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# **ELECTORAL VULNERABILITY INDEX 2025-2026**

*COUNTRY ANALYSIS*

**BRAZIL**

**GENERAL ELECTIONS: OCTOBER 2026**



## **BACKGROUND**

Brazil operates as a federal presidential republic, with power divided among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The president serves as both head of state and government, elected through a two-round system. The bicameral National Congress comprises the Chamber of Deputies and the Federal Senate.

In the 2022 general elections, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva narrowly defeated incumbent Jair Bolsonaro, marking a return to power after previously serving from 2003 to 2010. The elections were competitive but deeply polarized, culminating in riots in Brasília in January 8 2023, where Bolsonaro supporters stormed government buildings. The Superior Electoral Court (TSE) subsequently barred Bolsonaro from holding office until 2030 due to his 2022 comments on the country's electronic voting system, which were deemed an abuse of power.

Freedom House's 2024 report rates Brazil as "Free" with an overall score of 72 out of 100, comprising 30/40 for political rights and 42/60 for civil liberties. International IDEA's Global State of Democracy (GSoD) framework places Brazil in the high range for Representation and Participation, and in the mid-range for Rights and Rule of Law.

## **UPCOMING ELECTIONS**

Brazil is scheduled to hold general elections in October 2026, encompassing presidential, legislative, and state-level contests. President Lula da Silva is expected to seek re-election, while the political landscape remains fragmented, with multiple parties vying for influence.

The electorate has expanded, with a significant number of first-time voters, particularly among the youth demographic. This shift could influence campaign strategies and policy priorities.

Key issues at stake include economic recovery post-COVID-19, environmental policies concerning the Amazon, and the integrity of democratic institutions amid rising political polarization.



## **POTENTIAL DRIVERS OF CONFLICT**

According to the Electoral Vulnerability Index (EVI), these are the factors that contribute most to the increased potential for violence:

- Violence during the last election
- Low score on V-DEM 'Clean Elections' Index
- Total Population Size
- Low Score on V-DEM 'Accountability' Index
- Low Score on V-DEM 'Elections Free and Fair' Index
- Voting irregularities during the last election
- Government Dissemination of false information
- Number of arrests for political content.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **FOR NATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY AND MEDIA:**

- Promote civic education campaigns to inform voters about the electoral process and the importance of democratic participation.
- Encourage responsible journalism that counters misinformation and provides balanced coverage of political developments.

### **FOR NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES):**

- Provide technical assistance and monitoring to support free and fair elections. [V-Dem](#)
- Facilitate dialogues between political factions to reduce polarization and promote peaceful democratic transitions.

### **FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS:**

- Ensure transparency and efficiency in the electoral process to build public trust.
- Implement robust mechanisms to detect and address electoral fraud or irregularities promptly.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- [Freedom House Brazil](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International IDEA Democracy Tracker](#)
- [V-Dem Country Data](#)