

Mexico Political Chatter

September 24, 2026

A few weeks into the official start of the 2026-2027 electoral process, Morena is trying to contain the fire left by its process for selecting state coordinators. After the first ten appointments were announced without disclosing the polling data, the party's national president, Ariadna Montiel, announced that once the selection is complete across all 17 states, the results and methodology of the polls will be made public, including the participation of the polling firms themselves. In at least ten states (Zacatecas, Guerrero, Michoacán, San Luis Potosí, Querétaro, Campeche, Chihuahua, Baja California, Nayarit and Quintana Roo) there are differences with the PT and the PVEM over candidacies or the conduct of the process. The PT has withdrawn from the most recent selections and has raised the possibility of competing separately if it considers that Morena is not honouring the agreements, while the Green Party maintains its own interests in San Luis Potosí and Nayarit.

On the fuel-theft front, the seizure of 59 million litres of fuel at a terminal in San José Iturbide, Guanajuato, initially presented as a major blow, has begun to lose force. President Sheinbaum stated that it falls to the FGR to explain the reason for the intervention and determine whether illegal activity actually took place, while Gas Natural del Noroeste maintains that it only provides storage services to third parties and that its operation is legal. The case took a turn with the dismissal of Juan Francisco Vera Ayala as the FGR's delegate in Guanajuato, amid questions over the operation. To this are added reports that the company received contracts from the Peña Nieto, López Obrador and Sheinbaum administrations worth at least 284.2 million pesos between 2012 and 2025.

Meanwhile, in New York, on the occasion of the 81st UN General Assembly, Donald Trump once again placed Mexico at the centre of his message by calling it the "epicentre" of the cartels and questioning the government's capacity to contain them. The president opted for a biting response at her morning press conference: she highlighted her administration's progress and bilateral cooperation, while recalling that the United States also faces responsibilities over drug consumption, weapons trafficking and the financial flows of organised crime. "I could say: it is very difficult to live next to a country with such a high level of illicit drug consumption... But I'm not going to say it."

Back at the Congress of the Union, the reform barring people with dual nationality from aspiring to the presidency or a governorship advanced a step further. The joint Constitutional Affairs and First Legislative Studies committees of the Senate approved the bill by 23 votes to 9, and Senate President Higinio Martínez indicated that it could reach the floor on Tuesday, September 29. The measure, approved in the Chamber of Deputies on the particulars by 334 votes to 109 with one abstention, modifies Articles 82, 116 and 122 to require sole Mexican nationality of those aspiring to the Presidency, the governorships and the Mexico City mayoralty. The PAN has already signalled its opposition and called the measure a blow against the migrant community. If approved, it must still secure the endorsement of a majority of state legislatures and would apply from the 2028 electoral process onward.

Two INEGI measurements laid bare underlying problems in the country's demographic composition. The first national measurement of internal forced displacement documented that at least 1.6 million people, some 510,000 households, changed residence due to violence and insecurity between October 2020 and October 2025, with Zacatecas, Morelos, Colima and Michoacán at the top, and extreme cases such as Acapulco and Cochoapa el Grande, with 7.3% of their population displaced. The 2025 Intercensal Survey, meanwhile, put Mexico at 130,911,000 inhabitants, but with a median age that rose from 29 to 32 years, fertility that fell from 2.1 to 1.9 children per woman, and annual population growth that slowed from 1% to 0.7%: the country is growing more slowly and ageing faster, with mounting pressures on health, pensions and public services.

Finally, the SEP published in the Official Gazette the agreement restricting the use of mobile phones in schools from November 3, with a ban throughout the school day in primary and secondary education and rules set by each campus at the upper-secondary level. In the Senate, committees modified the proposal on the improper use of institutional graphic identity after warnings that its wording could reach political memes and parodies. Senator Javier Corral announced an amendment to remove the reference to digital media, reduce the maximum penalty from seven to five years, and specify that the offence requires commercial use with intent to mislead.

Morena opens up the polls as the alliance cracks

Morena is trying to put out the fire left by its process for selecting state coordinators ahead of 2027: after the first appointments provoked complaints from hopefuls, rank-and-file members and, especially, the PT, the party's national president, Ariadna Montiel, announced that once the selection across the 17 states is complete, the results and methodology of the polls will be made public, including the participation of the polling firms to explain how they were obtained. The move seeks to restore credibility to a mechanism historically presented as the way for "the people" to decide, but which this time came under question because Morena announced 10 coordinations without publishing the results of the measurements. The complaints have already reached Guerrero, Zacatecas, Michoacán, Quintana Roo and Baja California, among other states.

The problem, however, is no longer confined to Morena. The dispute threatens to become a problem for the alliance with the PT and PVEM: in at least 10 states — Zacatecas, Guerrero, Michoacán, San Luis Potosí, Querétaro, Campeche, Chihuahua, Baja California, Nayarit and Quintana Roo — there are differences over candidacies or the conduct of the processes. The PT has even withdrawn from the most recent selections and has raised the possibility of competing separately; the Green Party, for its part, also maintains its own interests in states such as San Luis Potosí and Nayarit. Morena says it wants to keep the coalition united and insists that its allies' profiles were indeed measured, but the political fact is another: the polls, which were meant to be the mechanism for avoiding quotas and back-room negotiations, have ended up at the centre of the dispute.

 [El Universal: Morena, PT, Green alliance hanging by a thread in 10 states](#)

From the big blow to the big mystery of fuel theft in Guanajuato

The seizure of 59 million litres of fuel at a terminal in San José Iturbide, Guanajuato, was initially presented as a major blow against an operation linked to fuel theft. As the days passed, however, the case began to lose force: President Claudia Sheinbaum herself stated that it falls to the FGR to explain the reason for the intervention and determine whether illegal activity actually took place, while Gas Natural del Noroeste, the company operating the terminal, maintains that its operation is legal and that it only provides storage services to third parties. The case has now taken a new turn with the dismissal of Juan Francisco Vera Ayala as the FGR's delegate in Guanajuato, amid questions over the operation that led to the seizure. According to Reforma, the so-called "mega-blow" has begun to be reviewed by the Prosecutor's Office itself, raising new questions about how the investigation was built and on what grounds the decision was taken to intervene at the terminal.

The matter becomes still more interesting on reviewing the company's record. A review of public contracts shows that Gas Natural del Noroeste received contracts from the governments of Enrique Peña Nieto, Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Claudia Sheinbaum worth at least 284.2 million pesos between 2012 and 2025, including a 2016 CFE contract worth 12.4 million dollars to transport natural gas via a pipeline. The FGR investigation began after the detention of a driver whose tanker was carrying 33,000 litres of fuel without documented traceability; days later the 59 million litres were seized. The central point now is no longer merely to determine the origin of the hydrocarbon, but also to clarify whether there were sufficient grounds to present the operation as a major blow against fuel theft, and why the official in charge of the delegation ended up out of the post. The company maintains that the fuel belongs to its clients and is in order; the FGR will have to determine what actually happened.

 [El Universal: Gas company accused of fuel theft; held contracts with Peña Nieto, AMLO and Sheinbaum totalling 284 million pesos](#)

Trump again takes aim at Mexico over the cartels

Donald Trump again placed Mexico at the centre of his anti-drug message by calling it the "epicentre" of the cartels and questioning the Mexican government's capacity to contain these organisations. The remark comes at a particularly sensitive moment in the bilateral relationship, marked by pressure from Washington for Mexico to step up its actions against organised crime and drug trafficking. In response, Claudia Sheinbaum has opted not to engage in direct confrontation with the U.S. president and instead to highlight her government's progress and the cooperation between the two countries on security. The contrast is evident: while Trump hardens his rhetoric and once again puts Mexico under the international spotlight, Sheinbaum is trying to keep the channel of cooperation open and prevent the dispute from escalating into a new diplomatic conflict.

U.S. pressure, however, is not limited to political rhetoric. Trump's remark once again puts an uncomfortable discussion on the table for the Mexican government: how far it can accept Washington's demands without security cooperation turning into a surrender of sovereignty or into

a narrative in which Mexico appears as the principal party responsible for the drug-trafficking problem. Sheinbaum has insisted that the relationship must be based on coordination and mutual respect, while recalling that the United States also faces responsibilities over drug consumption, weapons trafficking into Mexico, and the financial flows linked to organised crime.

 [Forbes: Sheinbaum avoids confronting Trump after he labels Mexico the 'epicentre' of drug trafficking](#)

MX The 4T tightens the net on dual nationality

The reform promoted by Claudia Sheinbaum to prevent people with dual nationality from holding the Presidency, a governorship or the Mexico City mayoralty took a further step: after being approved in the Chamber of Deputies, the joint Constitutional Affairs and First Legislative Studies committees of the Senate approved the bill on Wednesday by 23 votes in favour and 9 against. The measure modifies Articles 82, 116 and 122 of the Constitution and establishes that those aspiring to these posts must hold Mexican nationality only; furthermore, while in office they may not acquire or request another nationality, use foreign identity documents, exercise political rights before another State, or seek its diplomatic protection. Senate President Higinio Martínez indicated that the bill could reach the floor next Tuesday, September 29.

The discussion, however, keeps open the clash between the sovereignty argument put forward by Morena and the opposition's criticism over the measure's impact on Mexicans with dual nationality, particularly those living abroad. In the Chamber of Deputies, the reform was approved on the particulars by 334 votes to 109 with one abstention, and reached the Senate with virtually no substantive changes; the PAN, PRI and MC have questioned the restriction of political rights for holding a second citizenship. In the Senate, the PAN has already signalled its rejection and called the reform a blow against the migrant community, while Higinio Martínez maintained that there are sufficient votes to carry it through. If approved on the floor, it must still complete the constitutional amendment process, including the endorsement of a majority of state legislatures; the transitional regime contemplates its application from the 2028 electoral process onward.

 [Excélsior: Deputies approve ban on dual nationality for presidential and gubernatorial hopefuls](#)

Violence drives 1.6 million from their homes

Violence and insecurity now have another measurable consequence: between October 2020 and October 2025, at least 1.6 million people had to change residence within the country for these reasons, according to the first national measurement of internal forced displacement carried out by INEGI. The figure is equivalent to some 510,000 households and positions displacement as one of the least visible expressions of the security crisis. The states with the highest proportion of population displaced by violence and insecurity:

Zacatecas — 2.2%
Morelos — 2.1%
Colima — 2.0%
Michoacán — 2.0%
Querétaro — 2.0%
Baja California Sur — 1.9%
Guerrero — 1.6%
Mexico City — 1.4%

The figure takes on another dimension when looking at specific territories: in Zacatecas, Jerez recorded 6.7% of its population displaced by violence and Monte Escobedo 5.5%; in Guerrero, Acapulco and Cochoapa el Grande reached 7.3%.

 [Reforma: Violence displaces 1.6 million, study reveals](#)

Mexico ages and surpasses 130 million inhabitants

Mexico passed 130 million inhabitants, but the figure accompanying that growth is perhaps more significant than the number itself: the country is growing more slowly and ageing faster. According to INEGI's 2025 Intercensal Survey, 130,911,314 people resided in the country, while the median age rose from 29 years in 2020 to 32 in 2025. In addition, the average number of children per woman fell from 2.1 to 1.9 and annual population growth slowed from 1% to 0.7%. The challenge for governments will not only be to serve an ever-larger population, but to do so against a shifting demographic structure: more older adults, lower fertility and new pressures on health, pensions, housing, employment and public services.

 [Animal Político: Mexico reaches 130.9 million inhabitants and is ageing: INEGI; households are smaller](#)

SEP turns down the volume on phones in schools

The SEP formalised in the Official Gazette the agreement restricting the use of mobile phones and other personal devices in schools, a measure that takes effect on November 3 and seeks to reduce distractions and restore students' attention, social interaction and learning. In primary and secondary education, use will be restricted throughout the school day, including recess, though there will be exceptions for pedagogical activities, emergencies, health, disability or accessibility; at the upper-secondary level, each campus will set its own rules, while in higher education responsible use will be promoted. The agreement follows a consultation with teachers and its approval by the education authorities of all 32 states, though it is already generating reservations among some teachers who warn that a blanket ban may limit the educational use of technology and that, before removing phones, shortcomings such as the lack of internet and equipment in schools should be addressed.

 [La Jornada: SEP publishes in the Official Gazette agreement restricting use of phones and smart devices in schools](#)

Senate corrects course: memes and parodies left out of the criminal debate

Senate committees modified the proposal promoted by Claudia Sheinbaum to penalise the improper use of institutional graphic identity, after opposition figures and organisations warned that its wording could open the door to punishing political memes and parodies. Morena's Javier Corral announced an amendment to remove the specific reference to electronic and digital media, reduce the maximum penalty from seven to five years, and specify that the offence be established when there is commercial use of official symbols with intent to mislead or commit an unlawful act. The discussion thus leaves an underlying question: how to protect the State's institutional identity without an anti-piracy reform ending up reaching satirical or critical expression common on social media.

 [NMás: Memes and parodies up for debate: reform advances in Senate committees](#)

Fourteen years of femicides at the UAEM and a justice that never arrives

Fourteen years after the femicide of Viridiana Morales, a UAEM student who disappeared in 2012, the university community in Morelos continues to demand justice and to add names to a story that seems never to end. Viridiana's case opened a long chain of mobilisations and demands in the face of violence against students, later joined by other cases, among them that of Claudia Tacoronte, whose femicide once again placed the safety of women in and around the university at the centre of debate. The succession of cases and protests over more than a decade exposes a problem that transcends each individual file: the difficulty institutions face in guaranteeing justice and safety to female students, while families and collectives keep alive the demand that the crimes be solved.

 [El Sol de México: From Viridiana Morales to Claudia Tacoronte: 14 years of demanding justice over femicides at the UAEM](#)

Opinion express

From satire to electoral propaganda — Sergio López Ayllón

López Ayllón analyses the dispute between Morena and the satirical series "La Casa de los Mañosos," produced with artificial intelligence, and questions how far the electoral authority can go in the face of content parodying political figures. The columnist defends the wide latitude satire should enjoy within freedom of expression, but warns that grey areas exist when parody incorporates accusations that may be confused with formal allegations, or when it circulates within news programming. The

central point: that content exerts political influence is not enough to turn it into electoral propaganda or to justify prior censorship.

 [Milenio: From satire to electoral propaganda](#)

They're going after Samuel and his circle in NL; MC fears an "explosive" outcome — Mario Maldonado

Maldonado focuses on Dante Delgado's decision to send Luis Donaldo Colosio to Sonora and argues that behind it lies the intention of preventing the senator from becoming trapped in defending Samuel García's government ahead of 2027. The columnist highlights new complaints by Morena against the governor and his circle over an alleged triangulation of more than 1.4 billion pesos, as well as other financial and asset investigations that could escalate during the campaign. The backdrop is a dispute that threatens to complicate Movimiento Ciudadano's future in Nuevo León and places Colosio before a political dilemma.

 [El Universal: They're going after Samuel and his circle in NL; MC fears an "explosive" outcome](#)

The betrayal the PT is planning — Viri Ríos, *Milenio*

Viri Ríos identifies signals pointing to the PT planning an electoral strategy to leave Morena on its own, first at the local level and later in 2030 alongside MC, repeating the formula of the 2025 Veracruz election, when the PT served as an electoral vehicle to take in the candidates Morena had set aside and ended up winning far more municipalities than it had been offered. The first step in 2027 would come in Zacatecas, where Morena left out Senator Ulises Mejía Haro, whom an MC-PT alliance could carry to victory. The second step, she argues, would come in the 2030 presidential race, where MC-PT would take in the second Morena contender, someone like Marcelo Ebrard, with a campaign aimed at Morena's more left-leaning ranks, independent voters and younger voters. For now, Ríos concludes, the PT is only flirting with a small step: that Morena allow it to compete with other parties in the gubernatorial races while remaining its ally in Congress.

 [Milenio: The betrayal the PT is planning](#)

Are we living better? — Sergio Sarmiento

Sarmiento revisits the debate over Mexicans' living conditions and questions the idea that wellbeing can be measured solely through political rhetoric or certain economic indicators. The columnist contrasts the official narrative on social progress with the discussion on employment, income and quality of life, to pose an underlying question: if economic conditions have genuinely improved for the population, what indicators make it possible to verify this beyond political assertions?

 [Reforma: Are we living better?](#)

 **Agenda in brief**

September 24 | South Korean President Lee Jae-myung will meet with Claudia Sheinbaum at the National Palace, as part of his country's first state visit to Mexico in 16 years. The two leaders will address trade, investment, education and cultural matters, as well as explore new areas of cooperation.

September 24-27 | Claudia Sheinbaum will conclude her national tour for her Second Government Report with visits to Guerrero, Michoacán, Puebla, Sonora, Tabasco and Mexico City, after having travelled to 26 states.

September 26 | March marking the 12th anniversary of the disappearance of the 43 Ayotzinapa students. The mobilisation will depart from the Ángel de la Independencia toward the Zócalo, with city authorities having agreed to guarantee free transit and protesters' access to the Plaza de la Constitución.