

Brazil

1. **Year Achieved Independence:** 1822 from Portugal
2. **Political Institutions:** Brazil is a federal republic with a directly elected president and bicameral parliament. Throughout its history since independence from Portugal (1822), it has held elections for at least one national institution (a single chamber parliament most commonly) with sporadic interruptions. The nature of suffrage, the electoral systems for the president and for the upper and lower chambers of the national congress, and the relative institutional powers of the president and the congress have all changed many times. Suffrage has expanded gradually, with universal suffrage instituted in full with the 1988 constitution. Currently, Brazil's presidency is considered to be quite strong institutionally, and its states are considered to have considerable powers relative to the national government. Presidents are directly elected in an absolute majority system (a runoff election among the top two candidates from the first round of voting typically occurs). The lower house of parliament, called the chamber of deputies, is currently elected using proportional representation from districts that range from size eight to size 70. Its 513 seats are allocated using the Hare quota and the largest average. The upper house of parliament, called the federal senate, contains three senators from each state, elected either in single, member plurality elections or double member, plurality elections, depending on the timing within the election cycle.
3. **Lower Chamber Electoral System:**
 - Pre-1881: indirect elections, very limited suffrage.
 - 1881-1889: Single member constituencies (SMC), where voters cast one vote, and absolute majority to choose winner (a runoff if necessary).
 - 1891-1905: Multi-member constituencies (MMC) of various sizes, with multiple limited vote (voters cast votes in number equal to one-third the size of the constituency), seats allocated as rank ordered by the number of votes obtained.
 - 1905-1932: MMCs of size five, with a few exceptions, and the multiple limited vote.
 - 1932-1937: MMCs of various sizes, and the multiple limited vote.
 - 1937-1945: Elections suppressed under authoritarian regime.
 - 1945-1950: MMCs of various sizes; an open-list system with voters casting one vote for either a candidate or a party label. Proportional representation using the Hare quote, and any remaining seats allocated to the parties with the highest number of votes.
 - 1950-1994: MMCs of various sizes; an open-list system with voters casting one vote for either a candidate or a party label. Proportional representation using the Hare quote, and any remaining seats allocated to the parties according to the highest average method.
 - 1994-: MMCs of various sizes ranging from 8 to 70 an open-list system with voters casting one vote for either a candidate or a party label. Proportional representation using the Hare quote, and any remaining seats allocated to the parties according to the highest average method. Parties can list as many candidates as there are seats. Coalitions of parties can list more candidates (the size of the district times 1.5).

4. **Electoral History:** Elections for a fully elected House of Represent were held on the following years.

Electoral Date	Polity Score *	CLEA Data Release
1945	-88	√
January 19, 1947	5	√
October 3, 1950	5	√
October 3, 1954	5	√
October 3, 1958	6	√
October 7, 1962	5	√
November 15, 1982	-3	√
November 15, 1986	7	√
October 3, 1990	8	√
October 3, 1994	8	√
October 4, 1998	8	√
October 6, 2002	8	√
October 1, 2006	8	√

*The Polity Score ranges from -10 to 10, from least democratic to most democratic. Data come from the Polity IV dataset: <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/polity/data/>.

5. **Sources on Electoral History:**

6. **Sources of Electoral Data:** Data collected by CLEA from Election Data by *Jairo Nicolau* (<http://jaironicolau.iuperj.br/>).