

Peru Presidential runoff

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Just over a month after Peru's first-round election, the National Jury of Elections (JNE) officially confirmed Keiko Fujimori (Popular Force) and Roberto Sánchez (Together for Peru) as the candidates advancing to the June 7 runoff¹.

On May 15, the National Office of Electoral Processes (ONPE) reported that 100% of ballots from the April 12 vote had been counted, with all 92,766 voting records processed and no pending cases before the Special Electoral Juries (JEE).

According to the official results, Keiko Fujimori led the first round with 2,877,678 votes, or 17.181% of the total. She was followed by Roberto Sánchez with 2,015,114 votes (12.031%), narrowly ahead of Rafael López Aliaga of *Renovación Popular*, who secured 1,993,904 votes (11.904%). The margin between Sánchez and López Aliaga was just 21,210 votes².

The outcome sets the stage for a runoff that has deepened Peru's political polarization, increasingly framed as a contest between Fujimorismo and a left-leaning bloc associated with former president Pedro Castillo, which Sánchez supports.

Both finalists enter the second round with high rejection rates, reflecting broad public frustration with the political establishment after years of instability and eight presidents since 2016.

The extended counting process, combined with fraud allegations raised by López Aliaga, further eroded public confidence in electoral institutions. However, European Union observers reported no evidence of systematic fraud.

During the first round, logistical delays in the distribution of electoral materials prevented more than 50,000 voters from casting their ballots, prompting an extension of voting by an additional day. The EU mission acknowledged "serious failures" in the process, while reiterating there was "no objective evidence" of fraud³.

Markets responded cautiously to Sánchez's advancement to the runoff, amid concerns about potential expansion of state intervention in mining and energy sectors. Peru's economy remains highly sensitive

to political volatility, particularly as one of the world's leading copper producers.

For Keiko Fujimori, 50, daughter of former president Alberto Fujimori, this marks her fourth presidential campaign. Roberto Sánchez, 57, is contesting the presidency for the first time.

Following his advancement, he told reporters in Lima: "We are ready for the challenges that our people will place before us."

Tensions have been further amplified by ongoing legal scrutiny of Sánchez. Prosecutors have requested a sentence of five years and four months in prison, alleging that he provided false information to electoral authorities regarding party financing between 2018 and 2020.

Authorities cite inconsistencies in the financial records of *Juntos por el Perú* during regional and municipal campaigns, including more than \$57,000 in undeclared contributions⁴.

Sánchez has denied the allegations, claiming on social media that the case is politically motivated and noting that parts of it have already been dismissed by the courts. A hearing scheduled for May 27 will determine whether the case proceeds to oral trial.

More than 27 million voters are expected to return to the polls on June 7, 2026, in a decisive runoff election in a country still grappling with political instability, rising insecurity, extortion, and organized crime—particularly in Lima and the northern regions. These conditions have intensified public demand for stability, governance, and institutional credibility.

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¹ El Comercio de Perú, May 17, 2026.

² El Comercio de Perú, May 15, 2026.

³ Following Colombia's legislative elections, the EU Election Observation Mission characterized the process as *generally satisfactory (!)*. Even though verified reports identified 124 municipalities where illegal armed groups and criminal networks

coerced votes for the Pacto Histórico, securing an estimated 2.4 million ballots and helping the bloc capture roughly 23% of seats in Colombia's 2026-2030 Congress.

⁴ It's a broader left-wing trend seen across the region, including in Petro's Colombia, and reflected in Petro-Cepeda's presidential campaign.