

Uruguay's Presidential Election Heads for Runoff



Montevideo, October 27 (RHC-Xinhua) -- Uruguayan ruling Broad Front (FA) party's candidate Tabaré Vázquez is set to face off against National Party (PN)'s Luis Lacalle Pou in a runoff next month, as both have failed to garner an absolute majority of votes, exit polls showed.

Uruguay held elections on Sunday to elect a successor to leftist President Jose Mujica and legislators to both houses of the General Assembly.

Consulting firm Factum said Vázquez got 46 percent of the vote, Lacalle Pou, 31 percent, and the third-placed Colorado Party (PC), 13.5 percent. Vazquez needed 50 percent of the vote to avoid a runoff.

Polling firm Equipos said Vazquez got 44 percent, Lacalle Pou, 33 percent, and Pedro Bordaberry of the PC, 15 percent. And pollster Cifra said the FA received 45 percent of the vote, the PN, 33 percent, and the PC, 14 percent.

Political observer Daniel Chasquetti, of the National University's Institute of Political Science, said the figures showed "there are no favorites" going into the runoff, with the candidates "very evenly matched," especially as the right-wing PC has pledged to back the PN candidate in the second round on November 30th.

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