

December 2020 | Kaitlen Cassell

Spotlight on Approval of Regime Critics' Right to Run for Public Office in Latin America and the Caribbean

Most in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region do not approve of regime critics' right to run for public office

In all LAC countries surveyed, less than a third approve of regime critics' right to run for office

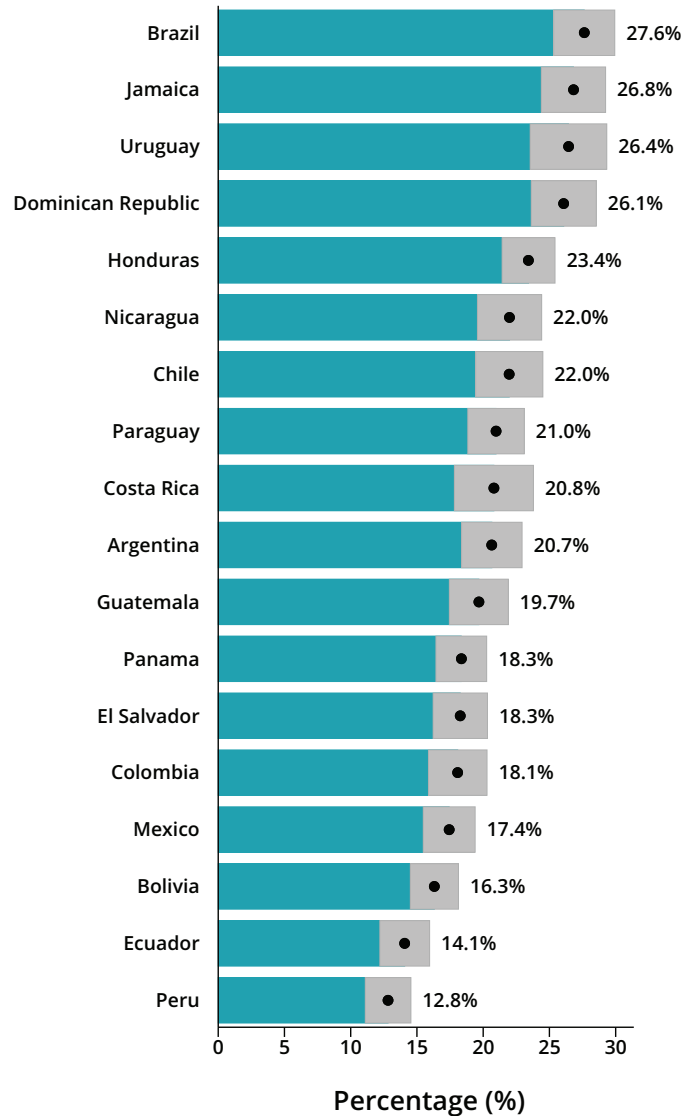
Since 2004, LAPOP's AmericasBarometer has measured the degree to which individuals believe that regime critics should be allowed to run for political office by asking the following question:

D3. Still thinking of those who only say bad things about the (country) form of government, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people being permitted to run for public office?

In the 2018/19 round, this question was asked in 18 LAC countries. Respondents indicated their opinion using a 1-10 scale, where 1 means "strongly disapprove" and 10 means "strongly approve." Here we code responses into a dichotomous variable, which allows us to estimate the percentage of people in the region who approve of regime critics having the right to run for public office. Specifically, responses were recoded into a dichotomous variable indicating approval of regime critics' right to run for office by combining responses "8" through "10" into one category, while placing the other responses ("1" through "7") into a baseline category. The regional average rate of approval of regime critics' right to run for office is 20.6%. This average is lower compared to other measures of political tolerance, including approval of regime critics' right to vote (33.5%) and right to participate in peaceful demonstrations (41.7%).¹

In the 2018/19 round, most countries do not vary substantially in the average rate of approval of regime critics' right to run for office. Brazil has the highest rate of approval (27.6%) and Peru has the lowest (12.8%).

Approval of Regime Critics' Right to Run for Office, 2018/19



95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

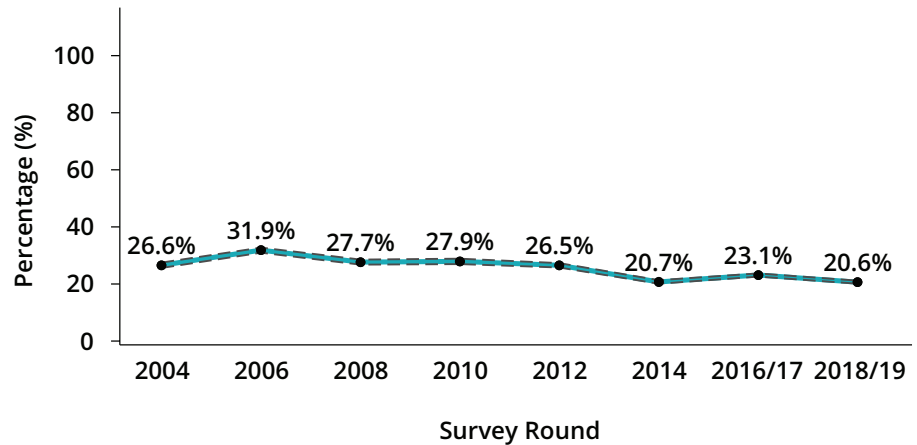
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2018/19; GM1.0

¹ The AmericasBarometer measures approval of regime critics' right to vote using question D1 and approval of regime critics' right to peaceful demonstrations using question D2. In this analysis, those who answer toward the middle of the scale (4-7) are considered ambivalent, and therefore not coded as "approving".

Approval of regime critics' right to run for public office has decreased in recent years

The regional average in approval of regime critics' right to run for public office decreased by 2.5 percentage points from 2016/17, reaching its lowest in 2018/19 (20.6%). This rate peaked in 2006, when 31.9% of people in the average LAC country approved of regime critics' right to run for office.

Approval of Regime Critics' Right to Run for Office in the LAC Region, 2004–2018/19



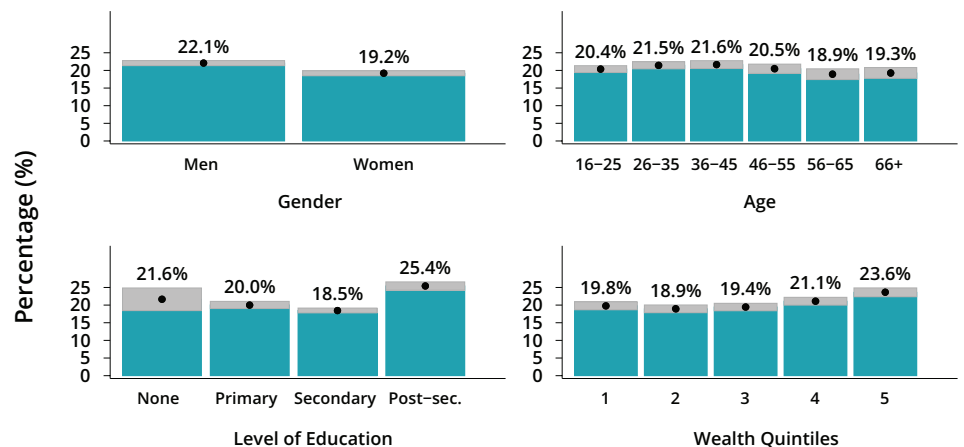
--- 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004–2018/19; GM1.0

Approval of regime critics' right to run for public office is higher among those who are men, young, educated and wealthy

What characteristics of individuals predict the approval of regime critics' right to run for office in the LAC region? Men (22.1%) are slightly more likely to express approval than women (19.2%). There is also a slight difference in age groups, with younger individuals being more tolerant of regime critics' right to run for office than older cohorts. Meanwhile, more educated individuals are much more likely to express approval of regime critics' right to run for office than less educated people. Wealth also plays a role, with the highest rate of approval being expressed among the wealthiest quintile (23.6%).

Approval of Regime Critics' Right to Run for Office in the LAC region, 2018/19



■ 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2018/19; GM1.0



Interested in knowing more about the LAPOP Lab's AmericasBarometer study?
 Consult the data and our reports at
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As a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Transparency Initiative, the LAPOP Lab is committed to routine disclosure of our data collection and reporting processes. More information about the AmericasBarometer sample designs can be found at vanderbilt.edu/lapop/core-surveys.

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