

Appointment of Judges to the Constitutional Court (*Corte de Constitucionalidad* - CC) for the 2026-2030 term

How are the Judges to the CC appointed?

1. The Constitutional Court (CC) is composed of 5 main or regular judges and 5 alternates, who are elected by different bodies or entities. Each one selects a main judge and an alternate. If a main magistrate leaves, passes away, or cannot serve, their alternate takes over.
2. The judges are elected by:
 - a. The President of the Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers: they have broad discretion in the appointment.
 - b. The Supreme Court of Justice: An express call for nominations must be made, and they shall be elected by an absolute majority of votes.
 - c. The Congress: An express call for nominations must be made, and they shall be elected by an absolute majority of votes.
 - d. The Higher University Council (Consejo Superior Universitario) of the University of San Carlos of Guatemala – elections must be called at least 15 days in advance and approved by an absolute majority of those present.
 - e. All active members of the Guatemalan Bar Association (Colegio de Abogados y Notarios de Guatemala): Elections must be convened at least fifteen days in advance, and the magistrates will be elected by absolute majority of votes of the members present.
3. Congress swears in both the main and alternate judges, who serve for 5 years.
4. The next change of judges will take place on **April 14, 2026**. This means that no later than April 13, Congress must swear in the designated persons.

Why is the appointment of the Judges to the CC for the 2026-2030 term so important?

The Constitutional Court is the highest body in Guatemala's legal system. Its integration is crucial for democracy, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights, as respect for the Constitution and international standards depends on the independence of its judges. Given the tendency to judicialize political decisions through appeals, the CC will play a central role in the last two years of the current administration and in the 2027 elections. Thus, it can be a pillar for strengthening the state or, on the contrary, contribute to its deterioration. For this reason, it is essential that it be made up of democratic and independent judges.