

Stable Government Working Group

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1. Members

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2. Research question

- What is the impact of electoral systems on government stability?

3. Main issues

- Definitions of government stability
 - “Mexico stands apart for having been ruled by one political party since the 1920s, and this study examines the **remarkable political stability** Mexico has experienced over the past seven decades.”
 - “What happens to a country's economy when its government is **politically unstable**, such as has been the case historically in Mexico?”

3. Main issues

- Definitions of government stability
 - View of electoral specialists
 - Longevity
 - Views of citizens
 - Respect for the constitution and rule of law
 - Ability to govern and implement policies
 - Ability to respond to emergency and crisis situations
 - Perception of stability

4. Research summary

- Main issues
 - Longevity and the technical definition
 - Farrell, plurality, proportional, coalition, Blais
 - Rule of law and economic stability
 - Flanagan, Law Commission of Canada
 - Effective government, ability to govern and implement policies
 - Coalition, false majorities
 - Ability to respond to emergency and crisis situations

4. Research summary

- Main issues
 - Other factors affecting government stability
 - Number of parties, ideological divide, party solidarity and loyalty, cost of election
 - Policy stability

4. Research summary

- Research conclusions
 - Stability: longevity vs perception
 - Importance of history and culture
 - Effective government
 - Stability as a value

4. Research summary

- Research conclusions
 - Stability: longevity vs perception
 - Importance of history and culture
 - Effective government
 - Stability as a value
- The perception that some electoral systems create situations that traditionally are associated with instability is not a critical issue when choosing an electoral system, according to the research

5. Future directions

- What do we mean by stability?
- How important is stability?
- When discussing stability in the consultations we should always ask people what they mean by stability

Questions and answers