



Organization of
American States

**OAS ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION
General Election
St. Kitts & Nevis**

February 16th, 2015

Informative Document

I. Electoral Observation Missions (EOM)

Definition

International electoral observation can be defined as a process whereby an organized group of individuals from outside the host country systematically carries out a series of complex actions and activities to observe an electoral process in a direct, complete and precise manner.

Objectives

The objective of an EOM is to observe the different stages of the electoral process in order to verify compliance with civil and political rights, as well as with the rules, agreements and international standards on elections. An EOM aims specifically at collecting and systematizing data, analyzing models of electoral organization as well as electoral technical procedures, compliance with the electoral calendar, the role of political and social actors, national media as well as mechanisms of electoral justice.

II. Principles of Electoral Observation Missions

Objectivity and Neutrality

The authority and credibility of the mission depends on the impartiality and independence that the observers display during the performance of their duties. It requires that the personal opinions of observers do not interfere with the impartiality and independence that must characterize the work of the mission at all times.

Respect for the Laws of the Country

Observers are subject to the laws of St. Kitts & Nevis. The privileges and immunities granted to international election observers are only intended to safeguard the independence of the observers in the performance of their duties.

No Substitution of National Actors

Ultimate responsibility for the electoral process lies with the institutions and actors of St. Kitts & Nevis. Observers cannot compel, approve, or amend the decisions and/or actions of the electoral authorities, replace or question political representatives, human resources and/or materials of any of the participants in the process.

III. Functions of Electoral Observers

The observer must remain impartial and objective. S/he must be diligent and careful with the tasks involved in observation. Moderation and discretion should be exercised, and credibility demonstrated. The specific functions of the observer are:

- **To observe** the behavior of actors involved in the electoral process in order to verify compliance with the election rules in force in the country;
- **To collaborate** with government, electoral and party officials, as well as the general population, to ensure the integrity, impartiality and reliability of the process and to encourage citizen participation;
- **To deter** the commission of possible attempts to manipulate elections and to be available to those involved in the process to help ensure respect for the procedures

established by the legislation of the country, and to ensure that such procedures are employed in the case of conflict resolution;

- **To express** the support of the Inter-American community of the electoral process.

IV. Objectives of the EOM

- To verify compliance with regulations and norms guiding the general elections, with the intention of facilitating acceptance of the results as declared by the St. Kitts & Nevis Electoral Commission.
- To promote dialogue among different political actors, including party leaders and candidates, members of civil society and electoral authorities to promote consensus and public confidence.
- To work with governmental and electoral authorities, as well as citizens in general to promote integrity, fairness, transparency, and credibility in the electoral and political process of St. Kitts & Nevis.
- To foster an atmosphere of public trust and encourage citizen participation.
- To serve as a vehicle for building consensus in the case of situations of conflict among the different participants in the electoral process, as requested.
- To make recommendations in order to improve the electoral system.

V. Handling Complaints

The reception, analysis, transference and monitoring of complaints is one of the essential tasks of the EOM. The seriousness and professionalism with which they are treated by the observers largely affect the credibility of the Mission. Written complaints received by observers will be transmitted to General Coordinator Tyler Finn. A compilation of complaints will be filed directly with the electoral authorities or government.



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VI. Country Profile

Political Map of St. Kitts & Nevis



General

The Federation of St. Christopher (Kitts) and Nevis is a two-island nation located in the Eastern Caribbean, with a population of approximately 54,000¹ and an area of 261 km², of which Nevis covers 93 km². Saint Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla became an associated state of the United Kingdom, with full internal autonomy, in 1967. Following Anguilla's secession in 1971, the remaining islands moved forward to independence in 1983 as Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Economy

Economically speaking, the federation is highly dependent on tourism. Nonetheless, St. Kitts and Nevis is performing well economically. A report published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in September 2014² predicted that growth will continue at a relatively rapid pace, following a strong recovery of nearly 4 percent in 2013. This was primarily attributed to the

¹ According to 2013 data from the World Bank

² IMF Country Report No. 14/297 - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2014/cr14297.pdf>



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robust performance of the construction sector, large inflows from the Citizenship-by-Investment program and a substantial increase in public sector investment. The IMF also commended the Government's "home-grown economic program," highlighting improvements in fiscal sustainability as well as the reduction in debt, the stability of the financial sector and the implementation of key structural reforms.³

Crime and Violence

Crime and violence remain a significant concern. St. Kitts and Nevis has one of the highest rates of homicides per capita in the world: 64.2 per 100,000 population in 2011, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).⁴ With the UNODC placing the average global homicide rate (2012) at 6.2 per 100,000 population, St. Kitts and Nevis is far above the global average in per capita terms, and significantly ahead of larger regional counterparts such as Jamaica (41 per 100,000) and Trinidad and Tobago (26.4 per 100,000).⁵

Political History

Political parties had begun to coalesce on both islands prior to full independence, with the St. Kitts and Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) achieving early dominance on St. Kitts. On Nevis, political opposition to the SKNLP was expressed through the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP). Established in 1970, the NRP rose on a platform of secession from St. Kitts.

The 1980 elections represented a definitive political shift in the federation, marking the end of SKNLP dominance. Though the Labour party won more votes than the opposition People's Action Movement (PAM) taking four seats to three on St. Kitts, the NRP captured both seats on Nevis. The PAM and NRP were thus able to form a coalition government in the House of Assembly, forcing the SKNLP into opposition for the first time. The advent of a Kittitian-Nevisian coalition reduced demands for secession as the only way to overcome the limited autonomy afforded to Nevis. Instead, a deal was struck to make newly independent St. Kitts & Nevis a two-island federation in which Nevis would be granted considerable autonomy through a local assembly.

Following independence in 1983, the National Assembly was expanded to 11 seats. In the 1984 elections the PAM increased its majority with six seats, while the NRP won all three seats on Nevis. Although the 1989 elections saw no changes in the political make-up on St. Kitts, a new Nevisian party, the Concerned Citizens' Movement (CCM), formed in 1987 and took one out of the three Nevisian seats. In the 1993 elections, the SKNLP and the PAM each won four seats on St. Kitts, with the CCM winning two seats on Nevis against a single seat for the NRP. Kittitian parties have rarely campaigned on Nevis nor have they involved themselves in the local affairs of the island. On the other hand, the Nevisian vote can profoundly affect the complexion of the National Assembly. In the absence of a majority party, the Nevisian party that wins the most Federal seats has the chance to form a ruling coalition with either one of the leading Kittitian parties. In 1993, this situation led to a hung parliament in which the CCM held the balance of power (a coalition with either Kittitian party would have formed a majority) but chose to stay neutral.

³ IMF Country Report No. 14/297 - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2014/cr14297.pdf>

⁴ UNODC Global Study on Homicide 2013, Table 8.1 – Intentional Homicide Count and Rate per 100,000 Population by County/Territory (2000-2012), http://www.unodc.org/documents/gsh/pdfs/2014_GLOBAL_HOMICIDE_BOOK_web.pdf

⁵ UNODC (2013)

Nevis has repeatedly explored the possibility of secession from the Federation. In 1996, Vance Amory, then CCM leader and Nevis Premier, initiated a constitutional process for secession. The motion was defeated in a 1998 referendum. Though 62% of Nevisians voted for secession from the federation, the Constitution (Section 113) stipulates that secession requires a two-thirds majority vote.

Under the leadership of current Prime Minister Denzil Douglas, the SKNLP returned to power in 1995 and achieved re-election in 2000. In 2004, the SKNLP won seven of the eight seats allotted to St. Kitts in the Parliament. On Nevis, CCM won two seats and the Nevis Reformation Party NRP won one. General elections were last held in St. Kitts and Nevis on January 25, 2010. The SKNLP returned to office for a fourth consecutive term with six seats on the island of St. Kitts, while the PAM took the remaining two seats. On Nevis, the CCM won two seats, while the NRP took one seat.

VIII. Political/Electoral System

The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis is a constitutional parliamentary democracy that operates on the Westminster model. A member of the Commonwealth of Nations, the nominal head of state is Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, who is represented in the Federation by the Governor-General. Though the head of government is the Prime Minister, the Governor-General is formally responsible for appointing the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, other ministers of the government, the leader of the Opposition in Parliament, and members of the Public Service and Police Service Commissions.

On the federal level, St. Kitts & Nevis operates with a unicameral parliament, known as the National Assembly. Since 1984, this body has been composed of 11 elected representatives and three appointed senators. All legislators serve five-year terms.

Electoral Law

The Constitution provides for two key bodies responsible for the conduct of elections in the federation: the Electoral Commission and the Supervisor of Elections. The Electoral Commission consists of a Chairman appointed by the Governor-General, one member appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister, and one member appointed on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition.

According to the Constitution (article 34(4)), the Supervisor of Elections, who is appointed by the Governor-General, is responsible for enforcing the law regulating the registration of voters and the conduct of elections. The Supervisor of Elections, in turn, is supervised by the Electoral Commission. The Constitution also sets forth that the Electoral Commission is a body intended to reflect the existing national political leadership (Article 33). Thus the Electoral Commission may direct the Supervisor of Elections in his or her efforts to enforce the electoral laws, but, according to Article 34 of the Constitution, the Supervisor is not otherwise subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority.

The main electoral law that the Supervisor of Elections enforces is the National Assembly Elections Act (NAEA). The NAEA details the constitutional powers of the National Assembly, defines the roles and responsibilities of all levels of election workers, explains and regulates the process of voter registration, sets forth the procedures to be followed on election day and in the case of challenges to elections, and defines criminal offences relating to elections.

Voting Eligibility

All Kittitian and Nevisian citizens over the age of eighteen, including non-residents, are entitled to vote. Commonwealth citizens⁶ over the age of eighteen who have been ordinarily resident in St. Kitts and Nevis for a period of at least twelve months immediately before the date of their registration on the voters' list are also eligible. To be qualified to be registered as a voter in a particular constituency, a voter must establish residency in that constituency. By law, citizens residing abroad are entitled to be registered as voters in the constituency in which they have a domicile, or in which they had been ordinarily resident prior to leaving the country, or in which, under certain circumstances, a parent had been ordinarily resident.

The existing legislation provides for continuous registration and review of the electoral list. Every year, a list of registered voters is prepared and published by the Chief Registration Officer. Thereafter, each month an updated list is prepared and published. The law allows for claims and objections to the names that appear on the voters list. A voter whose presence on the list is challenged is entitled to an objection hearing and, if necessary, an investigation of residency by the registration officer, who relies on the voter statements and other evidence gathered to pronounce on voter eligibility.

Electoral Boundaries

Federal electoral districts, known as constituencies, are drawn by the Constituencies & Boundaries Commission, set up by the Governor General in consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. This commission is made up of five members who are appointed by the Governor-General: two members on the advice of the Prime Minister, two members on the advice of the Opposition Leader and a Chairman on the advice of the PM, in consultation with the Opposition.

The Constitution mandates a minimum of eight constituencies on St. Kitts and three on Nevis. If the number of constituencies is increased beyond eleven, not less than one-third of their number must be on Nevis. In the delimitation of boundaries, the Commission is required to consider factors other than population, such as geographical features, existing administrative boundaries and the need to adequately represent rural areas. As per the Constitution (Article 50), the Commission must submit a boundaries report "at intervals of not less than two nor more than five years."

Political Financing

Political party and campaign financing in St. Kitts and Nevis is wholly private; there is no government funding for campaigns, whether direct or indirect. Political parties and candidates are expected to raise their own campaign funds, which they do both locally and internationally from groups, individuals, and the private sector. Amounts spent on campaigning, especially for media, have risen significantly in the past twenty years. Large-scale campaign events typically resemble concerts where local artists are invited to perform. The current regime is characterized by an absence of regulations or restrictions on the amount parties can raise or spend for electoral purposes. There are no prohibitions, for example, on anonymous or foreign donations, as is the case in much of the region.

⁶ Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei, Cameroon, Canada, Cyprus, Dominica, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, St. Lucia, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom, Vanuatu, Zambia.

Political parties are not required to adopt standardized accounting mechanisms or produce reports to the electoral authority. Neither the Electoral Commission nor the Supervisor of Elections has the mandate to audit campaign finances. Because political parties publish little information about the sources of their financing, citizens lack access to such information. The lack of transparency and the absence of rules or restrictions on campaign donations make it difficult to know the amounts, groups, or individuals involved in financing campaigns.

IX. Major Political Parties

In St. Kitts and Nevis, four major political parties normally present candidates for election, two based on the island of St. Kitts and the other two on Nevis. For the 2015 elections a fifth party, led by former members of the ruling party, will also present candidates.

The **St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party** (SKNLP), currently led by Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas, presents candidates on St. Kitts. The SKNLP was established in 1932 with the objective of empowering the masses of the country. Its avowed goals are to achieve and maintain political independence for the people of the State; promote the political, social and economic welfare of all of the people of the State; fight against oppression and support democracy and democratic government.⁷

The **People's Action Movement** (PAM), currently led by Shawn Richards, was formed in January 1965 for the specific purpose of opposing the Government's approach to the country's problems. The party promotes efficiency in Government, integration of all classes, unity of the people, and the creation of an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and self-reliance, leading to an improved quality of life and standard of living for all people.⁸ The PAM presents candidates on Saint Kitts.

The **Concerned Citizen's Movement** (CCM), currently led by Nevis Premier Vance Amory, competes for the three constituencies on Nevis. The CCM was established in 1987 on a platform of constitutional reform. The party seeks greater autonomy for the island of Nevis, so that the people may have full control over their legislative, political and economic decisions.⁹

The **Nevis Reformation Party** (NRP), currently led by Joseph Parry, also competes for the three (3) constituencies on Nevis. The party was formed in 1970 with the objective of providing a better life for Nevisians. It supports participatory democracy, the political and economic empowerment of the people and greater political autonomy for the people of Nevis.¹⁰

The **People's Labour Party** (PLP) is the newest party in St. Kitts and Nevis. Launched in June 2013, its Political Leader, Dr. Timothy Harris and Deputy Political Leader, Sam Condor, are former members of the ruling SKNLP. In early 2013 Dr. Harris, a long-standing member of Parliament, was fired from the Cabinet, while Mr. Condor, then Deputy Prime Minister, was removed from his post as leader of government business. Mr. Condor later resigned from the

⁷ SKNVibes, Political Parties in St. Kitts and Nevis: <http://www.sknvibes.com/politics/sitepage.cfm?p=115>

⁸ SKNVibes, Political Parties in St. Kitts and Nevis: <http://www.sknvibes.com/politics/sitepage.cfm?p=115>

⁹ SKNVibes, Political Parties in St. Kitts and Nevis: <http://www.sknvibes.com/politics/sitepage.cfm?p=115>

¹⁰ NRP Manifesto 2006 - http://www.caribbeanelections.com/eDocs/manifestos/kn/nrp_manifesto_2006.pdf

Cabinet and as Deputy Prime Minister. Among the reasons given for their removal was their objection to government-sponsored legislation and public disagreement with Government policies.¹¹ The PLP continues to espouse Labour principles.

Party Name	Party Leader
St Kitts and Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP)	Denzil DOUGLAS, PM
People's Action Movement (PAM)	Shawn RICHARDS
Concerned Citizen's Movement (CCM)	Vance AMORY
Nevis Reformation Party (NRP)	Joseph PARRY
People's Labour Party (PLP)	Timothy HARRIS

New Alliances for 2015 General Elections

While the SKNLP and the PAM have traditionally focused exclusively on the St. Kitts seats, and the CCM and NRP have focused exclusively on the Nevis seats, the four parties, along with the PLP, have formed alliances that will allow them to present national fronts for the 2015 General Elections.

Team Unity and the Treaty of National Unity

On September 26, 2013, the PAM, CCM and PLP launched "Team Unity", an alliance of the parties created with the goal of winning Government from the SKNLP administration.¹² Dr. Timothy Harris, leader of the PLP, was identified as the leader of Team Unity and the Prime Ministerial candidate for the next General Elections. More recently, on January 31, 2015, the leaders of the three parties comprising Team Unity took a further step to formalize their relationship, signing a "Treaty of National Unity" outlining the framework for and objectives of a "Unity" Government, which would work for the economic, social and political development of St. Kitts and Nevis.¹³ Dr. Timothy Harris was confirmed as the Team Unity Prime Ministerial candidate.

SKNLP / NRP and the Contract for Progress

On December 19, 2014, SKNLP leader, Dr. Denzil Douglas, and NRP leader, Joseph Parry, signed the "Contract for Progress" formalizing a framework for collaboration between both parties in pursuit of national development. According to the NRP leader, the Contract guarantees equitable governance and equitable distribution of land and funds across the Federation, and provides for improvements in the national economic, health, security and education sectors. Practical collaboration had already been taking place between the two parties for a number of years, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Patrice Nisbett, drawn from the NRP following the 2010 General Elections. The new Contract for Progress will allow the SKNLP and NRP alliance to present a full slate of candidates across St. Kitts and Nevis.

¹¹ Caribbean News Now!, "New Labour Party formed in St. Kitts and Nevis" (June 2013):

<http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/topstory-New-Labour-Party-formed-in-St-Kitts-Nevis-16365.html>

¹² SKN Choice Times, "Ousted Labour Candidate to head 'Team Unity'" (October 2013):

<http://www.skncit.com/ousted-labour-candidate-to-head-team-unity/>

¹³ Team Unity, "Treaty of National Unity" (January 2013):

<https://timescaribbeanblog.files.wordpress.com/2015/02/treaty-of-national-unity-2015-01-31.pdf>

X. Political Context

The parliament was dissolved on January 16th, 2015 in order to replace the elected members who had arrived at the end of their five-year term. On January 27th, 2015, the Prime Minister announced February 16th as the election date, with nomination day taking place on February 6th.

As the country moves towards General Elections, two issues of relevance to the OAS/EOM have dominated political debate:

Amendment of Constituency Boundaries

On the evening of **January 16, 2015**, in an emergency sitting of the National Assembly, the Government **passed a resolution approving changes to the constituency boundaries** in St. Kitts and Nevis. Governor General Sir Edmund Wickham Lawrence subsequently signed the proclamation to give effect to the revised boundaries, which was promptly gazetted, and the National Assembly immediately dissolved to allow elections within the framework of the new constituencies.

While the re-alignment of boundaries is the culmination of the work of the Constituency **Boundaries Commission which commenced its work in 2012**, concerns have been voiced - primarily by the Opposition and members of civil society - regarding the manner in which the proposed changes were taken through Parliament. The Parliamentary Opposition, in protest at the Government's action, obtained an injunction from the High Court seeking to prevent the implementation of the proclamation ahead of the next general elections. On January 27th, 2015, the High Court ruled in favor of the Government and discharged the injunction. The Opposition then filed an appeal with the **Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court**, which was granted on January 29th, thus reinstating the injunction and discharged by the Court of Appeals on February 5th, pending further review by the Privy Council. The ECSC **instructed the Supervisor of Elections to produce two separate sets of voter lists** reflecting both the old and new boundary distributions, pending the final decision by the Privy Council. .

The issue of amending the constituency boundaries in St. Kitts and Nevis is not new. **An earlier effort to re-align the boundaries in 2009 ended in failure** after the report of the Constituency Boundaries Commission **was challenged in the Courts**. Both the OAS and the Commonwealth have previously weighed in on the issue, calling for changes to be made to restore balance to the population distribution of the constituencies. The report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission to the 2010 elections recommended that "a cross-party consultative process" be undertaken to establish new election boundaries "well before the next General Elections",¹⁴ while the Commonwealth Expert Team to the 2010 elections recommended that the country engage in urgent electoral reform in several areas, including a **"redistribution of electoral boundaries ... to ensure that each constituency contains as nearly equal number of inhabitants as practicable, in accordance with the Constitution."**¹⁵

¹⁴ OAS, Final Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission for the General Elections in the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis on January 25, 2010.

¹⁵ Report of the Commonwealth Expert Team to the 2010 Elections in St. Kitts and Nevis.

In this regard, Prime Minister Douglas has stated that the boundary changes proclaimed on January 16 will reduce the disparity between constituencies to less than 1000 persons, whereas disparities of up to 5000 persons existed before.¹⁶

Motions of No Confidence

In December 2012, Leader of the Opposition Mark Brantley, filed a motion of no confidence against the Denzil Douglas-led administration. PAM Leader Shawn Richards from the People's Action Movement (PAM) filed a second motion of no confidence in July 2013.

With neither matter having been scheduled for debate in the National Assembly, the Opposition parliamentarians resorted to the Courts to protest the violation of their constitutional rights, citing the Speaker of the National Assembly, Curtis Martin, Prime Minister Douglas and the Cabinet as respondents. A ruling by the High Court in February 2014 disallowed the case against the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, but opted to proceed with the case against the Speaker who, it said, held responsibility for scheduling the no confidence motions for debate.

The issue remains before the Court, with arguments now scheduled to be heard in February 2015. A third motion of no confidence filed in September 2014 by PLP Leader Dr. Timothy Harris, is scheduled for hearing in March 2015.

That the motions were not tabled for debate over the course of two years, were likely due to the Government's legitimate concern that the opposition, its numbers bolstered by defections from the Government, might have been successful in its bid to remove the Prime Minister and trigger fresh elections.

As with the more recent passage of the constituency boundaries resolution through the National Assembly, the opposition's inability to have its day in the National Assembly has also elicited concerns from within and outside of St. Kitts and Nevis, regarding respect for democracy and democratic governance.

Political Financing

The present political party and campaign financing regime in St. Kitts and Nevis is private and characterized by an absence of any regulations or restrictions on the amount parties can raise or spend for electoral purposes. There is no government funding, direct or indirect, and political parties and candidates are expected to raise their own campaign funds, which they do both locally and internationally from groups, individuals, and the private sector. The Kittitian and Nevisian Diaspora provide some resources, but the absence of disclosure rules or restrictions on foreign donations makes it difficult to know the amounts, groups, or individuals involved.

The issue of creating more transparency, accountability, and regulation in campaign financing in St. Kitts and Nevis, establishing caps on campaign spending, and the possibility of limited public financing for all parties and limited public airtime, to "level the playing field" among contestants has not been a priority in political debate, though the PAM, in its 2010 manifesto, proposed new legislation on Good Governance, including Integrity in Public Life. So far, however, no party has

¹⁶ National Broadcasting Corporation of St. Kitts & Nevis: PM Douglas defends fair boundaries in St. Kitts and Nevis - <http://zizonline.com/pm-douglas-defends-fair-boundaries-in-st-kitts-and-nevis/>

acted to create and implement legislation, or even a voluntary Code of Conduct, regarding political funding.

Participation of Women

Women are persistently underrepresented in Caribbean politics. In the 2010 General Elections, only two female candidates, out of twenty-four contestants, ran for office and only one of them (Marcella Liburd of the SKNLP) gained a seat. By contrast, the majority of polling officials were women. In that sense, the OAS/EOM recommended all political parties to consider and pursue mechanisms to recruit, train and finance women to be candidates for public office.

XI. Electoral Boundaries

CONSTITUENCY CHANGES PROCLAIMED ON JANUARY 16, 2015¹⁷

Constituency	Changes
SAINT KITTS	
Constituency 1	No change from the previous configuration
Constituency 2	No change from the previous configuration
Constituency 3	As presently configured, MINUS West Farms, Boyds, Palmetto Point including Garvey's, The Abbotts, Fairview and adjacent communities.
Constituency 4	As presently configured, PLUS West Farm, Boyds, Palmetto Point including Garvey's, The Abbotts, Fairview and adjacent communities.
Constituency 5	As presently configured, PLUS Newton Ground
Constituency 6	As presently configured, MINUS Newton Ground, PLUS Belle Vue to Tabernacle.
Constituency 7	As presently configured, MINUS Belle Vue to Tabernacle, PLUS Ottley's and all areas of Cayon. These include areas from Estridge to Mansion and all of Cayon.
Constituency 8	As presently configured, MINUS Ottley's and Cayon.
NEVIS	
Constituency 9	As presently configured, MINUS Cole Hill, Victoria/Beach Road, Burden Pasture, Morning Star, Church Ground, and Prospect/Brown Hill.



¹⁷ National Broadcasting Corporation of St. Kitts and Nevis - <http://zizonline.com/new-boundaries-clarified/>

Constituency 10	As presently configured, PLUS Cole Hill, Victoria/Beach Road, Burden Pasture, Morning Star, Church Ground, and Prospect/Brown Hill.
Constituency 11	No change from the previous configuration

XII. EOM/OAS ST. KITTS AND NEVIS 2010

On August 13, 2009, the Government of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis requested that the Organization of American States send an Electoral Observation Mission to the General Elections held on **January 25, 2010. This was the first time that the OAS had** observed elections in St. Kitts and Nevis.

While the conduct of the election was without incident, the Mission identified some aspects where the election process could have been improved:

1. The Mission recommended a cross-party consultative process to establish new election boundaries well before the next General Elections. The boundary question should be addressed as soon as possible and should include all of the political parties represented in the Federal Parliament.
2. The process of electoral reform in St Kitts and Nevis, begun in 2006, included reconfirmation of voters. Despite this effort, many disputes about the residency of voters arose. The Mission recommends a house-to-house verification process before the next election and a claims and objections period in which the Voters' List is properly adjusted to reflect the current reality of voter numbers and residency.
3. Current legislation does not offer any guarantees or benchmarks for access to the media.
4. Such regulation should be considered. It could require that all media outlets provide political parties the same opportunity to purchase prime-time advertising at the same cost or it could stipulate a certain amount of free advertising.
5. Attention should be paid to avoiding discrepancies between the Voters' List displayed outside polling stations and that used by polling officials and party agents within it.
6. Greater uniformity in the method of instructing voters and of handling proxy voting and physically challenged voters who require assistance would be desirable.
7. The 100-yard line around polling stations, within which there should be no campaign materials, should be more rigorously enforced.
8. The closing procedures at polling stations should be simplified; in particular, the obligation to secure the ballot box with sealing wax should be removed. In future, to expedite the count and enhance security, each ballot box should be counted in situ by the Presiding Officer at each polling station.
9. Access to polling sites for the elderly and physically challenged should be improved.
10. The OAS Mission would welcome a cross-party accord on political financing that would promote transparency and accountability both in St. Kitts and Nevis and across the region.



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11. All political parties in the Federation should actively consider and pursue mechanisms to recruit, train and finance women to be candidates for public office.
12. The distribution of voters between polling stations should be made more even to avoid long lines and delays. No station should attempt to handle more than 300 voters on Election Day.