



Mathurin Hybrid Initiative

Global Advisory
Report

Bukele's Landslide:
Reshaping El
Salvador's Political
Landscape in 2024.

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15/02/2024

The 2024 General Elections in El Salvador, held on February 4, marked a significant moment in the nation's political landscape. Nayib Bukele, the incumbent president, and his party, Nuevas Ideas, secured an overwhelming victory. Bukele was re-elected with a staggering [84.65% of the popular vote](#), showcasing a landslide victory that some media outlets described as record-breaking in the democratic history of the world. This election was notable not just for the presidential race but also for the legislative assembly elections, where Nuevas Ideas achieved a dominant victory, winning a minimum of 58 out of 60 seats according to [Bukele's statement](#). The election was held under a [state of emergency](#) imposed for Bukele's crackdown on gangs, a policy that significantly reduced homicide rates but was criticized for human rights violations.

The elections were the culmination of a political journey that saw Bukele breaking the traditional two-party system in El Salvador, which had been dominated by the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) for decades. Bukele's governance and re-election bid were contentious, with critics labeling his administration as [authoritarian](#) and his re-election unconstitutional due to El Salvador's [constitutional prohibition](#) on immediate presidential re-election. However, Bukele's popularity remained high, bolstered by his government's successful anti-gang policies and the decision to allow Salvadoran expatriates to vote, a move that was seen by some as a way to ensure electoral support for his campaign.

The election's backdrop was marked by significant legal and political maneuvers, including a [ruling by the Supreme Court of Justice](#) in September 2021 that allowed for Bukele's re-election bid, overturning previous interpretations of the constitution. Moreover, Bukele's administration undertook [reforms](#) that reduced the number of municipalities and seats in the Legislative Assembly, actions criticized as attempts to consolidate power.

Despite the controversy surrounding his governance style, Bukele's re-election was largely anticipated due to his high approval ratings and the lack of significant competition. His administration's focus on security, specifically [the reduction of gang violence](#), has been a central aspect of its popularity, even as it faced criticism for the high incarceration rates and potential human rights violations associated with its "iron fist" policies.

The 2024 elections underscore a critical juncture for El Salvador, reflecting both the electorate's approval of Bukele's methods in tackling the country's issues and the broader concerns regarding democratic backsliding and authoritarian tendencies in his administration. As Bukele embarks on his second term, the international community and local observers will closely watch how his policies unfold, particularly in areas of governance, economic management, and human rights.