

The Specialised Prosecutor for the Attention of Electoral Crimes (FEPADE), created at the request of the General Council of the then Federal Electoral Institute (IFE —which was transformed into the National Electoral Institute in 2014—) as the institution responsible for bringing justice in electoral penal matters, began its functions on July 19, 1994.

The principles that guide this organism—autonomous in terms of its performance—, which is subordinate to the Office of the Attorney-General (meaning it is a Federation’s Public Prosecutor), are justice, fairness and equity at electoral processes.

Therefore, the behaviours or actions informed—by any person—to FEPADE that are typified as electoral crimes by the penal laws, are investigated and prosecuted to ensure the certainty of the vote and generate security, legal certainty and social peace and stability throughout the electoral processes of the country.

Unlike the National Electoral Institute (INE) and the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judicial Branch (TEPJF), FEPADE is centralised and only 76 public prosecutors are housed at its headquarters. However, a ministerial deployment is to take place the day of the election for receiving the citizenry’s reports expeditiously.

Before such deployment, FEPADE conducts onsite training activities to officers from all levels of government, political parties, academic institutions, and to any other interested person, on the prevention of electoral crimes, the means to present complaints and the promotion of the culture of legality in electoral matters.

FEPADE facilitates the reception of complaints and providing information through two distinct systems:

- FEPADEtel is a toll free number—01 800 8 FEPADE (337233)—for a call centre available 24/7 throughout the year
- FEPADenet (fepadenet@pgr.gob.mx) and its website www.pgr.gob.mx/fepade

Which are the most common electoral offences?

- Vote buying
- To vote with a card that belongs to someone else
- To pressure the voter at the polling table for the vote to be cast in favour of a political party
- To seize, at any time and without a lawfully justifiable reason, the voting card
- To expel the representatives of the political parties from the polling sites without a justifiable reason
- To alter the results of the election

- To pressure the citizens for them to vote for a candidate or political party
- To allow a citizen to vote with a voting card that is not its own
- To prevent the installation, the opening or the closing of the polling table
- To hamper the development of the election procedures
- To campaign on election day
- To obtain illegal resources for a candidate's campaign
- To force one's subordinates to vote for a candidate or political party
- To condition a social service or programme in return for voting for a candidate or political party
- To use public resources to support a candidate or political party
- To commit, illegally, one's subordinates to provide a service or support to a candidate or political party while on working hours
- To alter or to take part in the alteration of the Federal Electoral Registry, the voters' lists or in the illicit issuing of voting cards

Which are the main criminal laws where the electoral offences are typified?

The constitutional reform on political and electoral matters was published on February 10, 2014 in the Official Journal of the Federation.

1.- Twenty-Fourth Title of the Federal Penal Code

2.- General Law on Electoral Crimes, published on May 23, 2014