

September 2009

Get to know which mayors were re-elected + P3

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District Councils Members: 402

District Mayors: 42 METROPOLITAN

Capital: Lima Population: **7,605,742** Number of districts: 42

Editorial

Centralism is one of the deepest causes of social inequality and oblivion for many citizens in the country interior. The further we are from Lima, the more difficult it is to find basic services, road infrastructure or presence of State institutions.

> This gap undoubtedly affects the quality of our democracy and the credibility of our fragile political system. However, it is even more alarming to see that many of the political phenomena we identify in such remote and extremely poor places with no presence of political parties or the States are also present in many of the 42 districts that make-up Lima's metropolitan area.

> > The minimum value given to women's political participation (in many cases they have the last places in the list), the high political representation turnover (in only 4 years a party can lose more than 50% of their mayors) or the so-called turn-coats (authorities that have been elected for more than once running for different political organizations) are some of the common characteristics in different places and situations

What produces this similarity in spite of the huge differences described?

The weak party system, the absence of internal democracy in political organizations and the lack of voter commitment with their decisions explain these and other questions concerning our democratic system and the country's future.

Certainly, it is well known that whoever wishes to win a national election will need to have great presence and acceptance in Lima, since Peru's capital groups more than one third of voters in the country.

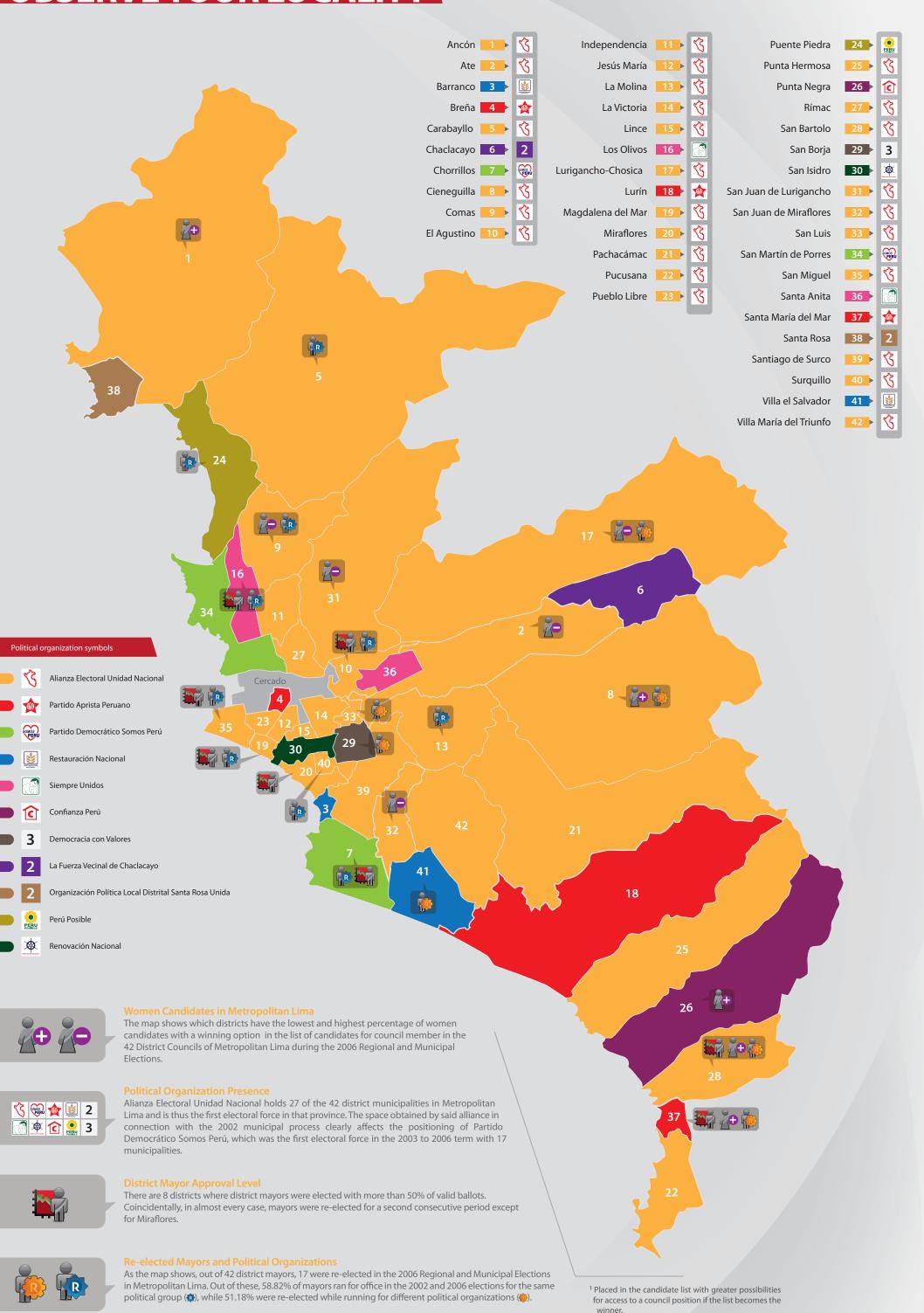
This piece of information about the elections should also be used as a test lab of good political practices which should be sustainable and replicable, prioritizing party strengthening, and democratic processes for candidate election -with gender-equity and vulnerable group protection- as well as ethical principles in public management if candidates reach power.

If almost all the conditions for development under democratic premises already exist in Lima, what are political parties waiting to take-off?



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The successful TV series producer of "Al fondo hay sitio", Efraín Aguilar, has been a councilman in Metropolitan Lima for Alianza Electoral Unidad Nacional since 2002. **Seven years in a row!**

Diálogo Vecinal got 550,401 ballots in the Lima Province Election in 2002. It achieved the third place. However, the same political organization only got 16,178 ballots in the 2006 Regional and Municipal Elections and held in the 11th position. It lost 534,223 votes from one election to the other!



The youngest councilwoman in Metropolitan
Lima is Liz Torres Gutarra, who ran under Alianza
Electoral Unidad Nacional for one of the 11
council positions in the district of Independencia.
She was elected when she was only 18 years old.

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