

Haiti: Provisional Electoral Council Releases Final List of Candidates for Legislative Elections, Rejects Over One-Quarter of Candidates

By [Center for Economic and Policy Research](#)

Global Research, May 22, 2015

[Center for Economic and Policy Research](#) 19

May 2015

Region: [Latin America & Caribbean](#)

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Early on the morning of May 15, Haiti's electoral authority [posted online the final list](#) of approved candidates for legislative elections scheduled to be held in August. Over 2,000 candidates registered, representing some 98 different political parties. The Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) rejected 522 candidates – 76 for the Senate and 446 for the lower house – leaving 1,515 candidates to compete for 138 open seats.

The CEP, in announcing the rejection of over one-quarter of registered candidates, provided no rationale for individual cases. CEP member Lucie Marie Carmelle Paul Austin [told Le Nouvelliste](#) that the list is final: “The CEP did its work in a completely equitable manner and in compliance with the law.” She added that in many cases candidates were rejected because they did not have proper paper work proving their Haitian nationality.

All the leading parties saw a significant number of candidates rejected, with Martelly's *Parti Haïtien Tèt Kale* (PHTK) having the most rejected: 31. Still, PHTK had registered the most candidates, and other parties had a higher percentage of their candidates rejected, such as *Platfòm Pitit Dessalines* and *Renmen Ayiti*. After the CEP's rejections, VERITE, the new party created by former president René Préal and former prime minister Jean-Max Bellerive, has the most candidates in the upcoming election, with 97 followed by PHTK with 94.

	Senate Accepted	Deputy Accepted	Total Accepted	Senate Rejected	Deputy Rejected	Total Rejected	Percent Rejected
VERITE	11	86	97	4	20	24	19.8%
P.H.T.K	9	85	94	8	23	31	24.8%
FANMI LAVALAS	14	76	90	4	17	21	18.9%
FUSION	11	71	82	2	21	23	21.9%
OPL	9	71	80	5	17	22	21.6%
RENMEN AYITI	12	63	75	5	22	27	26.5%
PLATFÒM PITIT DESSALINES	11	60	71	4	21	25	26.0%
KID	9	60	69	3	21	24	25.8%

	Registered	Rejected	Percent Rejected	Accepted
Senate	262	76	29.0%	186
Deputy	1,775	446	25.1%	1,329
TOTAL	2,037	522	25.6%	1,515

Although the CEP has said the decisions are final, political parties have expressed their frustration with the lack of transparency in the process. The coordinator of Fanmi Lavalas, Dr. Maryse Narcisse, told the press that the party had requested an explanation from the CEP, adding, “I think the right of all has to be respected and if there are people who have been unfairly rejected, we will present ourselves to the CEP, we will begin a legal process so that they do justice to those they unjustly rejected,” [according to Haiti Libre](#).

After the publication of the list by the CEP on Friday, the Haiti Press Network reported that some candidates led protests against the decisions. Supporters of Germain Alexandre Fils, a candidate for deputy in Petit Goâve under the VERITE ticket, blocked National Highway #2, while in the Central department PHTK Senate candidate Willot Joseph threatened to block elections from happening unless the CEP decision was reversed.

The rejection of First Lady and PHTK Senate candidate Sophia Martelly had already been announced, but with seven other candidates for Senate rejected, PHTK can no longer field a candidate in every department. The only political party that is fielding senate candidates in all 10 departments is Fanmi Lavalas, which had been excluded from participating in past elections.

In response to the CEP’s decision, the PHTK party [released a statement](#) “strongly challenging” the rejection of their candidates and calling on supporters to remain calm.

Nevertheless, some of the rejections could hardly come as a surprise. These included former Senator Rudolph Boulos, of the PHTK party. He had previously been forced from his post after it was determined that he held a U.S. passport, making him ineligible to hold office in Haiti.

While rejections made the headlines, some interesting names did make the cut. Jacqueline Charles [reports for the Miami Herald](#): “Among those who will be vying for one of those empty Senate seats is Guy Philippe, a former Haitian police officer who led the 2004 coup that toppled former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Over the years, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents have tried — and failed — on at least three occasions to arrest Philippe, who has been wanted in the United States since 2005. This will be Philippe’s third try at elected office in Haiti.”

The registration period for presidential elections is ongoing.

Maryse Narcisse Registers as the Presidential Candidate of the Lavalas Family Party

by Daniel Tercier

With great fanfare, on May 19, Dr. Maryse Narcisse, the coordinator of the Lavalas Family Political Organization (FL), registered as that party’s candidate for presidential elections scheduled for October and December.

With over 150 motorcycles, 10 school buses, and 40 private cars, thousands of FL partisans clogged the streets of Tabarre in anticipation of the event. Dr. Narcisse arrived at the Aristide Foundation for Democracy around 9:30 a.m.. After a rally there, she drove through the multitude to the home of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, about a half mile away. After about 15 minutes, two vehicles with tinted windows emerged. The crowd went wild, thinking that Dr. Aristide was in one of the vehicles. But when the cars arrived at the West Department’s Electoral Bureau (BED), it turned out Dr. Narcisse was accompanied by

Mildred Trouillot Aristide, the former president's wife.

The FL has been excluded from all Haitian elections for over a decade, since the U.S.-backed coup d'état against Aristide in February 2004.

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