

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO INVITE *FOREIGN VISITORS* TO ATTEND THE 2017-2018 ELECTORAL PROCESS IN MEXICO

The National Electoral Institute is a public and autonomous body with legal entity and own assets. The Legislative Power of the Union, the national political parties and the citizens participate in its integration in the terms stated by the Law. This Institute is bestowed with electoral authority and is in charge of the state function of organizing the Mexican federal elections. In the exercise of this state responsibility it holds the guiding principles of certainty, legality, independence, impartiality, maximum publicity, and objectivity.

The General Council is the highest governing body of the National Electoral Institute, is responsible for invigilating the compliance of the constitutional and legal provisions in electoral matters. Thus, in exercise of the powers granted by article 44, paragraph 2 of the General Law for Electoral Institutions and Procedures, as well as by the Second basis of the Agreement of the General Council of the National Electoral Institute, which establishes the bases and criteria to invite, assist and inform *foreign visitors* who come to know the modalities of the 2017-2018 Electoral Process, INE/CG382/2017, approved on August 28th, 2017, it issues this OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT in accordance with the following

BASES

I. GENERAL BASES

1. The present notice is addressed to any non-Mexican citizen interested in learning about the development of the 2017-2018 Electoral Process, which include the federal elections and 30 local concurrent elections, as well as to representatives of:
 - a. Electoral authorities from other countries.
 - b. International organizations.
 - c. Continental or regional organizations.
 - d. Political parties and organizations from other countries.
 - e. Legislative bodies from other countries.
 - f. Governments of other countries.
 - g. Higher education, research and academic institutions from other countries.
 - h. International organizations specialized in activities of electoral cooperation or assistance activities.
 - i. Foreign private organizations or non-governmental organizations whose activities specialize or are related to political and electoral issues or to the defense and promotion of human rights.
2. *Foreign visitors* will be able to attend and obtain information about the development of the 2017-2017 Electoral Process at any stage or in any location throughout the country.
3. *Foreign visitors'* applications can be submitted to the Presidency of the General Council of the National Electoral Institute via the International Affairs Unit, as of the commencement of the 2017-2017 Federal Electoral Process and until Wednesday, June 20th, 2018. Every applicant must also submit a copy of the main page of his/her passport and a 3 x 2.5 centimeters clear and current photograph.
4. Application forms are available at the National Electoral Institute's headquarters, located in Viaducto Tlalpan 100, Colonia Arenal Tepepan, Delegación Tlalpan, C.P. 14610, México, Distrito Federal, at the International Affairs Unit office, at Periférico Sur No. 4124, piso 4, Col. Ex Hacienda de Anzaldo, Delegación Álvaro Obregón, C. P. 01090, Ciudad de México, as well as in the 32 Local Councils of the National Electoral Institute in each state, in the offices of the 30 local electoral management bodies in charge of concurrent elections, and in Mexican embassies and consulates in other countries.

Additionally, it will be available at the National Electoral Institute's website www.ine.mx and the websites of the 30 local EMBs celebrating concurrent elections.

5. Documentation mentioned in number 3 can be personally delivered, be sent by mail or courier service payed by the applicant, to the International Affairs Unit of INE at Periférico Sur No. 4124, piso 4, Col. Ex Hacienda de Anzaldo, Delegación Álvaro Obregón, C. P. 01090, Ciudad de México, telephone (52-55) 5449-0436. If an applicant is able to send his/her application form and other documents electronically, including his/her scanned handwritten signature, he/she can mail the application to visitantes.extranjeros@ine.mx
6. In order to be accredited by the National Electoral Institute, foreign applicants must meet the following requirements:
 - a. To be considered a foreigner by the Political Constitution of the Mexican United States, as established on the First Basis of the Agreement of the General Council of the National Electoral Institute which establishes the bases and criteria in which the *foreign visitors* that come to know about the modalities of the 2017-2018 Federal and concurrent Electoral Process will be tended to and informed.
 - b. To fill in and submit an individual application form to the President of the General Council, via the International Affairs Unit, making sure they fulfil all the requirements and enclosing the requested documentation, according to number 3 of the present Official Announcement.
 - c. To pursue non-lucrative purposes.
7. Within 3 working days after their submittal, the International Affairs Unit will ponder each and every application duly filled in and received in due course and time.
8. In case the required documents are incomplete, the International Affairs Unit will inform the applicant within the following three working days so that he/she may be able to deliver the complete documents if wished.
9. The applications will be rejected when the applicant has any of the following conditions:
 - a. He/she is considered Mexican by our Constitution, or
 - b. He/she failed to present the complete documents by June 20th, 2018, to the International Affairs Unit of the National Electoral Institute.
10. Applicants will be notified about the result of their application in due time through a notification from the Chief of Staff of the International Affairs Unit. Accreditation notifications will be sent electronically to the mail addresses provided by the applicants in their application forms.
11. Once the applicant has received formal notification from INE on the approval of his/her accreditation, he/she will have to fulfil the required immigration formalities at the Mexican consulate nearest to his/her residence, or, if that were the case, at the offices of the National Institute of Immigration in the national territory, according to the applicable immigration laws.
12. Once the latter formalities are fulfilled, the accredited *foreign visitors* will collect their official badges at a special stand set up by the National Electoral Institute in Mexico City, at the latest, on Saturday, June 20th, 2018 at 18:00 hours. Such badges are required for proper identification and will also facilitate their activities during the election process. It will be necessary to show a copy of their immigration forms. The possibility of claiming the badge in any other location will be subject to the special request filed before June 22nd, 2018, and upon availability.
13. The Presidency of the General Council will timely inform federal electoral authorities, local electoral management bodies, national political parties, and, if such were the case, independent candidates, about the physical characteristics of the accreditation badge for *foreign visitors*.

The local electoral management bodies must, on their part, make it known to the corresponding institutions within their states.

14. Political parties and groups, and, if that be the case, electoral alliances, independent candidates, the institutions promoting popular consultations, as well as observation organizations, and all Mexican civil institutions and associations

specialized on or interested in the matter, will be able to distribute the present official announcement and invite foreign citizens fulfilling the requirements established in the bases and criteria approved by the General Council.

15. Accredited *foreign visitors* will be responsible for their own financing to cover all the expenses related to transportation, stay and activities in Mexico.

II. ACTIVITIES ALLOWED FOR *FOREIGN VISITORS*

1. *Foreign visitors* will be able to learn about the development of the 2017-2018 Electoral Process, which include the federal elections and the 30 concurrent local elections, at any of its stages throughout the country.
2. For the purpose of gathering additional background information about federal electoral laws, institutions and procedures, accredited *foreign visitors* can request through the International Affairs Unit an appointment to interview or meet with officials from the National Electoral Institute headquarters.

In the 32 states, *foreign visitors* can make the same request to presidents of the Institute's Local Councils, and in the Federal Electoral Districts via their respective President Councilors, who within five days will inform the President of the General Council on the matter.

Likewise, *foreign visitors* can ask for information from the local EMBs with concurrent elections. Additionally, those EMBs will provide general information on their respective electoral process on electronic means to the International Affairs Unit, so that it can be delivered in the same format to all *foreign visitors*.

3. Political parties and groups, and if that were the case, electoral alliances, independent candidates, and those instances promoting popular consultations, will be able to provide *foreign visitors* with information on their stances about the federal electoral process and the 30 concurrent local elections, as well as any relevant documents they may consider to be pertinent.
4. Depending on availability, the International Affairs Unit will provide the necessary general support so that registered *foreign visitors* are able to adequately perform the activities described in previous paragraphs, always informing this to the General Council.

III. OBLIGATIONS TO *FOREIGN VISITORS*

During their stay in the country and while developing their activities, besides complying at all times with the Mexican laws and any other applicable legal regulation, accredited *foreign visitors* must not:

1. Substitute or obstruct the electoral authorities in the exercise of their functions, or interfere in any way in their development, including the cast of the vote by the citizenry.
2. Carry out any kind of proselytism;
3. Take a position for, or against, any party or candidate, or pronounce themselves for, or against, any of the possible answers to the popular consultation or any other form of citizen participation subject to be voted.
4. Perform any activity that may alter the equity of the competition;
5. State any offence, slander or false accusation against the institutions, electoral authorities, political parties or candidates,

6. Declare any triumph by any political party or candidate, or, should it be the case, of the results of the popular consultation or any other form of citizen participation subject to be voted.
7. Declare any trends on the voting, either before or after Polling Day
8. Wear or use any emblems, badges or any other image related to political parties, candidates, political or ideological stance related to any of the federal or 30 local elections, or of any of the possible answers to the popular consultation subject to be voted.

IV. ANY ISSUE NOT CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENT OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE RESOLVED SOLELY BY THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS UNIT, HAVING CONSULTED IT WITH THE PRESIDENCY OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

Mexico City, August 28th, 2017

**THE PRESIDENT COUNCILOR OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE
LORENZO CÓRDOVA VIANELLO**

**THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE
EDMUNDO JACOBO MOLINA**