

## Brazilians Back to the Ballot Box

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In Brazil, 27,320,458 registered voters in 44 municipalities will return to the ballot boxes on October 31 to choose the mayors of their cities.

São Paulo is the state with the largest number of municipalities and voters in the second round: 11,653,436 voters in 12 cities.

Rio de Janeiro is in second place, with 1,943,960 voters in five municipalities.

Then you have Paraná, with 1,929,800 voters in four cities, and Minas Gerais, with 1,293,019 voters, also in four cities.

The criterion for a municipality to hold a second round, if none of the candidates gets an absolute majority in the first round, is to have more than 200 thousand registered voters.

Of the 44 cities in which the mayoralty race is still to be decided, 15 are state capitals.

The Brazilian Election Commission (Tribunal Superior Eleitoral) (TSE), in a preliminary estimate, says that this year's municipal elections will cost US\$ 209.5 million (595 million reais).

For the sake of comparison, the 2000 municipal elections cost US\$ 172.6 million (490.3 million reais).

Thus, each vote will cost the country an average US\$ 2.38 (6.77 reais).

In some states, it is much more expensive than in other states. In remote areas, such as the state of Roraima, in the extreme North region, a vote will cost US\$ 12.20 (34.76 reais).

In the populous, urban and industrialized state of São Paulo (Southeast region), a vote will cost US\$ 1.32 (3.76 reais).

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