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# Central American Politics

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## The Gender gap in Guatemala

Dinorah Azpuru recently published a new report on The Gender Gap in Politics in Guatemala: 20 Years of Advances and Setbacks. The study is part of the AmericasBarometer Insights series produced by the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) housed at Vanderbilt University. Dinorah is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Wichita State University in Kansas who does a lot of writing on Guatemala, El Salvador and Central America.

This Insights report examines the gender gap in politics in Guatemala using data gathered over the past 20 years. We find significant improvements in certain areas: overall participation in politics has increased, with both men and women perceiving greater levels of freedom to exercise their political rights.

Despite these advances, a gender gap still exists. Women have substantially lower levels of political participation than men, and feel less free to vote, participate in community groups, join demonstrations, and, in particular, run for office. These differences in perceived freedom, then, suggest that much more work needs to be done in Guatemala before gender equality in politics can be achieved.

When Dinorah looks just at women, she finds that those with more years of education and those who live in larger cities are more likely to perceive higher levels of freedom to exercise their political rights than are those with fewer years of schooling and those living in more rural settings. Interestingly enough indigenous women are more likely to feel free to participate than are non-indigenous women.

College educated indigenous women living in rural areas possess some of the strongest perceptions of freedom when it comes to participating compared to other groups of women.

Like [poverty](#) in Guatemala, long-term trends are improving even though Guatemala remains one of the poorest and most [unequal](#) societies in the Americas.

Posted by [Mike Allison](#) at 3:43 PM



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Mariano "Rivera hated to lose. When his team was behind, he'd throw the ball in the ocean and call it a tie." [wapo.st/1dvVEq4](http://wapo.st/1dvVEq4)



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