
Bolivia: Polls Show Morales Will Cruise to Victory in Presidential Elections

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Current Bolivian President Evo Morales has a commanding lead in the presidential race according to new polls released on Tuesday.

The poll, conducted by Ipsos for the October 12 elections shows that Morales has 59 percent support, well ahead of his main opponent Samuel Doria Medina who dropped from 17 to 13 percent.

Morales' popularity has remained stable in the past months, and looks to cruise to victory to take up the presidential post once again.

Evo Morales became Bolivia's first indigenous leader in 2006 and is campaigning on a platform of expanding social reforms in the nation which has been traditionally politically unstable, but under his leadership has remained relatively calm.

The 2009 constitution only allows two consecutive presidential terms, but last year the Supreme Court said that his first 2006-09 term did not count, as it preceded the adoption of the constitution.

To win outright in the first round, Morales will need over 50 percent of the vote, or win 40 percent of the vote by at least 10 percentage points.