

PUBLIC CALL ADDRESSED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY INTERESTED TO KNOW AND TO ATTEND THE 2023 – 2024 MEXICAN FEDERAL AND CONCURRENT LOCAL ELECTIONS

The National Electoral Institute is an autonomous public body with legal entity and own assets, with the participation of the Legislative Power of the Union, the national political parties, and the citizens, under the terms established by law. This Institute is bestowed with the electoral authority and oversees the state function of organizing Mexican federal elections and supporting the organisation of elections at the local level. In the exercise of this state responsibility, it holds the guiding principles of certainty, legality, independence, impartiality, maximum publicity, objectivity, and parity, which shall be carried out with a gender perspective.

The General Council of the Institute is the highest governing body, responsible for overseeing compliance with constitutional and legal provisions on electoral matters. In exercise of the powers conferred upon it by article 44, paragraph 2, of the General Law on Electoral Institutions and Procedures; Article 219, paragraph 1, of the Election Regulations, as well as in terms of point Three of the Agreement of the General Council of the National Electoral Institute establishing the bases and criteria for inviting, attending and informing foreign visitors who come to learn about the modalities of the 2023 – 2024 Mexican federal and concurrent local elections, or INE/CG537/2023, approved on September 20, 2023, issues the present Call for Proposals in accordance with the following:

BASIS

I. GENERAL

1. This Public Call is addressed to any person with citizenship and nationality other than Mexican, who has an interest in witnessing and accompanying the development of the 2023 – 2024 Mexican federal and concurrent local elections, including representatives from:
 - a. Electoral Management Bodies of other countries.
 - b. International bodies.
 - c. Continental or regional organizations.
 - d. Political parties and organizations in other countries.
 - e. Legislative bodies of other countries.
 - f. Governments of other countries.
 - g. Academic and research institutions at a higher level in other countries.
 - h. Foreign organizations specialized in electoral co-operation or assistance activities.
 - i. Private institutions or non-governmental associations from abroad that carry out activities specialized or related to the political-electoral field or in the defense and promotion of human rights.
2. Foreign visitors will be able to know and be informed about the development of the 2023 – 2024 Mexican federal and concurrent local elections, in any of its stages, in any area of the national territory. If logistical conditions permit, they shall have the possibility of witnessing the vote in custody, the vote at home, as well as the in-person casting of the vote of Mexicans residing abroad.
3. Interested persons shall have a period starting from the publication of this Call, and expiring on **Wednesday 22 May 2024**, to send to the Presidency of the General Council, through the International Affairs Unit, their Application Form for accreditation as foreign visitor duly signed in autograph, accompanied by a copy of the pages of their passport in which their personal data and signature appear, and a recent and clear photograph of 3 x 2.5 centimetres, similar to the one used to apply for a passport.
4. Application Form for accreditation as foreign visitor would be available at the International Affairs Unit office, located at Calzada Acoxta No. 436, 8th floor, Col. Ex Hacienda de Coapa, Tlalpan, C. P. 14300, Mexico City; on the website of the Institute www.ine.mx, as well as on the websites of the 32 local public electoral bodies.

In addition, the Institute will request the necessary support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Mexico to make the Application available in the diplomatic and consular representations of Mexico abroad.

5. The documentation referred to in Point 3 of this Basis may be sent to the e-mail address visitantes.extranjeros@ine.mx. It may also be delivered in person at the offices of the International Affairs Unit, or sent by ordinary mail or courier service, these modalities being the responsibility of the interested parties.
6. For the Institute to grant the requested accreditations, interested foreign persons must meet the following requirements:
 - a. To be recognized as a foreigner citizen by the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, as established in article 216 of the Elections Regulations of the National Electoral Institute.
 - b. Be 18 years old as of June 2, 2024.
 - c. Address and send to the Presidency of the General Council, through the International Affairs Unit, a duly completed application for individual accreditation, in the time and form indicated in this Call.
 - d. To pursue non-lucrative purposes.
7. Within 3 working days after their submittal, the International Affairs Unit will ponder each application duly filled in and received in due course and time.
8. In the event that incomplete documentation has submitted, within 24 calendar hours of its receipt, the International Affairs Unit shall inform the interested person by electronic means. Therefore, if desired, during the 24 calendar hours following the issuance of said communication, the interested person could send the omitted documentation.
9. The deadline for submitting documentation to be accredited as a Foreign Visitor to the Institute, specifically to the International Affairs Unit, will be Wednesday 22 May 2024. After that date, no documentation will be accepted, except from those interested persons who submit complementary documentation, and based on the terms established in Point 8 of this Basis.
10. An application shall be deemed to be rejected if the person concerned presents any of the following conditions:
 - a. Be recognized as a Mexican citizen by the Constitution of our country.
 - b. Be under 18 years as of June 2, 2024.
 - c. The signature on the Application Form for accreditation as foreign visitor does not correspond to the signature presented on the official documents of the person concerned, on up to two occasions; one of these occasions being considered as an application that has been rejected for the same reason in previous elections, or
 - d. Failure to submit complete documentation within the deadlines established in Point 9 of this Basis.
11. Interested persons shall be notified in a timely manner of the resolution issued to the Accreditation application submitted, within three working days of the submission of their documentation, by means of a communication signed by the person heading the International Affairs Unit. Notifications of accreditation will be sent electronically to the e-mail address specified by the interested party in their Application Form for accreditation.
12. Once the person concerned has been notified that his/her application for accreditation has been approved, and if necessary, he/she must carry out the required immigration procedures before the Mexican consular representation nearest to his/her place of residence or, if applicable, before any of the offices of the National Institute of Migration within the national territory, in compliance with the provisions of the applicable immigration laws.
13. Once the above procedures have been completed, at the latest by 18:00 hours, Central Mexican time, on Saturday 1 June 2024, accredited foreign visitors must obtain the official badge that identifies them as such and facilitates the performance of their activities; presenting a copy of the document that certifies their legal presence in national territory.
14. The International Affairs Unit will inform each of the accredited persons in a timely manner of the mechanisms for obtaining their respective badges.

15. Political parties, national political groups and, if applicable, electoral coalitions, independent candidates, as well as observer organizations and all those Mexican institutions and associations of a civil nature specialized or interested in the matter may disseminate this Call and invite persons with a nationality other than Mexican, who comply with the requirements established in the bases and criteria approved by the General Council, to be accredited as foreign visitors.
16. Accredited foreign visitors shall be responsible for obtaining the corresponding funding to cover the expenses related to their travel, stay and activities in Mexico.

II. ACTIVITIES ALLOWED FOR FOREIGN VISITORS

17. Foreign visitors will be able to learn and be informed about the development of the 2023 – 2024 Mexican federal and concurrent local elections, which includes the federal elections and the elections in the 32 entities of the country that will be held coincidentally, in any of their stages and in any area of the national territory, in a general manner. If logistical conditions permit, they will have the possibility of witnessing the vote in custody, the vote at home, as well as the vote of Mexicans living abroad.
18. For obtaining orientation or complementary information on federal electoral rules, institutions and procedures, accredited foreign visitors may request, through the International Affairs Unit, the holding of interviews or informative meetings with Institute officials from central bodies.

In the federal entities, they shall do so through the local councils, and in the federal electoral districts through the district councils by means of their president councilors, who, within a period of no more than five working days, shall inform the Presidency of the General Council, through the International Affairs Unit

Likewise, foreign visitors may request information from the local electoral management bodies that hold such concurrent elections. In addition, these authorities will send to the International Affairs Unit, by electronic means, general information on the electoral process in their charge so that it may be delivered to all accredited foreign visitors. For these purposes, the Unit will send a format to each of the local electoral management bodies, so that the information of their respective entity is delivered in the same format.

19. Political parties, national political groups and, where appropriate, electoral coalitions and independent candidacies, may present to accredited foreign visitors their views on the Federal Electoral Process and the concurrent local electoral processes, as well as provide them with the documentation they consider relevant.
20. The International Affairs Unit shall provide, to the extent of its possibilities, the information support available to it to facilitate the accredited foreign visitors to properly carry out the activities mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, keeping the General Council informed of such activities.

III. OBLIGATIONS OF FOREIGN VISITORS

During their stay in the country and carrying out their activities, accredited foreign visitors must comply Mexican laws and other applicable legal provisions permanently. Additionally, they must refrain from:

1. Substitute or hinder the electoral authorities in the exercise of their functions or interfere with the exercise of their functions, including the cast of the vote by the citizenry.
2. Carry out any kind of proselytism.
3. Demonstrate in favor of or against any party or candidacy or speak in favor of or against any form of citizen participation which is subject to a vote.

4. Engage in any activity that alters the fairness of the electoral contest.
5. Express any expression of offence, defamation or slander against institutions, electoral authorities, political parties or candidates.
6. Declare the victory of any political party or candidate or, as the case may be, the results of any form of citizen participation that is subject to vote.
7. Declare trends in voting before and after Election Day
8. Carry or display emblems, badges, shields, or any other image related to political parties, candidacies or political or ideological positions related to the federal election, the local elections, or any other form of civic contest.

IV. CRITERIA

Any matter not considered in this Public Call shall be resolved in sole and final instance by the International Affairs Unit, after consultation with the Presidency of the General Council of the Institute.

Mexico City, September 21, 2023

**THE PRESIDENT COUNCILOR OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE
LIC. GUADALUPE TADDEI ZAVALA**

**THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, AD INTERIM, OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE
LCDA. MARIA ELENA CORNEJO ESPARZA**