



To: Interested Parties  
 From: Edward D. Vargas, Claudia Rodríguez, Antonio Ugues  
 Date: April 2024  
 Re: Mexicans Living Abroad: Election Trust and Voter Participation

In collaboration, the *Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas-Arlington and University of Nebraska-Lincoln* recently commissioned a national poll of Mexican nationals living in the U.S. who are eligible to vote in the 2024 Mexican Presidential election on June 2, 2024. The *Mexicans Abroad International Survey of Elections/Encuesta Electoral Internacional de Mexicanos en el Extranjero (MAISE)*, administered by the polling firm *BSP Research*, surveyed 600 total respondents, including a sample of dual citizens who are also eligible to vote in the 2024 U.S. elections, from April 5-19, 2024. The survey contains a margin of error of +/- 4.0 percentage points.

As democracy and fair elections have been questioned across the Americas, we asked Mexicans living in the US about their confidence in the June 2, 2024 election and their opinions about the government agencies who are responsible for executing this historic election. This comes at a pivotal time, where just over 1 in 5 (22%) of respondents believe *Mexico is worse today than six years ago* and 42% said *Mexico is better today than six years ago*.

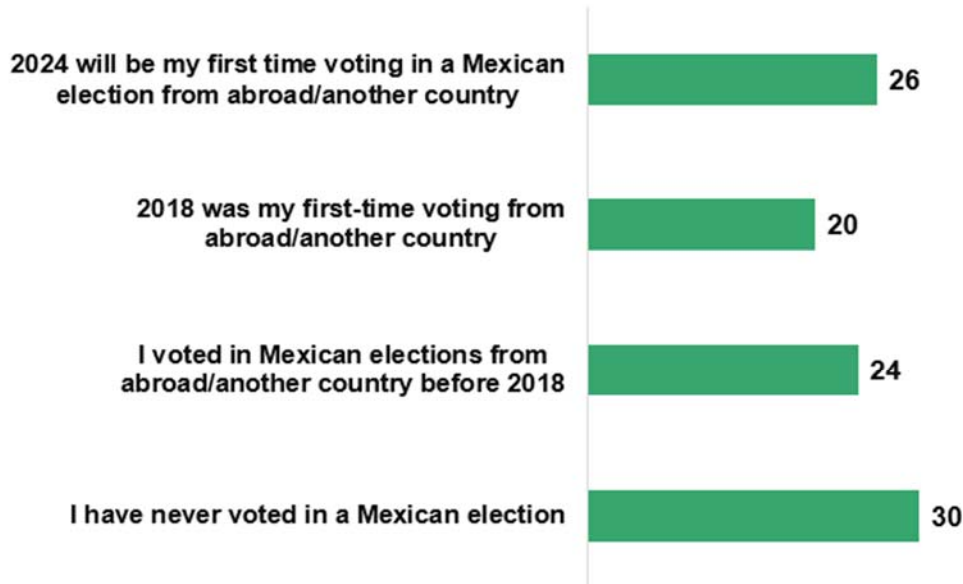
First, our findings suggest that more than half (55%) of respondents are closely following the upcoming election, yet only 33% of Mexican nationals have been contacted by anyone from a Mexican presidential campaign or any other local organization for electoral purposes. Given that this is the first time that registered voters will be allowed to cast their vote in one of three modes (mail-in ballot, online, or in-person at a Mexican consulate), respondents are more likely to have selected *online using the internet* as the option when they registered to vote (38%), and feel particularly motivated to participate due to the expansion of voting modalities for the election this year.

**This year in June, Mexico will have elections for President, governors, and other public offices. How closely are you following the election and campaigns for president of Mexico?**



When asked about their voting experiences in Mexican elections, just under one-third (30%) of respondents indicated they have never voted in a Mexican election (women being more likely to have never participated compared to men), while 26% indicated 2024 will be their first time voting in a Mexican election abroad. Interestingly, 24% of respondents have voted in Mexican elections abroad before 2018 and for 20% of Mexican voters in the US 2018 was their first time voting from abroad. Among first time voters, these include both Mexicans under 29 years of age. Given that the likelihood of continued political participation remains high after voting one time, it is paramount to invest in outreach and participation opportunities for this important sector of the Mexican electorate.

### Which describes your voting experience in Mexican elections?

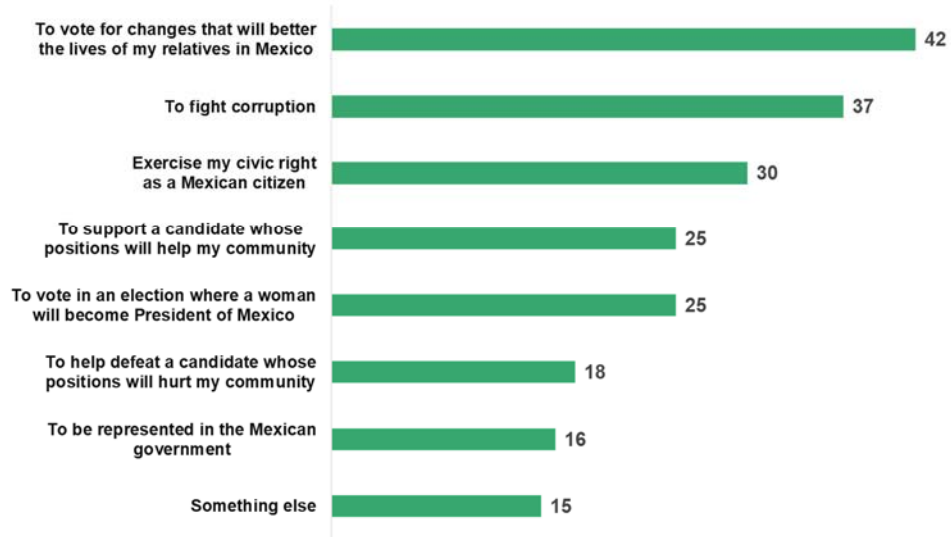


We now turn our attention to what is motivating Mexican nationals to vote. When asked about what would motivate or has motivated (if already registered) them to vote in the Mexican election, the top responses include: *to vote for changes that will better the lives of my relatives in Mexico* (42%), *to fight corruption* (37%), *to exercise my right as a Mexican citizen* (30%), and *to vote in an election where a woman will become President of Mexico* (25%). These findings suggest that voters are thinking about their loved ones back in Mexico and the role corruption and gang violence is impacting their communities.



### Which of these [motivated/would motivate] you to vote in Mexico?

Select all that apply.



Lastly, when asked about their confidence in both fair and clean elections and the federal agency that is responsible for organizing the election, we find that Mexicans have a great deal of confidence that their vote will be counted fairly. In fact, 68% of respondents said they have “some” and “a lot” of confidence that their vote will be counted fairly. Mexicans living abroad also have share an overall positive opinion of the National Electoral Institute (Instituto Nacional Electoral, INE) to run these elections. We also find that older respondents have a higher opinion of INE, relative to voters between the ages 18-29. When examining, from a US electoral lens, we find no differences in confidence in the Mexican election along party lines as both self-identifying Democrats and Republicans have very good opinions of the National Electoral Institute. It is however important to note that these data were collected prior to INE declaring 39,000 registered voters as [invalid](#), given concerns over signature matches. Mexicans will now have to re-confirm their voter registration by telephone or email to vote online or mail-in ballot before May 5<sup>th</sup> or alternatively, try to vote in-person June 2, 2024, with limited ballots available at the Mexican consulate.

In general, Mexican living in the U.S. are very enthusiastic about the opportunity to participate in the Mexican 2024 election and are motivated to show the importance of their vote and preferences from abroad. As many are eligible to vote in both the Mexican and U.S. election, their vote can be highly influential in shaping transnational political landscapes, and remain enthusiastic that the U.S. will pass comprehensive immigration reform and that Mexicans living in the US can have an influence on what is happening in Mexico. Given recent changes to remote voting, Mexican voters are excited about being able to vote online, and are particularly motivated by having the opportunity to elect the first woman president in Mexico’s history.



There will be new releases in the coming weeks from BSP Research, with additional findings from MAISE. Additional findings in English and Spanish can be found on the BSP Research website [here](#).

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