

HONDURAS

PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS 2025

PREELECTION REPORT

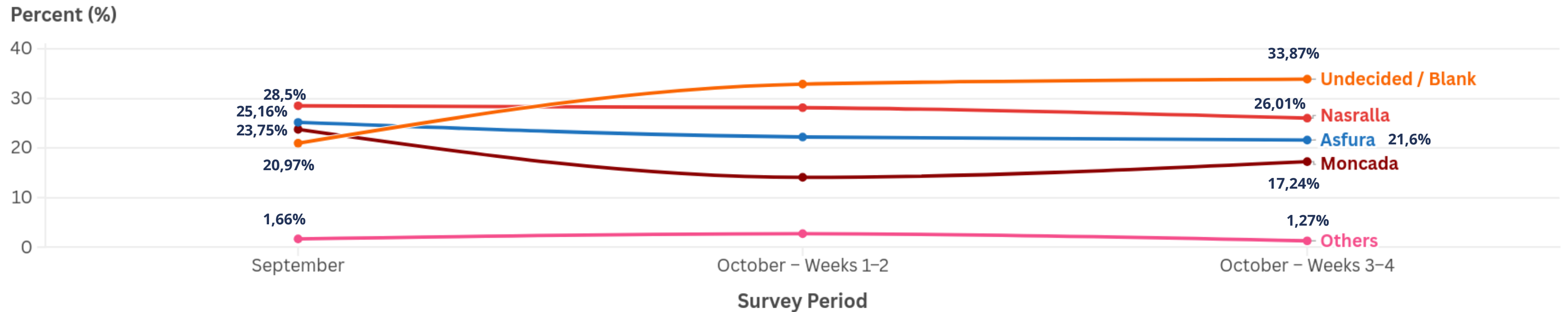


THE ELECTION AT A GLANCE

- On November 30, Hondurans will elect the country's president for the 2026–2030 term, renew the entire National Congress (128 seats), and choose 20 representatives to the Central American Parliament (Parlacen), among other offices. The new Congress will take office on January 25, while the new president will be sworn in on January 27.
- Five candidates are running for president, though only three are considered competitive. Reelection is not permitted, meaning President Xiomara Castro cannot run again. As a result, the Partido LIBRE nominated Rixi Moncada. In the opposition, Salvador Nasralla of the Partido Liberal and Nasry Asfura of the Partido Nacional are the strongest contenders. Polls show a highly competitive race — all near 20% — with Nasralla holding a slight lead. Mario Rivera of the Partido Demócrata Cristiano and Nelson Ávila, representing the social-democratic sector, are also in the race.
- The narrower field — compared with 2021, when 15 presidential candidates competed — and the tight margins among the top contenders create an open and uncertain electoral scenario. The winner will be determined by simple plurality: the candidate with the most votes wins, with no runoff. In this context, the weight of undecided voters — between 20% and 35% depending on the poll — will be decisive and could swing the result in any direction.
- The election will unfold against a backdrop of unmet expectations from the current administration, high levels of violence and insecurity that the government attempted to contain through a state of exception, a paralyzed Congress with limited political dialogue, and growing concerns about corruption and the transparency of the electoral process. These factors fuel public fears about a potential dispute over the results.



What Do the Polls Show?



Source: Own elaboration based on private opinion polls

Polls point to a tight three-way race, and the high share of undecided voters adds further uncertainty and volatility. Salvador Nasralla leads with roughly 26%. He is followed by Nasry Asfura with 21.6% and the ruling party's candidate, Rixi Moncada, with 17.24%. The narrow distance between them leaves the election wide open, making undecided voters — who range between 20% and 35% depending on the poll — the decisive factor that will ultimately define the outcome.

Honduras does not have a runoff system, meaning the candidate with the most votes this Sunday will win the presidency. The ruling party enters the election after four politically contentious years marked by governance challenges and a paralyzed Congress. A key question is how much of the 51.12% that brought Xiomara Castro to power in 2021 LIBRE can retain, especially given that Nasralla—formerly an ally—has drawn part of that voter base into his Partido Liberal candidacy. At the same time, fragmentation within the ruling party's support could benefit Asfura, although his campaign continues to face the legacy of the two Partido Nacional administrations under Juan Orlando Hernández, now convicted on drug-trafficking charges.

Against this backdrop, Nasralla is seeking to capitalize on voter fatigue with both LIBRE's administration and the Partido Nacional governments between 2014 and 2022, which were marked by allegations of corruption and electoral fraud. His strategy hinges on the expectation that a tight, first-past-the-post race will allow him to break the historical polarization between those two blocs and position himself to win the presidency.

LEADING CANDIDATES

Rixi Moncada

Partido Libertad y Refundación (LIBRE)



An attorney specializing in criminal and constitutional law, she is a co-founder of LIBRE and a close ally of President Xiomara Castro.

Before joining the Executive Branch, she practiced criminal law in both the public and private sectors. She served as Minister of Finance (2022–2024) and later as Minister of Defense (2024–2025) in the current administration. Her candidacy represents the continuation of LIBRE's political project.

Key priorities in her government plan include:

- Pushing a Fintech Law based on an open banking framework to expand access to credit and promote competition through digital banks, crowdfunding platforms, and fintech companies.
- Reforming the Financial System Law, the Central Bank Law, and CNBS regulations to curb usury, regulate international transfers, and prevent speculative capital outflows.
- Approving the Tax Justice Law to reduce tax evasion, regulate exemptions, prevent improper debt forgiveness, and strengthen social investment.
- Amending the Criminal Code to increase penalties for hoarding and price manipulation of essential goods such as food and medicines.
- Implementing a National Regulatory Improvement Strategy to simplify business procedures and registration processes.
- Expanding the budget and institutional capacity of the Public Prosecutor's Office to investigate and prosecute corruption and crimes causing financial harm to the State.

LEADING CANDIDATES

Salvador Nasralla

Partido Liberal



An engineer and television presenter. This is his third presidential bid. His first run was in 2013 with the Partido Anticorrupción; his second was in 2017, leading an alliance between LIBRE and the Partido Innovación y Unidad, an election in which he finished just fractions of a point behind Juan Orlando Hernández, who ultimately won. In the previous election he chose not to run and instead endorsed Xiomara Castro. He served as First Presidential Delegate until 2024, when he resigned following tensions with President Castro and the leadership of LIBRE.

Key priorities in his government plan include:

- Develop a national cybersecurity and data-protection strategy, advance the approval of a personal data protection law, and align the country with FATF standards to combat money laundering.
- Promote investment through a more agile public administration, reducing processing times by expanding electronic payments, digital government services, online customs procedures, and electronic signature and management systems.
- Advance legislation to implement hourly employment and create incentives and technical support for companies that hire people with disabilities and older adults.
- Establish the International Commission Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH, in Spanish) and strengthen the Secretariat for Transparency and Anti-Corruption.
- Promote a General Culture Law and a National Fund for Culture and the Arts; implement the National Culture Plan 2026–2030; strengthen CONATEL; and approve a new Telecommunications Sector Framework Law.

LEADING CANDIDATES

Nasry Asfura
Partido Nacional



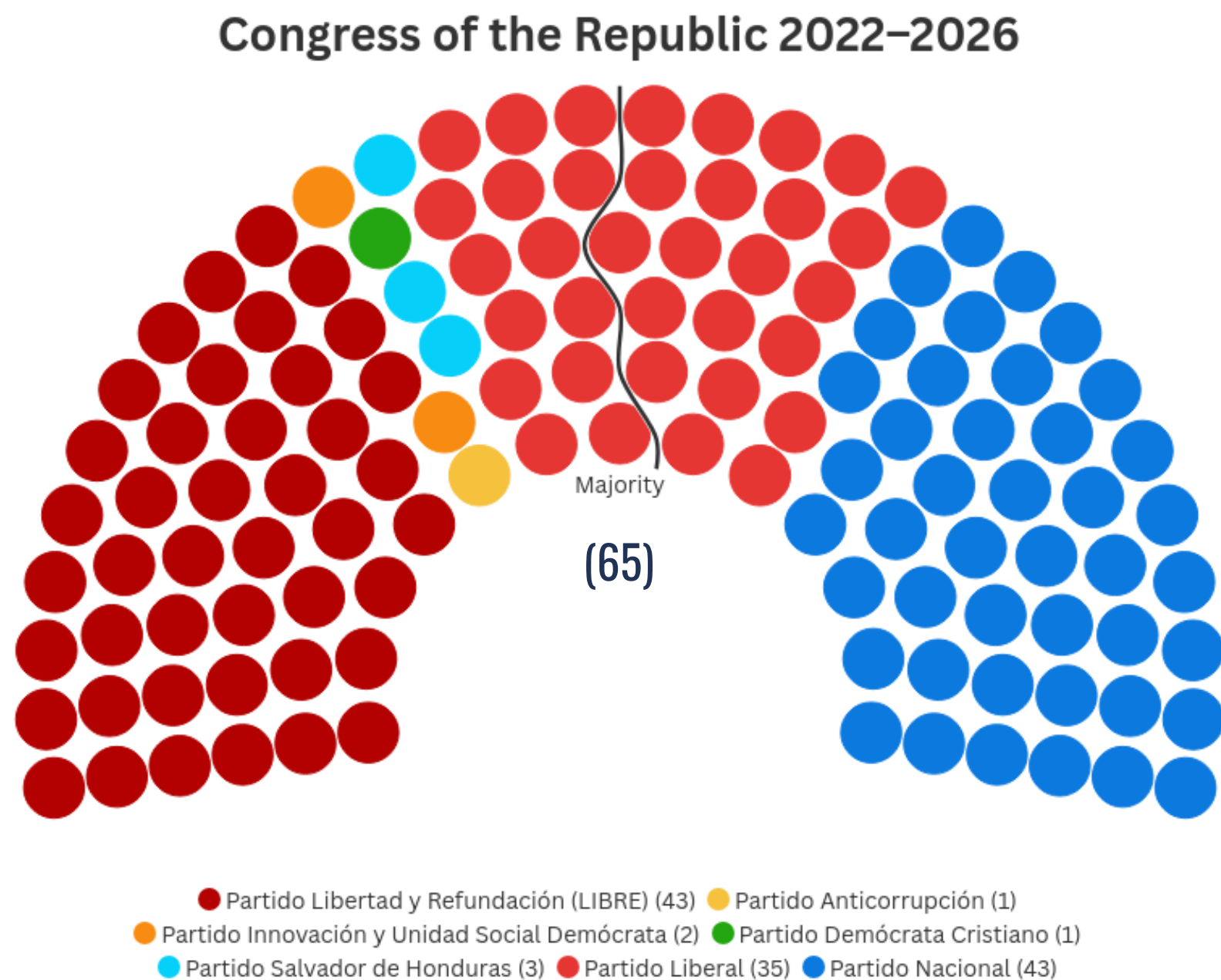
A politician and construction-sector businessman, he previously held a short-term position at the Honduran Social Investment Fund (2010–2011). He began his political career in the Partido Nacional, serving as a national deputy from 2010 to 2014, and later served two consecutive terms as mayor of Tegucigalpa (2014–2018 and 2018–2022). He was the Partido Nacional's presidential candidate in 2021, earning 36.93% of the vote and finishing second.

Key priorities in his government plan include:

- Promote nearshoring through free-trade zones, industrial parks, and a specialized investment-attraction office.
- Modernize industry through automation, artificial intelligence, expanded access to credit, and workforce training.
- Streamline business procedures, ensure legal stability and investment protection, and offer incentives for decent employment and sustainable economic development.
- Implement a National Anti-Extortion Strategy and strengthen the judicial system to guarantee impartiality, efficiency, and an effective fight against corruption.
- Centralize the procurement and distribution of medicines, improve hospital pharmacies, and promote domestic production of essential pharmaceuticals.
- Build partnerships with the private sector for internships and apprenticeships, expand technical training aligned with labor-market needs, and promote youth entrepreneurship.

LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

All 128 seats in the unicameral National Congress will be contested. To govern effectively, the incoming administration will need at least 65 seats; without that majority, it will depend heavily on cross-party coalitions to pass legislation.



Source: Own elaboration

Reaching that threshold will be difficult. In the absence of legislative polling, the dynamics observed in the presidential race — which is shaping up as a three-way contest among the Partido Liberal, the Partido Nacional, and LIBRE — can be used as a reference to anticipate the configuration of the next Congress. In Honduras's proportional representation system, a relatively even distribution of votes among several parties tends to translate into a fragmented legislature, reducing the likelihood that any single party will secure a majority.

If that pattern is replicated in the legislative election, the most likely outcome is a Congress similar to the current one: a broad distribution of seats among those three parties, with none reaching the majority threshold. Smaller parties — such as Innovación y Unidad Social Demócrata and the Partido Demócrata Cristiano, both of which are competing again — are also expected to retain a small share of representation.

The future legislative dynamics will depend largely on who wins the presidency. If the Partido Nacional or the Partido Liberal prevails, their programmatic affinities could make it easier to reach agreements and advance the government's agenda. By contrast, if LIBRE wins, it is likely to face greater challenges in building consensus — a dynamic already visible over the past four years, especially toward the end of the term, when limited political alignment produced legislative paralysis and stalled initiatives.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE ELECTIONS

Honduras goes to the polls amid widespread distrust of its electoral institutions. Despite a more stable 2021 election, concerns rooted in the 2017 irregularities persist, and the AmericasBarometer reports some of the region's lowest confidence levels in the process.

Warning signs have multiplied throughout the campaign. Delays and failures during the March primaries were followed by public disputes within the National Electoral Council (CNE) and investigations by the Prosecutor's Office into senior officials, amplifying opposition concerns and exposing weaknesses in election administration.

Tensions escalated when the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced that the military would request copies of election tally sheets without authorization from the CNE, and President Xiomara Castro later called for the armed forces to guard electoral materials. Although this is allowed under the law, the decision sparked criticism over the military's role in a process already under pressure. In response, the OAS, the European Union, Human Rights Watch, and Transparency International expressed concern and will deploy observation missions to help bolster confidence on election day.

Votes are counted with accuracy and fairness

■ Always ■ Sometimes ■ Never



Source: "Pulse of Democracy in Honduras" Report (2023), produced by LAPOP and the AmericasBarometer

¡THANKS!



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