

# Incumbency advantage in Mexican municipal elections\*

Eric Magar  
ITAM

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## Abstract

Mexico removed single-term limits for municipal governments in 2018. A landslide against major parties in the concurrent presidential election offers a chance to study how well municipal incumbents resisted a formidably unfavorable tide. Frequencies suggest they performed better: with incumbents on the ballot, the largest parties experienced 50-50 (PRI) and 2-to-1 (PAN) chances of winning; among open seats that they controlled, performance plunged to 2-to-1 and 55-45 chances of losing, respectively. Controlling for municipal characteristics, the electoral history, and candidate characteristics—including original data on candidate quality—will offer a first glimpse at incumbency advantage during the introduction of consecutive reelection.

**Keywords:** Term-limits; reelection; incumbency; municipalities; Mexico

## 1 Parties insulated from society

(Magar 2017)

(Magar 2015)

(Cain, Ferejohn and Fiorina 1987)

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## 2 Reform

## 3 Ambitious alcaldes

## 4 Reelection rates

## 5 Discussion

Party	incumbent re-ran		open seat		total	N
	won	lost	won	lost		
PRI/coal.	17	18	23	42	100	620
PAN/coal.	27	15	26	32	100	340
PRD/coal.	19	16	25	40	100	140
PVEM	11	14	20	55	100	81
MC	27	15	27	31	100	59
PT	23	20	9	48	100	35
PANAL	32	14	9	45	100	22
Morena	40	0	40	20	100	20
PES	40	0	0	60	100	5
Indep	33	44	0	22	100	9
Local pty	10	18	5	67	100	40
Overall	20	17	22	41	100	1,371

## References

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