



REPORT

Post-electoral Colombia
Presidential Elections
27th May 2018

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On May 27th, the first round of the presidential elections in Colombia was held. Given that no candidate obtained half plus one of the votes, **the second round will take place June 17th**. The candidate who obtains the higher number of votes will be declared president of Colombia.

The Colombian people will now have to choose between **Centro Democrático's candidate, Iván Duque -who was the most voted contender with 39,1%-e**, and **left-wing politician Gustavo Petro -who was the second most voted candidate, with 25,1% of the votes-**.

In this report, you will find:

- 1) General considerations
- 2) Presidential candidates
- 3) Electoral results
- 4) Ideology
- 5) Government platforms
- 6) Results by department
- 7) How will the relationship between the President and the new Congress be?
- 8) Towards the runoff

1. General considerations

What was elected?

Presidential elections to choose Colombia's President and Vice-president for 2018-2022.

Electoral calendar

Every four years, the President and Vice-President are voted in the elections on the last Sunday of May (Political Constitution of Colombia Art. 190 y 191).

This year, the election took place **Sunday 27th May**.

Will there be a second round?

If no candidate obtains the majority of the vote (half plus one of the electorate), a second round shall take place three weeks later between the two most voted candidates (Political Constitution of Colombia Art. 190)

This year, the second round will be **Sunday 17th June**.

How are elections held?

Suffrage is universal, voluntary, direct, and secret.

Who will the candidates be?

The candidates that will go to the second round are two: Iván Duque (Centro Democrático), and Gustavo Petro (Colombia Humana).

When will the new administration take office?

The winning candidate will take office **Tuesday 7th August 2018**.

2. Presidential candidates

For the presidential elections of May 27th, 8 candidates were officially registered. Out of these, two will participate in the runoff. Below you will find a profile of these two candidates.



Iván Duque

Centro Democrático

Lawyer, 41 years.

Centro Democrático Senator 2014-2018. Between 2001 and 2013 he served as Head of the Culture, Creativity and Solidarity Division and Presidency advisor at the Inter-American Development Bank. He worked for the promotion of creative and cultural industries.

He worked as an advisor to the Minister of Finance and Public Credit during the presidency of Andrés Pastrana (1998-2002)

His candidacy is promoted by the former president and founder of Centro Democrático, Álvaro Uribe.

**Vice-presidential candidate:
Marta Lucía Ramírez**



Gustavo Petro

Coalición por la Decencia

Economist, 58 years.

In his youth he was a militant of the M-19 guerrilla movement and participant in the process of demobilization and peace talks with the government of Virgilio Barco (Partido Liberal Colombiano).

He was elected as an assemblyman in 1991, later as a legislator in the House of Representatives between 1991 and 2006, and finally as a Senator between 2006 and 2010. He was also mayor of Bogotá between 2012 and 2015.

During his administration as mayor he was dismissed for 35 days as a result of a conflict caused by the reform of the garbage collection system

Vice-presidential candidate: Ángela María Robledo

3. Electoral results



Iván Duque
CENTRO
DEMOCRÁTICO



Gustavo Petro
COALICIÓN POR LA
DECENCIA



Sergio Fajardo
COALICIÓN COLOMBIA

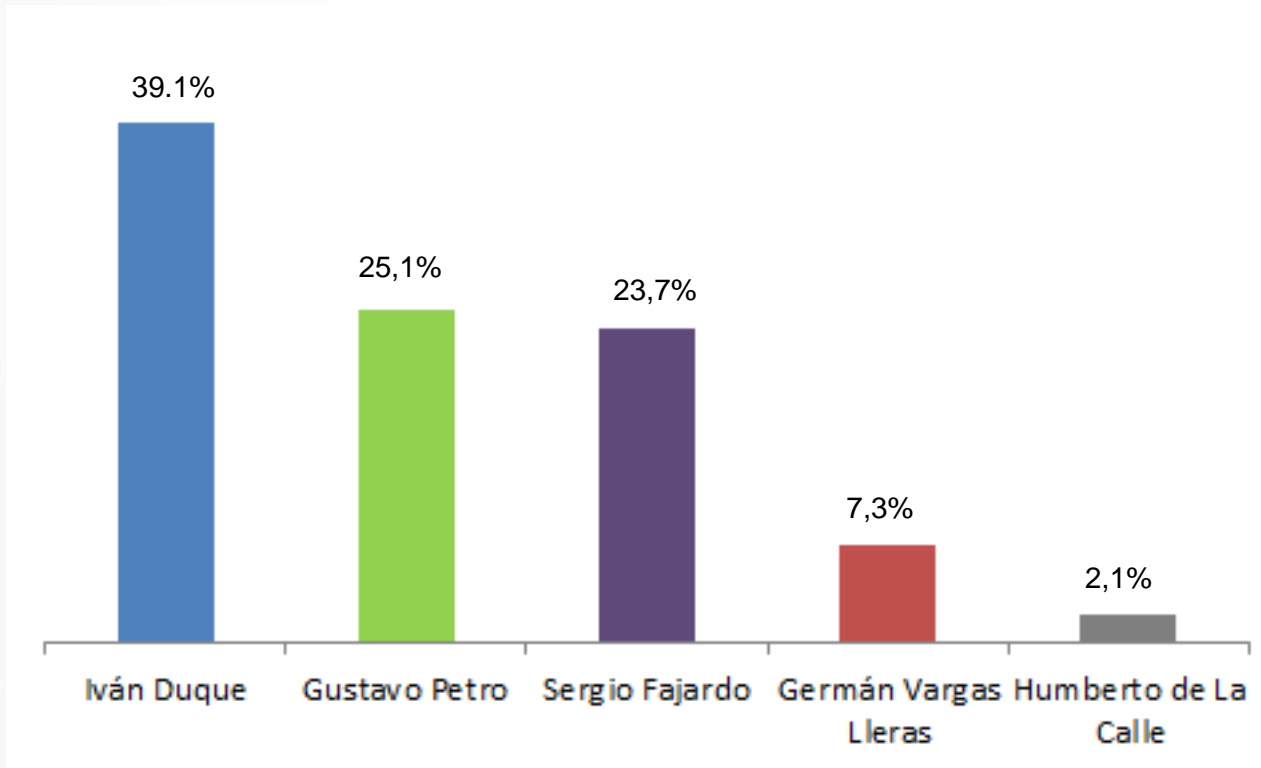


Germán Vargas Lleras
MEJOR VARGAS
LLERAS



Humberto de la Calle
PARTIDO LIBERAL

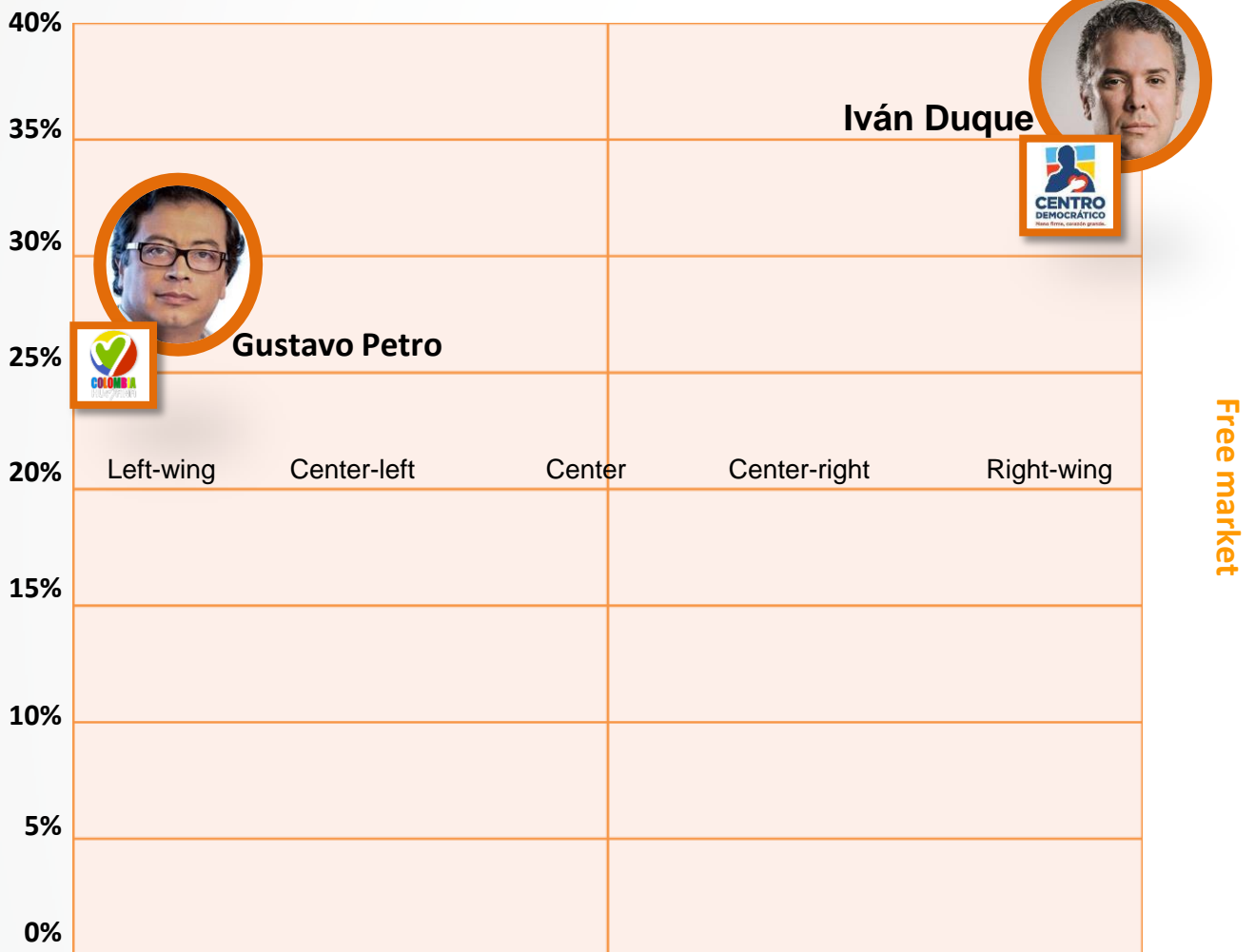
Electoral results*



*Source: self-made graphic based on data published by the National Registry of Civil Status, with 100% counted tables.

4. Ideology

+ Voting intention



- Voting intention

5. Government platforms



Iván Duque

- He will benefit SMEs through differentiating taxes according to the size of the companies.
- Stimulate bureaucratic and tax simplification for companies with the aim of eliminating tariffs that hinder competitiveness and distort economic activity.
- Reduce the Country Cost by stimulating infrastructural development and improving energy efficiency.
- Promote productive transformation based on product diversification, accentuating the development of products with high-added value and technology.
- Export diversification, stimulating the creation of a Network of Small Exporters that will be granted benefits in terms of bureaucratic processes and technical support.
- Promote investment with a regime that favors technology platforms for crowdfunding and alternative financing. At the same time, he will stimulate the availability of capital resources by strengthening funds such as the Emprender or Innpulsa programs, and using regional royalty resources.

Link to the candidate's [official website](#)

5. Government platforms

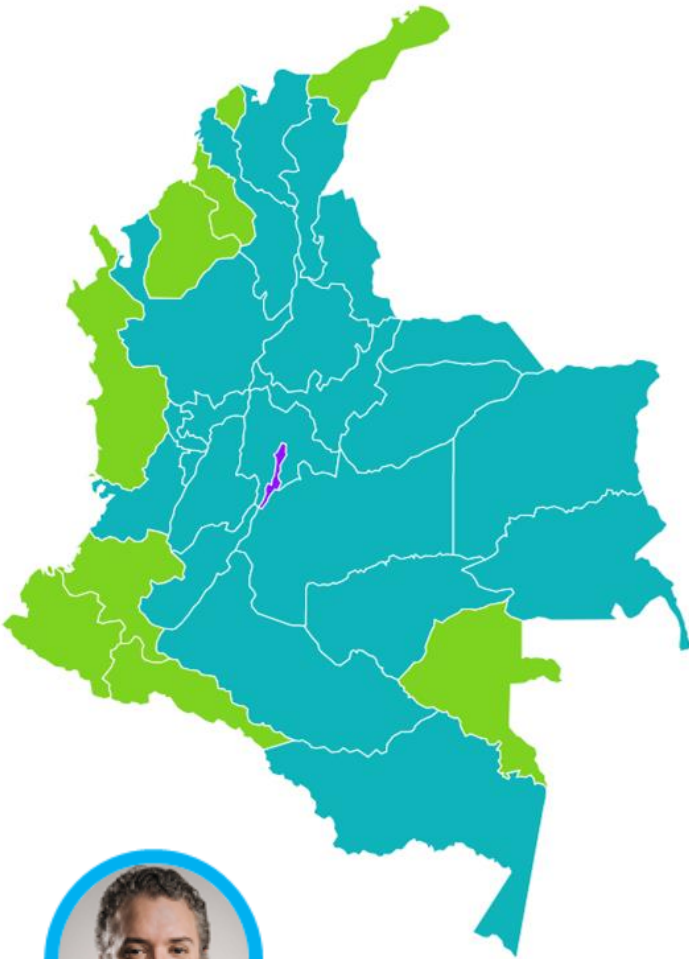


Gustavo Petro

- Create a property tax for land bigger than 1000 fertile hectares as well as boost tax on remittances. He also proposes to eliminate tax exemptions in the system.
- A process of productive development based on the industrialization of the country complemented by the expansion of the domestic market will be promoted.
- Implement an agro reform, although not via land expropriation, but by buying them with public debt securities. He will also seek to modernize the primary sector.
- The Minimum Wage will be transformed into a new Real Wage based on capital and income.
- Seek to maintain the current retirement age. At the same time he will ensure the existence of a mixed pension system, combining a universal system with one of voluntary contribution.

Link to the candidate's [official website](#)

6. Results by department



Iván Duque, the Centro Democrático candidate, became the big winner of the first round in the presidential elections with 7,567,448 votes both in Colombia and for Colombians living abroad, where he also won first place. That figure allowed him to win in 23 of the 32 departments that make up the country. His candidacy was particularly popular in the departments that border Venezuela and in those where the former president of the Republic Alvaro Uribe still enjoys popularity.

Gustavo Petro goes to the second round with 4,850,549 votes. In addition to being a historical figure for a leftist candidate, it demonstrates an important growth of his movement, which also participated in the 2010 elections.

In that year, Petro reached fourth place with just 1,331,000 votes, or 9.13%, which means he has tripled his electorate and vote share. As such, he has led the elections in nine departments, three of which were landslide victories

Sergio Fajardo, from Coalición Colombia, won Bogotá and became the third most voted option in the country, despite the fact that he was not the most voted option in any department other than the capital city.



Iván Duque
CENTRO
DEMOCRÁTICO



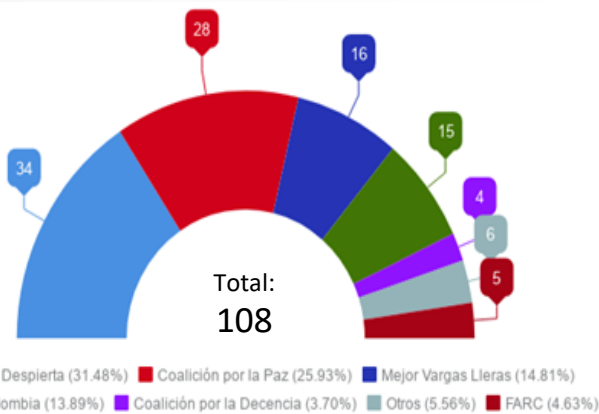
Sergio Fajardo
COALICIÓN COLOMBIA



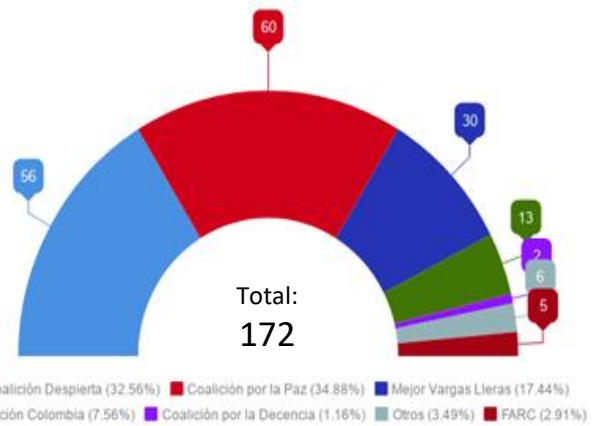
Gustavo Petro
COALICIÓN POR LA
DECENCIA

7. How will the relationship between the President and the new Congress be?

Senate



House of Representatives



If Gustavo Petro wins. In the event that Petro reaches the presidency, he will face opposition parties' majorities in both chambers of Congress. His coalition won 4 seats in the Senate and 4 in the House of Representatives. This means that the bills he intends pass, may be blocked by legislators. However, Petro will be able to veto certain parliamentary initiatives.

If Iván Duque wins. If Duque becomes president, he will have a favorable Legislative branch. Duque's coalition will be the first majority in the Senate, since it will have 34 senators (out of 108), and second majority in the House of Representatives, with 56 representatives (out of 172). Furthermore, the other most important coalition in both Chambers is ideologically close to this candidate, which increases the possibility of negotiation and imposition of his own agenda.

8. Towards the runoff

- **Dissatisfaction with the government.** These elections are marked by citizen dissatisfaction with the government. President Juan Manuel Santos has a popularity rate that hovers between 10 and 15 percent and has steadily declined from a peak of 71% in 2011. The presidential candidate of the ruling party, Vargas Lleras, received only 7.3% of the vote. Corruption scandals and the economy are the two main reasons for the public's discontent: 89% of the citizenry consider that the economy of the country is stagnating or declining.
- **Crisis context.** Colombia is in a humanitarian crisis due to the massive influx of Venezuelan refugees into the country: 600.000 Venezuelans were estimated to be in Colombian territory. Furthermore, economic growth has slowed down to 1.6% in 2017 (compared to 6% in 2011) due to a drop in oil prices, the main national export.
- **Voter turnout.** Voter turnout increased in the presidential elections by 12.7% compared to 2014. It is expected that a greater percentage of eligible voters will participate in the second round, compared to previous elections.
- **Peace Agreements.** This will be the first presidential election after the Peace Agreements with the FARC. Although these elections are not focused on this issue, the conflict remains open. Furthermore, the implementation of the agreements is not guaranteed, given that the candidate who's leading the polls, Iván Duque, has in several occasions expressed his disapproval as well as his intention of modifying them. His party, Centro Democrático, has opposed Santos' peace process since dialogue roundtables began in 2012. Petro is favorable to the peace process and has sought to position himself as a guarantor that it will be carried out successfully.
- **Political polarization.** The two candidates that will compete for the presidency are at both extremes of the political spectrum.

8. Towards the runoff

(continue)

- **Iván Duque** is the candidate of the rightist party Centro Democrático, founded by former President Álvaro Uribe. Voters identify with Duque as he preaches traditional values such as family and Catholicism. Also, he proposes the deepening of the capital market, as well as a tax reform that reduces taxes on companies.
- **Gustavo Petro** is the candidate of the coalition between several minority leftist parties: Colombia Humana, Movimiento MAIS and Fuerza Ciudadana. Petro appeals to an electorate that is unhappy with the country's economic situation and the impact of globalization. In his government platform, he proposes state interventionism by carrying out an agrarian reform, creating a tax on property, and increasing the minimum wage.
- **Duque is positioned as favorite.** Centro Democrático's candidate confirmed what the polls had predicted, reaching 40% of the votes. Petro, on the other hand, failed to live up to the expectations, and obtained 25% of the votes. Iván Duque is expected to win the runoff with a considerable difference.
- **Repercussions of presidential candidates.** All the candidates recognized the result as legitimate. Regarding what position to adopt towards the runoff, Sergio Fajardo and Humberto de La Calle said they did not want to give guidelines on the matter. Vargas Lleras has not yet commented on the subject. Due to the Colombian electoral polarization, it is expected that a large number of Fajardo's voters will vote for Petro, while Vargas Lleras' voters will choose Duque.

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