



Direct Democracy and Politics in Ecuador Fact Sheet

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(On the occasion of the plebiscite, on 19 February, 2017)

<i>Name</i>	República Del Ecuador
<i>Population</i>	2010 Cencus: 14 483 499, 13 nationalities and 14 peoples of indigenous origin, Main Language: Spanish, indigenous languages, 85% are Roman-Catholics. Literacy rate: about 99%.
<i>Location</i>	Ecuador is a country in South America, located in the Andes at the equator. The capital is Quito.
<i>Form of Government</i>	Presidential democracy. One chamber parliament (137 seats). The president is the head of state and head of government. (Art. 141 of the constitution) Current Constitution: 2008
<i>Independent Electoral Body</i>	National Electoral Council (CNE)
<i>Electorate</i>	National Electoral Council (CNE), 2017: 12 816 698
<i>Voting age</i>	16; voting is compulsory for everybody above 18 years of age. (Art. 62 of the constitution)
<i>Voting system</i>	<i>Parliament:</i> 15 members of the National Assembly are elected by proportional representation (nationwide constituency). 103 members are elected by plurality vote. 6 members are elected from overseas constituencies by majority vote. Voters have as many votes as there are seats and are able to vote for candidates in more than one list. <i>President:</i> directly elected (by majority, with second round if necessary)
<i>Direct Democracy Instruments</i>	The constitution provides the following instruments on national level: - the agenda initiative (PAX), - an obligatory referendum (LOR), - the citizen initiative (PCI) and - the plebiscite (ATP). More information by the Direct Democracy Navigator .
<i>Citizen Initiatives in practice (1996-2016)</i>	The citizen initiative instrument was only used once in the history of the constitution. Please check out the YASUNI-case in the Direct Democracy Navigator here . See also Direct Democracy Navigator: World Fact-Check (Part 1+2)
<i>Plebiscites in practice: (1996-2016)</i>	25 cases See also Direct Democracy Navigator: World Fact-Check (Part 1+2)



<p><i>Plebiscite on February 19, 2017 (together with presidential election)</i></p>	<p>The National Electoral Council (CNE) added a ballot on the electoral process on February 19, 2017. President Rafael Correa introduced the plebiscite question to prohibit public officials or candidates for elected positions to have companies or accounts in tax havens.</p> <p>(Instrument details here.)</p> <p>The question to answer is: ¿Está usted de acuerdo en que, para desempeñar una dignidad de elección popular o para ser servidor público, se establezca como prohibición tener bienes o capitales de cualquier naturaleza, en paraísos fiscales? („Do you agree that, for those holding a popularly elected office or for public servants, there should be a prohibition on holding assets or capital, of any nature, in tax havens?“)</p>
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