

ANALYSIS ON CONSTITUTIONAL PLEBISCITE AND ITS EFFECTS

Results: key facts¹

The constitutional plebiscite held yesterday was marked by a broad and incontestable triumph of the constitutional approval and commission options. **Approve obtained a support of 78.27%** (5,885,384 votes), compared to the **rejection that only obtained 21.73%** (1,633,868 votes). **The constitutional convention option, meanwhile, achieved support of 78.99%** (5,645,612 votes), while the mixed convention option achieved 21.01% (1,501,569 votes).

Despite the health restrictions inherent to the pandemic, the plebiscite had a high participation, which reached 50.8% of the total 18+ population (7.5 million out of a total of 14.8 million people). This is the highest since the 2013 presidential election and more than 4 points higher than 2013 presidential election.

In general terms, in Chile's 16 regions the approval won by a wide margin, very similar to the general vote. There were five regions in which the approval exceeded 80% of the vote: Antofagasta and Atacama -regions in which the large copper mining centers are located and characterized by high per capita income- in which the approval obtained a support of 84.23% and 86.28% respectively. Along with them, the regions of Coquimbo (84.58%) and O'Higgins (81.48) also generated high support.

Meanwhile, the region in which the approval had its narrowest victory was La Araucanía, in which it had by 66.84%, against 33.16% of the rejection option.

In terms of municipalities, in only 5 the rejection won. In three of them, the more traditional right has always dominated in all elections: Vitacura (66.97% for rejection), Las Condes (55.75% for rejection) and Lo Barnechea (61.63% for rejection). The other two communes are located at the extremes of the country: Antartica (67.74% for rejection) and Colchane (74.06% for rejection).

The effects of the plebiscite

The high support for the winning options and their consistency at the national level can be interpreted as a transversal option for change in Chilean society. Considering the percentage of support, transversality is verified in terms of ages, geographic areas and socioeconomic segments.

Along these lines, it is interesting that the option for constitutional change not only has to do with the text and its provisions on rights and state formation, but also with a desire for renewal. The broad support for the fully elected constitutional convention option can be understood as a punishment for traditional political forces, based on mistrust towards them.

The large vote also has an important effect on the discussion of whether Chilean society is polarized and divided. Although the polls have been showing significant differences in perception for several

¹ The analysis contained in this report was prepared by Strategika based in public information from governmental sources and media.

months on key issues, the vote shows that there is an agreement that relevant modifications should be made to the political and economic order.

Although as the days go by, the reasons of the voters will become clearer, according to CADEM, a study company that conducted a [post-plebiscite survey](#), the most powerful reasons of those who voted for approval were to guarantee social rights (49%), to end with the constitution of Pinochet (36%) and To improve wages and living conditions (23%). Among those who voted for rejection, the main motivations were: A new constitution is not necessary, but rather to reform the current one (75%), because the plebiscite was imposed through violence (52%) and because the current constitution has ensured the success of Chile for 30 years (32%).

Next steps

After the plebiscite is held, the process of preparation and approval of the new text is opened. The milestones and dates that come are as follows:

November 27th	Maximum period for the election qualifying court to communicate the final result of the plebiscite
5 days after	President calls for election of members of the constitutional assembly
February 10th to April 8th 2021	60-day election campaign
April 11th 2021	Election of members of the constitutional assembly
Mid May 2021	First session of the assembly. President and Vice President are elected. Standards, regulation quorum and technical secretariat are defined
Mid-February 2022	After 9 months the proposed constitution must be delivered
First half 2022	Plebiscite of exit in which the new constitution will be approved or rejected. Mandatory vote

Political reactions

The reactions were led by President Sebastián Piñera, who highlighted not only the result, but the fact that it was a peaceful and democratic demonstration. And although he did not expressly say what his option was, he stated that the 1980 constitution “divided us. This new constitution must be a cloak of unity, respected and legitimized by all”.

The political parties that were for the approval highlighted the fact of citizen participation and that the role of the people was key, instead of the one of political forces.

- **Heraldo Muñoz, president of the PPD:** “The triumph is not of those who are here, it is of the mobilized people, who have constituted with pain and anger a triumph full of hope. That is what the public has said. ”

- **Fuad Chahin, president of the Christian Democracy -party that was independent for the approval without participating in commandos-**: “today is a day that fills us with emotion. Exactly 1 year ago we had the largest march in our country, where citizens gave us a powerful signal. Today, a year later, the people again give us not only a message, but a mandate”.
- **Alvaro Elizalde, president of the Socialist Party (Progressive Convergence: PS, PPD and Radical Party)**: “We celebrate this historic triumph with great humility, because it has been the people of Chile who have allowed us to start a new cycle. Unity of approval is imperative. We celebrate this historic triumph, but from tomorrow we must work for the unity of all progressives so that the changes that Chileans demand become reality. ”
- **Daniel Jadue, leader of the Communist Party**: “Today we have the basis to build a much broader unity. There cannot be unity when some want our votes, but they do not want us as partners”.
- **Beatriz Sánchez, leader of the Frente Amplio**: “This is a sign of responsibility for all organizations, for us and we who make political organizations, to walk in a path of majorities, that can respond to this resounding that was lived today in the streets with this plebiscite ”.

Chile-Vamos parties, although they faced this process divided (with part of their militants and leaders supporting the approval), stated that the defeat was harder than expected and that they will now concentrate on defending their plans in the constitutional convention.

- **Jacqueline van Rysselberghe, president of the UDI**: "if we -because we were the only ones who supported the rejection- represent 20% of Chile, the truth is that I think it is a good representation."
- **National Renovation had different reactions because the party supported both options**: senator Manuel José Ossandón was very satisfied after the clear triumph achieved by the approval, while Diego Schalper, from the command of the Rejection, pointed out that the result "leaves us a tremendous lesson, which is that when the center-right is divided, in the end we all lose."
- **Evopoli (official statement)**: values citizen participation and is willing to continue contributing to the constitutional debate, reiterating the call for peace and to condemn violence.

Reactions coming from main entrepreneurial and labor unions.

Different unions reacted by highlighting the triumph of the approval and the need for consensus among the parties involved in the constitutional convention.

- **Juan Sutil, president of the Confederation of Production and Commerce (CPC)**
 - "It must be a Constitution that allows balance to continue the country's development path. We must be realistic at this time; we must think that the contents are not going to radically change people's lives. People's lives are changed through a better State, a society committed to development, committed to work, committed to challenges".
 - Regarding the results of the plebiscite, for Sutil it is a citizen vote, rather than a political one, because the political forces are not reflected within this vote.

- **Bernardo Larraín, president of Sofofa:**
 - "Entrepreneurs must deepen our business evolution; be active participants in the debate on public policies that promote a people-centered economic reactivation; and to be protagonists in the debate on the constitutional contents that will lay the foundations of the country project for the next 30 years. "
 - The constitution must "ensure a wide space for a diverse private initiative, both business and civil society", which combines the role of the State to ensure "a threshold of dignity for the access and quality of public goods such as health, pensions and education. "with" principles of plurality and freedom of choice".

- **José Manuel Melero, president of the National Chamber of Commerce (CNC):**
 - "With yesterday's exemplary civic day, we hope that the constituent discussion will be carried out with a constructive spirit on the part of all political and social actors, that is, with generosity and a desire for open dialogue and the search for agreements".

- **Diego Hernández, president of the Sonami, National Mining Society:**
 - From the point of view of mining, it was considered vitally important to maintain the state pillar made up of Codelco; that of private companies in large-scale mining and the pillar of national private investors in small and medium-sized mining.

- **Antonio Errázuriz, president of the Chilean Chamber of Construction (CChC):**
 - "First, to banish violence bearing in mind that the plebiscite agreement also compromised the reestablishment of peace and public order, which should prevail throughout the constituent process" and, second, "to overcome one of the greatest economic crises of our history, re-boosting productive activity and job creation, and solving important social demands that cannot wait for the constituent debate to end to have an answer. "
 - "Today, more than ever, the Constitution needs to safeguard the freedom to undertake, since private activity is the engine of economic and social progress in countries."

- **Ricardo Ariztía, president of the National Society of Agriculture (SNA):**
 - "Both options were legitimate and, at the same time, this is just beginning, it will be a long process, in which we must all continue to be committed, inform ourselves and participate in all the stages that are coming so that, in a couple of years, we will see changes".

- **José Manuel Mena, president of Banks Association**
 - Regarding changes, Mena pointed out that "in terms of economic public order, and based on the best international examples and in our history, the new Constitution must protect the free initiative to undertake, the recognition of individuality as it dignifies personal effort to achieve greater well-being, the right to property, the autonomy of the Central Bank, the provision of quality public goods, respect for the international agreements signed and a fiscal rule that allows us strength for economic growth in the medium term".

- **Bárbara Figueroa, president of the Unitary Central of Workers (CUT):**
 - "In this process we will be able to discuss real rights in the world of work, both individual and collective," while ruling out a negative impact on growth because of the discussion that begins now. "The IMF itself has raised that this constituent process is an opportunity for the country. We do not share the judgments that the economy or the possibility of growth will be put at risk. "

- **José Perez Debelli, president of National Association of State Employees**
 - "Workers should not lower their arms and take over the spaces for participation for a new Constitution for Chile."
 - "This is the country project that these people are demanding, which urgently requires a stronger, social and democratic State; that it also integrates the territory, that the voice of the workers and also of the Chilean State officials be heard".