Protests Likely in Mexico this Weekend Following AMLO's Overhaul of Election Watchdog
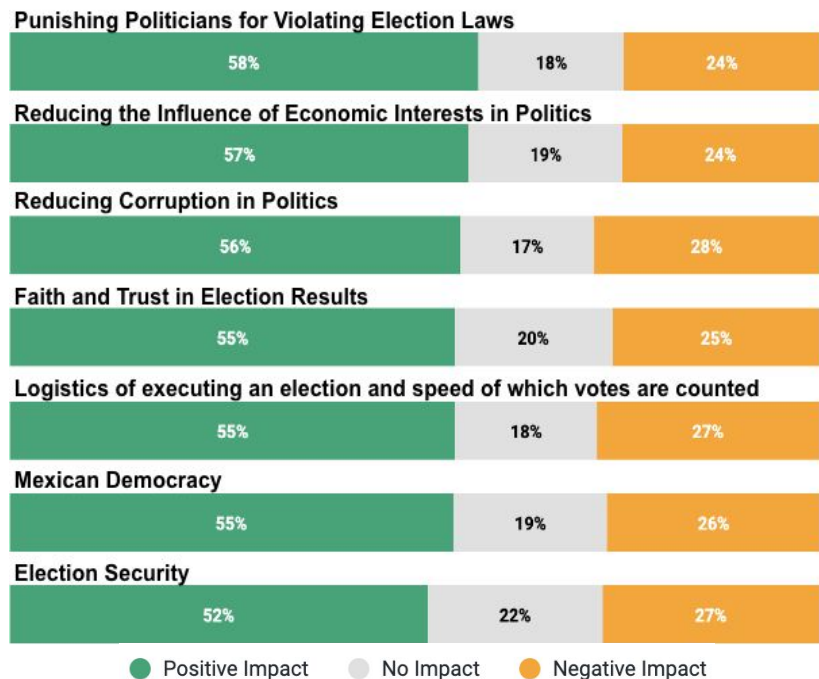
Tracking Global Events | 24 February 2023

On Wednesday, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) and his congressional allies passed sweeping reforms against Mexico's National Electoral Institute (INE), drastically slashing their budget and autonomy. Critics say the move will undermine the country's electoral institutions and allow AMLO to consolidate power. The United States has remained silent, careful not to criticize the latest move of the popular, left-wing populist president who has been far more critical towards the US than previous Mexican leaders. **To measure Mexican sentiment on AMLO's overhaul of the electoral agency, Premise fielded a rapid response survey.**
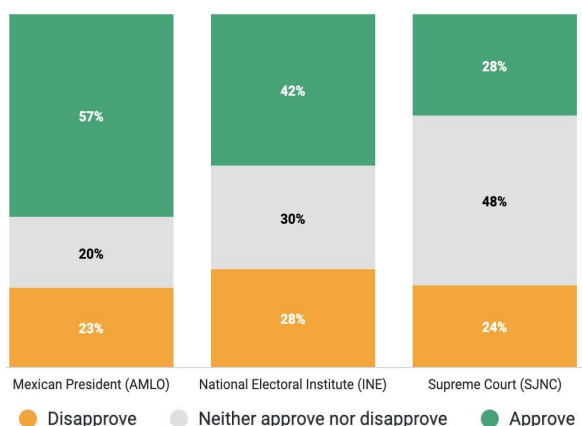
Insights

- **AMLO's popularity in Mexico is strong** with 57% of respondents approving of his presidency, and only 27% disapproving of it. Further, **48% of Mexicans believe that under AMLO's presidency democracy has gotten stronger,** with 29% believing it remained the same and 23% believing it has weakened.

- **Nearly half of respondents explicitly support AMLO's overhaul of the Mexican electoral agency.** 47% agreed with his overhaul, 28% had no opinion, and **only 25% disapproved of it.** But many believe the move will be challenged in front of **the Supreme court, which is relatively unpopular.** If this happens, 40% of respondents believe the Supreme Court will side with AMLO, and **30% believe the court will strike down the overhaul.**

- Opposition leaders have called for protests against the reforms on Sunday, but awareness of these protests is mixed, with 55% of those surveyed being aware of them. **Of those 55%, nearly two-thirds (63%) know someone who will be attending. Half of respondents believe that the protests will be violent.**

What impact, if any, will the overhauling and budget cut to the Mexican electoral agency have on…

Punishing Politicians for Violating Election Laws: 58% Positive / 18% No Impact / 24% Negative
Reducing the Influence of Economic Interests in Politics: 57% / 19% / 24%
Reducing Corruption in Politics: 56% / 17% / 28%
Faith and Trust in Election Results: 55% / 20% / 25%
Logistics of executing an election and speed of which votes are counted: 55% / 18% / 27%
Mexican Democracy: 55% / 19% / 26%
Election Security: 52% / 22% / 27%

● Positive Impact   ● No Impact   ● Negative Impact

Favorability of Mexican Entity

Mexican President (AMLO): Approve 57% / Neither 20% / Disapprove 23%
National Electoral Institute (INE): Approve 42% / Neither 30% / Disapprove 28%
Supreme Court (SJNC): Approve 28% / Neither 48% / Disapprove 24%

● Disapprove   ● Neither approve nor disapprove   ● Approve

Methodology

Premise launched this rapid response survey between february 23rd and 24th utilizing convenience sampling, a type of nonprobability sampling that is hyper efficient in dynamic events, involving the sample being drawn from the population that is ready to assist. **Premise received 1400 responses from across 30 states in Mexico in under 24 hours**.

Premise in Action

Premise offers a unique ability to quickly source information from real people on the ground in hard-to-reach places, enabling our customers to monitor a situation over time and employ a data-driven approach to timely decision-making. To learn more about Premise, watch our tech demo or get in touch with us.