

Dear Colleague:

It is our pleasure to invite you to a discussion entitled:

Mexico's Recent Electoral Reform: A Change for the Better?

Sergio Sarmiento

Columnist, Reforma Newspaper

Jeffrey Weldon

Professor, ITAM

Raúl Ávila

Professor, UNAM

Friday, February 15, 9:00-11:00 am

B1 Conference Room

Center for Strategic and International Studies

1800 K St. N.W., Washington, D.C.

In the wake of the disputed 2006 presidential election, the Mexican Congress passed a fiercely debated electoral reform bill in September 2007. The bill amended the Mexican Constitution and modified the federal electoral code (COFIPE)—through which all federal elections in Mexico are regulated. Some areas which were reformed pertained to political campaigns and primaries, the organization and role of political parties, public campaign finance, the role of the media, as well as punitive measures. Supporters of the bill argued that the electoral reform strengthens Mexican electoral democracy, particularly from the standpoint of limiting the influence of money and interests groups in Mexican elections. Critics of the bill argued that it limits civil liberties and political rights of Mexican citizens, and strengthens the control of the major political parties. The bill, which went into effect on January 14, 2008, will regulate the 2009 mid-term and 2012 presidential elections.

Please RSVP by noon on Thursday, February 14 to Valeria Di Fiori, Program Coordinator for the Americas Program, by email to vdifiori@csis.org. We look forward to seeing you on February 15.

Regards,



Peter DeShazo
Director
CSIS Americas Program



Armand B. Peschard-Sverdrup
Senior Associate
CSIS Americas Program