

Challenges of Political Parties in the Appointment of Public Positions

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ABSTRACT: Political parties face several challenges when appointing public positions, the importance lies in the need to guarantee efficiency, transparency and legitimacy, in public management it is the selection of suitable and qualified candidates to occupy positions of responsibility in the government. In one context, citizens demand greater professionalism and ethics in public service, ensuring that their candidates have the skills to perform their duties efficiently.

At the same time, it is about promoting inclusion and diversity in the appointment of public positions, ensuring the participation of all sectors of society. This means promoting the inclusion of women, young people, indigenous peoples, as well as people with special abilities and groups that have been relegated for many years. This will contribute to strengthening institutions and improving the quality of public management, responding to the demands of increasingly demanding citizens.

KEYWORDS: challenges, public positions, political parties, appointment, politics.

INTRODUCTION

The problematic reality in the electoral process of Ecuador and Latin American countries are closely linked in a similar position to the power to determine the candidates through the popular vote, in some cases, in other, they are mandatory, but based on this system and in this sense of democracy are the political parties (PP) which are the representation of social organizations, unions, communities and in which are sympathizers and affiliates who will make the representation in future scans in the various public offices and local, regional or governmental representation.

It must be taken into account that the beginning of every candidate is to be part of a (PP), it must be the representation of a whole conglomerate of the community in its different sectors, therefore it is there where more emphasis must be placed with respect to the representation proposed by the political parties, a greater control and rigorousness must be established by the parties and the commitment they propose to the citizens so that they can exercise their will through the suffrage, which is a representative form of democracy.

Therefore, a diagnosis to the political parties establishes in some cases an internal regulation and in others they do not even exist, since the power in the public sector by the owners of the parties is at stake, many of them select their candidates from within and independently and in others in a democratic way a fictitious scenario is established so that there are internal elections or primaries for their nominees to become candidates to the representation of a political party, in others a single candidate is presented and is nominated with the support or disposition of the representative of the political party.

In this sense, we can clearly see the lack of citizen participation within the same organization. The conformation of improvised people to be candidates that for their trajectory in the public life have been recognized, in this list are characters of the small screen, retired military, businessmen, unionists etc., that little or much satisfy the electorate, they act with a romantic speech, with little or null academic instruction and participation in the public sector and in an indisputable way to have the support inside the party, which in the way the history has been able to witness the failures of these improvised characters but in a meticulously chosen way.

This is how the candidates are consecrated in Latin America, in the region it has been possible to observe a very significant curve in the participation of the candidates proposed by the political parties and in which it has been possible to evidence the particular interests based on their partisan ideologies and personal interests that the only thing that has resulted in a negative slope (Alcántara Sáenz and Flavia Freidenberg, 2002).

Under this logic, we can determine that there would be no eligible candidate if a control is established by the electoral control institutions in each one of the elections.

In the countries of the region, it is necessary to consider that this form of partisan election begins to become a modus operandi of the political parties and by the sponsorship of their representatives.

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Likewise, citizens should form watchdog groups to demand that each candidate representing a political party fits the profile that the party is nominating, creating social filters and with a high degree of commitment from society, under a professional competitive scheme, with ethics, expertise, among other aspects to have a suitable candidate in the portfolio,

In this dynamic, Ecuador within the Constitution of 2008, approves a law called "optional vote" in which 16 year olds can voluntarily vote in all elections in the country, this corresponds to 25% of the electorate, which would represent approximately three million voters in this category, in the same line, are those over 65 years and Ecuadorians who for any reason reside abroad and the military are added, this is the Armed Forces, National Police and people with special abilities.

Educate young people about what this process consists of, not only in the act of voluntary suffrage, but also in the sense of their democratic responsibility, since in the majority of cases they are induced by the candidates of the political parties, in which they are offered an optimistic scenario for their studies, scholarships, ease of entrance to universities, among others, therefore it is there where the authorities involved should join efforts so that the vote is related to conscience with knowledge as a responsible democratic act.

JUSTIFICATION

The study of the challenges faced by the (PP) in the nomination of public positions is to understand the functioning of contemporary democracy, where the legitimacy of democratic institutions is constantly questioned, it is crucial to analyze how the (PP) select their candidates since this has a direct impact on the efficiency and quality of public management and the acceptance of citizens in the institutions and the political system.

According to Norris (2011), democracy will depend on the quality of political representatives and their ability to be accountable and responsive to citizen demands. Therefore, understanding the challenges faced by (PP) in the appointment to public office is essential to strengthen democracy and improve quality.

One of the main challenges is to ensure that the candidates selected are suitable and qualified to perform their functions effectively. As Sartori (2005) points out, the competence and capacity of those who govern are fundamental. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze how political parties can promote professionalization and meritocracy in the selection of candidates and occupants of public office. In addition, political parties also face the challenge of encouraging citizen participation in the designation of public offices, ensuring the representativeness of different sectors of society. According to Inglehart and Norris (2017), the political participation of diverse social groups is essential to ensure the legitimacy and stability of contemporary democracies. Therefore, it is important to analyze how (PPs) can promote the inclusion of women, youth, indigenous and other historically marginalized groups.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

To analyze the challenges faced by (PPs) in the appointment of public office to strengthen democracy and improve the quality of public management.

Second, to propose recommendations and strategies to promote professionalization, inclusion with transparency in the selection of candidates for public office by (PPs).

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Identify the criteria and processes used by political parties in the selection of candidates and occupants of public office, in order to identify possible biases, limitations and areas for improvement.

To analyze the impact of the appointment of public office holders by political parties on the representativeness and legitimacy of democratic institutions, especially with regard to the inclusion of different social groups and accountability.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology will be related to the literature review identifying the existing academic literature on the topic, plus the exploration of previous research related to the selection of candidates for public office, using databases such as JSTOR, Google Scholar, Scopus and Web of Science to obtain relevant articles.

DEFINITION OF THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Establish a theoretical framework to analyze the challenges of (PP) in the appointment of public office. Using relevant theories and concepts of political science, such as the theory of (PP), political representation, candidate selection and quality of democracy.

Analyze the main challenges faced by (PP), such as professionalization, transparency, accountability and inclusion of citizens. Identify case studies and concrete examples that illustrate these challenges in different political and geographical contexts, developing a research strategy that allows for the collection of empirical data.

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EPISTEMOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

Epistemology and Politics Epistemology, the study of knowledge, provides a critical foundation for understanding how beliefs and practices are generated, validated, and applied in various contexts. In the field of politics and public administration, epistemology can provide deep insights into the rationality and justification behind public office appointment decisions by (PPs).

This analysis is crucial to understanding the challenges faced by these parties in Ecuador, the appointment of public office should be based on sound knowledge and rational criteria to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of government. However, in many cases, decisions are influenced by partisan interests, which can distort the application of meritocratic criteria. This conflict between rational knowledge (based on skills and competencies) and partisan knowledge (based on political loyalties) represents a fundamental challenge.

Knowledge theory, which is concerned with the nature and scope of knowledge, suggests that, for efficient public administration, the appointments should be based on an informed meritocracy. This is based on the idea that knowledge and skills should be the main criteria for selection.

However, in Ecuador, politicization can lead to a devaluation of expert knowledge in favor of political affiliation, compromising the quality of public service. Critical epistemology, which questions power structures and dominant modes of knowledge, can help to unravel how (PPs) in Ecuador use their power to influence the appointment of public officials.

Transparency in these processes is essential to ensure that decisions are epistemologically justified, i.e., based on verified information and clear criteria. Lack of transparency can conceal arbitrary and uninformed decisions, eroding public trust.

The concept of situated knowledge, which recognizes that knowledge is always contextual and dependent on specific circumstances, is relevant to understanding the challenges in Ecuador. CPs operate in an environment where socioeconomic and cultural realities significantly influence decisions.

Recognizing this context is crucial to developing designation practices that are fair and effective. However, failure to consider these factors can lead to decisions that do not adequately reflect local needs and realities. Epistemological justification, which involves validating beliefs or decisions through reasons and evidence, is fundamental to democratic legitimacy.

Political parties must justify their appointment decisions in a way that is understandable and acceptable to the citizenry. This implies not only transparency, but also clear communication of the criteria and processes used. Political parties must adhere to high ethical standards in the nomination of candidates for public office. This implies avoiding undue influence from special interests, ensuring integrity in the selection process and promoting accountability at all stages.

Within the research on the Theory of the participation of political parties in the designation of Public Offices in Latin America and its challenges we can mention:

Guillermo O'Donnell O'Donnell is a key figure in the study of politics in Latin America, known for his work on democratization and governance. In his work on "delegative democracy," O'Donnell highlights how political parties can significantly influence public administration.

Scott Mainwaring Mainwaring has done extensive research on political party systems in Latin America. He argues that political parties play a crucial role in consolidating democracy and structuring political institutions.

Juan Pablo Luna Luna analyzes how the organization and functioning of political parties in Latin America affect the quality of democracy and governance. In his paper, Luna highlights that political parties are essential for the articulation of interests and political representation. However, he also stresses that partisan appointment to public office can erode trust in institutions and increase corruption.

Levitsky and Roberts Steven Levitsky and Kenneth Roberts have studied the role of (PPs) in the context of the "new left" in Latin America. They argue that parties can be important vehicles for the implementation of progressive public policies.

Merilee Grindle Grindle has investigated the relationship between politics and administrative reform in Latin America. In her studies, she argues that the participation of political parties in the appointment of public officials can be beneficial if it is oriented towards the professionalization of the civil service.

David Collier Collier has explored the dynamics of political regimes in Latin America, including the role of the (PP) in the bureaucracy. His work suggests that parties can play a constructive role in governance by facilitating policy coordination and implementation.

DEVELOPMENT/DISCUSSION

In democratic political systems, the appointment of public officials is a crucial process that directly influences the quality of government management, the representativeness of institutions and the legitimacy of the political system as a whole.

In Latin America, and particularly in Ecuador, this process faces a series of challenges that affect the efficiency, transparency and legitimacy of public administration. Within this framework, it is essential to analyze the role of political parties in the appointment of public officials, as well as the challenges they face in guaranteeing the suitability, transparency and representativeness of the political system as a whole.

PPs play a central role in the shaping and functioning of democratic political systems. According to Mainwaring and Scully (1995),

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(PBs) are fundamental institutions for the representation and functioning of democracy, since they articulate social demands, organize political competition and structure decision-making at the state level.

In Latin America, the appointment of public officials faces a series of challenges. According to Schedler (2013), Latin American political systems are characterized by institutional weakness, corruption and lack of transparency in appointment, which hinders the professionalization and efficiency of public administration.

In Ecuador, according to Larrea (2017), the appointment of public positions in Ecuador has been characterized by lack of transparency, political clientelism and lack of meritocracy, which has weakened the quality of government management and the legitimacy of the political system.

To guarantee suitability, transparency and representativeness in this process, it is essential to strengthen control and accountability mechanisms, promote meritocracy and the professionalization of public administration, and combat political clientelism and corruption.

The theory put forward by Robert Michels, overlays and announces the problems faced by the (PP) and in which he emphasizes the German social democratic parties with great interference of the oligarchy that develops within the political organizations.

He explains his study, pointing directly to the changes that must be made by the (PP) that they must create from the bases of the interior in their different dignities be in a democratic way, for which he refers to the own party regulation, he also expresses the acts that are replicated in Latin America to carry out and proceed with the respective regulations.

The research shows that the selection of the candidate and selected is for being extremely brief and therefore inoperable the form of proportional representation considered in which two names tend to generate volatility and instability and excludes important sectors. In Colombia, which is politically very similar to Peru, Barrero (2014) defines that political parties tend to establish their own rules required by law, which are written and widely known, so they proceed with the formalization in the process of nominating candidates. However, in these processes it was found that the organizations of the (PP) among those registered and those not found coexisted in an aggregated form, under the own interests substituting partisan conflicts.

Then, given the lack of strengthening of state electoral laws, parties implement their own laws where there is room to nominate candidates, where voters are powerful people who appoint officials. At the regional level (parliamentarians and landowners) or political leaders who choose candidates based on criteria that go beyond such as belligerence.

In terms of "where quotas are not mandatory", they tend to avoid them. This makes Latin America very different from Europe, where many countries do not have electoral quota laws, but the (PP) have their own where they implement voluntary quotas. Since Downes (1957), has played a crucial role in the analysis of the importance of knowing each of the (PP), it is thus, that a diagnosis is produced by the citizens to establish the importance of the trend and this is related to their thoughts or ideologies.

Negative aspects of the intervention of the (PP) in the appointment of public officials in Ecuador, the politicization of the administration, the intervention of the (PP) in the appointment of public officials can lead to an excessive politicization of the public administration.

This phenomenon implies that appointments are made on the basis of party loyalties instead of merit and competence. The consequence is a less efficient and professional administration, since decisions are not based on technical criteria but on political ones.

Corruption and Nepotism the influence of the (PP) in appointments can encourage corrupt practices and nepotism. Politicians may use their power to place relatives, friends and allies in key positions, regardless of their suitability for the position. This weakens institutional integrity and undermines public confidence in government.

Lack of Continuity in (PP) Frequent turnover of public officials with each change of party administration can disrupt the continuity of public policies. Long-term projects and programs may be abandoned or restructured by each new administration, making it difficult to implement effective and sustainable policies.

Inequality in access to opportunities political intervention in appointments can create an unequal system in which only affiliates or sympathizers of certain parties have access to public office. This is not only unfair, but can also discourage competent and skilled professionals who do not have political ties, thus limiting talent and diversity within the public administration.

Weakening of Meritocracy One of the main challenges is the weakening of meritocracy. In a system where appointments depend on political affiliation, academic and professional merit takes a back seat. This may result in a public administration that is less efficient and less able to face the country's administrative and social challenges.

The politicization of these appointments can undermine their ability to act autonomously and objectively, the risk of Political Instability The interference of the (PP) can increase the risk of political instability. Public administration can become a battleground where partisan loyalties take precedence over the national interest, which can generate internal conflicts and weaken governance.

One of the challenges in implementing reforms, efforts to implement them can face major challenges in a highly politicized environment. Politically appointed officials may resist changes that do not benefit their party or personal interests, thus hindering the adoption of policies necessary for the country's development and progress.

On the other hand, the benefits of the Participation of the (PP) in the designation of public positions in Ecuador, is the democratic representation from the same political organizations in which democratic representation can be strengthened.

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When parties act in a transparent and responsible manner, they can ensure that the diverse voices and concerns of the citizenry are represented in government.

This can promote greater legitimacy and trust in public institutions, since appointed officials reflect the popular will expressed in elections.

In this sense, the (PPs), by appointing officials to public office, can push their political agenda more effectively. Appointed officials who share the party's vision and objectives can work in a coordinated manner to implement policies that are coherent and aligned with the electoral program. This can result in greater efficiency and speed in the execution of public policies that benefit the population.

In addition, the strengthening of governance could be considered, since the participation of the (PP) in the designation of positions can strengthen governance by creating a cohesive team committed to the government in office. A government backed by a team that shares the same political orientation can deal more effectively with the challenges and conflicts that arise during the term of office, maintaining a clear line of action and shared objectives.

Political parties can identify and promote talented and experienced individuals within their ranks for public office. This is especially beneficial when parties have internal leadership training and development structures. Appointing skilled and committed professionals can improve the quality of public administration and ensure effective policy implementation.

By having control over appointments, political parties can be more responsible and accountable to the citizenry. If appointed officials fail to fulfill their responsibilities, parties face pressure from their base and the electorate at large, which can lead to greater transparency and accountability in public management.

The presence of members of the same party in various areas of government can facilitate inter-institutional coordination. This is crucial for the implementation of policies that require the collaboration of multiple departments and agencies. Effective coordination can result in optimizing resources and achieving common objectives more efficiently and effectively.

Given the importance of where the greatest internal conflict can arise, it is logical that it be clearly spelled out in the party rules (Billie, 2005).

Sartori, (2003), however, and while their behavior according to the decision making product of a participation. In fact, the major problems faced by the parties is the authoritarianism, the abuse of power that is evident before the citizens.

In addition, it is pointed out that, in Ecuador, the law itself is the object of partisan political struggle, there are no clear rules that should be stable enough to ensure equal conditions for all parties. State power (Freidenberg and Pachano, 2016).

CONCLUSIONS

This analysis suggests that, although the challenges are significant, there are clear pathways to move towards a more professional and less politicized public administration in Ecuador. The key lies in the effective implementation of reforms and the strengthening of a political culture that values transparency, competence and accountability.

The intervention of the (PP) in the appointment of public officials in Ecuador presents a delicate balance between the need for democratic representation and the risks of politicization. The tendency to prioritize partisan loyalties over technical competencies can weaken public administration and affect government efficiency.

Frequent turnover of officials due to partisan changes can disrupt the continuity of public policies essential for the country's sustainable development. This phenomenon not only affects the implementation of long-term projects, but also undermines administrative stability.

Lack of transparency in appointment processes can foster corruption and nepotism, undermining public confidence in institutions. Implementing transparency and accountability policies is crucial to ensure that appointment decisions are justified and that public officials respond adequately to their responsibilities.

Institutional reforms aimed at professionalizing the civil service and reducing political interference in public administration are necessary to address the problems of corruption and nepotism. Current challenges. These reforms should include the creation of independent bodies to oversee selection processes and ensure that they are based on objective criteria.

Fostering political education that values ethics, transparency and competence is essential to change current practices. PPs should promote an internal culture that prioritizes merit and accountability over partisan loyalties. In the long run, this can contribute to a healthier political environment and a more efficient and fair public administration.

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