

Presidential Hopeful Macri Pushes Privatization for Argentina

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As Argentine presidential candidates Mauricio Macri and Daniel Scioli battle to define the future of the country, Macri is pushing plans to privatize Buenos Aires, Argentina's Pagina 12 reported Thursday.

Macri, current mayor of Buenos Aires and presidential candidate of the conservative Let's Change coalition, is preparing a package of laws to usher in the privatization of public lands starting as early as this month.





"We are not here against anyone. We're here giving all for our future" #Mendoza

Macri's proposals include plans to sell off properties and buildings in Buenos Aires, some of which are seen as important parts of the city's

cultural heritage, as well as plans to concession parts of key industries like touGovernmentaligned political opposition figures have slammed Macri's plans for delivering major bonuses to big business in the form of land, infrastructure, and future profits without addressing critical issues faced by people in Buenos Aires, such as housing crisis.

In the presidential race, Macri presents himself as an alternative to President Cristina Fernandez and her Peronist political movement. Backed by big business and private media, Macri promotes neoliberal policies and has promised to introduce free market reforms to Argentina's economy.

Critics say Macri's policies favor the wealthy and big business at the expense of sidelining problems of systemic inequality.

Macri achieved a surprise surge in support in the Oct. 21 first-round elections that polls predicted Front for Victory coalition candidate Scioli would win. The tight race between the two frontrunners forced a runoff election, set to take place Nov. 22.

But Scioli is also working to capture the portion of votes won by third place A New Alternative coalition candidate Sergio Massa, who won just over 21 percent of the vote. A major debate between the two candidates on Sunday, expected to attract a massive audience, could be a turning point in determining who will pull ahead in the race.

With voters facing a choice between Scioli's continuity with the current policies of President Fernandez and Macri's proposed return to 1990's-style neoliberalism, the elections are seen as a significant crossroads in Argentina's future.

Ahead of the Nov. 22 presidential runoff, conservative candidate Mauricio Macri is pr eparing an aggressive privatization plan for Buenos Aires.

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