

FREE ELECTIONS

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REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA
CENTRAL AMERICA



CSE
Consejo Supremo Electoral
Fortaleciendo la Democracia

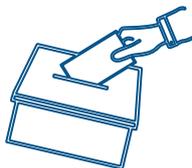


LAW 1070, REFORM ACT AND ADDITION TO LAW 331, ELECTORAL LAW

On the last May 4, the National day of dignity, the Parliament of the Republic of Nicaragua approved the Project Reform and Additions to the Electoral Law, which previously went through a consultation process by members of the corresponding legislative power, and representatives of 19 political parties with legal personality, existing in the country.

OBJECTIVE OF THE ELECTORAL REFORM

The spirit of the Electoral Reform is the democratic continuity of the process of updating, modernizing and strengthening the Nicaraguan Electoral System, adapting the Electoral Law to the latest constitutional reforms of the country (2014), to the new information and communication technologies, as well as strengthening the Democratic System of Nicaragua, legal security in electoral matters, transparency, equity and equality of political participation.





RELEVANT ASPECTS

LAW 1070, REFORM ACT AND ADDITION TO LAW 331, ELECTORAL REFORM LAW

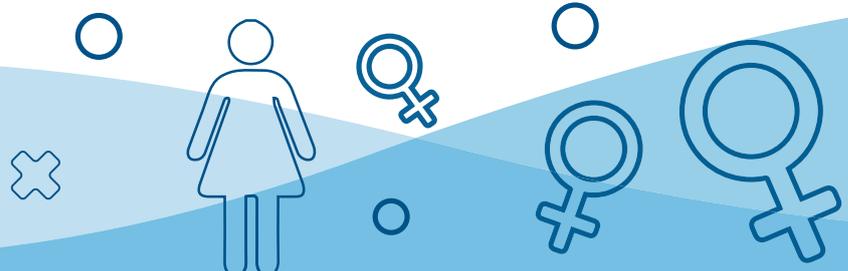
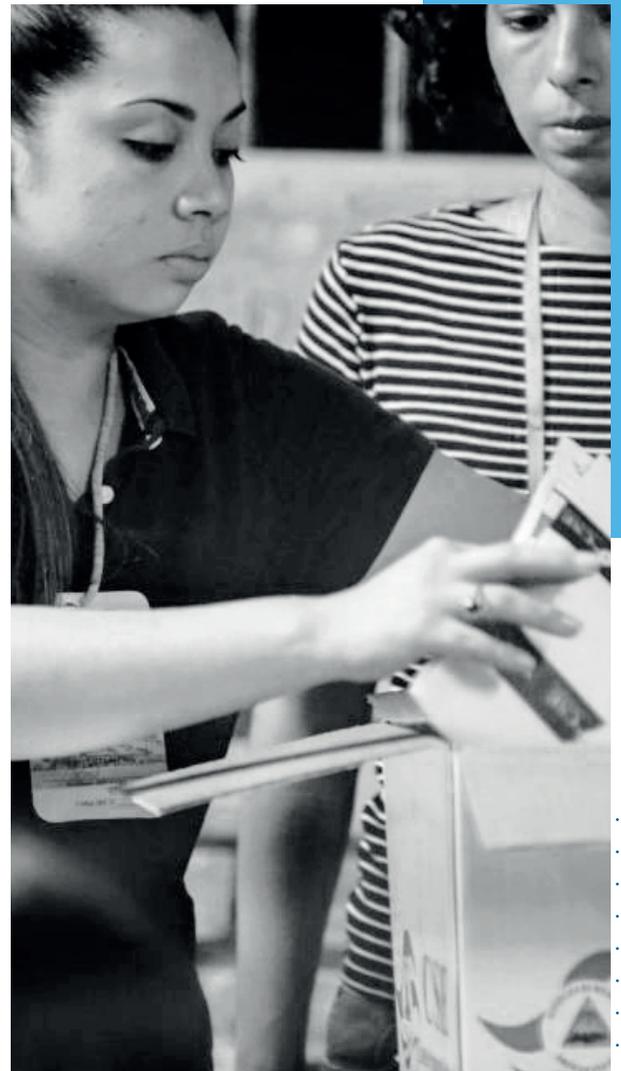
1. Coherence and Constitutional Harmony
2. Agile and concentrated Electoral Justice
3. Political Transfuguismo
4. Political participation in equity, equality and proportionality for women
5. Use of new information and communication technologies in the electoral process
6. Relevant Electoral Cartography
7. Strengthening the Civil Registration of People
8. Strengthening the political rights of political parties and alliances
9. Respect for the rights of sovereignty, self-determination and independence





GENDER EQUITY

The Electoral Law with the recently approved reforms represents a significant advance to the participation of Nicaraguan women, by establishing the obligatory nature of binomials in the candidacies for popularly elected positions, as well as mechanisms to guarantee that among the elected, equity and gender alternation between men and women, are preserved. This Law obliges the CSE to guarantee; equity and alternation, and mandates the political parties to ensure the participation of 50% of women and 50% of men in all their management bodies.





POLITICAL PARTIES LEGALLY CONSTITUTED IN NICARAGUA

In the Republic of Nicaragua there are a total of 19 political parties between national and regional.

NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES

-  Constitutionalist Liberal Party (PLC)
-  Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN)
-  Independent Liberal Party (PLI)
-  Citizens for Freedom (CxL)
-  Nicaraguan Resistance Party (PRN)
-  Conservative Party (PC)
-  Christian Unity Party (PUC)
-  Alternative for Change (AC)
-  Alliance for the Republic (APRE)
-  Nicaraguan Christian Way (CCN)
-  Nicaraguan Liberal Alliance Party (ALN)
-  Nationalist Liberal Party (PLN)
-  Christian Restoration Party (PRD)





REGIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES



Coastal Unity Movement Party (PAMUC)



Yapti Tasba Masraka Nanih Aslatakanka (YATAMA)



MYATAMARAN



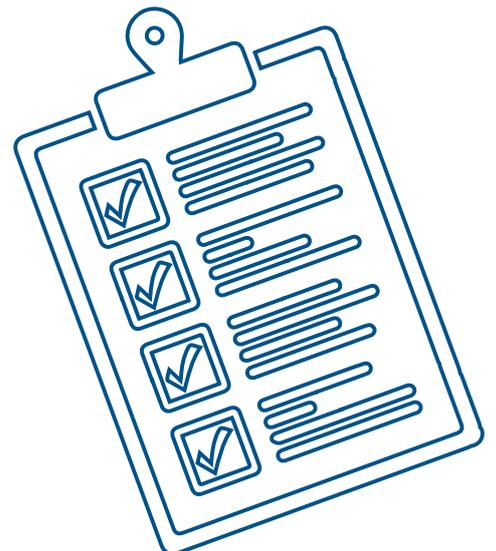
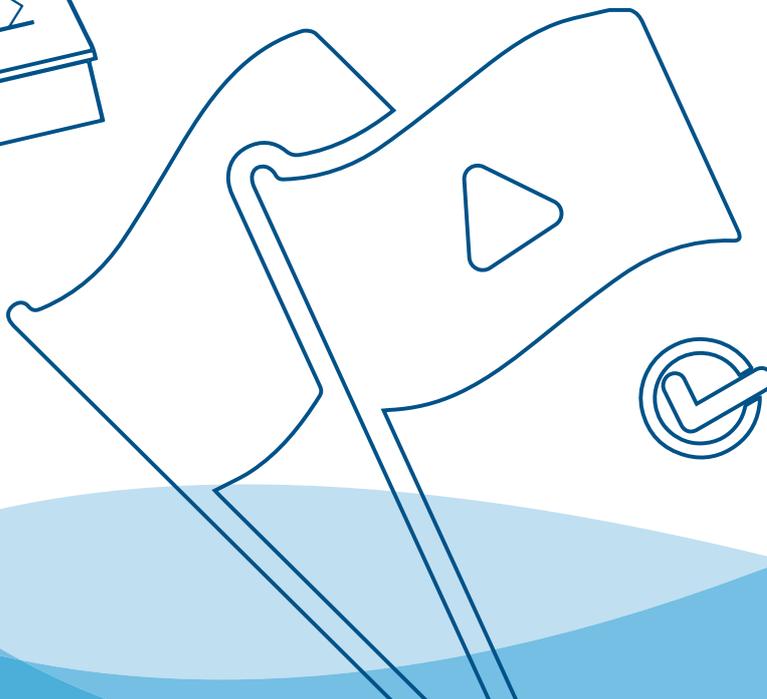
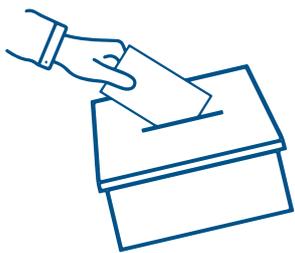
Multiethnic Indigenous Party (PIM)



Liberal Autonomous Party (PAL)



Moskitia Pawanka





ELECTORAL CALENDAR

2021

Elaboration, consultation, approval and publication

In coherence with the provisions of the articles 4 and 10 subsection (5) of Law number 1070 "Law of Reform and Addition to Law 331, Electoral Law", the Electoral Power of the Republic of Nicaragua must prepare a draft Electoral Calendar, send it for consultation to the legally constituted Political Parties in the country, approve it, publish it and send it to the proper legal representatives of each Political Party.

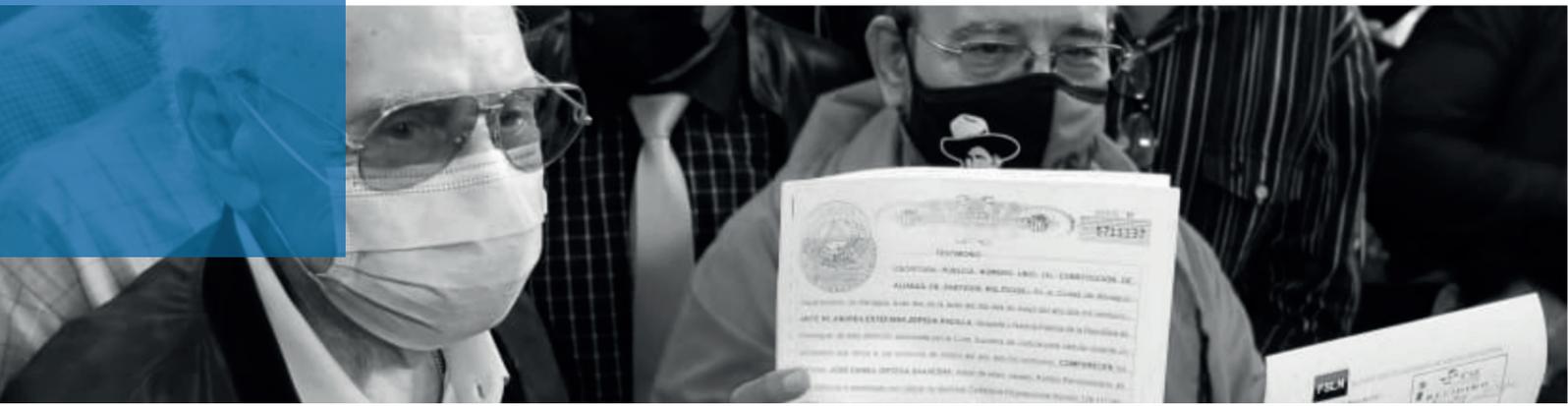
All the previous processes were developed in a timely manner, ensuring in such a way, the publication of the Electoral Calendar, in the Official Gazette, on May 11, 2021, this allows us to take the next step to the conformation of the Departmental and Regional electoral councils, at least 5 months before the day of the election.

Link: <https://www.lagaceta.gob.ni/2021/05/085/>





KEY DATES OF THE ELECTORAL CALENDAR



12th OF MAY:
Registration application
for the constitution of
political party alliances.



24th -25th OF JULY:
Citizen verification in the
Electoral Register.



18th OF AUGUST:
Definite publication of
the candidacy lists.



**21st OF AUGUST –
03rd OF NOV:**
Electoral campaign
period.



8th OF SEPTEMBER:
Last date for the change
of the domicile in the
Electoral Register.



10th OF OCTOBER:
Appointment of the
members of the voting
receiving boards.



07th OF NOVEMBER:
Suffrage and transmission
of vote counting results.



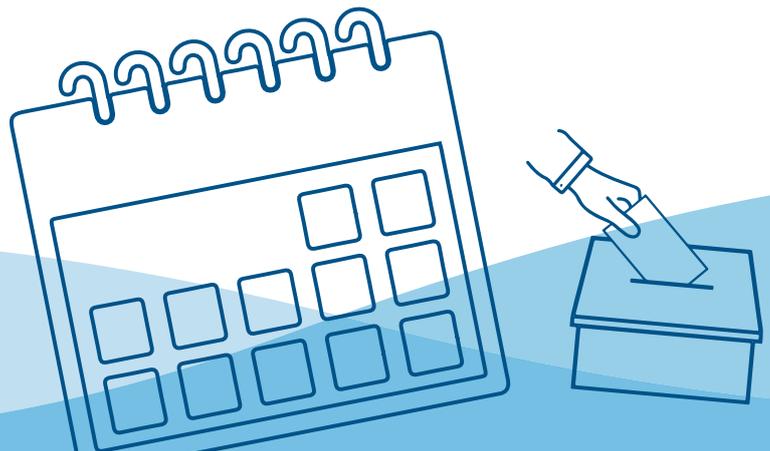
25th OF NOVEMBER:
Proclamation of the
elected.



ELECTORAL CALENDAR 2021

ACTIONS: WEEK, FROM THE 10th TO THE 16th OF MAY

- The Electoral Calendar was published in the Gazette, Official diary of the Republic of Nicaragua, on Tuesday, May 11, in accordance with articles 4 and 13 of the Electoral Law.
- The Electoral Ethics Regulation was prepared and consulted with all political parties, which was published on May 14, in the Official Gazette, in accordance with the article 108 of the Electoral Law.
- On May 12, the political parties that so considered, requested registration in Electoral Alliances, in accordance with article 66 of the Electoral Law.
- The authorization process for the constitution of electoral alliances was carried out on May 13 and 14, in accordance with article 66 of the Electoral Law.



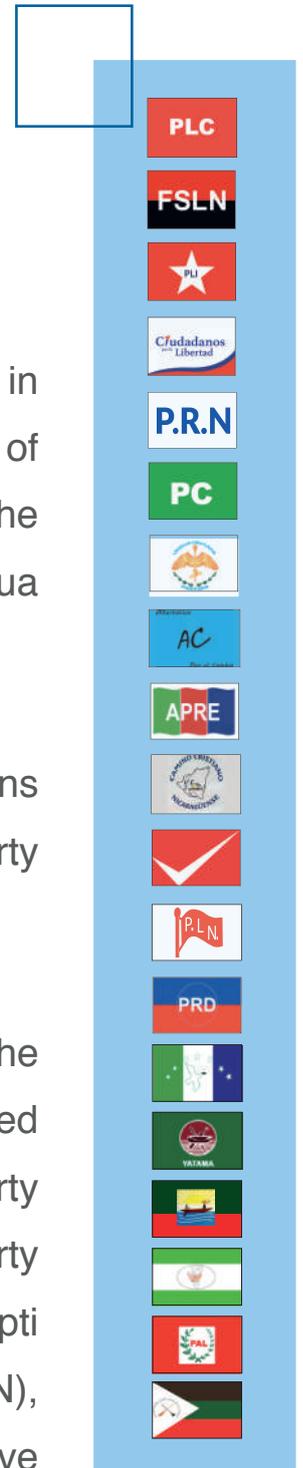


POLITICAL ALLIANCES REGISTERED FOR THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

Political parties in Nicaragua can participate individually or in alliances, May 12 was the date to register for alliances. A total of 11 political parties requested to run in alliances, two in the “Citizens for Freedom” Alliance and 9 in the “Unida Nicaragua Triunfa” Alliance.

The "Citizens for Freedom" Alliance is made up of the Citizens for Freedom party (CxL) and the Coastal Unity Movement Party (PAMUC).

The Alliance "Unida Nicaragua Triunfa" is headed by the Sandinista National Liberation Front Party and it is integrated by: the Nationalist Liberal Party (PLN), Christian Unity Party (PUC), Alternative Party for Change (AC), Resistance Party Nicaraguan (PRN), Multi-ethnic Indigenous Party (PIM), Yapti Tasba Masraka Raya Nani Movement Party (MYATAMARAN), Liberal Autonomous Party (PAL) and Moskitia Progressive Indigenous Movement Party (Moskitia Pawanka).





IMPORTANT ASPECTS ON THE FINANCING OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES

SPECIFIC CHAPTER OF THE ELECTORAL LAW

In the current Electoral Law of the Republic of Nicaragua, it is established that in its article 90, chapter IV, on the Financing of the Electoral Campaign, it has been reformed and concentrated, with the intention of ratifying the right of self-determination and defense of national sovereignty, through the regulation of the financing of political parties or alliances of political parties for the electoral campaign process.

The financing system for parties or alliances of parties establishes that they may not receive donations from state or mixed institutions, whether national or foreign, or from private institutions, when they are foreigners or nationals while abroad. They may not receive donations from any type of foreign entity for any purpose. It should be noted that this same system of prohibition of foreign funds for the electoral campaign is also applied in countries such as Germany, Sweden, France, Italy, Spain, among others.

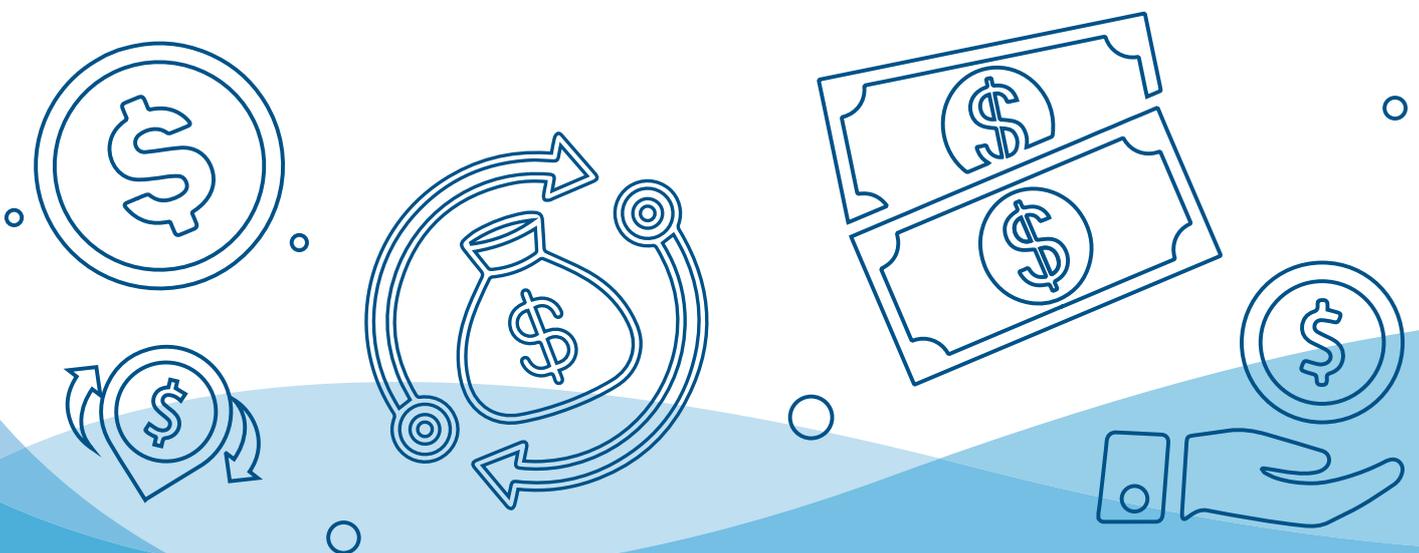




IMPORTANT ASPECTS ON THE FINANCING OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES

SPECIFIC CHAPTER OF THE ELECTORAL LAW

Article 86: The State of Nicaragua will allocate a specific budget allocation of 1% of the ordinary income of the General Budget of the corresponding Republic, to exclusively reimburse the expenses of the Electoral Campaign in which the Political Parties or Alliances of Parties have incurred. Politicians who have participated in the elections for President, Vice President, Deputies to the National Assembly and to the Central American Parliament. This reimbursement will be granted to Political Organizations according to the percentage of valid votes obtained in the Election of President and Vice President. Having to render accounts in a documented and detailed manner before the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, and the Supreme Electoral Council.





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Similarly, a specific budgetary item of 0.5% of the ordinary income of the General Budget of the Republic will be assigned, destined to reimburse the expenses incurred by the Parties or Alliances of Parties that have participated in the Municipal Elections, having as a reference the sum of the votes obtained in the Election of Mayors and Vice-mayors; and 0.25% for the Elections of the Councils of the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast, using the same procedures and requirements established in the previous paragraph, for the entire reimbursement to the organizations that participated in the corresponding election.

Article 88: The Supreme Electoral Council, with the prior approval of the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic, will accredit each political party or alliance of parties, its right to receive the corresponding reimbursement, in accordance with the provisions of this Law.





ARTICLE 90

Chapter on the financing of Political Parties

Political parties, party alliances, or any of their candidates, may receive donations from Nicaraguan citizens, within the amounts, limits and in accordance with the requirements and conditions established by the Supreme Electoral Council. They may not receive it from state or mixed institutions, be they national or foreign; nor private when they are foreigners, or nationals when they are abroad. They may not receive donations from any type of foreign entity for any purpose.





ARTICLE 91

Chapter on the financing of Political Parties

Direct private contributions must be deposited in special accounts opened in state banks, if any, then, in Institutions of the National Financial System, for each political party or party alliances. To this end, they will open an account to receive the contributions destined for political training and another for electoral campaigns. These direct private contributions to political parties or party alliances will be benefited with tax exemption.

The documentation of direct private contributions to political parties or party alliances will be public, leaving this documentation at the disposal of the Comptroller General of the Republic. Political parties or alliances of parties may not accept or receive directly or indirectly the followings:

- 1) Anonymous private contributions.
- 2) Contributions from autonomous or decentralized, national, regional, departmental, municipal or foreign entities of any kind.





ARTICLE 92

Chapter on the financing of Political Parties

The Political Parties or Alliances of Parties that receive prohibited contributions, will incur a fine equivalent to twice the donation or illegal contribution, without prejudice to the other sanctions established in this Law and the penalties that correspond to the Authorities, Mandators and / or Representatives who have intervened in the punishable act.

Legal persons that make prohibited contributions will incur a fine equivalent to twice the illegal contribution, without prejudice to the corresponding criminal penalties for Directors, Managers, members of the Supervisory Board, Administrators, Agents or Representatives who have intervened in the punishable act.

Natural persons who make prohibited contributions will incur a fine equivalent to twice the contribution made, and will be disqualified from exercising the right to elect and be elected in general or party elections, at the same time they will be disqualified from holding public office for a term of two to six years without prejudice to the corresponding penal sanctions.



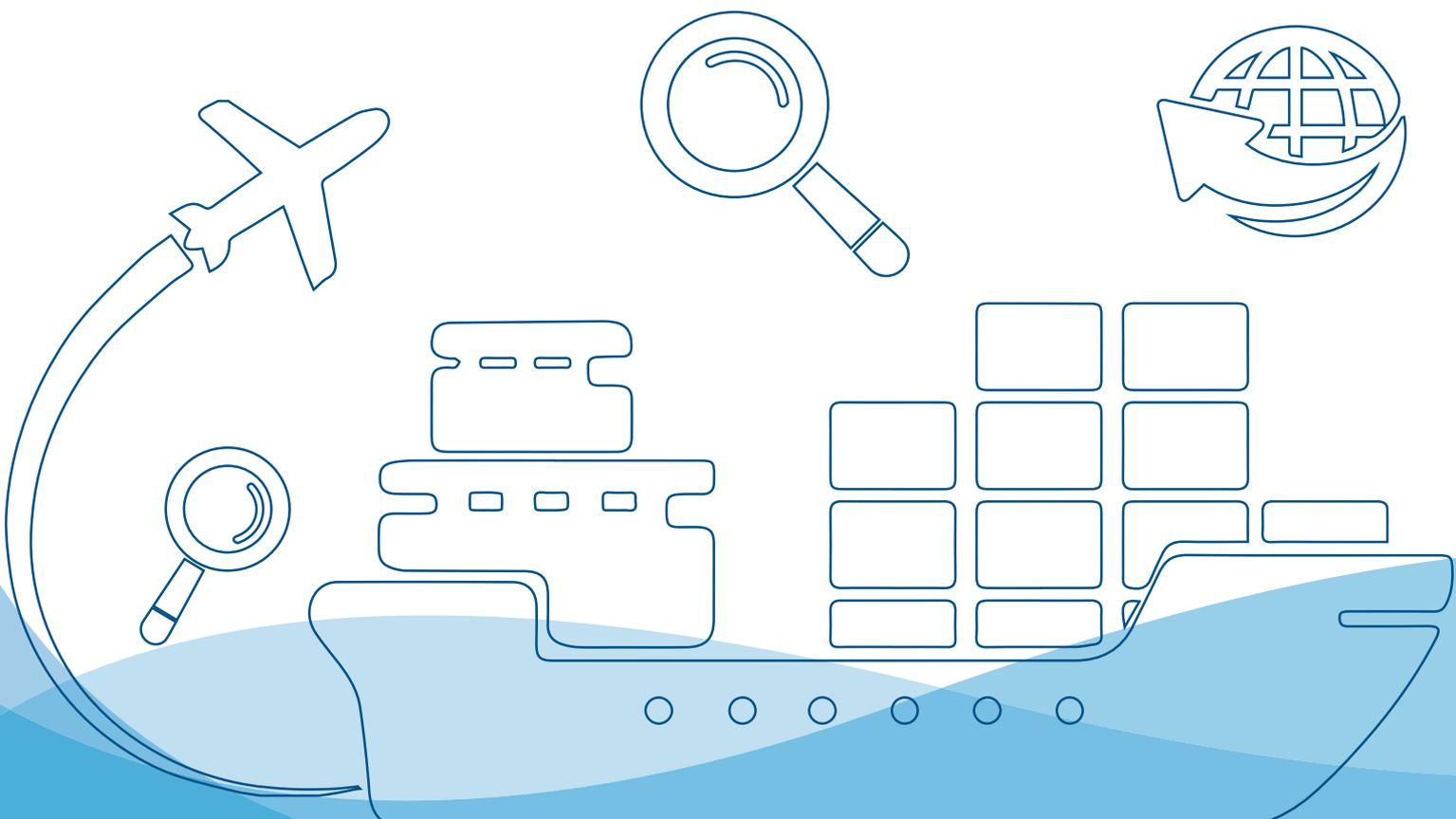


The aforementioned fines will be known and resolved by the competent judicial authority in accordance with the ordinary procedure, and must be found out in the revenue administration and will be in favor of the Supreme Electoral Council for the development of the Identity Card Program.

ARTICLE 93

Chapter on the financing of Political Parties

For the importation of electoral propaganda materials, political parties or party alliances will enjoy customs duty, with the prior authorization of the Supreme Electoral Council. The General Administration of Customs shall immediately comply with said authorization.



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ELECTORAL REGISTER

In Nicaragua the practice of the right to vote is exercised voluntarily to guarantee a clean electoral register, the electoral law establishes the following procedure:

The Electoral Register is made up of all those citizens over 16 years of age who have voted between one general election and another, and any election that has been held between them, as well as all new ID holders who requested their identification card by the first time after the last election, likewise, if any citizen due to the above conditions is not on the Electoral Register, they may request their incorporation to it at any CSE office, arranged for this purpose throughout the country.



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Since 2016, there have been permanent offices of the Supreme Electoral Council that cover the entire national territory, specially dedicated to meeting the citizenship identification needs, which has made it possible to maintain an index greater than 95% of ID holders.





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