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Provinces – Argentina

Provinces Strategy Flash: Salta, La Pampa, & Fuego elections

Our take from Salta, La Pampa, and Tierra del Fuego elections

Within the three districts, the provincial officialisms obtained re-election with overwhelming victories.

Within the three districts, the provincial officialisms obtained re-election with overwhelming victories. In the case of Salta, the current governor Gustavo Sáenz from a provincial party (PAIS) that has alliances with Frente Renovador, obtained the re-election with 47.5% of the total votes. It was followed by Miguel Nanni (JxC) with 17.3% and Emiliano Estrada (PJ) with 16.2%. Regarding Tierra del Fuego, Gustavo Melella from a local party with alliances with FdT was re-elected and obtained 51.3% votes. It was followed by Héctor Stefani (PRO) with 11.1%, and Andrea Almirón De Pauli (RU – Libertarian party aligned with LLA) with 7.5%. Finally, for La Pampa, Sergio Ziliotto (PJ) obtained 47.6% of the votes and was followed by Martín Berhongaray (JxC) with 42.1%, and Juan Carlos Tierno (CO - local party) with 6.8%.

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Despite the clear wins, the Peronism continues to lose traction relative to 2019. When looking closer to Salta’s election we find that Sáenz lost around 6.2pp in electoral traction when compared to 2019. Peronism, which was unified in 2019 and obtained the second place with 26.3% of the votes, this time run separately and jointly with FdT obtained 24.2% of the votes, but got the 3rd, 4th, and 5th place. For JxC, the increase was around 2pp, but given the break in PJ, they came in second place. In the case of Tierra del Fuego, Melella increased around 0.4pp. The surprise was with Peronism, which in 2019 ran with their candidate and got second place with 37.8% of the votes, but this time they followed Melella. The Peronism’s spill was allocated partially in PRO at 11%, in JxC at 5.6% (JxC and PRO jointly increased the performance relative to 2019 from 3.8%), the libertarian party who obtained 7.5%, the FIT (Left party) at 2.9%, and blank votes at 21.6% (from 7.5% in 2019). Finally, in the case of La Pampa, Ziliotto lost 5.1pp in votes compared to 2019. JxC’s performance improved substantially, growing around 10.3pp. CO’s performance closed flat, slightly decreasing by 0.4pp. Factoring in all the elections, the Peronism is around 14.5pp below 2019 (widening from the 13pp we calculated in the previous electoral round)

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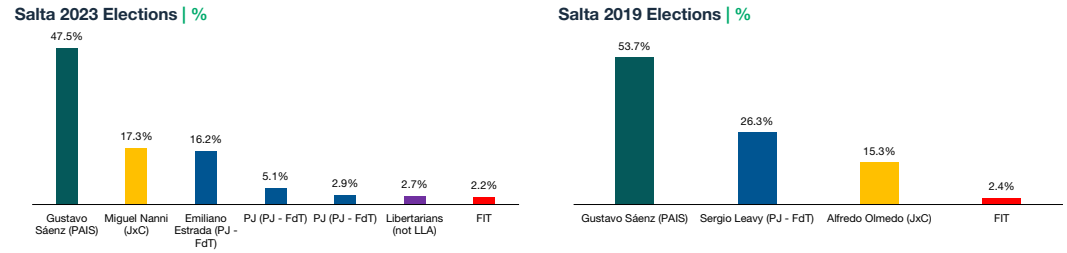
Last week, the Supreme Court suspended yesterday’s governor’s election for San Juan and Tucuman. Yesterday, San Juan and Tucuman should have elected their new governors, but last Tuesday the Supreme Court enacted a precautionary measure, based on claims filed by the opposition, suspending the entire election for Tucuman and for San Juan only the election of governor and vice-governor. The Court argued that the candidacies of both Juan Luis Manzur (Tucumán) and Sergio Uñac (San Juan) were unconstitutional as re-elections can be done one time (the key interpretation here is that both the governor and vice governor mandates count as the same for re-elections). In the case of Manzur, he has been governor for two consecutive terms since 2015 (2015-2019 and 2019-2023) and was planning to run as vice governor from 2023. In the case of Uñac, he has been governor since 2015, but he was planning to run for a third mandate. Even though the final ruling has not been enacted yet, this came out of the blue for the FdT as both provinces were likely to be kept under officialism’s control, and this event could put its continuity at risk in favor of the opposition. We consider that the closer we get to the end of the year, the worst the economic scenario would be, and the higher the chances for the officialism to lose their governorship.

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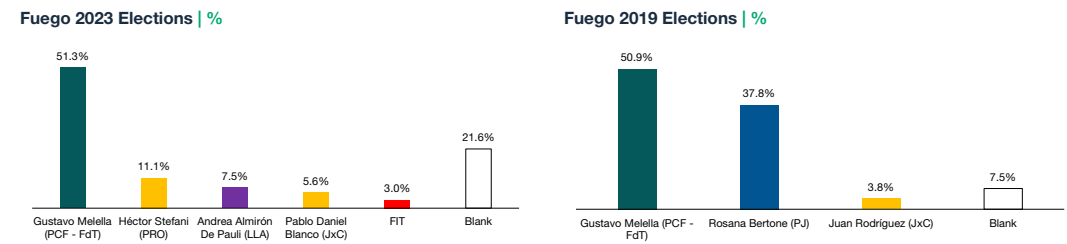
Salta

Figure 1: Salta 2023 and 2019 elections



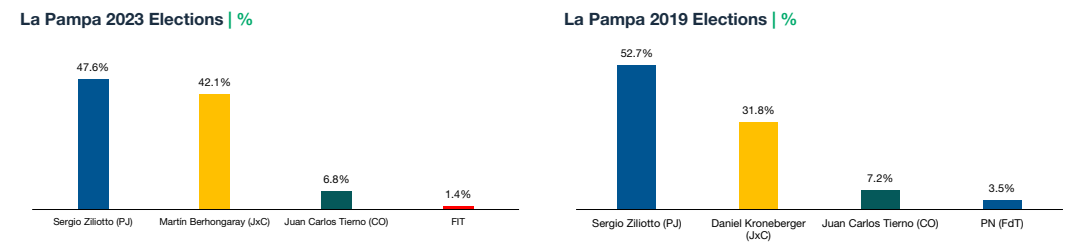
Tierra del Fuego

Figure 2: Fuego 2023 and 2019 elections*



La Pampa

Figure 3: La Pampa 2023 and 2019 elections



Source: TPCG Research
*Fuego votes accountability includes blank votes.

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