

Candidates for mayor of San Salvador and their religious rites during the election day, El Salvador.

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Speaking of the upcoming mayoral election in San Salvador

The Salvadoran democracy is far from underestimating the importance of the parishioners of various faiths, although the state is secular people continue being religious, and believers are a force to be taken into account in the elections. It was assumed that religion in secular states would diminish in importance with the separation of church and state and the extension of freedom of religion, but religion continues to play a major political role. Officials or candidates seek to reflect the religious values of the people, either because they really believe in them or because they generate political returns.

This forces religious demonstrations by politicians, legislators or governors, who attend church or worship, and try to win the sympathy of potential voters. Candidates seeking leave no doubt to the public about their commitment and Christian values and talk about their religious experience of the Christian faith or relationship with God, and saying with care issues such as abortion or homosexuality, since without religion is still a luxury that the politicians cannot be in public, so the policy does not seem to be fought with religion at least in the case of El Salvador.

Candidates for mayor in San Salvador include in your itinerary participation in a religious ceremony on the day of the vote, and this is a quote almost inescapable, for the last three elections ARENA candidate only in 2006 there are no records. Without this exception, all candidates have gone to a religious ceremony on the day of the vote. Will the upcoming vote for these candidates continue to take into

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account the religious? According to the report IUDOP No 126 86.1% of people identify with any religion in El Salvador. Carlos Rivas Zamora, former mayor of San Salvador 2003-2006 a day before the mayoral election in which year he was elected. "I will go to church very early and then go for my vote"

Participation Box religious acts of the candidates for mayor of San Salvador.

| | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 |
|-------|--|--|--|
| ARENA | Mass in San Jose de la Montana 7:00 a.m. | No records | Praying with Catholics and evangelical pastors 7:20 a.m. |
| FMLN | Mass Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima Mass 6:00 a.m. | Metropolitan Cathedral Mass 10:15 a.m. | Metropolitan Cathedral Mass 7:00 a.m. |

Source: based on the Newspapers "El Diario de Hoy" and "La prensa gráfica" publications the day after each election.