

Bolivia Program Summary

Since democracy was restored in 1982, Bolivia has made great strides in administering transparent elections, opening channels for citizen participation and expanding the political space to include women and indigenous groups. In January 2009, Bolivians voted for a new constitution that establishes new forms of representation and self-government for indigenous populations throughout the country. Moreover, the new charter provides for equal levels of representation for men and women at the local, regional and national levels.

The International Republican Institute (IRI) has been working in Bolivia since 2004 to promote stronger relationships between governing authorities and citizens. IRI's current governance program in Bolivia is implemented in six cities.

IRI's governance program works to improve local governments' ability to develop local problem solving strategies and tools that serve citizens' needs. IRI has worked with local governments across the country to help them improve their efficiency and effectiveness and promote citizen participation, accountability and transparency through the implementation of democratic governance practices.

Additionally, IRI seeks to continue filling the communication gap between governments and their constituents through the development of issue-based alliances. IRI works with municipal governments, civil society and other stakeholders to create issue based alliances to ensure the incorporation of these stakeholders in the policy making process. These alliances aim to jointly identify, discuss and propose realistic solutions for local issues through the creation of private/public partnerships to effectively resolve citizens' pressing needs. Often the results of these issue-based alliances are collaborative public policies and projects that local stakeholders and municipal governments implement together.