# Mexican Presidential Election Likely to Make History with Potential First Female President



**Mexican Presidential Election Poised to Make History**

Mexican voters head to the polls on Sunday to choose their next president, with a strong likelihood that the country will elect its first female president. The leading contenders are Claudia Sheinbaum, Mexico City Mayor, representing the Morena party, and opposition candidate Xóchitl Gálvez, a former senator and tech entrepreneur. The election will also replace outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

Claudia Sheinbaum has pledged to continue López Obrador's populist policies, including a universal pension for the elderly and apprenticeship programs for youth. She has López Obrador's backing, which has significantly broadened her voter base. However, it has also raised questions about her independence from the influential leader.

Xóchitl Gálvez, representing a coalition of major opposition parties, criticizes López Obrador’s "hugs not bullets" strategy for dealing with drug cartels. She promises a more aggressive approach to crime but has provided limited specifics on policy details. Gálvez has also committed to strengthening institutions like the constitutional court and the National Electoral Institute, accusing López Obrador of authoritarianism.

The backdrop of the election includes persistent cartel violence, with 145 people connected to various political races murdered this season. Around 100 million Mexicans are registered to vote, but turnout in past elections has hovered around 60%. About 675,000 expatriates are eligible but historically participate at low rates.

In addition to the presidential race, voters will elect all members of Congress, governors in eight states, and the head of Mexico City's government. Polls open at 8 AM and close at 6 PM, with preliminary results expected by 9 PM. The election outcome will significantly shape Mexico's political landscape as the new president takes office at the end of September.