

Brazilian Referendum on Firearms Ban Is Mandatory

Contributed by Michelle Canes
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Brazil's Minister Carlos Madeira, acting president of the Federal Elections Court (TS), confirmed October 23 as the date for the national referendum on banning firearms sales.

The referendum will follow some of the norms of regular elections, such as the secret ballot and mandatory voting for citizens 18 years old or more. Individuals between the ages of 16 and 18 are free to participate or not.

According to the Minister, it will be up to the TSE to monitor the campaign materials used by both sides, pro and con. The campaigns should begin to explain the voting process next week.

The Minister affirmed that the Electoral Court system is ready for the voting, despite the delay by the National Congress in approving the holding of the referendum.

The screen for the electronic ballot boxes has already been prepared. Voters will indicate "yes" or "no" in response to the question: "Should the sale of firearms and ammunition be prohibited in Brazil?"

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