

# **FEDERAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE**

## **MÉXICO**

### **“The Role of the EMBs Between Elections”**

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**March, 2011**

## **I. General Concepts**

Since 1990, the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) has the responsibility to fulfill the States' function of organizing federal elections in Mexico. It is to say, install polling centers, select and train polling site officers, count and tally the votes of the Presidential elections every six years and of the Representatives every three years.

The Legislative power, national political parties and citizens participate in its integration. E

The IFE is a permanent and independent body in its decisions and performance; it has its own legal personality and assets.

- For a better understanding of what IFE does, it is important to know its composition and faculties. It has jurisdiction throughout the country through its 32 Local Boards (one for each state of the republic), which represent the Institute in each states.
- It has to perform daily functions with a staff of both, the Professional Electoral Service and officers of the administrative branch composed of permanent and temporary staff. Today, throughout the republic, the staffs sums up to 14 846 employees.
- The top management body of the whole Institute is the General Council, which is responsible for monitoring the compliance of its constitutional and legal provisions

## **II. IFE's permanent objectives:**

- Contribute to the development of the democratic life.
- Preserve the strengthening of the political party system.
- Integrate the Federal Voters' Registry
- Ensure that the citizens exercise their political electoral rights and monitor the compliance with their obligations.
- Ensure the regular and peaceful holding of elections for renewing the members of the Legislative and Executive Powers of the Union.
- To ensure the authenticity and effectiveness of the vote.
- Promote the vote and the democratic culture.
- Act as the sole authority for administering the State's time in radio and television for the Institute's objectives and for those of the other electoral authorities; and ensure the political parties' exercise of its rights regarding this.

### **III. IFE's permanent activities:**

- Electoral training and voters' education
- Ministering the prerogatives of the political parties, nearly 300 million dollars a year.
- Control and update the electoral roll and the voters' list, for which IFE has a budget of about 500 millions annually.
- Preparing for Election Day.
- Vote tallying on the terms set forth by law.
- Regulation of the electoral observation and of the surveys or opinion polls for electoral purposes.
- It also has powers on electoral propaganda on radio and television, for all elections in Mexico, both federal and local.

### **IV. IFE's Fundamental Activities Between Elections**

#### **A. Regarding registration**

- IFE is the institution responsible for producing and making available to citizens the voting ID card and to ensure the full exercise of voting by the Mexicans.
- This is the only identity document throughout the country for Mexicans aged 18 or more. Till December 31st, 2010, 79 292 312 Mexicans have this document.
- All the citizens' records compose the electoral roll, which at December 31st, 2010, there were enrolled 81 395 325 citizens.
- Develop permanent registering, updating and purging campaigns of the electoral roll.
- The voting and identity card has a 10 year validity.
- Enroll Mexicans who turn 18 into the electoral roll.
- Eliminate from the electoral roll's database the records of the death and suspended of political rights citizens.
- Eliminate from the electoral roll's database the identified duplicated records.
- Provide the permanent access for citizens to check their registration status and validity of their voting ID card.

- The IFE performs an average of 60 000 procedures a day, through its Offices for Citizen's Service installed throughout the country.
- Promotes and organizes elections for the Mexicans who live abroad, mainly in the U.S., about 10 million. It integrates Voter's List for the Mexican voters living abroad.

### **B.Supports Local EMBs**

The IFE supports local EMBs for the development of their elections -governor, local deputies and mayors- according to the laws and based on the agreements signed, by providing, among others, the following electoral products:

- Statistics of the electoral roll and the voters' list
- Digitized federal mapping (electoral cartography)
- Administration of the State's times in radio and television for the political parties and the EMBs

### **C.Resolution of Preventive Measures and Complaints for Prohibited Propaganda in Radio and Television**

- Resolution of requests for preventive measures, for ordering the suspension of the broadcasting of prohibited propaganda in radio and TV, if being disparaging or slandering, or if being banned governmental propaganda.

### **D.Delivers and Supervises Political Parties Prerogatives**

- Grants political parties prerogatives (public finance).
- Registers political parties their directive bodies, their representatives at the IFE at the federal, state and local levels, their candidates, their merger/alliances/fronts/coalitions and participation agreements.
- Manages the States' time in radio and television, giving to the political parties, the electoral authorities and to the Institute itself, the right to permanently use the media in both, electoral and non-election periods; and ensures the compliance of the transmission in accordance with the regulations.
- This new model of political communication obliges IFE to design a group of ordinances for establishing how the promotional spots, both political parties and electoral authorities, in an electoral period whether federal or local, should be transmitted in the radio stations and TV channels.
- In 2009, IFE ordered the broadcasting of more than 11 million of commercials for political parties advertise, in campaigns and non-campaigns periods.

### **E. Regarding Electoral Organization**

- Evaluates the processes of production, storage, distribution and custody of electoral materials in the federal elections.
- Evaluates the compliance with the criteria of conservation, destruction, shelter or divestiture of the federal elections' electoral documents and materials by the central office and decentralized bodies.
- Conducts the research on the federal electoral process in the field of electoral organization.
- Designs and proposes the models of electoral materials and documents formats for the next federal election, on pursuant to the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures.

### **F. Regarding Electoral Training**

The IFE daily develops electoral training, voters' education and citizen participation programs, and actions to encourage citizens in fulfilling their obligations, by providing guidance on the exercise of their political rights established in the Constitution.

- It promotes institutional campaigns, in the mass and alternative media, to encourage citizens' participation in the elections and in the updating of the electoral roll.
- Offers civic education courses and workshops for children in the schools, and for adult men and women; organizes civic engagement programs such as the child and youth consultation exercises, schools representatives' elections and child and youth parliaments.
- Distributes specialized books and notebooks promoting the democratic culture, and electoral researches and conferences.

### **G.Regarding Institutional Strengthening and IFE's relationship with other Sectors of the Society**

The IFE is responsible for assisting and supporting national political parties and groups, local EMBs, academic institutions, civil society organizations and society in general, in order to contribute on strengthening the trust towards the Institution, through the promotion of electoral political issues.

- Designs and organizes events and academic forums on political and electoral issues.
- Provides technical and academic activities for the training and the formation of political parties, national political groups and other bodies and institutions.

- Designs and develops analysis and specialized diagnostic projects, researches and studies.
- Proposes research topics on political and electoral issues and on institutional development.

## **H.Regarding the International Arena**

Since 1993 and in a consistent manner with the profound changes that have experienced the electoral norms, institutions and procedures, the IFE has developed a systematic outreach of liaison and cooperation activities with a wide range of specialized, or interested in political and electoral issues, organizations and institutions of the international community.

- Contributes to the promotion, projection and accreditation of the Mexican electoral performance among a broad international audience.
- Participate, in an increasingly more active way, in a wide bilateral, regional, continental and international network of cooperation and technical assistance projects.
- Promotes the IFE's image in the international community by continuing outreach liaison and cooperation mechanisms with electoral institutions, agencies and authorities.
- Attends the requests for electoral observations, technical assistance and cooperation that formulate international organizations and other countries' electoral authorities.
- Promotes the participation of IFE's officers in international forums for the dissemination and promotion of the most relevant aspects of the Mexican Electoral Regime, and for learning other countries' electoral practices and procedures.

Our presence in Botswana, in this important international conference, is proof of that.

## **V.Conclusion**

Finally, it is relevant to mention that this is a tight presentation of the IFE's activities during non electoral periods, through some of its various offices, as the Institute also has the Professional Electoral Service, the Administrative, the Legal, the National Coordination of Social Communication, the Strategic Planning, the Information and Communication Services Offices.

It has been a long journey, it is Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute 20 years of experience, in which it has organized the country's elections and developed a myriad of daily activities at the national and international levels during non electoral periods.

Thank you.