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IN LATIN AMERICA

DECEMBER 2021

Chile

Presidential elections Post-election report



Executive summary

On December 19, runoff elections were held between the winners of the first round: Gabriel Boric (Apruebo Dignidad) and José Antonio Kast (Frente Social Cristiano). Boric, the leftist candidate, won by over 55% of the votes and will assume the presidency on March 11, 2022, taking over from Sebastián Piñera.

Although Boric's win had been predicted by polls in recent weeks, his margin of victory over Kast, at over 11%, was greater than expected. The president-elect will choose his cabinet in the coming weeks. The result marks a break with the past 16 years during which Michelle Bachelet and Sebastián Piñera alternated in power in Chile.

The election pledges outlined by the two candidates were significant, with Boric eyeing tax reform based on "those who have more, contribute more". He seeks a progressive tax system characterized by vertical and horizontal equity.

On immigration, he says humanitarian shelters are to be established to facilitate access to emergency housing; he speaks of the need for a regular, orderly and safe immigration policy, pointing to the benefits of multiculturalism and the 'recognition' of migrants and refugees.

Finally, in terms of Congress, its composition for the next four years was decided in the November elections. Given this new make-up, the next government will have to routinely resort to negotiation to advance its government agenda. The new ruling party for the period 2022-2026, therefore - in a minority across both chambers - must turn to the traditional forces for support, which remain strong parliamentary coalitions within Congress.

Basic questions

What was elected?

The President of the Republic is elected for the 2022-2026 term.

How to vote?

By personal, equal, secret and voluntary suffrage.

How many are the presidential candidates?

Two. Chile will elect in the ballotage between José Antonio Kast (Frente Social Cristiano) and Gabriel Boric (Apruebo Dignidad).

Why was there a run-off election?

Because none of the candidates obtained more than 50% of the votes or an absolute majority in the elections on November 21. On December 19, 2021, a runoff was held between the two candidates with the highest relative majorities was held.



When will the next government take office?

The new president, as well as the elected congressmen, will take office on March 11, 2022 for a period of four years, ending on March 11, 2026.

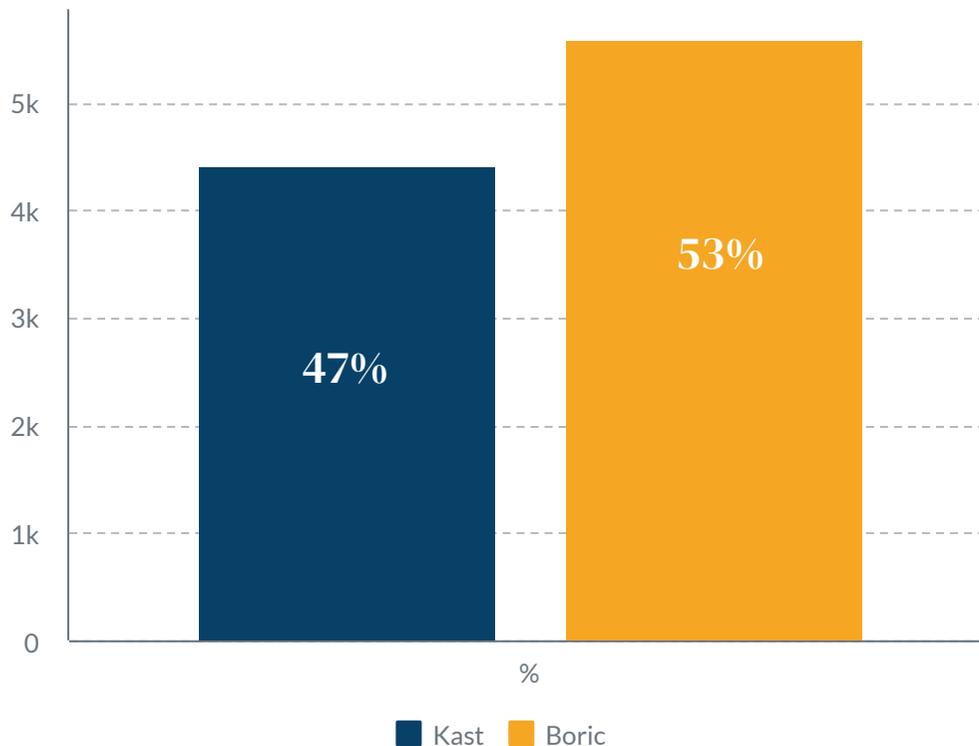
Electoral Calendar

Presidential elections are held every 4 years, ninety days before the end of the current term (or the Sunday of the third week of November). This year the elections were held on November 21 and the second round was held on December 19.

Final results

As anticipated, voter turnout was a determining factor. In this second round, almost 56% of eligible voters went to the polls, compared with only 47% registered in the first round a few weeks earlier.

On Sunday, December 19, an additional 1.2 million people voted, compared to just four weeks earlier in the first round general elections held on November 21. It is worth noting that this figure surpasses the mark of the last two presidential elections in 2013 and 2017 respectively, although it still falls far short of the turnout of citizens in previous elections where this number hovered around 90% in the early 2000s.



Source: Graph based on polls from local surveys.

Shortly after the results were announced, President Sebastián Piñera contacted Boric to congratulate him, observing that history had taught Chile that when they follow the paths of peace, dialogue, collaboration and consensus, the country and its people do well. The Everyone expects Boric to run a good government, he added, while reminding him of the honor and responsibility of occupying the presidential seat.

Boric also remarked that he will govern for all Chileans. Meanwhile, Piñera invited him to a breakfast that traditionally kicks off government transitions in Chile after each election. The candidate of Apruebo Dignidad will be the first president-elect to arrive at the Palacio de la Moneda with the support of the largest number of votes since the return to democracy following Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship.



President Elect



Gabriel Boric

He is the youngest candidate. He was president of the Student Federation during 2011-2012 and led protests for public, free and quality education. In 2018 he founded the Convergencia Social party and the Apruebo Dignidad coalition, for which he is running for president. In 2014 he took office as deputy and was re-elected for the period 2018-2022.

[Government Plan](#): It has four cross-cutting themes: "Decentralization, feminism, climate crisis and decent work".

Proposals:

- Increase of the minimum wage and reduction of the working day to 40 hours a week.
- Create a public, free and quality education system.
- Guarantee Internet as a basic service.
- In environmental matters, he proposes a framework law on Circular Economy and Waste Management. In addition, to create a national lithium company.
- Summon a Social Dialogue Commission to face the effects of the pandemic and the global economic crisis in the world of work.
- Tax reform proposal so that "those who have more contribute more": seeks to move towards a progressive tax system, with vertical and horizontal equity.
- Creation of a single health system based on a Universal Health Fund: the Social Security Health Institutions (in Spanish Isapre) will be transformed into additional voluntary insurances.
- Promotion of the law on euthanasia, dignified death and palliative care.
- Presentation of a law for the protection of ancestral seeds and genetic heritage.
- Policy for reduction of food waste.
- Home delivery of medicines for chronic diseases.
- Climate Crisis Adaptation Strategy: focused on productive management with principles of fair ecological transition. The State will be responsible for boosting innovation and digital transformation.
- Decent Work: freedom of association; social security systems; decent wages; and creation of productive jobs, for individual development and the common benefit of the country.

Challenges of the next government

Although there are three months to go before the new administration takes office, Boric will have to face a government compelled to negotiate and seek out broad coalitions that guarantee governability. This is because Boric has fallen far short of constituting his own legislative majority in the two chambers of Congress.

Apruebo Dignidad will have 37 deputies and 5 senators, which means it will have to reach consensus for the approval of laws with the other two largest alliances: the current ruling party Chile Podemos, and Nuevo Pacto Social - the result of a differentiated voting outcome where citizens' backing for either Boric or Kast was largely unaccompanied by corresponding support the proposed deputies and senators of their parties in the first round.

Some of the most important challenges the president-elect will face are the following:

- Trying to placate the markets and economic agents, who will be waiting to see which Boric turns up in power: a disruptive leader promoting root and branch reform or the more moderate-voiced candidate seen ahead of the runoff.
- Advancing his government's agenda, which includes approving a gradual tax reform during the first year, scrapping the Social Security Health Institutions (Isapres in Spanish) inclusion under a new health system umbrella, and modifying the pension system.
- Capitalizing on the support of the electoral pact that got behind him in the second round and build bridges with the deputies of the Democracia Cristiana, the Partido de la Gente and the Centro Unido in their relationship with Congress.
- Analysing the extension of the deadline for drafting the new constitution, which would allow for participatory plebiscites requiring the president to send a bill to Congress.

Boric has won the elections on promises of deep, structural reforms echoing many of the proposals heard amid the social unrest of 2019, and with the aim of expanding the Chilean economy, reducing poverty and stimulating consumption. Young Chileans, in particular, are being prioritized, with Boric seeking to break with Chile's unequal society that has been the cost of its relative stability and prosperity regionally.

It should be noted that Boric's government will not only oversee the drafting of the new Constitution but will also be responsible for implementing the reforms agreed upon as part of that process, and will need to bend to the eventual rule changes brought by the re-drafting. And all this in a context of the pandemic, which will oblige the new government to manage the country's health response and its impact on the economy.



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