



NEWS | BULLETIN

Publication of the 21st Century Political Reflection Circle

— 21ST CENTURY —

San Salvador, El Salvador, Central America. | No. 45, from July 20 to 26, 2026

✉ info@crpsigloxxi.org

🌐 <https://crpsigloxxi.org/bulletins>

THINK • ANALYZE • PROPOSE

SURPRISING AND DIVISIVE CANDIDACY

- ✓ The FMLN will compete in the presidential elections, recognizing that a democratic contest exists.
- ✓ The candidacy of Rafael Aguirre exposes deep divisions in the opposition and a lack of strategy.
- ✓ The people have already decided: no more looting or deception from the usual parties.

➤ PAGES 1-4



Surprising and divisive candidacy

The FMLN will compete in the presidential elections, even though the people reject them for the damage and looting they caused the country.

PAGES 1-3



It doesn't matter what presidential candidate the 'cadaver' parties field

Parties without organic life or legitimacy. Their defeat is written in their cadaverous nature, not in the name they place on the ballot.

PAGES 3-4



Donald Trump and Nayib Bukele have a long-standing friendship

A relationship based on mutual respect, admiration, and shared goals: security, development, sovereignty, and well-being for their peoples.

PAGES 5-6



The TSE validated the constitutional presidential re-election

The resolution guarantees legal certainty and allows the people to freely decide their future at the polls.

PAGES 6-7



2027 Elections: the people's decision will be sovereign

The people have the word to choose the direction of the country with freedom, democracy, and without impositions.

PAGES 7-9

PLUS IN OTHER EDITIONS



Corruption: the brake on development PG. 3



Quality education: the key to the future PG. 5



Economy and freedom: engine of progress PG. 7



Active citizenship: the power of participation PG. 9

“ Politics must be measured, above all, by its capacity to improve people's lives. El Salvador moves forward because to govern is to serve, not to ideologize. ”



Members of the Political Reflection Circle of El Salvador 21st Century

Melida Villetoro • Nelson Flores • Mauricio Rodríguez • Rafael Góchez
René Martínez • Juan Contreras • Aldo Álvarez • Jose Valdéz •
Christian Colón • Oscar Martínez Peñate





NEWSLETTER

21st Century Political Reflection Circle

San Salvador, El Salvador • N°45 • July 20 to July 26, 2026

info@crpsigloxxi.org | <https://crpsigloxxi.org/newsletters>

Analysis, reflection and political debate aimed at strengthening democracy and national development.

Surprising and Divisive Candidacy



The registration of Rafael Aguirre as an aspirant to a public office under the FMLN flag was fairly predictable, due to the fact that for a long time this left-wing political activist has been championing and disguising himself under a union garb, carrying the discourse of criticisms, falsehoods, and complaints characteristic of that lefty party. What is surprising is that he opted for the presidential race and not for a candidacy for deputy, although he would not have won the seat either.

Beyond the candidate's name, the relevant political fact is that the FMLN will compete in the presidential elections. This contradicts those who, from different sectors of the opposition, promote an electoral boycott with the argument—clearly unjustified—that there are no conditions to participate.



If a party like the FMLN, which has been one of the principal critics of the government, presents a presidential candidate, in practice it is recognizing that a contest exists in which it can participate freely and democratically, even when surveys grant it an exiguous and insignificant support.

The candidacy of Aguirre is exactly equal to that of Mauricio Funes; furthermore, it brings to light the profound divisions among political opponents. Some of his own discursive allies have attacked the FMLN and Aguirre for considering that participating in the elections is equivalent to "legitimizing the dictatorship." These reactions reflect the lack of political maturity and, above all, the absence of a coherent strategy in that amorphous bonsai opposition, whose fragmentation responds as much to political differences as to egos, growing personal bickerings, and human misery.

The decision of the FMLN leaves clear that, at least for that mini-party, the political dispute will continue to be waged through electoral participation and not through abstention or a boycott, even though the people reject them at the ballot boxes in each electoral period by not giving them their vote, which is a tangible proof of the repudiation of Salvadoran citizens toward lefties, due to the great damage and looting they caused El Salvador for a decade.

It Makes No Difference Which Presidential Candidate the “Cadaver” Parties Carry

In every mature democracy, electoral competition demands that political actors possess organic life, strategic vision, and a real capacity to govern. But in El Salvador, that premise ceased to exist for traditional parties, today reduced to fossilized structures that retain acronyms, but have lost soul, legitimacy, and connection with the citizenry. For that reason, it makes absolutely no difference which presidential candidate they present: defeat is inscribed in their cadaveric nature, not in the name they place on the ballot.



These parties did not die by accident; they died from historical exhaustion. They died because they confused the State with loot, because they substituted public policy with clientelism, because they abandoned security, destroyed healthcare, precariatized education, and turned infrastructure into ruins. They died because they betrayed the trust of the people. And when a party betrays the people, the people bury it. As simple as that.

The irruption of a leadership that rebuilt the State from its foundations finished sealing their fate. How can a “cadaver” party compete against a country that today lives without fear, that has modern hospitals, dignified schools, functional highways, growing tourism, and economic stability? How can it compete against evidence?

Politics ceased to be a promise and became an experience. And the experience of the population is that the State can function and does function.

For that reason, it makes no difference whom they nominate. It makes no difference whether they try to recycle old faces or manufacture new ones. It makes no difference whether they seek an academic, an entrepreneur, a doctor, an activist, or an improviser. None can reverse the collective memory of a country that lived through decades of abandonment and that now experiences, in its own skin, the benefits of a present State. None can compete against restored security, against rebuilt infrastructure, against dignified healthcare, against modernized education, against a stabilized economy. None can compete against reality.



Donald Trump and Nayib Bukele Have a Long-Standing Friendship



The foreign policy of President Nayib Bukele's government (2019-2024) in relation to Donald Trump's first administration (2017-2021) experienced a 180-degree shift compared to the FMLN government presided over by Sánchez Cerén (2014-2019). This situation occurred because Bukele, from the very first day he attained political power, was coherent with his presidential inauguration speech by immediately issuing public policies and law initiatives against the *maras* or gangs and corruption—that is to say, he declared war on them. Likewise, a practical and discursive similarity exists with Donald Trump in the importance granted to the family, the fight against terrorism, gender ideology, progressivism, the woke movement, and against leftist ideology.

The success of Nayib Bukele's government produced in a short time—two years—El Salvador's exit from the list of the top 10 countries expelling their citizens; this means that emigration toward the US was significantly reduced, which benefits the security of the North American country, since it considers emigration a danger. Trump and Bukele's friendship, besides having reciprocal sympathies for their form of government, similarities in some ideological aspects and in charisma, and besides both coming from wealthy backgrounds and being successful entrepreneurs, has materialized through the US administration's donation toward El Salvador. For



example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Trump made a donation of 600 state-of-the-art portable mechanical ventilators to save the lives of people infected with the virus, with a value of more than \$5.3 million.

El Salvador became one of the first countries in the world to receive this specialized medical equipment; furthermore, the US, *“As a key partner of El Salvador, the United States has donated more than 200,000 food and hygiene kits, bedding, hand sanitizer, and sanitation and protection equipment for people in quarantine and hospitals.”*

Building Another Country, Reinventing It



Without a doubt, professional opponents do not understand, not even with little drawings, the depth of the social transformations that the country is experiencing, whose political and symbolic authorship belongs to Nayib Bukele, the president who brought the country into the 21st century—a young politician who has forced intellectuals to redefine both the concept of charismatic leadership (with the second surname of “mortal” for opponents who have been put into “extinction mode,” real and formal) and that of social utopia by other means.



The phrase “by other means” makes allusion to a trench of struggle that three decades ago was unthinkable and improbable: the citizen electoral rebellion against the traditional political parties that made corruption and impunity the unifying factor of frankly antagonistic ideologies, which continued to be so in the daily nature of people's social relations, although many times that antagonism was not expressed in the “infra-narrative”—that narrative that addresses social reality from below, from the day-to-day of the empty plate of food, from the chronicle of the invisible victims of politics founded on social inequality, crime, and extortion that signed a social war of the poor against the poor.

Without opponents being able to avoid or minimize it, the infra-narrative (the narrative) has been conquered by Nayib Bukele, which invites the social sciences in general to break paradigms and trace alternative lines of analysis to understand and build the new social reality from the everyday (reinventing the country), starting from the irrefutable pragmatic truth that Salvadorans are making their own history, instead of suffering it, from the conditions inherited by the past—the darkest and most bloody past of our country.

Within those lines of analysis, in the field of the new paradigm, is the conquest of the territoriality of public security, insofar as it is what generates a long-reaching governability, and which is executed starting from conceiving the three powers of the State as a harmonious whole that makes qualitative and quantitative leaps. Now then, in this process of reinventing the country—in the chiaroscuro of the transition—monsters (the opponents) have come out wanting to prevent the death of the old society, attacking with everything the society that struggles to be born, making use of the tactics and doctrine of denialism.

However, the winning cards of the country's future history have already been cast, and to that we must add that time is in favor of the people and of the public as something better than the private, these being the columns of another very distinct and better country than the one we inherited.



Unity Sustains the Nation Project



It is essential to have clarity that the figure of the President of the Republic, Nayib Bukele, is who maintains the unity of this new Nation Project, and it is under this premise that the population must understand that, even if there are differences in the perception of the work of some deputies and mayors, in the end it is the entire apparatus of Nuevas Ideas and State institutions that gives governability to the president.

One cannot nor should make a separation between all the sectors that sustain the pillar that is driving the country forward; hence, maintaining unity is fundamental for any ideal of progress in the Nation. Therefore, it is necessary to emphasize to the general population that nothing is more important today than ever than maintaining and increasing the Cyan caucus in the Legislative Assembly.

Well then, having said the above, it is to be assumed that every difference in perception and work must be organized and discussed behind closed doors within Nuevas Ideas, in order to move the necessary pieces that allow a better vision for the general population of the candidates; thus, cleaning up what is always necessary takes place, giving more strength to the project and a better perception to the population.

In such a manner, just as Norberto Bobbio expressed in this regard: "Governability is the capacity of a government to make decisions and put them into practice, avoiding or overcoming the resistance that arises in society." Every adverse circumstance must be considered a starting point for new options and possibilities, and that reinvention is what has allowed this Nation project to be sustained.



However, however it is proceeded, one must not lose sight of the Nation project, and for that, the unity of the party and of the various State institutions must be maintained, and all must work together as a block, showing by example that their vigor in results and the legitimacy of their institutions denote that they do not row in diverse directions, but rather from the same port and toward the same end.

I Am Not a Politician!!!!

The Disguise Smock That Makes the Difference



It is the crutch word that the candidate for the FMLN is using in his speeches, I refer to Rafael Aguirre. It seems to me that on elementary matters he is not being advised; rather, it appears that his speech is oriented toward making people not believe that he is someone with a political past. However, according to Aristotle, we are all political beings, and the thing is that so-called politics is not limited solely to the subject of political parties, but rather it is something we perform every day.

Politics is not limited to the profession of politicians, but rather it is an integral part of an individual's life; every decision we make daily in our personal life is a political action. Consequently, Rafael Aguirre, it turns



out imperious for you and for your “invisible” team to review every single word in your public speeches, because it is denoted that they lack the most elementary concepts.

Aguirre, you stated in an interview that you are not a politician and that you do not have a political past. The question we allow ourselves to ask you publicly is: when did you enroll in the Fmln, knowing that to run for a popular election post one must belong to a political party, at least for the highest magistracy?

The other situation that draws attention is that you say you have no political past, and why was Simetriss always folded to the Fmln? And now you appear as its candidate. It is not the intention to discourage you into resigning as opposition personages do; you continue your utopian aspirations, knowing that this is a democratic country and that there is room for everyone, including for your party stained with blood, terrorism, impunity, and corruption—just answer those questions and I believe we will consider ourselves informed.

For now, the country is centered on the imminent triumph of President Bukele, his deputies, and his mayors.

Political Outsiders

In recent years, due to the great attrition of the political class and a galloping structural deterioration of political parties—which have been incapable of resolving the social problems of the population—a new political class has emerged: “Political Outsiders.” This is a figure that comes from outside the traditional political system with a mindset that is more personal than partisan, bearing the distinct characteristics of the leader who drives the ideas.

These new outsiders present themselves as new options, promote structural changes, and harshly question the usual parties and politicians. Categorical examples of this new politics are President Bukele of El Salvador, President Trump of the United States, and Milei of Argentina. Subsequently, their model of governing—under their own agendas and leaderships—has been taken up by new political leaders like Kast in Chile, and recently Abelardo, President-elect of Colombia; and thus we could cite other examples that are causing disruptive changes in traditional politics.

The phenomenon of outsiders has gained relevance in recent years due to the profound democratic crisis experienced by Latin American nations and many parts of the world. Traditional political systems have weakened, and the emergence of personalist leaders has opened the doors to alternative candidates who present themselves as a break from the traditional system with a new way of doing politics. The emergence of these



figures depends heavily on the distrust that the population has toward dominant traditional parties, legislative failures to solve security and economic development problems, and other variables that promote the emergence of these political actors, whom some societies view as "political redeemers."

Political science has brought the figure of the Outsider to a deeper analysis, noting that several of them do not have political experience and do not count on the backing of traditional parties; they present themselves as external aspirants, and in some cases as "political strangers"—that is to say, in political marketing, they sell themselves as a new product relative to worn-out, defective, and even useless figures and parties.

Outsiders promote a politics of change and in many cases never transited through political spheres, nor have they held office. They promote a discourse of change with renewed and fresh ideas; they promote the person over the party; the communication media and networks give prominence to the image of the leader; and social fed-upness with traditional politics makes the emergence of these outsider politicians possible.



The Hour of Truth: From the Keyboard to the Internal Ballot Boxes



Photo: taken from Romeo Lemus News Channel

With the start of the internal election processes in opposition parties —ARENA, the FMLN, and VAMOS—, the Salvadoran political stage witnesses a moment of absolute definition. For years, a motley fauna of detractors has poured systematic criticism against the administration of President Nayib Bukele. And into this group enter not only the worn-out figures of traditional politics; there also enter civil activists, militant journalists, social media opinion-makers with anonymous accounts, and individuals who resort to vulgar insults against the president and his family. All of them share the same agenda: to belittle the works that are delivered and to judge with malice every announcement or government movement.

Facing this panorama, the question arises in a mandatory and frontal manner: where are all of them now? If they are convinced that the country lives under what they themselves dare to call a "dictatorship," this was the precise moment to step forward. The internal elections of their own parties represent the legal and democratic opportunity to register, compete, propose alternatives, and contest political power directly. This was the hour of truth to demonstrate that their criticisms had a foundation of civic courage and a nation project.



However, reality has laid bare their true nature. Instead of taking on the challenge and running for office, we see them hiding behind screens, sheltered in the anonymity of a mobile phone to continue throwing ridiculous things on the internet. When the time comes to act and stand up for their supposed ideals, they remain with their tails between their legs. They have demonstrated that their only real talent is sterile gossip; for concrete political action, they are always last in line and, in the best of cases, prefer not to even show up.

At the end of the day, the mirror of reality does not lie: the only thing they are is a collection of fakes and charlatans. It turns out to be a major irony that the one whom they contemptuously attempted to qualify as "the high school graduate" (*el bachiller*) has defeated them all down the line, demonstrating a brilliant, intelligent, and executive strategic capacity a thousand times superior to that of their entire block combined.

It is about time they put away their phones, disconnect from the networks, and stop talking. Their incapacity has been exposed in an irreversible manner; they have proven to be useless actors who no longer serve even as an obstacle to the national direction. Fortunately for the Salvadoran people, the maturity of the citizenry has advanced to such a point that, heading into the upcoming elections, what these characters do or fail to do lacks relevance entirely for the continuous development of our country.

Members of the Political Reflection Circle of El Salvador 21st Century

Juan Contreras • Oscar Martínez Peñate • Nelson Flores • Mélida Villatoro • Aldo Álvarez • René Martínez •
Mauricio Rodríguez • Rafael Góchez • Jose Valdéz • Christian Colón

