

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador Mexican Presidential Candidate

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is Mexico's Presidential candidate representing a diverse coalition of political parties. The second democratically elected Mayor of Mexico City, he has been internationally recognized as one of the best mayors in the world.



Lopez Obrador, an impeccably honest and frugal leader, transformed the social, political and economic landscape of Mexico City. A proven and effective administrator of the largest metropolis in the world, he launched cost-cutting measures, improved security and stabilized the city's debt. His experience in dealing with the complex issues of Mexico City makes him an ideal candidate to lead Mexico with a platform based on the principles of protecting values, enhancing social responsibility, promoting economic growth, strengthening Mexico's institutions and increasing the country's global competitiveness.

Lopez Obrador was born on November 13, 1953, in the southern Mexican State of Tabasco, an oil rich location with abundant natural resources. He was raised in a middle class family. A former altar boy, he grew up inspired by the Lone Ranger and his hard-working parents. An avid baseball fan, he usually played the center field position and once considered becoming a professional player. Even recently as Mayor, he tried to convince the Expos baseball team to leave Montreal for Mexico City.

A prolific book writer, Lopez Obrador received a Bachelors degree in political science from the National University of Mexico (UNAM). At 24, he became personally involved with the challenges that Mexico was facing while leading several state agencies, including indigenous affairs, equal protection and social development. During his tenure, he developed programs for the self-sustainability of communities and encouraged entrepreneurship via micro-credits for families and small businesses.

After recognizing that the official PRI party was unable to promote a true democracy in Mexico, Lopez Obrador became an opposition leader at the age of 34, and launched a twelve-year crusade against the powerful 71-year old PRI government. Inspired by Mexico's independence hero Jose Maria Morelos and the great reform President Benito Juárez, in 2000, Lopez Obrador launched his bid to become Mayor of Mexico City, and won the election by less than half a point.

As Mayor, Lopez Obrador launched employment incentive programs, promoted public access laws and engaged in policies of fiscal austerity. He created social programs for the disadvantaged, children and the elderly, who had been neglected under previous governments. He professionalized the police department and brought former New York City Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani to help him reduce crime in the capital. Lopez Obrador successfully improved Mexico City's

transportation infrastructure and significantly reduced traffic problems. As Mayor, he also promoted public-private partnerships to revitalize parts of the City. He partnered with Carlos Slim Helu, one of the richest men in Latin America, to transform the City's center, reducing red tape, bureaucracy and inefficiencies.

After 23 years of marriage, in 2003, Lopez Obrador was widowed by Rocio Beltran Medina, a former teacher and lifelong partner. He is raising their three sons, Jose Ramon, Andres Manuel and Gonzalo Alfonso and occasionally they practice baseball together. Lopez Obrador now plays first base.

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