



Report
January 2020

PERU

Extraordinary Legislative
Elections 2020

Executive Summary

On Sunday, January 26, Peruvians went to the polls to elect new members of Congress. They took place following President Martin Vizcarra's decision to dissolve the legislature last September. The 130 new lawmakers will have a shortened term in office of 16 months (from March 15 to July 28, 2021).

The new Congress is set to be fragmented, housing 10 different political parties none of which will be able to push through its agenda without the backing of other blocs. This means, going forward, that the negotiations and alliances the legislators are able to forge will be key to advancing their proposals and progressing (or not) with the bills of the Executive.

The situation suits President Vizcarra. Although he lacks representation in Congress the splintered outcome means he will have greater negotiating capacity to advance with his proposals. Vizcarra said he will seek to maintain "a responsible, mature, consensus-building relationship [with Congress] for the sake of Peru."

One of the key takeaways from the elections was the defeat of the main anti-government alliance, Fujimorismo. The Fuerza Popular party (led by Keiko Fujimori) not only lost its majority in parliament but has become one of the most underrepresented parties.

The new Congress already has a legislative agenda for the coming months. Its first task will be to rule on the decrees issued by the Executive in the time Congress was closed. It will also have to debate the Political and Judicial Reform being sought by the Government.



What was being decided?

On January 26, Peruvians went to the polls to elect 130 legislators, after President Martin Vizcarra dissolved Congress on September 30. The elected legislators will have a shorter than normal term in office, until July 28, 2021.

How was the voting conducted?

Personal, equal, free, secret and compulsory suffrage until the age of 70. After that age it is optional. In the January 26 elections, two ways of voting were used: conventional voting with a ballot paper and electronic voting.

How did parties get a seat in Congress?

Congressional seats were allocated on a pro rata basis according to the number of valid votes obtained by each electoral alliance. Blank votes null votes were not included in the count.

- Only the alliances that overcame the electoral threshold of 5% of votes or achieved representation in at least seven electoral districts gained representation.
- The Peruvian electoral system includes what is called preferential voting. This is a mechanism for the voter to establish his or her own order of preference among the candidates on the same list.

The calculation of the number of seats per party is based on a formula that takes into account the number of vacancies in Congress in the electoral district, the number of votes received and the number of parties that surpassed the electoral threshold.

How many political parties competed?

The 130 seats in Congress were contested by 21 political parties, of which only ten were registered in all of the country's electoral districts.

When will the next Congress take office?

Elected MPs will assume their posts in the first week of March and begin formally working on March 15, 2020.

1. Results

Most voted-for parties by electoral district



As this was a legislative election, each of the electoral districts conducted a sub-national poll.

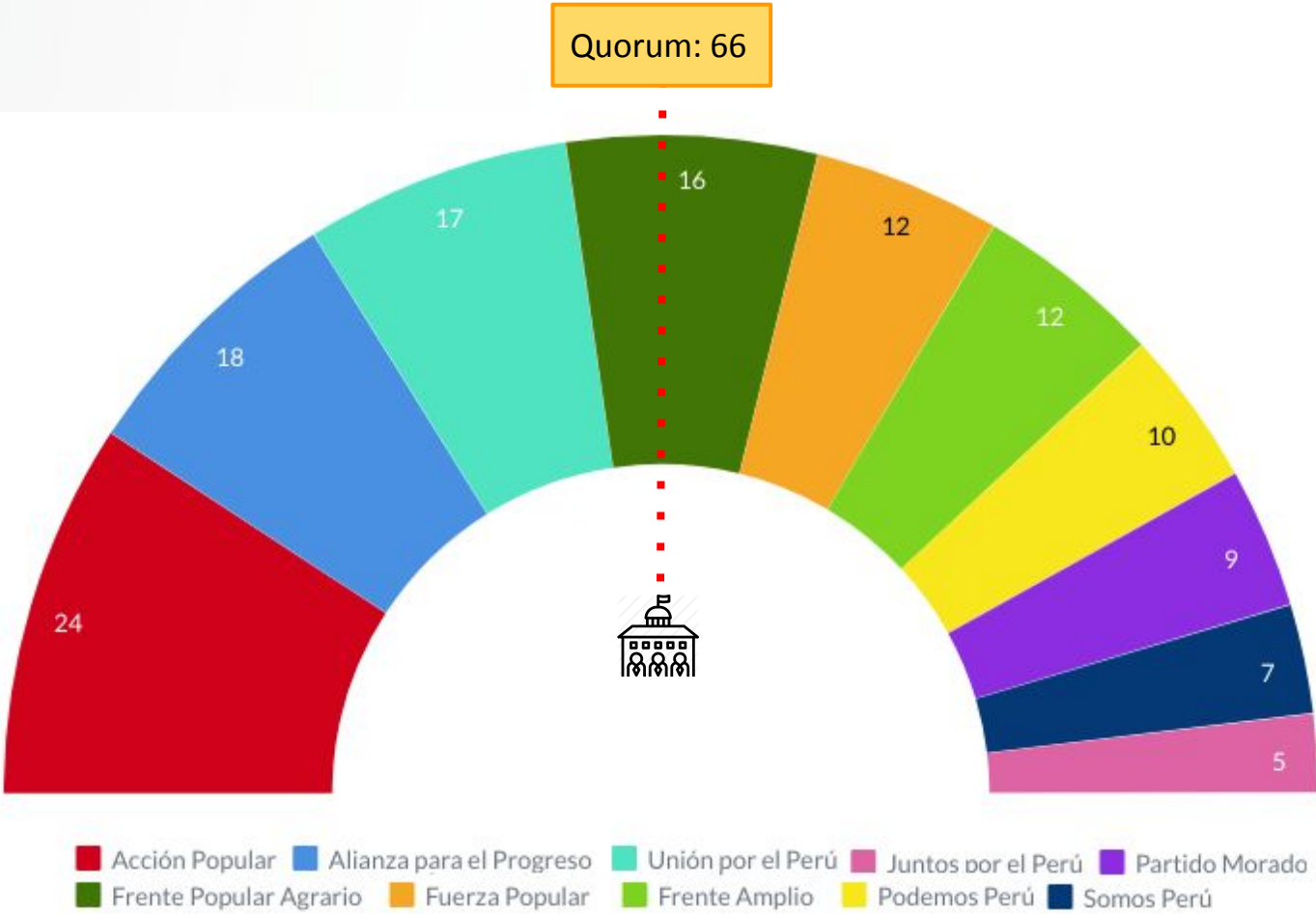
The results show there is no predominant political alliance at the national level, though Union por el Peru did at least win multiple districts in the south of the country.

The victory of Podemos Peru in the district of Lima is also noteworthy. Although it only won this district, Lima is home to a large concentration of voters which is reflected in congressional seats.

1. Results: Projection

How will Congress be made up?

Congress will be split among an array of different blocs: ten, compared with the six alliances that held seats from 2015-2019. This means none will be able to push its agenda without the backing of other blocs. The situation suits President Vizcarra since, while he lacks a majority bloc in Congress, the splintered outcome means he will have greater negotiating capacity to drive through his proposals.



Note: The National Electoral Board is still counting the votes. The projection of the new Congress was elaborated based on information provided by local sources.

2. New Congress

Parties with seats in the new Congress

Twenty-one political parties ran in the elections, of which only ten managed to enter Congress: Accion Popular, Fuerza Popular, Partido Morado, Juntos por el Peru, Podemos Peru, Frepap, Frente Amplio, Alianza para el Progreso, Somos Peru and Union por el Peru.



Acción Popular

Acción Popular was founded by Fernando Belaúnde Terry. It is the party that has held the Presidency of Peru the most times and for the longest combined period. One of its objectives in Congress will be to avoid "illegal lobbies and guarantee transparency", to which end it will propose that sworn disclosures be a constitutional requirement for all public officials.

Set to hold 24 seats



Alianza para el Progreso

The party promotes economic liberalism and social conservatism. During the previous legislature it sided with Fujimorism. However, Omar Chehade, leader of the alliance, publicly stated it won't continue working with Fuerza Popular.

Set to hold 18 seats



Unión por el Perú

Union por el Perú (UPP) is a political party founded by former United Nations Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar to participate in the 1995 general elections as the main opposition force to former President Alberto Fujimori. The party is considered left leaning.

Set to hold 17 seats

2. New Congress

Parties with seats in the new Congress



Frepap

The Frente Popular Agrícola del Perú (Frepap) is a center-right political party founded by Ezequiel Ataucusi Gamonal, leader of the Evangelical Association of the Israeli Mission of the New Universal Pact. It preaches strict adherence to the Ten Commandments. Among its proposals are the removal of parliamentary immunity and the promotion of ethical education.

Set to hold 16 seats



Fuerza Popular

Fuerza Popular (formerly Fuerza 2011) is a party founded in 2010 by Keiko Fujimori. It is currently the main force opposing Vizcarra. The Fujimorista party stated that for this legislative period they will have a “disposition for dialogue and non-confrontation”. They also said they will not stop defending constitutional principles.

Set to hold 12 seats



Frente Amplio

The Frente Amplio is a coalition of parties, political organizations, social movements and citizens of the left, progressives, socialists and communists. The coalition said they will seek to regulate the climate change law and will oppose private investment.

Set to hold 12 seats

2. New Congress

Parties with seats in the new Congress



Podemos Peru

Podemos Peru is a political party founded in 2018 by businessman José Luna Gálvez and maintains a centre-right stance. Representatives of the party said they will back the Executive for the growth of the country's economy.

Set to hold 10 seats



Morado Party

The Morado Party defines itself as a "radical Republican center". It was founded in 2017 by former presidential candidate Julio Guzmán. One of its key proposals is to eliminate the parliamentary immunity currently enjoyed by all those entering Congress

Set to hold 9 seats



Somos Peru

The Democratic Party Somos Peru is a nationwide political party founded by former president Alberto Andrade Carmona. The party is aligned with Christian democracy and advocates social market economics. It will seek to promote a quota law with the aim of guaranteeing the participation of women and indigenous people in Congress.

Set to hold 7 seats



Juntos por el Perú

Juntos por el Perú is an electoral alliance formed by the Humanista Party and the Movimiento Nuevo Perú. It maintains a left-wing stance. In these elections they ran on a ticket of youth, women, indigenous people and diverse regional political movements.

Set to hold 5 seats

3. Statements



**Martha Chávez (Fuerza Popular
- opposition)**

"I would like the parties joining Congress to put on their pants and not be ladies or 'extras' of the Government, which is futile (...) It must be understood that persecution hits a party. In 2016, Keiko Fujimori was the best candidate, today our leader is threatened with going back to prison. Persecution has its effects, doesn't it?"



**Mesías Guevara (Acción Popular -
opposition)**

"What we do in parliament in this short period will bear fruit in 2021. I was telling the people in the political committee, the victory of January 26 could become our defeat in 2021 (...) [we must] tune in to the national demands and be able to interpret what is happening in the whole country, especially in terms of social demands."



**Wilfredo Tenorio (Frepap - allied to
the ruling party)**

"We consider it necessary to eliminate parliamentary immunity, and the revocation and resignation of congressman [as a means to evade punishment] as a way to empower citizens." In response to his bloc being compared to Fujimorism: "Frepap is an organization with its own life and members that are different from Fuerza Popular. There is no particular bond, no commitment, nothing that unites us."

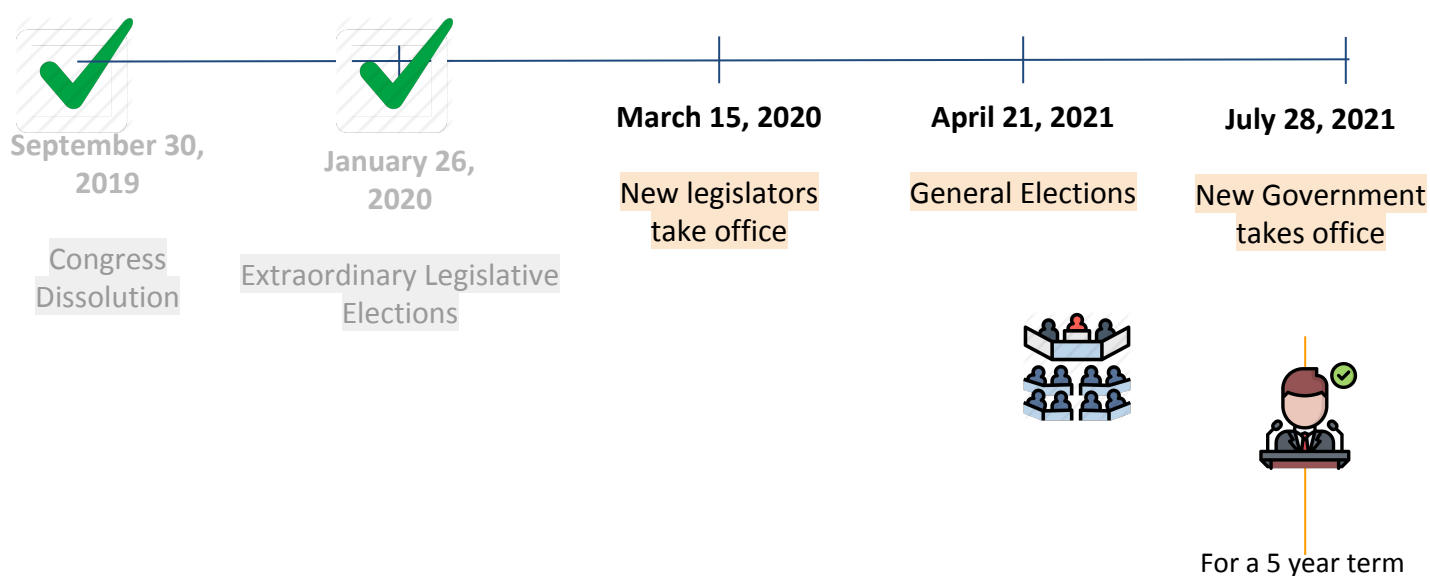


**Julio Guzmán (Partido Morado
- allied to the ruling party)**

"The Morado Party will back all the constructive alternatives that President Martín Vizcarra has. We will be a proactive group."

Conclusions

- 1. A fragmented Congress.** The preliminary election results shows a Congress that is heavily fragmented among 10 separate political parties none of which has a majority of its own, and the arrival of new blocs still unallied to other groupings. The next Congress will be a Legislature without ruling party representation which in order to move forward on its agenda will have to negotiate issue by issue.
- 2. A strengthened Executive.** President Martin Vizcarra emerges favorably from these elections. Although he lacks a majority bloc in Congress, the splintered outcome means he will have greater negotiating capacity to drive through his proposals. Also, following the shutdown of Congress last September 30, Vizcarra remains one of the most popular presidents in the region.
- 3. Congress agenda.** The agenda of the new Congress is mounting fast. First, it will have to study the decrees issued by the Executive while Congress was out of operation. it will also need to evaluate a series of reforms to the political and judicial system currently being prepared by the Government. Meanwhile, the elected legislators will have their own agendas based on their campaign promises to push through, as well as having to address issues still pending from 2019. The coming 16-month period for the new legislators could, as such, serve as a political platform and shop-window for them and their parties ahead of the 2021 Executive elections
- 4. Major losers.** The defeat of the main opposition bloc, Fujimorismo, is one of the most important takeaways of these elections. Keiko Fujimori's party not only lost its absolute majority in parliament, which it had enjoyed before the dissolution, but it is now one of the least represented parties. Similarly, one of its main allies, the Aprista Party of former President Alan García, did not manage to overcome the electoral threshold and will therefore not have any seats in the next period.





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