PHASES

Phase
1

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION



2025

- 2025: National Alphabetization Year
- Diffusion of the constituent process and Participation

Phase
2

REGULATIONS OF REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTITUENTS.



2026

- Requirements to Become a Constituent
- Draft of Constitution Projects

Phase
3

ELECTION OF CONSTITUENTS AND WRITING OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION.



2027

- Process for the Election of Constituent Assembly Members
- Request for the Convening of a National Constituent Assembly
- Writing of the NEW CONSTITUTION

Phase
4

APPROVAL AND DISCLOSURE



2028

- National Disclosure of Panama´s NEW CONSTITUTION
- Referendum to Approve or Reject the NEW CONSTITUTION

2029 • NEW CONSTITUTION GOES INTO EFFECT

CONSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION IN PANAMA

Our constitutional history reflects the changes, challenges, and advances that have strengthened our democracy and sovereignty.

1904

- **Republican and Representative Form of Government:** It defined Panama as a sovereign state with a unitary and republican government. It established the classic separation of powers into three branches: the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch.
- Individual Guarantees and the Liberal Model: The Constitution adopted a liberal economic model and guaranteed fundamental rights such as freedom of expression, of the press, of worship, and of association, in addition to recognizing private property and equality before the law.
- The Controversial Article 138: This article was the most unique, as it placed Panama under the protection of the United States of America. The United States of America could intervene militarily anywhere within the national territory whenever it deemed it appropriate.

1904 CONSTITUTION

1941

- **The Birth of Social Constitutionalism:** It was the first to incorporate a social approach, granting the State a more active role in the economy and labor relations.
- Constitutional Review: It established legal review of laws and created the institution of the “Amparo de Garantías Constitucionales” (Constitutional Guarantees).
- Institutional Strengthening and Elimination of Foreign Tutelage: It strengthened the independence of the judicial branch—that is, the laws and rules that provide greater guarantees for the judiciary to exercise its functions without depending on the executive branch. This Constitution repealed Article 136 of the 1904 Constitution. Despite its flaws (racial discrimination), this Constitution represented a huge leap forward in sovereignty and institutional justice for Panama.

1941 CONSTITUTION

1946

- **It came about through a genuine constituent process:** It was born amid a complex political and social climate, marked by World War II, but Panama undertook an original constituent drafting process. This constitution was considered the most democratic of all those that have been in force in our country, not only because of its content but also because of the way it was drafted.
- Elimination of Discrimination: It repealed articles from the previous Constitution that excluded certain groups from the nation on the basis of race (specifically targeting English-speaking and Asian communities).
- Strengthening of Human Rights and Institutional Autonomy: It expanded the list of individual and social rights, drawing on proposals by prominent jurists such as José Dolores Moscone and Ricardo J. Alifaro. It reinforced the independence of the branches of government and established clearer rules for municipal decentralization.

1946 CONSTITUTION

1972

- **Concentration of Power by the Military Regime:** This is the current Constitution, drafted under the military dictatorship of Omar Torríos Herrera.
- Revolutionary Power: In its original text, Article 277 granted extraordinary powers to General Omar Torríos Herrera as the “Supreme Leader of the Panamanian Revolution” for a period of six years.
- Amended in 1978, 1983, 1994, and 2004, without citizen participation.

1972 CONSTITUTION