

Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (*Tribunal Supremo Electoral* – TSE) for the 2026–2032 term

How are the Judges to the TSE appointed?

1. At least 60 days before the current TSE judges finish their term, Congress **must convene, in order to form a Nominating Commission**, with the following people:
 - a. the Rector (the highest executive officer) of the University of San Carlos of Guatemala, a representative of all the rectors of private universities, a representative of the Guatemalan Bar Association elected by all the Association's active members, the Dean of the Faculty of Legal and Social Sciences of the University of San Carlos of Guatemala, and a representative of the deans of the Faculties of Legal and Social Sciences of private universities.
2. This Commission is responsible for preparing, by absolute majority of its members, a **shortlist of twenty candidates, which must then be submitted to Congress**. The Commission has thirty days, from the day of its formal establishment, to prepare said shortlist.
3. With 107 votes (two-thirds of all congresspeople), **Congress will then choose the five main or regular judges and five alternates**.
4. The next appointment of judges will take place in **March 2026**.

Why is the appointment of the Judges to the TSE for the 2026–2032 term so important?

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) is undergoing a crisis of credibility and institutional strength, weakened by inconsistent decisions and attacks from the Public Prosecutor's Office. In 2026, the authorities of the TSE, the Constitutional Court, and the Public Prosecutor's Office will be renewed, interconnected processes that will be decisive for the country's democratic future. The TSE election will open this cycle and serve as an indicator of whether progress will be made toward institutional strengthening or whether anti-democratic actors will prevail.

Finally, the influence of drug trafficking and organized crime at the institutional level in the country should not be overlooked. A TSE with honorable and qualified judges is one of the first lines of defense that can mitigate the influence of organized crime and drug trafficking in Guatemala's political and democratic system.