



Mexico Judicial Reform Opinion Panel Wave 5 Report

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All data come from the Mexico Judicial Reform Opinion Panel (Wave 5), conducted online between February 16 and March 15, 2026. Results from Wave 5 are for respondents who answered our fifth-wave survey; the data are unweighted. The data and codebooks for Waves one through five are available at www.dialogojudicial.com.

Introduction

In June 2025, Mexican judges at all levels of the judicial hierarchy were, for the first time and in the largest judicial election in world history, directly elected by citizens. This project tracks citizens' attitudes toward the reforms and the judiciary as these reforms are implemented, as the elections unfold, and as the directly elected judges take office, which occurred on September 1, 2025. This report continues to monitor public reactions to the reform as it moves into implementation, focusing not only on citizens' evaluations of the newly elected judges, but also on their support for the reform and their understanding of the new judicial system.

Executive Summary

This report summarizes findings from the fifth wave of the Mexico Judicial Reform Opinion Panel, a nationally representative panel survey of Mexican adults tracking public attitudes during the implementation of the country's first-ever judicial elections. The data presented here were collected via an online panel with 2,169 respondents between February 16 and March 15, 2026, several months after the newly elected judges took office in September 2025. From this wave we draw four main conclusions:

- **Political alignment strongly shapes support for the judicial reform.** Respondents aligned with the government are the most supportive at baseline, whereas opposition respondents remain stably opposed across waves. Non-aligned respondents exhibit more individual-level movement, but their trajectories also point toward increasing opposition over time.
- **Awareness of the newly elected judges remains low.** In Wave 5, 72.7% of respondents reported knowing either nothing or only a little about the new judges and magistrates, while 27.3% said they knew some or a lot. This pattern is very similar to Wave 4, suggesting that public familiarity with the newly elected judiciary remains limited even several months after the judges took office.
- **Evaluations of the newly elected judges remain negative.** In Wave 5, 61.7% of respondents rated the judges' performance as either "bad" or "very bad," compared to 38.4% who described it as "good" or "very good," indicating little change from the similarly negative pattern observed in Wave 4.
- **Future willingness to participate in the 2027 judicial elections varies by political alignment.** Respondents aligned with the government are the most willing to participate in future judicial elections, while opposition and non-aligned respondents are concentrated in the "would not vote" category. Across all three groups, there is some movement over time, but the overall pattern suggests limited future electoral engagement outside the government-aligned camp.

Shifts in Individual Support for Judicial Reform Across Waves by Partisanship

Figure 1 presents river plots of reform support across Waves 1 to 5 for respondents classified by their self-reported vote in the 2024 presidential elections (Wave 1). The width of each ribbon represents the number of respondents following a given trajectory over time. Ribbons that remain within the same category indicate stability, while crossings between reform support and opposition indicate opinion change. Figure 1a shows that government-bloc respondents begin and still remain as the most supportive group across the waves of the survey. For those government supporters who defected from supporting the reform, most lost faith in the process early in the reform implementation (in wave 1 or wave 2), with some shifting around in opinions in later waves. Figure 1b indicates that most opposition voters consistently reject the reform, and that position is highly persistent over time. There is visible movement between categories, especially early on in the series, although more people drift into opposition than into support. Comparing the two panels, we see a general consolidation of opinions over time: positions appear to stabilize, with opposition and support for the reform clearly entrenched.

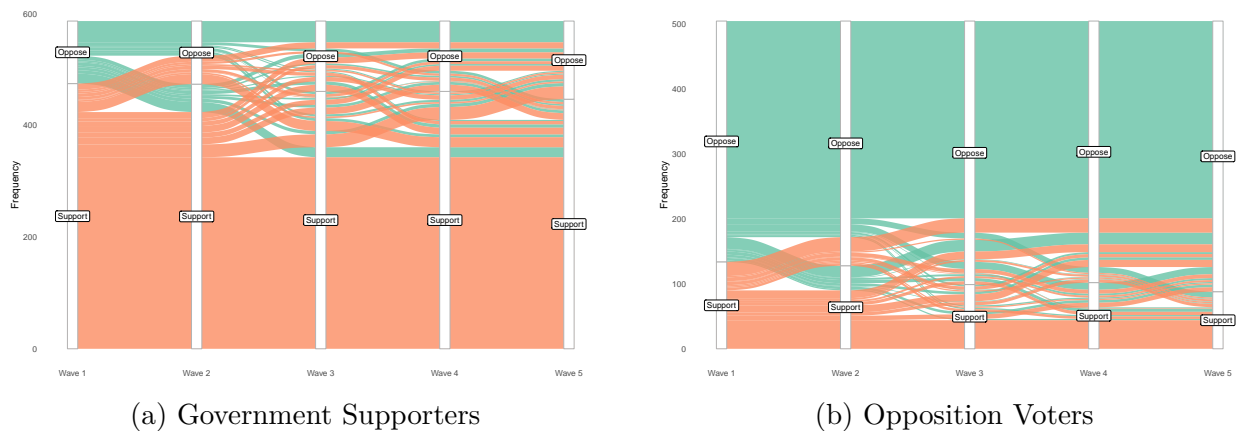


Figure 1: Reform Support Across Waves by Partisanship

Public Awareness of the Newly Elected Judges

Approximately six months after the new judges assumed office, respondents were asked how much they had heard or knew about the new judges and magistrates now serving in office. Figure 2 shows that awareness remains limited: 39.3% of respondents reported knowing nothing, 33.4% said “a little,” 21.3% said “some,” and only 6% said “a lot.” Relative to Wave 4, these results show little overall change. In the earlier wave, 38.3% reported knowing nothing, 35.7% “a little,” 21% “some,” and 5% “a lot.” Overall, the distribution suggests that public familiarity with the newly elected judiciary remains low even several months after the new judges entered office.

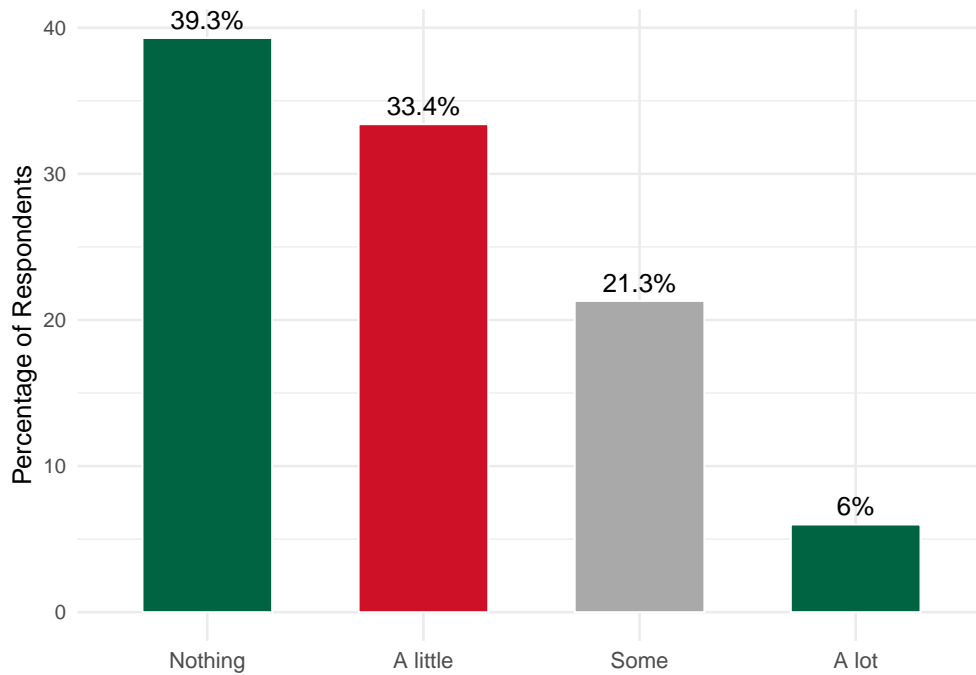


Figure 2: Awareness of Elected Judges Taking Office (Wave 5)

Evaluations of the Newly Elected Judges' Performance

Respondents were also asked to evaluate the job performance of the newly elected judges and magistrates, who took office in September 2025. As shown in Figure 3, evaluations in Wave 5 remain negative overall, 61.7% of respondents offered a negative evaluation, compared to 38.4% who rated the judges positively. Relative to Wave 4, this indicates little substantive change in public assessments, with negative evaluations continuing to outweigh positive ones.

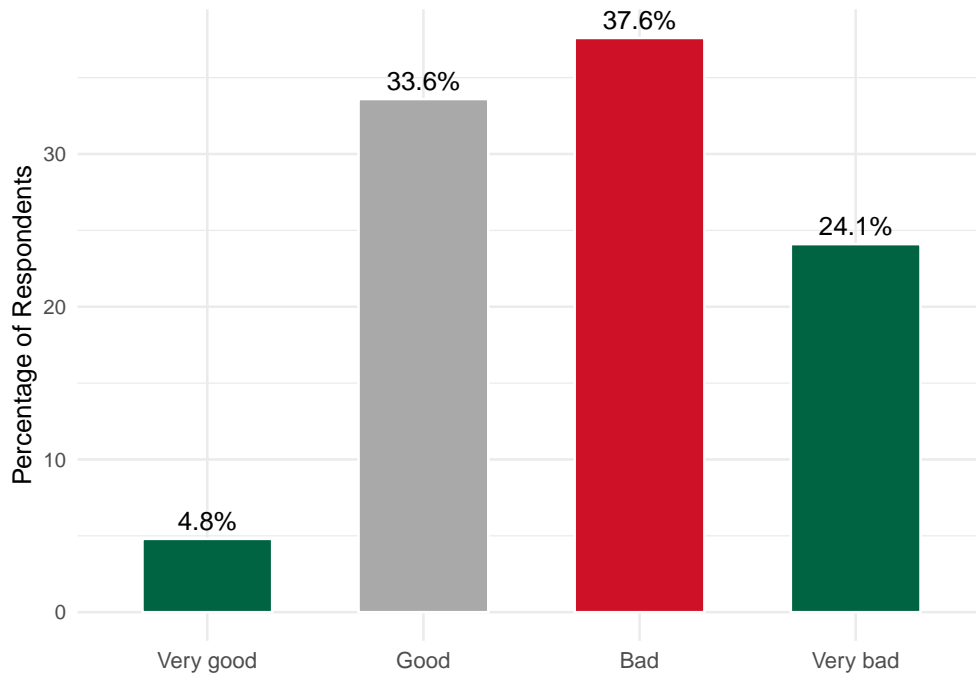


Figure 3: Evaluations of the Newly Elected Judges' Performance (Wave 5)

Individual Future Voting Behavior in the 2027 Judicial Elections

Figure 4 presents river plots of future judicial election vote intention across Waves 3 to 5 for respondents classified by their political alignment. The width of each ribbon represents the number of respondents following a given trajectory over time. Ribbons that remain within the same category indicate stability, while crossings between categories indicate changes in respondents' stated willingness to participate in the next round of judicial elections. For the supporters of the government (Figure 4a), we see a mobilized and confident electorate: government supporters not only intend to vote, but that intention becomes more entrenched over time. The dominant category is "Would vote", and it is large and very stable across waves. While there some movement early on, it quickly settles and consolidates, suggesting that government supporters appear decided and consistent in their intention to participate.

As to the supporters of the opposition, perspectives are less consolidated and consistent. Expressed intentions to participate are spread across multiple categories, and more variable over time. On balance, this suggests an opposition electorate which is less certain and less coordinated in how to respond to the election. Taken together, the reform appears to have generated a unified and mobilizing signal for government supporters, whereas for the opposition it has produced uncertainty about whether and how to engage.

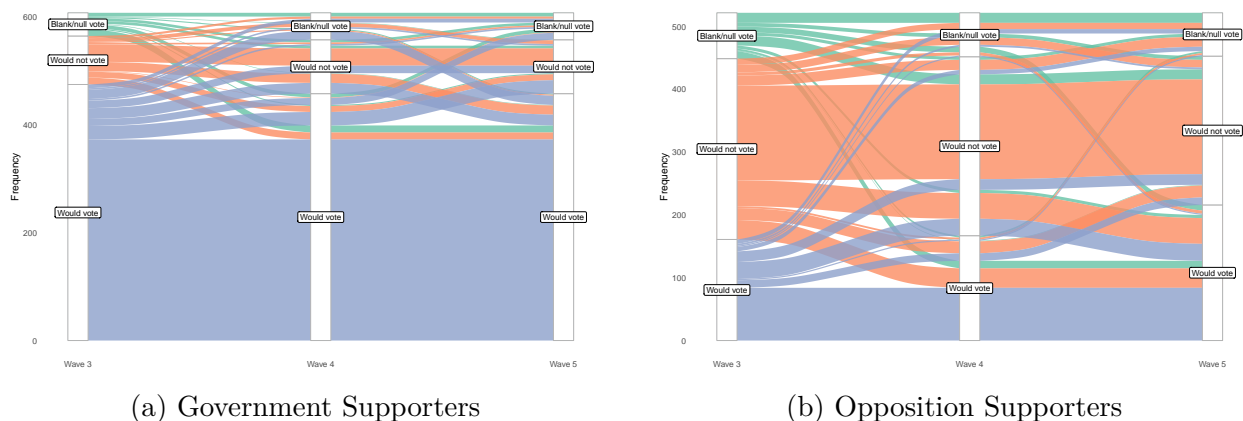


Figure 4: Future Judicial Election Vote Intention Across Waves by Partisanship

Conclusion and Final Remarks

Findings from the fifth wave of the Mexico Judicial Reform Opinion Panel provide an updated picture of public opinion several months after the newly elected judges and magistrates assumed office. Overall, public familiarity with the new judiciary remains limited, even six months after the directly elected judges began serving. Awareness levels show little change relative to the previous wave, suggesting that the public installation of the new judges has not substantially increased public engagement with or knowledge of the reform process or the judiciary.

Attitudes toward the judicial reform also remain broadly stable, albeit divided along partisan lines. Support and opposition continue to be polarized, and while many respondents remain consistent in their views across waves, the river plots reveal individual-level movement over time. Government-aligned respondents remain the most supportive, opposition respondents the most consistently opposed, and non-aligned respondents the most likely to shift across categories.

At the same time, evaluations of the new judges' performance remain negative overall. A majority of respondents in Wave 5 rated their work pessimistically, suggesting that the transition from institutional change to judicial practice has not yet produced more favorable public assessments. Subsequent wave will be critical for determining whether familiarity with the new judges leads to greater confidence or whether skepticism remains the dominant public response to Mexico's judicial reform.

Field Notes

The fifth wave of the survey was fielded by NetQuest from February 16 - March 15, 2026, with a total of 2,169 respondents. NetQuest maintains a panel of nearly 260,000 respondents in Mexico, the NetQuest panel is certified with the requirements for the ISO20252:2019

standard. This wave of the survey was designed to approximate a nationally representative sample of the Mexican population with quotas for gender, age, region and socioeconomic status. Nevertheless and consistent with most online surveys, younger and more affluent respondents are overrepresented relative to the Mexican population.

Acknowledgments

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