

Comparative Politics Second Field
The Politics Indigenous Autonomy in Mexico

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Abstract

In this paper, I show that legislation granting autonomy to indigenous populations in Mexico is a strategy adopted by state-level parties to preserve legislative majority and regional dominance. I show that parties whose legislative majorities passed a strong form of autonomy were more likely to repeat in the next legislature. Also, they experienced growth in the vote in those municipalities where indigenous populations are more densely located. Finally, those legislatures that did not pass an autonomic legislation, or that passed weaker versions of it, were more likely to have interests that would be affected by indigenous autonomies.

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State	Population			Municipalities		
	State Total	In Indigenous Municipalities*		Total	Indigenous†	%
		Total	%			
Baja California	2,487,367	30,678	1.23	5	4	80
Campeche	690,689	140,094	20.28	11	10	90.91
Chiapas	3,920,892	1,134,617	28.94	118	98	83.05
Chihuahua	3,052,907	87,410	2.86	67	34	50.75
Durango	1,448,661	25,108	1.73	39	9	23.08
Estado de México	13,096,686	431,586	3.40	125	35	28
Guerrero	3,079,649	445,033	14.45	81	59	72.84
Hidalgo	2,235,591	513,052	22.95	84	46	54.76
Jalisco	6,322,002	13,480	0.21	125	16	12.8
Michoacán	3,985,667	153,823	3.86	113	28	24.78
Morelos	1,555,296	35,044	2.25	33	15	45.45
Nayarit	920,185	38,482	4.18	20	12	60
Oaxaca	3,438,765	1,521,462	44.24	570	423	74.21
Puebla	5,076,686	818,226	16.12	217	115	53
Querétaro	1,404,306	24,487	1.74	18	9	50
Quintana Roo	874,963	156,640	17.90	9	8	88.89
San Luis Potosí	2,299,360	301,072	13.09	58	25	43.1
Sinaloa	2,536,844	62,362	2.46	18	14	77.78
Sonora	2,216,969	89,112	4.02	72	19	26.39
Tabasco	1,891,829	90,460	4.78	17	10	58.82
Tlaxcala	962,646	25,293	2.63	60	9	15
Veracruz	6,908,975	836,139	12.10	212	119	56.13
Yucatán	1,658,210	894,966	53.97	106	103	97.17
Baja California Sur	424,041	3,451	0.81	5	4	80
Guanajuato	4,663,032	3,941	0.08	45	3	6.67
Colima	542,627	356	0.07	10	2	20
Tamaulipas	2,753,222	712	0.03	43	9	20.93
Zacatecas	1,353,610	472	0.03	58	4	6.9
Coahuila	2,298,070	115	0.01	38	1	2.63
Nuevo León	3,834,141	556	0.01	51	11	21.57

* 40% or more indigenous population.

Sources: CNDPI (2002); SEGOB (2005).

† With localities of 40% or more indigenous population.

Table 1: Indigenous Population–Municipalities

State	Politico-Territorial Autonomy		Juridical Autonomy		Recognition of Pluriculturality
	Subnational Territorial	Weak Subnational Territorial	Full Judicial Autonomy	Weak Judicial Autonomy	
Baja California		Oct 26, 2007 [†]		Oct 26, 2007 [†]	Oct 26, 2007 [†]
Campeche		Jun 15, 2000 [†]		Jun 15, 2000 [†]	Jul 06, 1996*; Jun 15, 2000 [†]
Chiapas	Jul 29, 1999 [†]			Jul 29, 1999 [†]	Oct 9, 1990*; Jun 17, 1999*; Jul 29, 1999 [†]
Chihuahua				Oct 01, 1994*	Oct 01, 1994*
Durango					Jul 17, 1994*; Feb 22, 2004*
Estado de México		Sep 10, 2001 [†]		Sep 10, 2001 [†]	Feb 24, 1995*; Dic 18, 2004 [†]
Guerrero					Mar 27, 1987*
Jalisco		Jan 11, 2007 [†]	Jan 11, 2007 [†]		Jul 17, 1994*; Apr 29, 2004*; Jan 11, 2007 [†]
Hidalgo					Oct 23, 1991*
Michoacán				Mar 6, 1998*	Oct, 1997*; Mar 6, 1998*
Nayarit		Dic 18, 2004 [†]		Dic 18, 2004 [†]	Ago 18, 1993*; Jun 6, 1998*
Oaxaca	Aug 30, 1995 [†] ; Mar, 1997 [†] ; Sep 30, 1997 [†] ; Jun 19, 1998 [†]		Sep 30, 1997 [†]		Oct 29, 1990*; Mar 21, 1998*
Puebla					Dic 10, 2004*
Morelos					Jul 29, 2005*
Querétaro					Oct 01, 1915*; Nov, 1990*
Quintana Roo		Jul 31, 1998 [†]	Aug 14, 1997 [†] ; Dic 17, 2007 [†]		Apr 30, 1997*; Jul 31, 1998 [†]
San Luis Potosí	Sep 9, 2003 [†]		Sep 9, 2003 [†]		Sep, 1992*; Nov 20, 1996*; Jul 11, 2003*
Sinaloa					May 09, 2001*
Sonora					Dec 10, 1992*
Tabasco		May 9, 2001*; Nov 1, 2003*		Nov 1, 2003*	May 9, 2001*; Nov 1, 2003*
Tlaxcala					Apr 03, 2001*
Veracruz		Feb 3, 2000*		Feb 3, 2000*	Jan 05, 1993*; Feb 3, 2000*
Yucatán		Apr, 2007*			Apr, 2007*

* State Constitutions.

Sources: IADB (2007); Assies (2003); Olvera Jiménez (2002); State Legislations;

[†] Secondary laws (see footnote 11).

Legislatura del Gobierno de Chiapas (n.d.); State Governments Websites.

Table 2: Indigenous Reforms in Mexico

State	Reform(s) Type(s)*	Year Re- form/Base Year	Legislative Majority at Base	Same Majority Next Leg- islature	† Δv_0 %	‡ Δv_1 %	$\frac{\Delta v_1}{\Delta v_0}$
Baja California	WT, WJ	2007	PAN	—	3.76	—	—
Baja California Sur	—	1998**	PRI	no	-29.6	-12.1	0.41
Campeche	WT, WJ	2000	PRI	yes	-11.98	-10.5	0.88
Chiapas	ST, WJ	1999	PRI	yes	-31.66	-15.11	0.48
Chihuahua	WJ	1994	PAN	no	31.73	2.73	0.09
Coahuila	—	1998	PRI	yes	-13.44	-6.15	-0.2
Colima	—	1998	PRI	yes	-28.8	3.34	-0.12
Durango	—	1998	PRI	yes	-16.9	3.45	-0.2
Estado de México	WT, WJ	2001	PAN	no	7.8	-6.18	-0.79
Guanajuato	—	1998	PAN	yes	-11.62	-5.58	0.48
Guerrero	—	1998	PRI	yes	-8.44	-16.32	1.93
Hidalgo	—	1998	PRI	yes	-23.9	-11.48	0.48
Jalisco	WT, SJ	2007	PAN	—	4	—	—
Michoacán	WJ	1998	PRI	yes	-1.22	-6.35	5.2
Morelos	—	1998	PRI	no	-32.57	-7.36	0.23
Nayarit	WT, WJ	2004	PRI	yes	1.87	1.21	0.65
Nuevo León	—	1998	PAN	yes	14.53	-8.65	-0.6
Oaxaca I	ST, SJ	1995	PRI	yes	-41.2	-5.79	0.14
Oaxaca II	ST	1998	PRI	yes	-33.49	-6.9	0.21
Puebla	—	1998	PRI	yes	-21.59	-6.69	0.31
Querétaro	—	1998	PAN	yes	22.5	0.64	0.03
Quintana Roo I	WT	1998	PRI	yes	-23.89	0.35	-0.01
Quintana Roo II	SJ	2007	PRI	—	0.35	—	—
San Luis Potosí	ST, SJ	2003	PRI	no	-3.3	-11.03	3.34
Sinaloa	—	1998	PRI	yes	-20.6	8.11	-0.39
Sonora	—	1998	PRI	yes	-28.6	3.9	-0.14
Tabasco I	WT	2001	PRI	yes	-5.5	2	-0.36
Tabasco II	WT, WJ	2003	PRI	yes	-4.35	2	-0.46
Tamaulipas	—	1998	PRI	yes	-5.8	1.97	-0.34
Tlaxcala	—	1998	PRI	yes	-28.26	-22.72	0.8
Veracruz	WT, WJ	2000	PRI	yes	-17.56	7.72	-0.44
Yucatán	WT	2007	PRI	—	-0.06	—	—
Zacatecas	—	1998	PRI	yes	-37.51	-12.61	0.34

Sources: CIDAC (2008); IADB (2007); Assies (2003); Olvera Jiménez (2002); Legislatura del Gobierno de Chiapas (n.d.); State Governments Websites, and State Legislations.

* ST: Strong Politico-Territorial; WT: Weak Politico-Territorial; SJ: Strong Juridical; WJ: Weak Juridical.

** In 1998 the national executive power recommended the states to reform their constitutions with regards to indigenous groups (Olvera Jiménez, 2002). Some of them obeyed the recommendation and others didn't. Thus this year is used as a baseline where some state legislatures decided *not* to reform on indigenous groups.

† Change in municipal vote for the party with legislative majority *before* reform/base year.

‡ Change in municipal vote for the party with legislative majority *after* reform/base year.

Table 3: Political Aspects of Indigenous Reforms in Mexico