Editorial

In this issue of INFOgob Newsletter, we analyze the electoral behavior of Tacna, based on quantitative data on political organizations’ participation in 2006 regional and municipal electoral processes, which showed some differences from 2002 regional and municipal elections.

The political participation rights enable citizens to collectively form political organizations (parties, movements, electoral alliances, local political organizations with province or district scope); and, through them, they may be candidates for public positions chosen by popular voting or polls to elect their political options. This implies the citizens’ facility to collaborate with others in order to channel the popular will which is fragmented due to political pluralism and society diversity.

Political fragmentation affects electoral offer and demand. In the first case, it increases the number of organizations and candidates participating in the election; in the second, it raises the needs submitted as demand by electorate sectors, as well as vote dispersion. The greater the fragmentation, the larger the number of options competing for power, the greater the effort to coordinate interests to reach consensus, and the harder to obtain a solid support (input legitimacy) in voting.

At 2006 regional and municipal elections, Tacna saw a reduction of electoral offer (the number of local, district and province political organizations and candidates fell). Although Law No. 28094, Law of Political Parties of year 2003 established new formalities to obtain the registration and authorization to participate in elections, electoral results showed a clear preference for movements (with regional scope) that have a more comprehensive perspective than other sub-regional political organizations.

If this trend persists, movements may consolidate as a fitting model to coordinate sub-regional interests (local and provincial), which in turn would discourage the creation of province and district scope political organizations that increase fragmentation. The competition between lower numbers of forces would reduce vote dispersion and the number of excluded votes that have no value for building political representation in such scopes, facilitating their political coordination.

The situation of Tacna, with INFOgob data, invites to study the participation of political organizations in the regional circumscription of each election and, based on the fluctuation of offer and demand recorded in the diverse processes, to reflect if interaction of such organizations may lead to a better selection of preferences and a better political representation at the sub-national scope.
In the district scope, participation levels of political organization in 2006 Regional and Municipal Elections (ERM 2006) were considerably reduced when compared to the number of organizations that participated in the electoral process of 2002. Particularly reduced were the lists submitted by political organizations of province and district scope, as seen below.

As a consequence of this marked decrease, provincial organizations were unsuccessful in each district of the Region, losing the presence attained in 2002 Municipal and Regional Elections (ERM 2002), where they were able to position themselves over district, regional and national scope organizations. In turn, regional movements increase their presence, and compared to the number of organizations that participated in the electoral process of 2002. Particularly reduced were the lists submitted by political organizations of province and district scope, as seen below.

**SAMA: BETWEEN HISTORICAL AND EMERGING LEADERSHIPS**

Sama district in the Tacna province is one of the 3 districts of the Tacna Region where the New Municipal Elections 2009 took place, because over one-third of the members of the district council were revoked in the Popular Consultation for Municipal Authorities Mandate Revocation 2008, including the district’s mayor, Mr. Wilson Bertolotto Ticona.


Below, a chronology of the electoral processes of the Sama district since 1995 is shown. It evidences not only a marked support to Bertolotto, but also the beginning of a dispute between him and Eduardo Fuentes, who has been the only elected mayor different from Bertolotto in the past 14 years, and who has been able to significantly increase the percentage of valid votes obtained in electoral processes where he has participated, posing a risk to the former mayor’s historical leadership.

**CHRONOLOGY > ELECTORAL PROCESS**

1995: Bertolotto is elected mayor, with 57.30% of valid votes.
1998: Bertolotto is re-elected as mayor, with 53.05% of valid votes.
2002: Bertolotto is not re-elected, but as all distrcit council members are revoked, it evidences not only a marked support to Bertolotto in the past 14 years, and who has been the only elected mayor different from Bertolotto, but also the beginning of a dispute between him and Eduardo Fuentes, who has been the only elected mayor different from Bertolotto in the past 14 years, and who has been able to significantly increase the percentage of valid votes obtained in electoral processes where he has participated, posing a risk to the former mayor’s historical leadership.

**EVENTS >**

- Bertolotto is elected mayor with 57.30% of valid votes.
- Bertolotto is re-elected as mayor, with 53.05% of valid votes.
- Bertolotto is NOT re-elected, but as all district council members are revoked, it evidences not only a marked support to Bertolotto in the past 14 years, and who has been the only elected mayor different from Bertolotto, but also the beginning of a dispute between him and Eduardo Fuentes, who has been the only elected mayor different from Bertolotto in the past 14 years, and who has been able to significantly increase the percentage of valid votes obtained in electoral processes where he has participated, posing a risk to the former mayor’s historical leadership.
- Eduardo Fuentes is elected as mayor with 14% of valid votes.
- Bertolotto is revoked, together with two council members of the district council.
- Eduardo Fuentes is elected as mayor for the Partido Aprista Peruano.
- Bertolotto is re-elected as mayor, with 43.03% of valid votes.
- Eduardo Fuentes is elected as mayor, with 57.30% of valid votes.
- Eduardo Fuentes is re-elected as mayor with 58% of valid votes.
- Eduardo Fuentes is elected as mayor for the Partido Aprista Peruano.

**FOR REVOCATION TO BE EFFECTIVE, THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS MUST BE SATISFIED:**

- The list of Municipal Authorities elected for the first or second time must be at least 25%.
- The list of Municipal Authorities not elected in the previous elections must be at least 50%.
- The list of Municipal Authorities elected for less than 50% of the valid votes must be at least 70%.
- The list of Municipal Authorities elected for the first time must be at least 75%.
- The list of Municipal Authorities elected for the second time must be at least 80%.
- The list of Municipal Authorities elected for the third or subsequent times must be at least 90%.

**DATA SOURCES:**

- INFOgob Database
- Peruvian Ministry of Justice
- Peruvian National Statistics Institute
- Peruvian National Registry
The current mayor of the District Municipality of Palca, Aureliano Gutiérrez Ayca, states in his résumé that he used to work as driver there.

In the Sitayara district, only 62 signatures were required to make the 2008-2009 authorities revocation consultation valid.