the powerful kingdom of *Lanka*, which was created by the divine sculptor Vishwakarma for Kubera, the treasurer of the Gods. English historian James Emerson Tennent also theorized Galle, a southern city in Sri Lanka, was the ancient seaport of Tarshish from which King Solomon is said to have drawn ivory, peacocks and other valuables. The main written accounts of the country's history are the Buddhist chronicles of Mahavamsa and Dipavamsa.

The earliest-known inhabitants of the island now known as Sri Lanka were probably the ancestors of the Wanniyala-Aetto people, also known as *Veddahs* and numbering roughly 3,000. Linguistic analysis has found a correlation of the Sinhalese language with the languages of the Sindh and Gujarat, although most historians believe that the Sinhala community emerged well after the assimilation of various ethnic groups.

From the ancient period date some remarkable archaeological sites including the ruins of Sigiriya, the so-called "Fortress in the Sky", and huge public works. Among the latter are

large "tanks" or reservoirs, important for conserving water in a climate that alternates rainy seasons with dry times, and elaborate aqueducts, some with a slope as finely calibrated as one inch to the mile. Ancient Sri Lanka was also the first in the world to have established a dedicated hospital in Mihintale in the 4th century BCE. Ancient Sri Lanka was also the world's leading exporter of cinnamon, which was exported to Egypt as early as 1400 BCE. Sri Lanka was also the first Asian nation to have a female ruler in Queen Anula (47–42 BC).

Ancient Sri Lanka

Since ancient times Sri Lanka was ruled by monarchs, most notably of the Sinha royal dynasty that lasted over 2000 years. The island was also infrequently invaded by South Indian kingdoms and parts of the island were ruled intermittently by the Chola dynasty, the Pandya dynasty, the Chera dynasty and the Pallava dynasty. The island was also invaded by the kingdoms of Kalinga (modern Orissa) and those from the Malay Peninsula.

Buddhism arrived from India in the 3rd century BCE, brought by Bhikkhu Mahinda, who is believed to have been the son of Mauryan emperor Ashoka. Mahinda's mission won over the Sinhalese monarch Devanampiyatissa of Mihintale, who embraced the faith and propagated it throughout the Sinhalese population. The Buddhist kingdoms of Sri Lanka would maintain a large number of Buddhist schools and monasteries, and support the propagation of Buddhism into Southeast Asia.

Colonial era

Sri Lanka had always been an important port and trading post in the ancient world, and was increasingly frequented by merchant ships from the Middle East, Persia, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and other parts of Southeast Asia. The islands were known to the first European explorers of South Asia and settled by many groups of Arab and Malay merchants.

A Portuguese colonial mission arrived on the island in 1505 headed by Lourenço de Almeida the son of Francisco de Almeida. At that point the island consisted of three kingdoms, namely Kandy in the central hills, Kotte at the Western coast, and Yarlpanam (Anglicised Jaffna) in the north. The Dutch arrived in the 17th century. Although much of the island came under the domain of European powers, the interior, hilly region of the island remained independent, with its capital in Kandy.

The British East India Company established control of the island in 1796, declaring it a crown colony in 1802, although the island would not be officially connected with British India. The fall of the kingdom of Kandy in 1815 unified the island under British rule.

20th Century and the World Wars

European colonists established a series of tea, cinnamon, rubber, sugar, coffee and indigo plantations. The British also brought a large number of indentured workers from Tamil Nadu to work in the plantation economy. The city of Colombo was established as the administrative centre, and the British established modern schools, colleges, roads and churches that brought Western-style education and culture to the native people.

Increasing grievances over the denial of civil rights, mistreatment and abuse of natives by colonial authorities gave rise to a struggle for independence in the 1930s, when the Youth Leagues opposed the "Ministers' Memorandum," which asked the colonial authority to increase the powers of the board of ministers without granting popular representation or civil freedoms. Buddhist scholars and the Teetotalist Movement also played a vital role in this time.

During World War II, the island served as an important Allied military base. A large segment of the British and American fleet were deployed on the island, as were tens of thousands of soldiers committed to the war against Japan in Southeast Asia.

Independence

The formal ceremony marking the start of self rule, with the opening of the first parliament at Independence Square.

Following the war, popular pressure for independence intensified. The office of Prime Minister of Ceylon was created in advance of independence on 14 October 1947, Don Stephen Senanayake being the first prime minister. On February 4, 1948 the country won its independence as the Dominion of Ceylon.

On July 21, 1960 Sirimavo Bandaranaike took office as prime minister, and became the world's first female prime minister and the first female head of government in post-colonial Asia. In 1972, during Sirimavo Bandaranaike's second term as prime minister, the country became a republic within the Commonwealth, and the name was changed to Sri Lanka. The island enjoyed good relations with the United Kingdom and had the British Royal Navy stationed at Trincomalee.

Civil war

One of the aspects of the independence movement was that it was very much a Sinhalese movement. As a result, the Sinhalese majority attempted to remodel Sri Lanka as a Sinhalese nation-state. The lion in the national flag is derived from the banner of the last Sinhalese Kingdom, which, to the Sinhalese majority, is a symbol of their fight against British colonialism. One single strip of orange on the left part of the flag represents the Tamil population, and it is seen by many Tamil as a symbol of their marginalisation.

In 1956, the Official Language Act (commonly known as The Sinhala Only Act) was enacted. The law mandated Sinhala, the language of Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese community, which is spoken by over 70% of Sri Lanka's population, as the sole official language of Sri Lanka. Supporters of the law saw it as an attempt by a community that had just gained independence to distance themselves from their colonial masters.

The immediate (and intended) consequence of this act was to force large numbers of Tamil who worked in the civil service, and who could not meet this language requirement, to resign. An attempt to make Buddhism the national religion, to the exclusion of Hindu and Islam, was also made. Affirmative action in favour of Sinhalese was also instituted, ostensibly to reverse colonial discrimination against Sinhalese in

favour of Tamil. Many Tamil, in response to this deliberate marginalisation, came to believe that they deserved a separate nation-state for themselves.

From 1983 to 2009, there was an on-and-off civil war against the government by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a separatist militant organization who fought to create an independent state named Tamil Eelam in the North and East of the island. Both the Sri Lankan government and LTTE have been accused of various human rights violations.

On May 19, 2009, the President of Sri Lanka officially claimed an end to the insurgency and the defeat of the LTTE, following the death of Velupillai Prabhakaran and much of the LTTE's other senior leadership.

Post War

After the civil war is over in Sri Lanka, government of Sri Lanka calls for re-development of the country. There are 300,000 Tamils that need to be resettled.

Government and politics

Main articles: Government of Sri Lanka, Constitution of Sri Lanka, and Politics of Sri Lanka

The Constitution of Sri Lanka establishes a democratic, socialist republic in Sri Lanka, which is also a unitary state. The government is a mixture of the presidential system and the parliamentary system. The President of Sri Lanka is the head of state, the commander in chief of the armed forces, as well as head of government, and is popularly elected for a six-year term. In the exercise of duties, the President is responsible to the Parliament of Sri Lanka, which is a unicameral 225-member legislature. The President appoints and heads a cabinet of ministers composed of elected members of parliament. The President's deputy is the Prime Minister, who leads the ruling party in parliament and shares many executive responsibilities, mainly in domestic affairs.^[28] Members of parliament are elected by universal (adult) suffrage based on a modified proportional representation system by district to a six-year term. The primary modification is that, the party that

receives the largest number of valid votes in each constituency gains a unique "bonus seat." The president may summon, suspend, or end a legislative session and dissolve Parliament any time after it has served for one year. The parliament reserves the power to make all laws. On July 1, 1960 the people of Sri Lanka elected the first-ever female head of government in Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Her daughter Chandrika Kumaratunga served for a short period as the prime minister between August and December 1994 before being elected as president from 1994 to 2005 for 2 consecutive terms. The current president and prime minister, both of whom took office on November 21, 2005, are Mahinda Rajapaksa and Ratnasiri Wickremanayake respectively.

Sri Lanka has enjoyed democracy with universal suffrage since 1931. Politics in Sri Lanka are controlled by rival coalitions led by the left-wing Sri Lanka Freedom Party, headed by President Rajapaksa, the comparatively right-wing United National Party led by former prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and JVP. There are also many smaller Buddhist, socialist and Tamil nationalist political parties that oppose the separatism of the LTTE but demand regional autonomy and increased civil rights. Since 1948, Sri Lanka has been a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and the United Nations. It is also a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Colombo Plan, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. Through the Cold War-era, Sri Lanka followed a foreign policy of non-alignment but has remained closer to the United States and Western Europe. The military of Sri Lanka comprises the Sri Lankan Army, the Sri Lankan Navy and the Sri Lankan Air Force. These are administered by the Ministry of Defence. During 1971 and 1989 the army assisted the police in government response against the Marxist militants of the JVP and fought the LTTE from 1983 to 2009. Sri Lanka receives considerable military assistance from Pakistan and China.

Administrative divisions

Bay of Bengal

Palk Strait

Northern Province

Gulf

of

Mannar

North Central Province

North

Western

Province

Eastern

Province

Central

Province

Uva Province

Western

Province

Sabaragamuwa

Province

Southern Province

Indian Ocean

Provinces

The **Provinces of Sri Lanka** have existed since the 19th century but they didn't have any legal status until 1987 when the 13th Amendment to the 1978 Constitution of Sri Lanka established provincial councils following several decades of increasing demand for a decentralization of the Government of Sri Lanka.^[38] Between 1988 and 2006 the Northern and Eastern provinces were temporarily merged to form the North-East Province. Prior to 1987, all administration was handled by a district-based civil service which had been in place since colonial times.

Sri Lanka is divided into 9 provinces and 25 districts. Each province is administered by a directly elected provincial council:

Administrative Divisions of Sri Lanka			
province	Capital	Area (km ²)	Population
Central	Kandy	5,674	2,423,966
Eastern	Trincomalee	9,996	1,460,939

North Central	Anuradhapura	10,714	1,104,664
Northern	Jaffna	8,884	1,311,776
North Western	Kurunegala	7,812	2,169,892
Sabaragamuwa	Ratnapura	4,902	1,801,331
Southern	Galle	5,559	2,278,271
Uva	Badulla	8,488	1,177,358
Western	Colombo	3,709	5,361,200

Elections in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka elects on national level a head of state - the president - and a legislature. The president is elected for a six year term by the people. The **Parliament** has 225 members, elected for a six year term, 196 members elected in multi-seat constituencies through proportional representation system where each party is allocated a number of seats from the quota for each district according to the proportion of the total vote that party obtains in the district. The other 29 which is called the national list are appointed by each party secretary according to the island wide proportional vote the party obtains.

Sri Lanka has a multi party system, with two dominant political parties, and with extreme difficulty for anybody to achieve electoral success under the banner of any other party.

Latest elections

2010 Presidential election

Summary of the 26 January 2010 Sri Lankan presidential election results

Candidate	Party	Votes	%
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Mahinda Rajapaksa	United People's Freedom Alliance	6,015,934	57.88%
Sarath Fonseka	New Democratic Front	4,173,185	40.15%
Mohomad Cassim Mohomad Ismail	Democratic United National Front	39,226	0.38%
Achala Ashoka Suraweera	Jathika Sangwardhena Peramuna	26,266	0.25%
Channa Janaka Sugathsiri Gamage	United Democratic Front	23,290	0.22%
W.V. Mahiman Ranjith	<i>Independent</i>	18,747	0.18%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	Sri Lanka Labour Party	14,220	0.14%
Sarath Manamendra	Nawa Sihala Urumaya	9,684	0.09%
M.K. Sivajilingam	<i>Independent</i>	9,662	0.09%
Ukkubanda Wijekoon	<i>Independent</i>	9,381	0.09%

Lal Perera	Our National Front	9,353	0.09%
Siritunga Jayasuriya	United Socialist Party	8,352	0.08%
Vickramabahu Karunaratna	Left Front	7,055	0.07%
Idroos Mohomad Ilyas	<i>Independent</i>	6,131	0.06%
Wije Dias	Socialist Equality Party	4,195	0.04%
Sanath Pinnaduwa	National Alliance	3,523	0.03%
Mohamed Musthaffa	<i>Independent</i>	3,134	0.03%
Battaramulle Seelarathana Thero	Jana Setha Peramuna	2,770	0.03%
Senaratna de Silva	Patriotic National Front	2,620	0.03%
Aruna de Zoyza	Ruhunu Janatha Party	2,618	0.03%
Upali Sarath Kongahage	United National Alternative Front	2,260	0.02%
Muthu Bandara	Okkoma Vesiyō – Okkoma	2,007	0.02%

Theminiimulla	Rajavaru Sanvidhanaya		
Total		10,393,613	
Registered Voters		14,088,500	
Total Votes cast		10,495,451 (74.50%)	
Invalid Votes		101,838	
Valid Votes cast		10,393,613	

2004 Parliamentary election

Summary of the 2004 Sri Lankan parliamentary election

Alliances and parties	Votes	%	Change	Seats			
				District	National	Total	Change
United People's Freedom Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communist Party of Sri Lanka • Desha Vimukthi Janatha Party 	4,223,970	45.60	-0.01	92	13	105	+12

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna • Lanka Sama Samaja Party • Mahajana Eksath Peramuna • National Unity Alliance • Sri Lanka Freedom Party • Sri Lanka Mahajana Pakshaya 							
<p>United National Front</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceylon Workers' Congress • Democratic People's Front • Sri Lanka Muslim Congress • United National Party 	3,504,200	37.83	-7.73	71	11	82	-27
<p>Tamil National Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Ceylon Tamil Congress • Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front 	633,654	6.84	-	20	2	22	+7

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization • Tamil United Liberation Front 								
Jathika Hela Urumaya	554,076	5.97	-	7	2	9	+9	
Sri Lanka Muslim Congress ²	186,876	2.02	+0.87	4	1	5	-	
Up-Country People's Front	49,728	0.54		1	0	1	+1	
Eelam People's Democratic Party	24,955	0.27	-0.54	1	0	1	-1	
Independent lists	15,865	0.17	*	0	0	0		
Jathika Sangwardhena Peramuna	14,956	0.16	+0.14	0	0	0		
United Socialist Party	14,660	0.16	+0.06	0	0	0		
Ceylon Democratic Unity Alliance	10,736	0.12		0	0	0		
New Left Front	8,461	0.09	-0.42	0	0	0		
Democratic People's Liberation Front	7,326	0.08	-0.10	0	0	0	-1	
United Muslim People's Alliance	3,779	0.04		0	0	0		
United Lalith Front	3,773	0.04	+0.00	0	0	0		
National People's Party	1,540	0.02		0	0	0		
Sinhalaye Mahasammatha	1,401	0.02	+0.00	0	0	0		

Bhoomiputra Pakshaya							
Swarajya	1,136	0.01		0	0	0	
Sri Lanka Progressive Front	814	0.01	+0.00	0	0	0	
Ruhunu Janatha Party	590	0.01	+0.00	0	0	0	
Sri Lanka National Front	493	0.01	+0.00	0	0	0	
Liberal Party	413	0.00	-0.01	0	0	0	
Sri Lanka Muslim Katchi	382	0.00	-0.01	0	0	0	
Socialist Equality Party	159	0.00	+0.00	0	0	0	
Democratic United National Front	141	0.00	-0.01	0	0	0	
Valid Votes	9,262,732	100.00	-	196	29	225	-
Rejected Votes	534,948						
Total Polled	9,797,680						
Registered Electors	12,899,139						
Turnout	75.96%						
Source: Department of Elections, Sri Lanka							
1. The UNF contested under the name and symbol of United National Party.							
2. The SLMC contested separately in four districts (Ampara, Batticaloa, Jaffna and Trincomalee) and with the UNF in all other districts.							
3. The TNA contested under the name and symbol of Illankai Tamil Arasu Katchi.							

Sri Lankan presidential election, 2010

January 26, 2010

Nominee	Mahinda Rajapaksa	Sarath Fonseka
Party	United Freedom Alliance	People's New Democratic Front
Home state	Southern Province	Southern Province
States carried	16	6
Popular vote	6,015,934	4,173,185
Percentage	57.88%	40.15%

Presidential election results map. Blue denotes districts won by Rajapaksa, and Green denotes those won by Fonseka.

Previous	President
Mahinda United People's Freedom Alliance	Rajapaksa

President-elect	
Mahinda United People's Freedom Alliance	Rajapaksa

The **Sri Lankan presidential election of 2010** was the sixth presidential election of Sri Lanka. The election was announced on 23 November 2009 when incumbent President Mahinda Rajapaksa decided to seek a fresh mandate prior to the expiration of his term in

2011.^[1] Nominations were accepted on 17 December 2009, and the election was held on 26 January 2010.

Rajapaksa, who was elected president for a 6 year term in November 2005, was the candidate of the ruling United People's Freedom Alliance. General Sarath Fonseka, a former commander of the Sri Lankan Army, was his main opponent in the election. Fonseka had been endorsed by a number of main opposition parties, including the United National Party and the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna.

President Rajapaksa proceeded to win re-election, receiving over 57% of all votes cast. Fonseka received over 40%, carrying the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. The remaining twenty candidates all garnered less than 0.5% of the popular vote.

Background

In 2005, Mahinda Rajapaksa was elected to his first term as president, defeating former prime minister Ranil Wickramasinghe, the United National Party (UNP) candidate. Before the election, Mahinda Rajapaksa was Prime Minister under President Chandrika Kumaratunga. Rajapaksa won a narrow victory, by 190,000 votes, or 50.29% of the popular vote. The separatist Tamil Tigers had called for a boycott of the election in the Northern and Eastern provinces, resulting in a minimal turnout, which the opposition claimed resulted in their defeat.

The Constitution of Sri Lanka allows the president to ask for a fresh election after four years into his first term of office (per the Constitution, a President is elected to a six year term). Accordingly, President Rajapaksa informed the Commissioner of Elections on 23 November 2009 of his intention to hold a presidential election before the end of his current term of office.

Preparations

Dayananda Dissanayake, the Commissioner of Elections, announced on 27 November 2009 that the presidential election would be held on 26 January 2010. Nominations for

the election were accepted on 17 December 2009. Sri Lankans registered with the Department of Elections and eligible to vote totaled 14,088,500, up from 13,327,160 in the November 2005 presidential elections. Over 11,000 polling booths were set up across the country for receiving ballots.

Candidates

Mahinda Rajapaksa

President Rajapaksa decided to end his six-year term almost two years early, that he might seek a fresh mandate and a longer term based on contemporary political successes that greatly increased his popularity. These included the military defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, as well as the end of the 26-year Sri Lankan Civil War in May 2009. These were accomplishments the previous three presidents of Sri Lanka had tried and failed to secure. Having succeeded where they had failed, Rajapaksa's United People's Freedom Alliance achieved unprecedented victories in the provincial council elections that followed the end of the war.

Sarath Fonseka

General Sarath Fonseka is considered a national hero for bringing an end to the Sri Lankan Civil War while serving as commander of the Sri Lankan Army from 2005 to 2009. However, following the military victory, tensions grew between President Rajapaksa and Fonseka, who later accused Rajapaksa of sidelining him after the end of the conflict. Opposition parties expected early elections and approached Fonseka, asking him to run as a "common candidate" for the opposition against Rajapaksa. After weeks of rumors, Fonseka eventually retired from the military in November 2009 and announced his candidacy two weeks later. He ran as the New Democratic Front's candidate, using the swan symbol.

Minor candidates

Apart from Rajapaksa and Fonseka, twenty other candidates had their nominations accepted, and appeared on ballot papers.

	Name	Political Party	Symbol	Notes
1	Siritunga Jayasuriya	United Socialist Party	Tri-shaw	2005 presidential candidate
2	M.B. Thaminimulla	Okkoma Vesiyō – Okkoma Rajavaru Sanvidhanaya	Till	
3	Sarath Manamendra	Nawa Sihala Urumaya	Bow and Arrow	
4	Achala Ashoka Suraweera	Jathika Sangwardhena Peramuna	Coconut	2005 presidential candidate
5	P.D.P.S. Anura Liyanage	Sri Lanka Labour Party	Kangaroo	

6	Ven. Battaramulle Seelaratne Thea	Jana Setha Peramuna	Tractor	Buddhist monk Withdrew candidacy on January 14 and endorsed Mahinda Rajapaksa ^[15]
7	Vikramabahu Karunaratne	Left Front	Table	Veteran left-wing politician and leader of the Left Front and Nava Sama Samaja Parties
8	Aithurus M. Illias	Independent	Pineapple	Former SLMC MP for Jaffna District (1994– 2000) Withdrew candidacy on 24 January and endorsed Sarath Fonseka. ^[16]
9	Wije Dias	Socialist Equality Party	Pair of Scissors	2005 presidential candidate
10	Sarath Kongahage	United National Alternative Front	Gate	Former UNP National List MP
11	K.G.R.L. Perera	Our National Front	Telephone	
12	Meera Mohideen Mohamed Musthaffa	Independent	Hat	Current UNP (Democratic) National List MP and former Deputy Minister of Higher Education. Withdrew candidacy on January 15 and endorsed Sarath Fonseka. ^[17]
13	M. K. Shivajilingam	Independent	Ship	TNA/TELO MP for Jaffna District.
14	W.M.U.B. Wijekoon	Independent	Jackfruit	Former UNP Kurunegala District MP
15	M.C.M.	Democratic	Eagle	

	Ismail	United National Front		
16	Oswald Aruna de Soysa	Ruhunu Janatha Party	Motor Car	2005 presidential candidate
17	Sanath Pinnaduwa	National Alliance	Double Flags	
18	Adurage Senaratne Silva	Patriotic National Front	Flag	
19	C.J. Sugathsiri Gamage	United Democratic Front	Rabbit	
20	W.V. Mahiman Ranjith	Independent	Almariah	1999 presidential candidate, Former UNP Galle, Sri Lanka District MP

One nomination—J.A. Peter Nelson Perera of the Sri Lanka Progressive Front—was rejected on technical grounds. Five independent candidates ran as minor contenders. This made for the greatest number of candidates in a presidential election in Sri Lankan history, breaking the record of 13 in the 2005 presidential election.

Violence and violations of election laws

Sri Lankan elections have a history of violence, misuse of state resources, and other violations of election laws. Sri Lankan police received nearly 975 election-related complaints, and 375 arrests were made relative thereto.^[18] The Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) had recorded 809 incidents from 23 November 2009, when the elections were officially announced, to 25 January 2010. *People's Action for Free and Fair Elections* (PAFFREL) has recorded 666 incidents between 17 December 2009 and 25 January 2010. The UN, United States, and EU expressed concern over the level of

violence. Election monitoring groups stated that this election was the most violent in more than 20 years. Although supporters of both main candidates were blamed for the incidents, the responsibility for most was pinned on Rajapaksa's supporters. However, government politician Wimal Weerawansa accused the opposition of orchestrating violence against their own supporters and meetings in order to blame Rajapaksa's backers. According to the National Polls Observation Center, criminal gangs and deserters from the army were employed to incite violence.

The government promised tight security on the day of the election, deploying over 68,000 policemen to keep the polls safe, with the Sri Lankan Military providing additional support. The election monitoring group Centre for Free and Fair Elections deployed 6,500 monitors on election day, with the PAFFREL deploying a further 6,000, including 14 foreign monitors. The government denied rumors of possible post-election violence, with Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama saying, "I don't think the people of Sri Lanka have time for street protests. It has never happened."

Election day was largely peaceful, with a few minor incidents reported. According to Inspector General of Police Mahinda Balasuriya, no major incidents occurred during the election. A number of explosions, however, were heard in Jaffna and Vavuniya in the north of the country during the day.

Violence

There were hundreds of violent incidents during the run-up to the election. Officially, there have been four murders related to the election:

- 12 January 2010– Kusumawathie Kurupparachchi, a 58 year old mother was shot dead when gunmen on motorbikes opened fire on a bus carrying Fonseka supporters in Hungama, Hambantota District.
- 16 January 2010– Saman Kumara, a Rajapaksa supporter, was shot dead in a clash between supporters of the two main candidates in Madurankuliya, Puttalam District.

- 18 January 2010– Dhammika Herath, a 33-year-old businessman, was beaten to death whilst pasting posters supporting Fonseka in Wariyapola, Kurunegala District.
- 18 January 2010– D.M. Suranga Indrajith, a 27-year-old driver for government minister Jayarathna Herath, was killed in a grenade attack in Vanduragala, Kurunegala District.

The CMEV has linked a fifth death to the elections:

- 19 January 2010– Lingeswaran, a Fonseka supporter, was found dead on the Kandy-Matale railway line in Warapitiya, Matale District.

Misuse of state resources

There were accusations of widespread misuse of state property during the election campaign. State-owned institutions paid for numerous advertisements supporting Rajapaksa, while public officials, state owned buildings and vehicles were allegedly used for Rajapaksa's campaign. State-owned television stations gave extensive coverage to Rajapaksa's campaign, with little mention of other candidates. Elections Commissioner Dissanayake criticized the government for not preventing the misuse of state resources.

Voting

Postal voting for the presidential election took place on 12 and 13 January 2010. A grace period was granted until noon on 26 January for postal voters. Applications for this form of absentee voting totaled 458,154, with 401,118 applications accepted by the Elections Department. More than 80% of postal voters cast their votes on 12 and 13 January, this period ending with "no major incidents" according to the National Polls Observation Centre and the People's Action for Free and Fair Election (PAFFREL).

Voting for the presidential election began at 7:00 am on 26 January 2010. A total of 11,098 election centres and 888 counting centres were set up throughout the country. The Elections Commissioner had requested that voters cast their ballots early in the day.

Rajapaksa voted, in the morning at Medamulana, as did opposition leader Ranil Wickramasinghe, in Colombo. Candidate Fonseka did not vote, claiming that he had not been allowed to do so despite his eligibility. The government later challenged this, stating that if he were not qualified to vote, he would "not (be) entitled to become elected". It announced that legal action would be sought against his candidacy, although the election commissioner had ruled that he was eligible to run in the election. By the time voting ended at 4.00 pm, over 70% of eligible voters had turned out, though in the Northern and Eastern provinces, figures were less than 20%. Sri Lanka's stock market recorded an all time high on election day; the Colombo Stock Exchange jumped 1.58%, putting it up 131% since the end of the war.

Results

Final turnout was 74.5%, with 10,495,451 voting out of the 14,088,500 voters registered. Of these, 10,393,613 were ruled valid votes, with 101,838 rejected. According to the end result, Rajapaksa was elected to a second term of office with 6,015,934 votes, or 57.88% of the vote. Fonseka finished second with 4,173,185 votes, or 40.15%. Fonseka announced that he did not accept the results, and that legal action would be taken. Supporters of Rajapaksa took to the streets on the announcement of the result, waving national flags and lighting firecrackers. Rajapaksa called his victory "a choice of the people" and that he was then President of everyone in the country.

District results

Official district-by-district results of the election are listed below.

Districts won by Rajapaksa
Districts won by Fonseka

District	Provinc	Rajapaksa	percentage	Fonseka	percentage	Others	percentage
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	e						
Colombo	Western	614,740	52.93%	533,022	45.90%	13,620	1.17%
Gampaha	Western	718,716	61.66%	434,506	37.28%	12,426	1.07%
Kalutara	Western	412,562	63.06%	231,807	35.43%	9,880	1.51%
Mahanuwara	Central	406,636	54.16%	329,492	43.89%	14,658	1.95%
Matale	Central	157,953	59.74%	100,513	38.01%	5,953	2.25%
Nuwara Eliya	Central	151,604	43.77%	180,604	52.14%	14,174	4.09%
Galle	Southern	386,971	63.69%	211,633	34.83%	9,017	1.48%
Matara	Southern	296,155	65.53%	148,510	32.86%	7,264	1.61%
Hambantota	Southern	226,887	67.21%	105,336	31.20%	5,341	1.58%
Jaffna	Northern	44,154	24.75%	113,877	63.84%	20,338	11.40%
Vanni	Northern	28,740	27.31%	70,367	66.86%	6,145	5.84%
Batticaloa	Eastern	55,663	26.27%	146,057	68.93%	10,171	4.80%
Digamaduulla	Eastern	146,912	47.92%	153,105	49.94%	10,171	4.80%
Trincomalee	Eastern	69,752	43.04%	87,661	54.09%	4,659	2.87%
Kurunegala	North Western	582,784	63.08%	327,594	35.46%	13,515	1.46%
Puttalam	North	201,981	58.70%	136,233	39.59%	5,899	1.71%

	Western						
Anuradhapura	North Central	298,448	66.32%	143,761	31.94%	7,829	1.74%
Polonnaruwa	North Central	144,889	64.92%	75,026	33.62%	3,260	1.46%
Badulla	Uva	237,579	53.23%	198,835	44.55%	9,880	2.21%
Monaragala	Uva	158,435	69.01%	66,803	29.10%	4,346	1.89%
Ratnapura	Sabaragamuwa	377,734	63.76%	203,566	34.36%	11,126	1.88%
Kegalle	Sabaragamuwa	296,639	61.80%	174,877	36.44%	8,448	1.76%

National results

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Invalid Votes	101,838	
Valid Votes cast	10,393,613	

Fraud concerns

Election observers and advocacy groups have questioned the fundamental fairness of the campaign, accusing Mr. Rajapaksa of using state resources to finance his run. State-owned news media all but shut out opposition candidates. Election commissioner Dayananda Dissanayake said the state media violated his guidelines, government institutions misbehaved, and he asked for approval to resign: "I request to be released," he said, just before he announced the results. "I cannot bear this anymore."

Post-election events

On the morning of 27 January, the Sri Lankan military surrounded a hotel where Fonseka and a number of opposition politicians had convened. The military claimed that 400 armed army deserters had gathered there, and demanded their surrender. Fonseka accused the military of preparing to arrest him if he won the elections. However, according to a military spokesman, they were there merely as a preventive measure, as the purpose of the gathering was uncertain. The military later arrested 10 men, who the opposition claimed were members of Fonseka's security contingent and not army deserters.

Plot to assassinate Rajapaksa and government officers

At a press briefing held on Thursday, 28 January, the Director of the Media Centre for National Security, Lakshman Hulugalle, told reporters that Gen. Fonseka moved into the hotel with over 70 retired army officers and deserters to plot the assassination of victorious President Mahinda Rajapaksa and his family. The Sri Lanka Ministry of

Defence reported that they were still looking for evidence to prove Mr. Fonseka's involvement.

International reaction

- India – President Pratibha Patil and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Wednesday congratulated Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa on his re-election and expressed confidence that the country would find lasting peace in which all communities would live with dignity and harmony. President Patil said, "I am confident that under your continued leadership, Sri Lanka will attain greater heights and find lasting peace." Prime Minister Singh said Rajapaksa's electoral success "is a reflection of the trust" the people of Sri Lanka had placed in him.
- Palestinian Popular Struggle Front – The Front sent a letter in support of President Rajapaksa. "On behalf of the Palestinians in and out of Palestine, (we) express (our) grateful thanks to President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who has been fighting for the Palestinians during the last 40 years."
- United Nations – UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday voiced relief that Sri Lanka's presidential polls went off relatively peacefully, and urged the country's political parties to abide by the official results. Secretary-General Ban stated, "I had been concerned at the level of violence during the campaign. I am relieved that the vote yesterday appears to have been relatively peaceful, despite some violent incidents."
- United States Department of State – The United States Embassy in Colombo release a statement which read, "The United States congratulates Sri Lanka for the first nationwide election in decades and President Rajapaksa on his victory. We look forward to continuing the partnership between our two countries and working with the Government and the people to support a peaceful and prosperous Sri Lanka." State Department spokesman Philip Crowley told reporters, "I think it is remarkable when you consider what Sri Lanka has come through recently. There is a process for resolving electoral disputes. We're

obviously aware that there have been claims of victory and counterclaims" and ruled out further comment at that time.

- Russian Federation – Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in his congratulation message says that the policy been conducted by the president aimed at economic development and strengthening of stability will continue to settle social and political issues in the country.
- Japan – The Government of Japan has congratulated President Mahinda Rajapaksa on his victory at the recently concluded presidential election. Katsuya Okada, Japanese Foreign Minister, issuing a communique, states that the Japanese government hopes the resettlement of displaced persons will be expedited in a country that has shown steady progress.
- Nepal – Nepali Congress (NC) President Girija Prasad Koirala has congratulated incumbent Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa for his victory in the presidential election of Sri Lanka for the second time. He further went on to say "Your victory to the post of President is the result of your vital role to the establishment of peace, ending longtime armed conflict in Sri Lanka". He expressed his confidence that the peace and human rights would be institutionalised during Rajapaksa's term of office.
- Vietnam – Vietnam's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Nguyen Phuong Nga congratulated Mahinda Rajapaksa's re-election as president. "We hope the Sri Lankan people, under the clear-sighted leadership of Mahinda Rajapaksa, will attain still greater achievements in national reconstruction and development," she said.
- EU – Welcoming the peaceful conduct of Presidential polls in Sri Lanka, the European Union today promised all out support for bringing political reconciliation in the country ravaged by decades of ethnic conflict. Congratulating President Mahinda Rajapaksa for winning the January 26 polls, it "welcomed that

the Presidential Elections in Sri Lanka, the first election of this kind for many years, took place in an overall peaceful environment.

- Norway – Minister of the Environment and International Development Erik Solheim has congratulated President Mahinda Rajapakse on his re-election on 26 January. In his message Solheim stated that "I would like to congratulate President Rajapakse. Norway and Sri Lanka enjoy close and longstanding bilateral relations. We intend to continue our cooperation with the Government and people of Sri Lanka with a view to promoting lasting peace and development, We note that the election itself was relatively peaceful. However, we are concerned by reports of unrest and violent incidents during the lead-up to the election, as well as of possible violations of the election law. We urge that these allegations be investigated in accordance with Sri Lankan law and the country's democratic traditions."