



## 2024 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ELECTIONS READOUT

MAY 20, 2024

### POPULAR INCUMBENT WINS SECOND TERM

- Economist and businessman Luis Rodolfo Abinader of the Modern Revolutionary Party has been reelected as the Dominican president, vowing to tackle the economy and strict policies towards migration from Haiti.
- With only 56% of voting center [reporting](#), Abinader held approximately 60% of the vote, a 30% lead from runner-up and three-time former President Leonel Fernandez (People's Force), and provincial mayor, Abel Martínez (Dominican Liberation Party). Both presidential candidates [called](#) Abinader prior to the official results to concede and congratulate him given his strong lead.
- With notable economic accomplishments, increasingly tough policies on relations with Haiti, and [anticorruption](#) stances, Abinader maintains mass popular support. The President vowed to continue these efforts by building a border wall between the Dominican Republic and Haiti and “push through a constitutional reform on the continuity of power that would not rely on the ‘personal whim’ of the president in office,” promising not to run again after completing his second term.

### THE CONTINUATION OF A POPULAR AGENDA

#### Haiti Migration Crisis

- The Dominican Republic has seen a severe [increase](#) in Haitian migrants following the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. President Abinader has promised to finish building a border wall along the 250-mile-long border between the two countries, which nearly 90% of [voters](#) expressed support for.
- While Abinader's migration policies are popular within the country, human rights groups are calling on the government to end the crackdown and [issue](#) a reprieve in deportation. Human rights activists called the policies a violation of international law as the government rejected pleas to build refugee camps and conducted mass deportation of 175,000 Haitians in 2023.
- The Haiti migration crisis has raised concerns about security and crime domestically, with increasing gang violence stemming from border issues.

#### Economic Prosperity Through Tourism

- Abinader took office in August 2020, and while many of the region's economies plummeted to an all-time low during the pandemic, the Dominican Republic grew its



economy through a tourism campaign. In 2021 alone, the country [earned](#) approximately \$6 billion in tourism while maintaining a COVID death rate lower than major beach destinations and the United States.

- The positive economic outlook has continued through 2024, with the country now [predicted](#) to grow 5% in GDP this year. However, citizens are [arguing](#) that the benefits of this newly found prosperity are disproportionately distributed throughout the country as a large part of the population continues to struggle with inequality.

### **Cracking Down on Corruption**

- Addressing the country's corruption was one of Abinader's key campaign promises in 2020 and 2024. During his first term, the President [arrested](#) 19 associates of former president Danilo Medina, some of whom are accused of embezzlement, document forgery, and illicit campaign financing.
- Abinader's opposition has criticized his approach, [alleging](#) that no one in his government or party has been prosecuted for corruption, despite political allegations against them.