

## Bulletin No. 3 / Honduras Elections 2009

Sunday, November 29, 2009. 8:30 pm

The Making Democracy (*Hagamos Democracia*, HD) consortium presents its third report of the day, regarding the voting and vote counting process.

With election observers present at a random sample of polling stations in the 18 departments of Honduras and in 283 of 298 municipalities, we are able to provide systematic, verifiable and reliable information on the electoral process. Making Democracy presents below the data of the quick count of results for the presidential election held today, November 29, 2009.

With a sample of more than 1,000 polling stations, a confidence level of 99 percent and a margin of error of +/- 1.18 percent, the projected results are:

1. National Party:	55.77%
2. Liberal Party:	38.58%
3. Innovation and Unity Party-Social Democrats	2.01%
4. Christian Democratic Party	1.89%
5. Democratic Unification Party	1.75%

Based on the data obtained, the turnout percentage in this election was 47.6 percent of the total number of persons in the electoral registry. This percentage reflects behavior consistent with the trend of falling turnout observed since 1997. Between 1997 and 2001, turnout decreased by six percent; between 2001 and 2005 by 11 percent; and between 2005 and 2009, the decrease would be 7.4 percent.

Making Democracy notes that this data presents a highly reliable projection of the results of the presidential election. The methodology used has been proven in more than 80 electoral processes worldwide, including 30 in Latin America. Details on the methodology and information can be provided at any time that the candidates consider suitable.

*Making Democracy is a network of Honduran civil society organizations, consisting of the Social Ministry of the Catholic Church of Honduras (Caritas), the Evangelical Confraternity of Honduras (Confraternidad Evangélica de Honduras, CEH), the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Honduras (Federación de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo de Honduras, FOPRIDEH) and the Metropolitan University of Honduras (Universidad Metropolitana de Honduras, UMH).*

## Bulletin No. 2 / Honduras Elections 2009

Sunday, November 29, 2009. 7:45 pm

The Making Democracy (*Hagamos Democracia*, HD) consortium presents its second report of the day, regarding the voting and vote counting process.

We have had election observers present at a random sample of polling stations in the 18 departments of Honduras and in 283 of 298 municipalities, which allows us to present systematic, verifiable and reliable information on the electoral process.

Based on the data received throughout election day, from more than 1,000 polling stations throughout the country, we present the following information:

1. In general, at the polling stations observed, that there were no significant incidents or violent acts. We received only reports of isolated incidents, which did not appear to have a significant impact on the normal conduct of the voting.
2. At 91.1 percent of polling stations, observers did not record direct partisan influence at the moment of voting. However, the other 8.9 percent is a number that merits attention from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) and political parties themselves.
3. At 23.7 percent of polling stations, the security forces were present during the counting of votes, despite the fact that this is not provided for in the Law on Elections and Political Organizations, nor in the TSE's Regulations for Vote Counting.
4. During the vote count, representatives of two or more political parties were present at 97.1 percent of the polling stations observed.
5. During the vote count, each party had representatives at the following percentages of polling stations observed: National Party 96.8 percent; Liberal Party 95.6 percent; Christian Democratic Party 82 percent; Innovation and Unity Party-Social Democrats 77 percent; Democratic Unification Party 69.8 percent.
6. Of the voting stations observed, 3.6 percent closed before 4 p.m.; 52.1 percent closed between 4 and 5 p.m.; and 44.3 percent closed after 5 p.m.
7. 99 percent of voters at polling places did not encounter any problems in voting. However, 0.81 percent of voters could not vote due to a combination of four factors: not appearing in the electoral registry; holding invalid documents; because others had voted in their place; or because the polling stations closed, leaving voters in line.

## Bulletin No. 2 / Honduras Elections 2009

Sunday, November 29, 2009. 7:45 pm

8. At 97.1 percent of the polling stations, our observers did not have problems in accessing the results of the vote count; however, at 2.9 percent of the polling stations they were not permitted the access guaranteed by the Electoral Law or were removed by decision of the polling station staff, electoral custodians or military or police personnel.

Making Democracy believes that the manner in which this electoral process was conducted reflects that Honduran society continues to value elections as a method of contributing to the resolution of their political differences in a peaceful manner and recognizes the will of the Honduran people to participate in a civic manner. However, the problems that were in evidence – especially abstention – during the process and election day merit calm and reflective study to identify and implement the reforms that the political and electoral system needs.

Considering the difficult political conditions in which this election has taken place, Making Democracy considers these elections to be a first step in the process of national reconciliation.

*Making Democracy is a network of Honduran civil society organizations, consisting of the Social Ministry of the Catholic Church of Honduras (Caritas), the Evangelical Confraternity of Honduras (Confraternidad Evangélica de Honduras, CEH), the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Honduras (Federación de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo de Honduras, FOPRIDEH) and the Metropolitan University of Honduras (Universidad Metropolitana de Honduras, UMH).*

# Bulletin No. 1 / Honduras Elections 2009

Sunday, November 29, 2009. 11:30 am

Making Democracy (*Hagamos Democracia*, HD) addresses the national and international public to provide information on the first phase of its election observation, corresponding to the beginning of the voting process today, Sunday morning.

Making Democracy has election observers present at a random sample of polling stations in the 18 departments of Honduras and in 283 of 298 municipalities, which allows us to present systematic, verifiable and reliable information on the electoral process.

The data that we have received as of now, from more than 900 polling stations throughout the country, indicate the following situation:

1. As of 10:00 a.m., our observers reported that 99.8 percent of polling stations have completed the setup process.
2. At the time of setup, 98.4 percent of polling stations had all the necessary electoral materials; 96.7 percent had all of the documents.
3. 21.9 percent of polling stations opened for voting before 7:00 a.m.; 72.5 percent opened between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m.; and 5.5 percent opened after 8:00 a.m.
4. Our observers did not have a problem accessing 95 percent of the polling stations observed. However, in some cases they were not permitted to enter. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal has been informed, and we are confident that this situation will be resolved as soon as possible to continue the observation process.
5. Until now, we have only received two reports of incidents: one, of abuse of authority in the department of Comayagua; and the other, in the department of Atlántida, of a brief confrontation between citizens and the police. We are investigating both cases.
6. The results previously indicated reflect that the voting process is taking place under conditions that would permit the normal development of the process.
7. We would like to thank all of the members of our volunteer network who are collaborating nationally on this election observation and quick count, and we encourage them to continue for the rest of this important day until the end of the vote count with the same effort and dedication they have displayed until now.
8. After polling stations close, Making Democracy will issue a special report on the process of voting and the vote count.

*Making Democracy is a network of Honduran civil society organizations, consisting of the Social Ministry of the Catholic Church of Honduras (Caritas), the Evangelical Confraternity of Honduras (Confraternidad Evangélica de Honduras, CEH), the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Honduras (Federación de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo de Honduras, FOPRIDEH) and the Metropolitan University of Honduras (Universidad Metropolitana de Honduras, UMH).*