

### Venezuela Program Summary

The International Republican Institute (IRI) has been working in Venezuela since 1994 to promote civic and political participation in the democratic process. Programs include leadership development for marginalized groups such as women and youth, so that these sectors of society can play a greater role in shaping Venezuela's future. IRI also works to promote transparency and responsiveness in governance, especially at the local level.

### Political Parties

IRI seeks to enhance healthy competition in Venezuelan politics and help all sectors of Venezuelan society build trust in their political leaders by promoting mechanisms for accountability between parties and their constituents. IRI offers nonpartisan capacity building assistance, technical training and organizational assistance to political parties, with a particular focus in critical areas of reform that extend beyond the context of elections and campaigns.

IRI also works with party leaders and local partners to host topical forums, providing a space for participants across the political spectrum to publicly discuss and debate key issues and improve outreach to constituents.

Lastly, while women and youth comprise a majority of the population, they are not represented proportionally within parties and government. IRI works to integrate these two groups in Venezuela's political environment.

### Democratic Governance

In 2009, IRI began implementing good governance programming at the municipal level in Venezuela by helping new municipal administrations face the daily challenges of public administration. Under this program, IRI has brought local organizations together with municipal governments to design public policies and strategies focused on quality of life of citizens and communities while encouraging citizen participation in the decision-making process.

Through its good governance programs, the Institute increases accountability within the community and enhances responsiveness of local government to community needs.