

Mexico's Historic Election: Largest Ever Amidst Controversy and Calls for Change

Mexico is set to hold its largest elections ever, including the presidential race along with congressional and local positions. Claudia Sheinbaum, from the ruling Morena party, leads in polls and could become Mexico's first female president, pledging to continue the populist policies of her mentor, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO). Opposition figures like senator Xóchitl Gálvez and Jorge Álvarez Máynez are also in the fray, with Gálvez critiquing AMLO's legacy and Máynez targeting young voters.

The election is not just a test for Morena but for Mexico's democracy, given AMLO's increasing military involvement in civilian affairs and cuts to electoral agency funding, which have raised concerns about democratic erosion. The election season has also been marred by violence, with 63 fatalities, including 30 candidates, highlighting security challenges in regions controlled by drug cartels.

This election also reflects a shift in Mexico's traditional culture, with significant emphasis on gender equality. Both Sheinbaum and Gálvez have committed to addressing gender-based violence.

Recent protests in Mexico City against AMLO and other issues, including the war on Gaza, underscore the heightened political tensions. Road closures near polling stations on 02 Jun 2024 are expected to disrupt travel and business, with potential civil unrest due to ongoing protests and election violence.