UNITED FOR PANAMA

A CONSTITUTION MADE BY ALL FOR ALL



WHAT IS A CONSTITUTION?

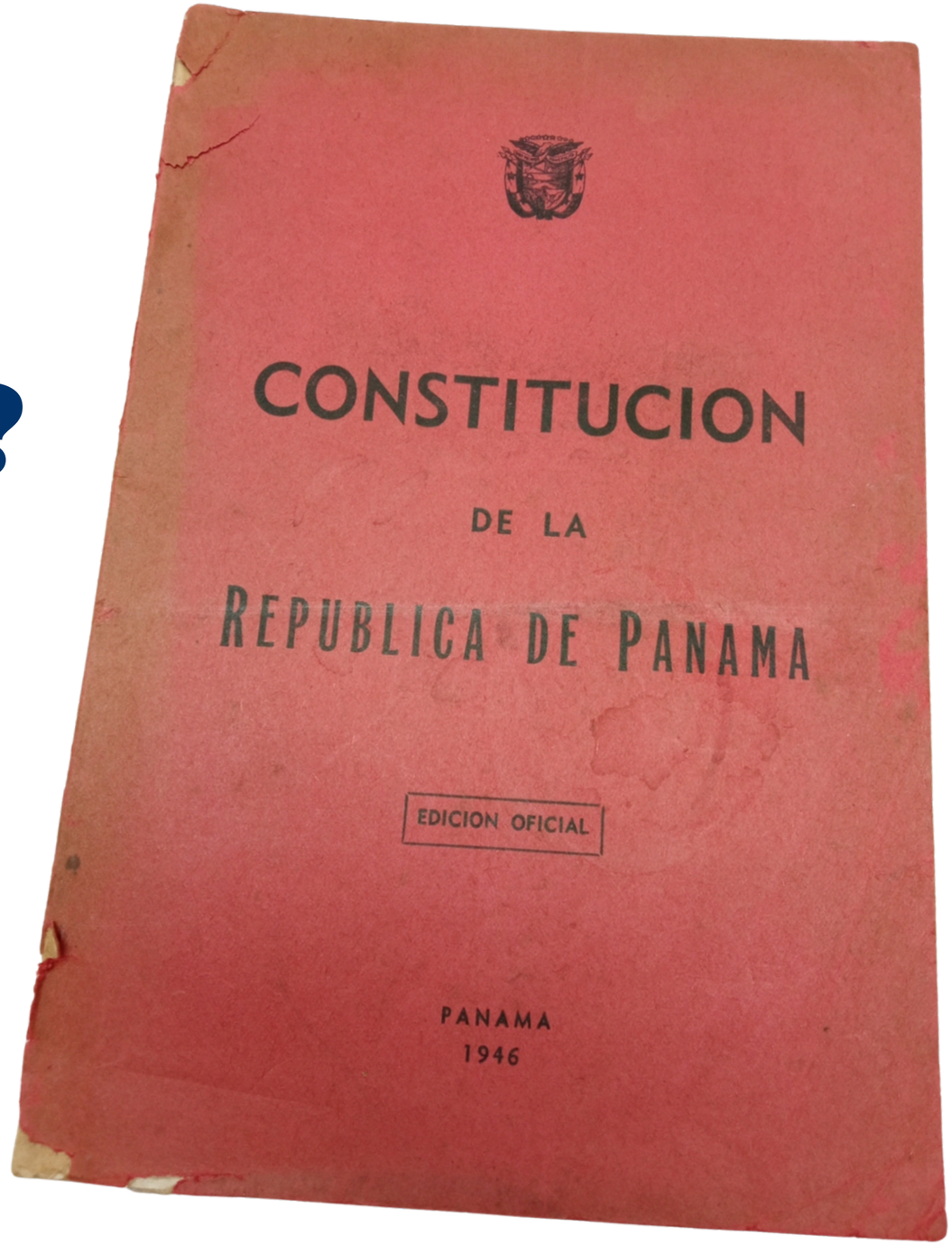
A Constitution is:

The fundamental legal norm that establishes the rules for harmonious coexistence, protects the common goods, and defines the foundations for building a better future.

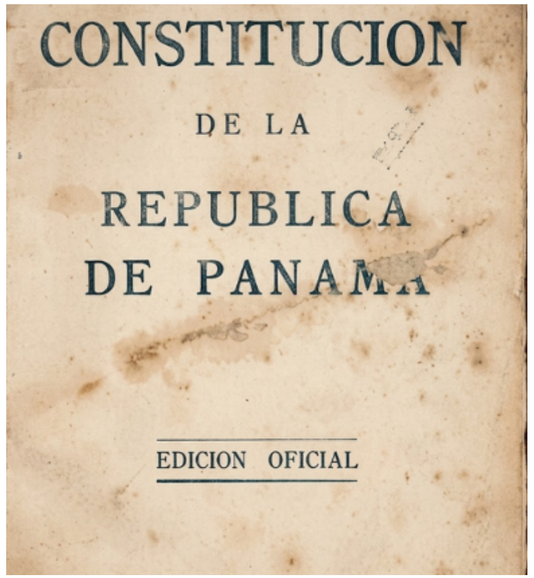


WHAT IS STATED IN A CONSTITUTION?

- Defines rights, duties, and the organization of the State.
- Fundamental and supreme law.
- Contract between rulers and the governed.



CONSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION

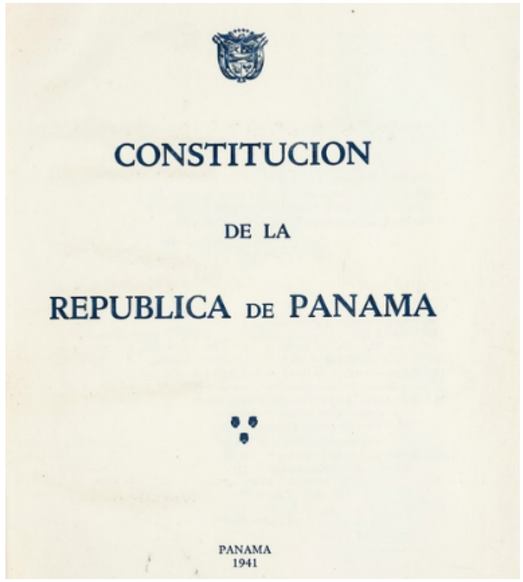


1904
THE FOUNDING

1. Structure of the Republican State

- Sovereignty of Panama.
- Unitary Government

2. Individual guarantees and a liberal economic model. *Based on Colombia's 1886 Constitution.

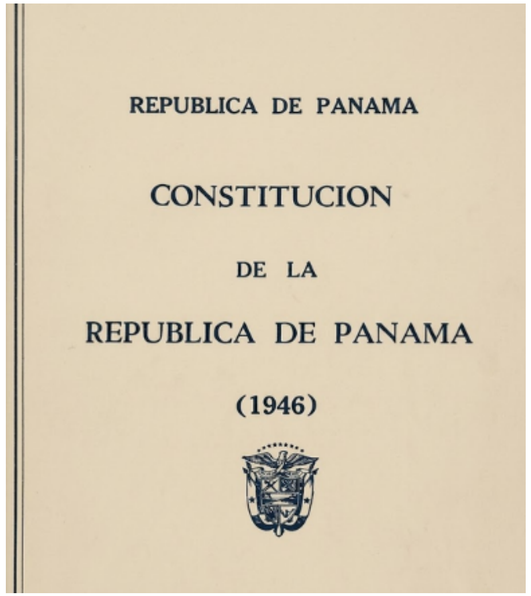


1941
THE NATIONALIST

1. Stricter requirements for citizenship.

2. Social and administrative reforms.

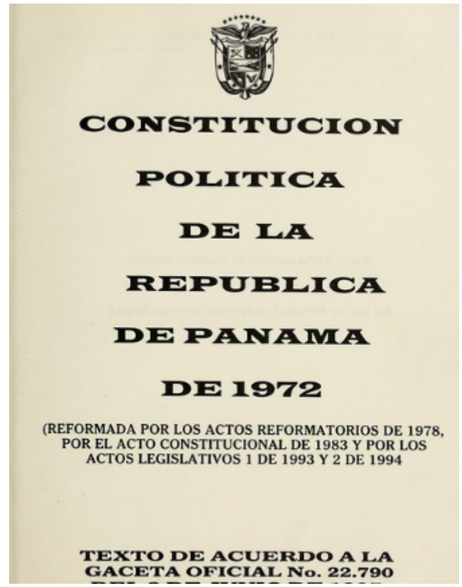
*It lasted a short time due to political changes.



1946
THE DEMOCRATIC

1. First Constitution with the

participation of the population.
2. Expansion of rights and individual guarantees.
3. Women's right to vote.



1972
THE IMPOSED

1. Concentration of power under the Military Regime

(Authoritarianism).

2. Amended in 1978, 1983, 1994, and 2004, without citizen participation.

* Granted extraordinary powers to General Omar Torrijos Herrera



IN 1945, 51 PANAMANIAN CITIZENS DRAFTED THE MOST DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION IN THE AMERICAS

NATIONAL CHALLENGES

- **Inequality**
- **Corruption and impunity**
- **Institutional distrust**
- **Limited citizen participation**

Today, as we live in a democracy, Panamanians deserve a New Constitution made by Panamanians for Panamanians.





1 CITIZEN, 1 VOTE

CIRCUIT 8-6

SEATS 4.0

	CANDIDATE	VOTES	PARTY
1	BETSSERAI RICHARDS	33,692	LP
2	ALAN CEDEÑO	27,434	RM
3	JOSE MUÑOZ		RM
4	YALINETH PITTY	26,170	RM
5	MANUEL SMANIEGO	23,302	LP
6	MANUEL ACEVEDO		LP
7	GILBERTO WILSON	22,430	LP
8	CESAR SALDANA	22,224	LP
9	GUILLERMO LAY LOPEZ		RM
10	YAREIS GOMEZ	21,985	LP
11	RAPHAEL BUCHANAN	21,606	PRD
12	ROSEMARY BARRIOS		MOCA
13	ROLANDOPADILLA	20,739	LP
	TOTAL VOTES AWARDED	19,329	
	VALID VOTES	14,513	57,318
	SLATE VOTES	11,714	



INEQUALITY AND IMPUNITY?





ARTICLES OF THE CURRENT CONSTITUTION I



ARTICLE 160

It is the judicial function of the National Assembly to hear accusations or complaints brought against the President of the Republic and the magistrades of the Supreme Court of Justice, and to try them, if warranted, for acts carried out in the exercise of their functions to the detriment of the free functioning of public power or in violation of this Constitution or the laws.

ARTICLES OF THE CURRENT CONSTITUTION II

ARTICLE 206, NUMERAL 3

To investigate and prosecute the members of the national assembly. For purposes of the investigation, the Plenary of the Supreme Court of Justice shall commission an investigating officer.



ORIGINAL VS. PARALLEL

Who elects whom?



It is the direct expression of the power of the people.



It may intervene in, reorganize, or dissolve State institutions if the constituents so consider.



It is not limited or controlled by the Supreme Court or other government Bodies.



It creates a New Constitution.



It is an expression of the Power of Reform of those who do NOT want real changes.



It may not intervene nor dissolve any Government Body.



It is subject to Constitutional control.



It may amend the Constitution, but it may not legitimately create a new one.

WHAT IS A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY?

An assembly chosen by the citizens that makes decisions to remake and/or reformulate laws based on what the majority of the constituents decide.

It is the absolute power that the population of a country has to jointly design the conditions for its own development and progress.





WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CONSTITUENT?

Candidate who runs to be part of an Original Constituent Assembly.



SUGGESTED REQUIREMENTS TO BE A CONSTITUENT

Historical and patriotic role

- Persons over 18 years of age.
- Must be Panamanian by birth.
- Must not have been convicted of an intentional or negligent offense, or sanctioned for any infraction.
- Must not hold a position of command and jurisdiction during the current term.
- Must not have held public office with command and jurisdiction nor of an elected office, during the last 15 years.
- Must possess a high school or technical diploma duly registered with the competent authorities.
- The candidate for constituent must draft a statement of reasons explaining why he or she wishes to be a constituent.

CHRONOLOGY AND STRUCTURE

CONSTITUENT PROCESS

2025

PHASE 1



- Constitutional literacy.
- Citizen participation.

2026

PHASE 2



- Constitutional literacy.
- Definition of requirements for the selection of Constituents.

2027

PHASE 3



- Nomination and election of constituents.
- Drafting of the new Constitution.
- Dissemination.

2028

PHASE 4



- Final referendum through popular approval.
- Promulgation.



“I am not concerned about the cry of the violent, the corrupt, the dishonest, those without ethics... What concerns me most is the silence of the good.”

— MARTIN LUTHER KING

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