

## Framing Insight, Analysis, and Acumen

Autumn is typically election season in many parts of the world. It's a tradition that began in Europe and the U.S. back when most people still lived on farms and could not excuse themselves for civic business until after the harvest was in. As democracy has spread, many newly emergent states have chosen to retain the patterns of the European states that previously governed them. That's why this month's election calendar is heavy on North American and European elections. Having finished the Republican Party nomination process at the end of August, the Democratic Party takes its turn in Charlotte, North Carolina, re-nominating President Obama for a run at a second term. Like its Republican counterpart, this convention will be more like an old-fashioned Southern church revival meeting than a political convention – a drama not meant to convert non-believers, but to rouse the faithful to a renewed level of energy.

### SEPTEMBER ELECTION CALENDAR

DATE	COUNTRY	ELECTION
(To be announced)	Angola	President (by the Parliament) <b>What It Means:</b> Current President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who has been in power since 1979, is expected to win again, despite growing levels of opposition.
(To be announced)	Albania	NDS Party: Internal leadership election <b>What It Means:</b> In June, Albania had a series of inconclusive votes that finally resulted in a President being elected after four ballots. This election is to strengthen the center-right NDS, which did poorly in the Presidential balloting.
(To be announced)	Jordan	Municipal elections
1	Guam (USA)	US Congressional and Senate primary elections
3-6 Sep	USA	Democratic Party: Internal Presidential nomination
6 Sep	Massachusetts (USA)	US Congressional and Senate primary elections
8 Sep	New South Wales (Australia)	Local government elections

DATE	COUNTRY	ELECTION
8 (likely)	US Virgin Islands (USA)	US Congressional and Senate primary elections
9	Hong Kong (China)	Legislative elections <b>What It Means:</b> Half of the Legislative Council (30 members) are elected by direct election every four years. This is the only time that ordinary citizens get to express their approval or disapproval with the way they are being governed. The remaining 30 seats are held by members of various business and professional communities, who each elect their own representatives. Hong Kong wants to move to an entirely direct election system, but this is unlikely to happen before 2017.
11	Rhode Island (USA)	US Congressional and Senate primary elections
11 (likely)	Delaware (USA)	US Congressional, Senate and Gubernatorial primary elections
11 (likely)	New Hampshire (USA)	US Congressional and Senate primary elections
12	Netherlands	Parliament <b>What It Means:</b> The present Dutch government fell in late April, when a parliamentary voting bloc refused to endorse austerity measures. The Dutch parliament is highly fragmented with no party having more than 20% of the 150 seats, so forming stable coalitions has become extremely difficult.
18	Arkansas (USA)	School elections 1st round
18	Georgia (USA)	Special election 1st round
18	Oregon (USA)	Local elections
23	Belarus	Parliament <b>What It Means:</b> This will be an almost meaningless election, since the liberal opposition parties have announced that they will boycott the election. Belarus has drifted further and further back toward its old Communist past, and now that it has realigned itself with Putin's Russia, it sees no point in offering liberalizing concessions towards the West.

DATE	COUNTRY	ELECTION
23	Switzerland	Referendum <b>What It Means:</b> Like many U.S. states, Swiss citizens can put laws up for passage by popular vote when the legislature is deadlocked. Up for passage: a total ban on smoking in public places, a possible tax exemption for seniors who want to continue living in their homes, and money for music education in schools.
23	Schaffhausen (Switzerland)	Cantonal council elections
24	New Jersey (USA)	School Board elections
27 (Postponed Indefinitely)	Kurdistan (Iraq)	Regional elections