

Mexico Political Chatter

September 10, 2026

Mexico formally inaugurates the 2026-2027 electoral process today, and it does so with a board where every player arrives with exposed flanks. **Morena** starts with a lead no poll disputes: 35% voting intention for the Chamber of Deputies against 11% for the PAN and 9% for the PRI, according to Buendía & Márquez. But its solidity in the polls coexists with increasingly visible internal fractures, such as the episode involving **Pedro Haces**, a Morena proportional-representation deputy seen campaigning alongside **PAN Senator Enrique Vargas del Villar**, whose conduct the president herself called "very strange" before leaving any eventual sanction in the party's hands. The case of Senator on leave **Julieta Ramírez**, accused of seeking a cooperation agreement with U.S. authorities, points in the same direction.

In the opposition, the discussion is not how to win but how to compete. Former **President Vicente Fox** reappeared to push a PAN-PRI alliance that **Alejandro Moreno** received with interest, while Movimiento Ciudadano grows without committing and analysts debate whether adding party labels amounts to adding votes. The arithmetic of the 300 first-past-the-post districts favors a common front, but in the 17 governorships at stake the calculation changes state by state. The underlying problem for the PAN and the PRI is that they arrive at historically low levels of support and have yet to capitalize on the ruling party's erosion beyond anti-Morena rhetoric.

And the referee arrives weakened. Hours before the formal start, **Claudia Arlett Espino** submitted her irrevocable resignation as executive secretary of the INE, the position that articulates the electoral operational structure and holds the body's legal representation. In her place, **Roberto Carlos Félix López** was named acting head — the fourth interim officeholder in less than three years — amid an open fracture between councilors close to **INE President Guadalupe Taddei** and those questioning the institute's leadership.

The week was also marked by the presentation of the 2027 Economic Package, which lays out a path of fiscal consolidation with revenues of 9.157 trillion pesos and a reduction of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirements from 4.1% to 3.9% of GDP, though the room to maneuver will remain limited by the cost of pensions and debt. The presentation also came amid reports of a possible exit by **Édgar Amador from the Finance Ministry**: the secretary declined to guarantee his continuity and left his future in Sheinbaum's hands.

On security, the government touted its main indicator: the daily average of intentional homicides fell 53% between September 2024 and August 2026, dropping from 86.9 to 40.8 murders, with August the lowest month of the period. Violence, however, remains concentrated in seven states that account for nearly half of the year's homicides. In parallel, a Milenio investigation documents that "El Mencho's" death did not dismantle the CJNG but rather triggered its fragmentation, with at least six armed groups operating outside the original structure.

Two further episodes shaped the agenda: the death of Morena federal deputy **Zenyazen Escobar**, found lifeless inside his locked vehicle with a gunshot wound, a case the FGR has already taken up; and the results of PISA 2025, where Mexico fell below the OECD average in all three areas evaluated and just 30% of students reached the basic level in mathematics, triggering a dispute over the causes of the lag. To this is added the Supreme Court's backlog, which one year after its renewal has accumulated high-impact pending cases such as mandatory pretrial detention, abortion timeframes, and VAT for maquiladoras.

The INE begins the electoral process amid resignations and fractures

Hours before the formal start of the 2027 electoral process, Claudia Arlett Espino submitted her irrevocable resignation as executive secretary of the INE, citing health and personal reasons. Her departure comes at a particularly delicate moment for the institute, as the Executive Secretariat is the piece that articulates much of the electoral operational structure: it coordinates the technical areas, the local and district boards, and holds the body's legal representation. The resignation also deepens the differences that already exist within the General Council and leaves the INE facing one of its most complex electoral processes, with federal and local elections in all 32 states.

As a replacement, the General Council named Roberto Carlos Félix López as acting head of the Executive Secretariat, making him the fourth interim officeholder in that position in less than three years. The change comes amid a fracture between councilors close to INE President Guadalupe Taddei and those who have defended a more critical position toward the institute's leadership decisions. Espino's departure thus places the electoral body under pressure precisely when it should be projecting stability, operational capacity, and autonomy to organize the 2027 elections.

 [El País: The head of the electoral structure resigns from the INE and opens a crisis hours before the 2027 process begins](#)

The Economic Package arrives with Amador's future up in the air

The 2027 Economic Package lays out a path of fiscal consolidation, with budget revenues of 9.157 trillion pesos, net spending of 10.515 trillion, and a reduction of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirements from 4.1% to 3.9% of GDP. The proposal also contemplates 1.025 trillion pesos for priority social programs and 560.2 billion for investment projects, with Pemex and the trains as the main destinations. México, ¿cómo vamos? warns, however, that fiscal room will remain limited by the cost of pensions and debt, while the growth projected for 2027, of between 1.5% and 2.5%, falls below what was estimated in the Pre-Criteria.

The package's presentation also comes amid reports of a possible exit by Édgar Amador from the Finance Ministry. The secretary declined to guarantee his continuity and indicated that it depends on Claudia Sheinbaum's confidence. In parallel, the presence of Jorge Mendoza, director of Banobras, as one of those tasked with publicly explaining the economic strategy drew attention. Riva Palacio interprets that exposure as a move that could carry a more political reading, precisely as reports circulate about an upcoming cabinet reshuffle. Amador did not announce his departure, but leaving

the decision open fuels speculation about his future and about who might take the reins at the Finance Ministry.

 [Proceso: Édgar Amador does not guarantee his continuity at the Finance Ministry; leaves his future in Sheinbaum's hands](#)

The opposition still hasn't found its way

Morena arrives at the formal start of the 2027 electoral process with a lead that still leaves the opposition far from representing a real threat. The Buendía & Márquez poll places the party at 35% voting intention for the Chamber of Deputies, against 11% for the PAN and 9% for the PRI; Movimiento Ciudadano reaches 8%. The snapshot confirms that, although Morena has lost some points compared to previous measurements, it retains a gap of nearly 20 points over the PAN and keeps the opposition fragmented.

The opposition's problem is not only the distance from Morena, but its inability to capitalize on the ruling party's erosion. The PAN and PRI are at historically low levels, while MC grows without committing to an alliance, and the various polls agree in placing Morena and its allies with a comfortable lead. Less than a year before the election, the challenge for the opposition is enormous: building an electoral alternative capable of competing beyond anti-Morena rhetoric, while the ruling party retains a considerable base of support and arrives at 2027, for now, riding high.

 [El Universal: Morena riding high toward 2027; Buendía & Márquez poll](#)

Sheinbaum questions Pedro Haces's activism alongside the PAN and leaves any sanction to Morena

President Claudia Sheinbaum called "very strange" the public agenda of Morena federal deputy Pedro Haces Barba, who has been seen on campaign tours alongside PAN Senator Enrique Vargas del Villar. "You can't be a deputy for one party and go around campaigning for another. It's very strange," the president warned when asked about the legislator's conduct; he obtained his seat through proportional representation under Morena's banner. Sheinbaum took a firm stance against collaboration with the opposition, though she stressed that it falls strictly to Morena's leadership to evaluate the deputy's conduct and determine whether his actions warrant an internal sanction: "It would be up to Morena to define whether he is campaigning for another party, and whether that carries a sanction or not."

El Universal: Sheinbaum questions Pedro Haces's activism alongside the PAN; leaves possible sanction in Morena's hands

Fox tries to revive the "PRIAN" ahead of 2027

Vicente Fox again threw himself into the electoral dispute by calling on the PAN and PRI to build an opposition alliance to face Morena in the 2027 elections. The former president met with Alejandro Moreno and argued that the opposition needs to join forces to prevent the ruling party from retaining its majority in Congress. The move is significant given Fox's role in the 2000 transition and because

he is now seeking to bring together the two parties that competed against each other for years, at a moment when both are experiencing a sharp loss of electoral support.

Claudia Sheinbaum's response was immediate and laced with irony: she argued that there is no new alliance because the "PRIAN" has existed for decades and that the PAN and PRI have historically shared interests and voted together. The Fox-Alito meeting also comes as the opposition arrives at 2027 weakened in the polls: Morena retains a wide lead, while the PAN and PRI register low levels of support, which explains the pressure to build a common front. The problem for the opposition is that the picture of unity can also reinforce Morena's narrative that the PRI and PAN represent the same political bloc.

 [Milenio: Fox pushed the PRI out of Los Pinos and now unites them with the PAN against Morena](#)

Sheinbaum touts the plunge in homicides

The incidence of intentional homicides maintains a downward trend, according to figures presented by the Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System. Between September 2024 and August 2026, the daily average went from 86.9 to 40.8 murders, a 53% reduction, while August became the month with the lowest record of the entire period analyzed. SESNSP head Marcela Figueroa attributed the drop to coordination between the Security Cabinet and state governments.

The decline also reaches so-called high-impact crimes, whose daily average went from 636.6 at the start of the administration to 391 in August, a 39% reduction. However, violence remains concentrated in states such as Guanajuato, Baja California, Chihuahua, Sinaloa, State of Mexico, Guerrero, and Morelos, which together account for 49.3% of the homicides recorded so far in 2026. With these figures, Claudia Sheinbaum reasserted one of the main arguments of her security strategy: a sustained reduction in lethal violence compared to the levels recorded at the start of her government.

 [El Universal: SESNSP: intentional homicides down 53% from 2024 to August 2026; reports downward trend in high-impact crimes](#)

Julieta Ramírez under scrutiny over her visa

Morena Senator on leave Julieta Ramírez was reported by N+ to be under investigation in the United States and to have sought a cooperation agreement with U.S. authorities in exchange for providing information and obtaining procedural benefits. Ramírez categorically denied the account, called it a "farce" and a "dirty war" operation against her, and demanded that evidence of the alleged agreement be presented. The report was defended by journalist Enrique Acevedo, who maintained that the information had been verified. The conflict escalated when, amid the dispute, threats emerged against Acevedo, taking the case beyond the political fight and into the terrain of freedom of expression and journalists' safety.

 [El Universal: Julieta Ramírez, Morena senator, under investigation by the U.S., N+ reports; seeks to become a witness](#)

Mexico fails again in education

The results of PISA 2025 once again put Mexico's educational performance under scrutiny. The country obtained 388 points in mathematics, 408 in reading, and 414 in science, all below the OECD average; the most worrying figure appears in mathematics, where barely 30% of students reached the basic level, compared to 65% in the average of the countries evaluated. In addition, relative to 2022, Mexico lost seven points in both mathematics and reading, while in science it saw a slight improvement. The evaluation measures 15-year-old students and seeks to assess their ability to apply knowledge to real-life problems.

The results triggered a dispute over the causes of the lag. From the government, it was argued that PISA does not reflect socioeconomic differences between countries, and the SEP attributed part of the low reading comprehension to excessive screen use, proposing a return to habits such as reading and traditional games. The National Union of Parents, by contrast, blamed the New Mexican School and questioned the reduced weight of mathematics, teacher training, and the quality of educational materials. Thus, while the government seeks to downplay the result and focus on external factors such as technology, parents and specialists demand a more direct diagnosis of the model's deficiencies and concrete goals to reverse them.

 [Reforma: PISA exposes educational failure in Mexico](#)

The Court accumulates pending cases one year after its overhaul

One year after the Supreme Court's renewal, several high-impact matters remain unresolved that could shape the direction of the new high court. Among them are mandatory pretrial detention, the criteria on timeframes for abortion, and the application of VAT to maquiladora companies, in addition to other cases related to human rights, security, and tax matters. The backlog places the new composition before the challenge of defining its priorities more clearly and demonstrating that the change in the Court's makeup will not translate into slower justice, especially in files whose decisions can have far-reaching political, social, and economic consequences.

 [Proceso: The Court of pending cases: a year without resolving pretrial detention, abortion timeframes, VAT for maquiladoras...](#)

Zenyazen Escobar: a death that opens more questions than answers

The death of Zenyazen Escobar, Morena federal deputy for Veracruz, leaves questions open after he was found lifeless inside his vehicle, with a gunshot wound and a firearm. The vehicle was locked and, according to initial investigations, showed no signs of external violence, so the FGR has already taken the case. Governor Rocío Nahle asked to avoid speculation and await the results of the investigation. Escobar, 42, was Secretary of Education during Cuitláhuac García's administration, a local deputy, and one of Morena's founders in Veracruz; his death prompted a tribute in the Chamber of Deputies, where legislators from different parties demanded the facts be clarified.

 [El Universal: A bullet and a vehicle locked from inside; Rocío Nahle asks to avoid speculation over Zenyazen Escobar's death](#)

The CJNG, in dispute after El Mencho's death

A Milenio investigation indicates that the death of Nemesio Oseguera, "El Mencho," accelerated the fragmentation of the CJNG and opened a dispute over control of various territories. In the following months, at least six armed groups emerged seeking to operate outside the original structure, among them Los Cobra, Los Jalipa, Los Jarochos, Comando F-Z, and Operativa 501. The atomization shows that the fall of its main leader did not dismantle the cartel but rather triggered a new stage of internal struggles and criminal realignments, while some groups are even seeking to shed the CJNG brand to reduce pressure from Mexican and U.S. authorities.

 [Milenio: Without 'El Mencho,' a new armed branch sprouts from the CJNG every month](#)

Opinion express

- **The new informant — Raymundo Riva Palacio**

Riva Palacio argues that the Julieta Ramírez case could become a new political problem for Claudia Sheinbaum, linking the reports of the senator's alleged approach to U.S. authorities with Morena's internal disputes. The columnist argues that the revelation not only damages Ramírez's aspirations in Baja California, but once again puts pressure on figures close to Adán Augusto López and on the presidential circle itself. His reading is that Sheinbaum faces a growing paradox: while she seeks to control the candidacies and expand her territorial power, some of the figures who should answer to her politically may be playing for other groups within the 4T.

 [El Financiero: The new informant](#)

- **The new 50-million-peso fiscal frontier — Enrique Quintana**

Quintana analyzes the change introduced by the 2027 Economic Package in effectively establishing a new fiscal threshold for companies: 50 million pesos in annual revenue. Below that threshold, the Simplified Trust Regime is expanded, while companies that exceed it will face limits on their deductions that could lead them to pay a tax equivalent to about 1% of sales, even though the corporate income tax rate formally remains at 30%. He considers the Finance Ministry's intent to combat abuses, false invoices, and artificial deductions justified, but warns that the measure could end up affecting legitimate companies with margins below 3.33%, forcing them to pay taxes on profits they did not actually earn. The challenge for Congress, he argues, will be to prevent the fight against evasion from becoming an unfair tax burden on low-margin sectors.

 [El Financiero: The new 50-million-peso fiscal frontier](#)

- **Divide and... conquer? — Ana Paula Ordorica**

Ordorica analyzes the opposition's dilemma ahead of 2027 —to ally or compete separately— drawing on the polls published at the close of August: Buendía y Márquez's for El Universal places Morena at 48% effective preference against 15% for the PAN, 13% for the PRI, and 12% for Movimiento Ciudadano, while undecided voters fell from 34.9% to 19.4% in a year and Morena's

positive opinion dropped from 56 to 49 points. The columnist argues that the system's design favors an alliance in the 300 first-past-the-post seats, where the party with the most votes wins even by a single ballot: three oppositions of between 12 and 15 points would hand Morena district after district. But she warns that adding party labels is not the same as adding votes. Her conclusion is that the answer is not black or white: for the majority districts an alliance makes sense today, but in the 17 governorships it must be assessed case by case. Where MC is defending Nuevo León, allying would cost it more than it gains, while for the PAN, defending Chihuahua and Querétaro, the PRI's points could be the difference between holding and surrendering.

 [El Universal: Divide and... conquer?](#)

- **The wedding that changed two administrations — Jorge Zepeda Patterson**

Zepeda Patterson argues that the confrontation between the 4T and traditional media was not inevitable and locates a decisive moment in César Yáñez's wedding, months before Andrés Manuel López Obrador's arrival at the Presidency. The scandal over the celebration's publication in *Hola!* prompted Yáñez's estrangement from the inner circle and opened the way for Jesús Ramírez Cuevas, to whom the columnist attributes a more ideological profile and a far more distant relationship with traditional media. For Zepeda, that changeover ended up defining, over six years, a relationship marked by confrontation, disqualification, and propaganda — a dynamic that, though less belligerent, Claudia Sheinbaum has not managed to break entirely. His conclusion is blunt: an apparently personal decision ended up conditioning the relationship between the 4T government and the press across two administrations.

 [Milenio: The wedding that changed two administrations](#)

Agenda in brief

September 10 | Start of the INE's 2026-2027 Federal Electoral Process, with the launch of electoral observation activities and the opening of registration for foreign visitors.

September 10 | INEGI presents the National Survey of Victimization and Perception of Public Security (ENVIPE) 2026, with definitive figures corresponding to 2025.