

# Presidential and Parliamentary Elections 2006: Nicaragua



---

Latin American Presidential Election Series

November 1, 2006

Political Database of the Americas

Peter S. Knight

Graduate Student, Center for Latin American Studies

Georgetown University



# Agenda

---

- General Elections
- Systems / Reforms
- Presidential Candidates
  - A few polls
- *Asamblea Nacional*
  - A few more polls





# General Elections

---

- Election Day: Sunday, November 5, 2006
  - President/Vice-president
  - 90 (+2) *Diputados* to the *Asamblea Nacional*
  - 20 *Diputados* to the Central American Parliament (*Parlacen*)

# Presidential Election

---

- Relative majority with Second round option
  - First round (Nov. 5):
    - 40% needed for victory, or
    - 35% with a 5% margin over 2nd candidate (Constitutional reform of 2000 - previous requirement was 45%).
  - Second round (held within 45 days of first round)
    - Top two candidates compete

# *Asamblea Nacional* Election

---

- Unicameral legislature
- Closed-list, proportional representation (PR) system
- 15 departments, 2 autonomous regions
- 92 total *Diputados*
  - 90 elected
    - 20 from national constituency
      - Seats distributed to party list based on proportion of votes received
    - 70 from Department or Autonomous Region constituencies
      - Follows same formula as national constituency
      - Based on 1995 census data
  - 2 designated (the outgoing president & the 2<sup>nd</sup> presidential candidate)



# *Asamblea Nacional*

---

- *Diputados* serve five-year terms
- One re-election permitted



# 5 Presidential Candidates

---

- Daniel Ortega Saavedra
  - Eduardo Montealegre
    - Edmundo Jarquín
  - José Rizo Castellón
    - Edén Pastora

# Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional (FSLN)



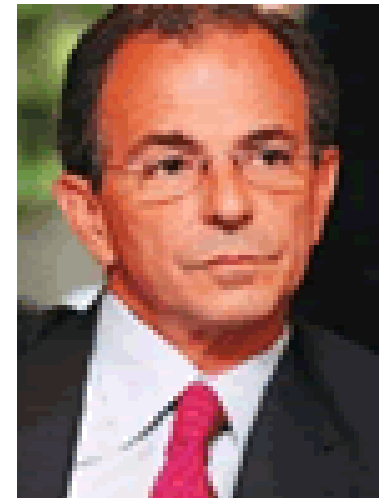
- Daniel Ortega Saavedra
  - Former president (1984-1990)
    - Lost in 3 subsequent elections
  - Sandinista revolutionary, 1980's
  - Leader of the FSLN party
  - VP: Jaime Morales Carazo
    - *Asamblea Nacional*
    - Formerly close to Alemán
    - Co-founder of PLC (current govt)



# Alianza Liberal Nicaraguense (ALN)



- Eduardo Montealegre Rivas
  - Founder of ALN (after forced from PLC)
  - Wealthy banker, economist (Brown and Harvard educated)
  - Foreign Minister (Alemán), Treasury Minister (Bolaños)
  - Enjoys U.S. Support



# Movimiento Renovación Sandinista (MRS)



## □ Edmundo Jarquín

- MRS presidential candidate after death of Herty Lewites in early July (previously VP candidate)
- Former ambassador to Mexico and Spain
- *Asamblea Nacional*, '90; IDB '92-'05
- Enjoys U.S. support
- VP: Carlos Mejia Godoy
  - Popular singer/songwriter joins ticket

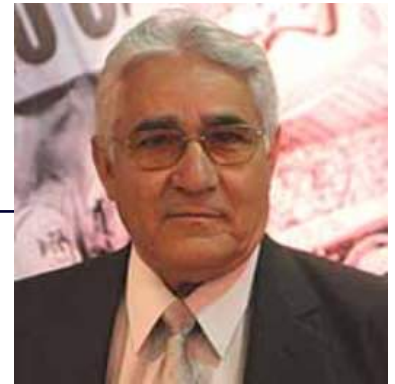
# Partido Liberal Constitucionalista (PLC)



- José Rizo Castellón
  - VP until 2005
    - Stepped-down from vice-presidency to pursue presidency (and differences with Bolaños)
  - Supported by fr. president Alemán (1997-2001), serving 20-year sentence for money laundering and fraud
  - Opposed by U.S. due to ties with Alemán

# Alternativa por el Cambio (AC)

---



## □ Edén Pastora

### ■ “Comandante Cero”

- 1978: storms the *Asamblea* with FSLN
- Key in the insurgency vs. Somoza

### ■ Former Deputy Defense Minister (1979-1981)

### ■ Presidential candidate, Partido Democrática (1996)

### ■ Managua mayorial candidate

### ■ VP: Mercedes Tenorio



# Other players

- Arnoldo Alemán
  - 20-years house arrest
  - Co



- Enrico Cuccinelli
  - Cu
  - Im



<http://earthhopenetwork.net>

# CID/Gallup poll

Party	Candidate	October 2006	August 2006
FSLN	<u>Daniel Ortega Saavedra</u>	32.5%	29%
ALN	<u>Eduardo Montealegre</u>	21.1%	23%
MRS	<u>Edmundo Jarquín</u>	11.8%	14%
PLC	<u>José Rizo Castellón</u>	16.8%	14%
AC	<u>Edén Pastora</u>	0.2%	1%
N/A	<i>Don't know/NA</i>	17.6%	19%

# Latest – Friday October 27, 2006

---

Party	Candidate	Borge & Associates	M&R Consultores
FSLN	<u>Daniel Ortega Saavedra</u>	34.4%	33.8%
ALN	<u>Eduardo Montealegre</u>	23%	25.4%

# Ortega: Past Presidential Elections

---

Year	Ortega % vote
1990	40.8
1996	37.8
2000	42

Consistency in support – does this indicate a “ceiling”?

Current numbers approaching the 35% w/ 5% margin  
needed for 1st round win

Big question: what happens in the case of second round?

# Current *Asamblea Nacional*

---

Party	2001 election results (%)	# of seats
Liberal Alliance (PLC, PCCN, PALI, PLIUN, PUCA)	46	53
FSLN	36.55	38
PC	2.12	1

# Current Poll: *Asamblea Nacional*

Party	September 2006 poll (% of vote)	= # of seats
FSLN	34.7	35
ALN-PC	28.1	29
MRS	17.9	14
PLC	18.1	12
AC	1.2	0