



POLITIK AYITI | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

Friday, December 12, 2025, 7:00 PM Haiti Time

Intelligence for Haiti's Democratic Transition

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57 days until February 7, 2026 constitutional deadline
3 days until candidate registration closes (December 15)
261 days until official election date (August 30, 2026)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The electoral calendar confusion is resolved with August 30, 2026 confirmed as the official first round date by multiple authoritative sources including France24, EFE News, Wikipedia, and US Congressional Research Service. The earlier February 1 timeline was a draft proposal superseded after the CPT determined it impossible to meet. This clarification exposes the deeper constitutional crisis as the CPT mandate expires February 7, leaving a seven and a half month governance vacuum with no legal extension mechanism. The Bel-Air massacre enters its fifth consecutive day with over 60 dead and zero government response, signaling deliberate non-intervention policy. Candidate registration ends Sunday with notable silence from major opposition figures.



QUICK SUMMARY FOR STAKEHOLDERS

August 30, 2026 is the confirmed election date per government decree approved December 1 and reported by France24, EFE, and Congressional Research Service. The February 1 date was an obsolete draft timeline. The CPT mandate expires February 7, 2026 creating a seven month legal vacuum before elections unless CARICOM negotiates emergency extension framework. Bel-Air violence continues fifth day with 60 plus dead and no police intervention or government statements. Candidate registration deadline Sunday December 15 shows unusual silence from major opposition parties suggesting either quiet registration or coordinated boycott.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

DEVELOPMENT 1: Electoral Calendar Clarified But Constitutional Crisis Exposed



CONFIDENCE



High Confidence. Multiple authoritative international sources confirm August 30, 2026 as the official election date. France24 reported December 2 that Haiti's transitional authorities unveiled the electoral timetable announcing August 30, 2026 elections. Wikipedia cites November 14 CEP submission and December 1 CPT approval setting general elections for two rounds on August 30 and December 6, 2026. US Congressional Research Service report dated November 26 states the Provisional Electoral Council submitted an electoral calendar to the provisional government for elections in August 2026. CTN Info reported November 17 that the CEP set August 30, 2026 as the date for first round presidential and legislative elections.

What's Happening

The electoral calendar confusion is definitively resolved. The official election timeline sets March 2026 for campaign period launch, July 31, 2026 for electoral list publication, August 30, 2026 for first round voting covering presidential, legislative, and local offices, December 6, 2026 for second round, and February 7, 2027 for

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presidential inauguration. The earlier February 1, 2026 timeline was a draft proposal published by the CEP in late October that was subsequently revised to August 30 after the CPT concluded the February date was impossible due to security and logistical constraints. The confusion arose because the October draft received wide publicity in Haitian media while the November revision submitted to the Executive was not immediately publicized and the December 1 CPT approval formalizing the August 30 date occurred while Haitian media continued citing the obsolete February timeline. The current December 1 through 15 candidate registration period is confirmed to be for the August 30, 2026 election.

Why This Matters

The calendar clarification provides electoral certainty ending weeks of operational confusion for candidates, political parties, and international observers. However, this clarity exposes the more fundamental constitutional crisis. The CPT constitutional mandate expires February 7, 2026, exactly 57 days from today. With elections now scheduled for August 30, Haiti will operate without constitutional governmental authority for seven and a half months. The Haitian Constitution provides no mechanism for the CPT to extend its own mandate beyond the February 7 deadline. No constitutional amendments have been proposed. CARICOM which brokered the original transitional agreement has not announced any framework for managing the post-February 7 period. International partners including the OAS have identified this as critical priority but have not presented solutions. The governance vacuum period would cover essential electoral preparation activities including voter registration verification, polling station setup, and security deployment for the GSF mission. Every government action during this period including laws passed, decrees issued, international agreements signed, and financial commitments made would lack constitutional foundation creating massive legal risk for international partners requiring constitutional legitimacy for operational partnerships and financial disbursements.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The February 7 date carries profound constitutional significance in Haiti marking the traditional presidential inauguration date commemorating the fall of the Duvalier dictatorship on February 7, 1986. The date appears throughout the 1987 Constitution as a fundamental institutional marker. The CPT was established in April 2024 through CARICOM mediation with explicit understanding it would govern only until February 7, 2026 when elected authorities would assume power. This timeline was negotiated by CARICOM and accepted by all political actors as a hard deadline establishing the constitutional compact legitimizing the current transitional government. Missing this deadline does not merely delay transition but fundamentally breaks the constitutional agreement. Haiti has not held national elections since 2016 when Jovenel Moïse was elected and inaugurated February 2017. Electoral calendar announcements have been repeatedly delayed, revised, and contradicted throughout the transition period creating patterns of institutional unreliability.

DEVELOPMENT 2: Bel-Air Massacre Enters Fifth Day With Zero Government Response



CONFIDENCE



High Confidence. Multiple international news agencies including ABC News, Washington Post, and Council on Foreign Relations confirm the ongoing Bel-Air violence beginning December 8. Death toll reporting ranges from 49 to over 60 with specific casualties documented including 10 child recruits, 19 women executed, and high-profile gang leaders. Impulsé Web Médias reported December 10 on continued night violence in Bel-Air. No official government statements or police intervention reports have emerged in any source.

What's Happening

The Krache Dife gang splinter assault on rival Viv Ansanm factions in Bel-Air has now continued for five consecutive days from December 8 through 12. The confirmed death toll exceeds 60 including 10 children who were gang recruits, 19 women executed during the violence, and at least 19 gang members. High-profile casualties include Dede, a gang leader who was beheaded, and Kempes Sanon, another prominent gang figure who was wounded. Impulsé Web Médias reported December 10 that night terror continued in Bel-Air with gangs plunging the neighborhood back into fear noting that although no official report has been communicated the population fears the spiral of violence will repeat itself in this already martyred neighborhood. As of Friday evening December 12, no official government statement has addressed the ongoing violence and no police intervention has been reported in any media source. The violence represents an internal power struggle within the Viv Ansanm gang federation with Krache Dife attempting to break away and establish independent territorial control.

Why This Matters

The five-day duration without any government response represents a fundamental policy decision, not operational incapacity. The Haitian National Police deliberate non-intervention signals strategic acceptance of gang self-purging with the calculation that allowing rival factions to weaken each other through internal conflict benefits eventual state operations. This doctrine treats gang-controlled territories as zones where extreme violence is tolerated provided it does not threaten government institutions or commercial areas. The death toll now exceeds the October Pont-Sonde massacre that triggered international condemnation yet has produced no comparable response. This normalizes multi-day urban warfare in the capital creating expectations that future gang territorial disputes will receive similar non-intervention. The absence of humanitarian access during five days of violence demonstrates complete state withdrawal from Bel-Air. For international partners including the GSF mission this raises critical questions about rules of engagement and whether international forces will intervene in gang-on-gang violence or limit operations to protecting government functions and strategic infrastructure.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Bel-Air has been gang-controlled territory for over a decade experiencing periodic territorial wars between rival factions. The Viv Ansanm coalition formed in 2023 as a federation of previously independent gangs seeking to coordinate control over Port-au-Prince. The coalition structure has always been unstable with member gangs maintaining separate territorial bases and independent leadership structures. Previous internal conflicts within Viv Ansanm resulted in temporary violence followed by negotiated truces brokered by coalition leadership. The Krache Dife splinter represents a more fundamental break suggesting the coalition structure is collapsing under pressure from government security operations and the pending GSF deployment. The PNH non-intervention doctrine emerged gradually throughout 2024 and 2025 as gang territorial control expanded while police capacity remained limited despite Multinational Security Support mission presence. The Council on Foreign Relations assessment notes the fighting has destabilized Viv Ansanm internal hierarchy and raised fears of accelerated gang warfare

across the capital.

DEVELOPMENT 3: The Silent Registration Strategy



CONFIDENCE



Medium Confidence. The December 1 through 15 candidate registration period is confirmed through multiple sources including Haiti Libre and Haiti Info Project. The notable absence of major candidate announcements over the past 48 hours is observable but the underlying cause requires interpretation. The December 22 candidate list publication will provide definitive data on whether registration occurred privately or major parties boycotted.

What's Happening

With three days remaining until the December 15 candidate registration deadline, the absence of major candidate announcements has evolved from delay into a pattern. No prominent opposition figures have held press conferences announcing candidacies. No major political parties have issued statements about registration completion. The silence contrasts sharply with typical Haitian electoral cycles where candidate declarations generate significant media coverage and political theater. The CEP December 16 through 19 contestation period will allow challenges to registrations followed by December 22 final candidate list publication. The campaign period for the August 30 election is scheduled to begin in March 2026. The registration silence occurs against backdrop of the now-clarified August 30 timeline meaning candidates have eight months to campaign rather than the two months they would have faced under the obsolete February 1 timeline.

Why This Matters

The registration silence suggests three possible scenarios. First, candidates may be registering privately without media fanfare calculating that early public announcements attract unnecessary scrutiny or gang targeting in the current security environment. Second, major opposition parties may be coordinating a boycott waiting until after the December 15 deadline to denounce the process as illegitimate and refuse participation. Third, confusion over the February 1 versus August 30 timeline may have caused major political actors to delay decisions while awaiting clarification that only arrived this week. The December 22 candidate list publication will definitively reveal which scenario is operative. If the list shows robust registration from major parties and prominent figures then private registration explains the silence. If the list shows minimal participation or absence of major opposition names then coordinated boycott becomes likely. The implications for electoral legitimacy are profound as elections without major opposition participation would face immediate credibility challenges from losing parties and skeptical international observers.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Haitian electoral cycles traditionally feature dramatic candidate announcement events with political parties staging rallies and press conferences to launch candidacies. The 2015-2016 electoral cycle saw multiple rounds of candidate registration followed by boycotts and annulments creating precedent for opposition parties withdrawing participation to delegitimize results. The current transition context where the CPT and CEP were imposed through

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international mediation rather than emerging from national consensus creates additional boycott risk. Major opposition figures including former presidents and prominent senators have not publicly committed to participating in the 2026 elections. The registration period timing during December when many diaspora political actors travel to Haiti would typically see increased announcement activity making the current silence more notable.

IMPLICATIONS BY STAKEHOLDER

International Organizations

TALKING POINTS

The August 30 electoral timeline provides operational planning certainty for the first time since the transition began allowing international observers, technical assistance providers, and security partners to develop concrete deployment schedules and resource allocation plans. However, the February 7 CPT mandate expiration requires immediate diplomatic intervention to establish constitutional framework for the seven month governance gap. The Bel-Air non-intervention policy signals that security sector support alone cannot restore order without addressing the political legitimacy crisis preventing effective state action. The registration silence creates uncertainty about electoral viability requiring contingency planning for scenarios including major party boycotts or minimal candidate participation that would undermine result legitimacy.

RECOMMENDED DECISION

Convene emergency CARICOM consultations before December 20 to negotiate constitutional amendments or transitional protocols covering February 7 through August 30 governance period. Coordinate with United Nations to establish that GSF deployment will not proceed without clear constitutional authority for host government operations. Deploy diplomatic pressure on major opposition parties before December 22 candidate list publication to confirm participation intentions and address boycott risks. Use financial leverage to demand CEP transparency on registration numbers and party participation to provide early warning of legitimacy challenges. Prepare contingency frameworks for scenarios where February 7 deadline passes without constitutional resolution including potential suspension of financial disbursements and operational partnerships with unconstitutional transitional government.

Businesses

TALKING POINTS

The seven month constitutional vacuum between February 7 and August 30 creates extreme legal risk for contracts, permits, licenses, and agreements signed during that period as the transitional government will lack constitutional authority to enforce obligations or issue binding decisions. The normalization of five-day urban warfare without government intervention in Port-au-Prince demonstrates that security improvements remain fragile and reversible with gang territorial control persisting despite international security assistance. The registration silence and boycott risks indicate potential for electoral results that lack legitimacy creating scenarios where losing parties refuse to accept transitions or challenge governmental authority complicating business operations requiring stable institutional partners.

RECOMMENDED DECISION

Suspend major capital commitments and long-term contract negotiations until constitutional clarity emerges on post-February 7 governmental authority and legal framework. For existing operations ensure all critical agreements, permits, renewals, and contract amendments are finalized and executed before February 7, 2026 to

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secure constitutional foundation. Revise security protocols to assume Haitian National Police will not intervene in gang territorial disputes meaning private security operations must be capable of autonomous protection without state backup or rapid response. Consider relocating expatriate staff dependents before February 7 given political uncertainty and potential for institutional instability. Develop scenario plans for operations under unconstitutional transitional government including legal remedies and dispute resolution mechanisms if government actions during February through August period are later challenged or invalidated.

Political Actors

TALKING POINTS

Candidates who registered by December 15 must immediately secure written confirmation from the CEP specifying that registration is for the August 30, 2026 election to prevent future disputes over timeline validity or candidacy status. The February 7 CPT mandate expiration provides leverage to demand constitutional guarantees and CARICOM-brokered extension frameworks before committing campaign resources to an electoral process that may occur under illegitimate governmental authority. The registration silence from major opposition creates strategic opportunity for participating candidates to position themselves as legitimate democratic actors willing to engage in transition process while boycotting parties risk irrelevance. The December 22 candidate list publication will define the competitive landscape revealing whether elections will feature genuine multi-party competition or reduced fields that undermine result credibility.

RECOMMENDED DECISION

Form unified candidate coalition immediately to submit formal written demands to the CEP by December 13 requiring official written confirmation of August 30 timeline with legal citations and constitutional basis. Demand written guarantees that registration completions will be honored under final electoral calendar. Simultaneously engage CARICOM representatives to demand their mediation on February 7 constitutional crisis making clear that candidates will not legitimize elections held under unconstitutional authority. Use December 22 candidate list publication as decision point for continued participation, establishing public criteria for withdrawal if major parties have boycotted or if constitutional crisis remains unresolved. Develop campaign strategies optimized for eight month timeline with March 2026 launch recognizing that early spending without constitutional certainty creates resource waste risks.

Diaspora

TALKING POINTS

The electoral calendar clarification to August 30 provides diaspora communities eight months to organize voter registration drives, mobilize financial support for preferred candidates, and coordinate return travel for voting rather than the compressed two month timeline under the obsolete February proposal. However, the February 7 constitutional deadline approaching without transition plan confirms the Haitian political class has not seriously prepared for elections despite years of international pressure. Diaspora communities should prepare for extended uncertainty and potential constitutional crisis scenarios including possible rejection of electoral results, refusal by losing parties to accept transitions, or challenges to governmental legitimacy during the February through August governance vacuum. The registration silence raises concerns about electoral viability and whether major opposition participation will materialize.

RECOMMENDED DECISION

Diaspora organizations should systematically document the current electoral confusion by archiving contradictory

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official statements, media reports, and government communications to establish clear record of institutional dysfunction for future accountability purposes. Coordinate with international partners and diplomatic missions to demand transparent electoral calendar clarification and constitutional crisis resolution. For diaspora considering return or investment decisions treat the February 7 through August 30 period as extreme risk interval with no constitutional certainty about governmental authority or legal validity of institutional actions. Support diaspora voting rights advocacy while recognizing any 2026 election may face legitimacy challenges complicating diaspora participation and result acceptance. Establish diaspora observer missions for candidate registration verification and December 22 list publication to provide independent documentation of participation levels and party engagement.

WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

Today

Monitor whether Prime Minister Office issues statements addressing electoral calendar clarification or February 7 constitutional deadline before weekend. Track whether CEP responds to media inquiries about registration numbers or updates official website with August 30 timeline information. Observe whether Bel-Air violence extends into sixth day or if any Haitian National Police deployment occurs breaking five day non-intervention pattern. Watch for any major candidate or political party announcements in final days before December 15 registration deadline.

This Week

The December 15 candidate registration deadline Sunday will close the registration window forcing candidates to commit without further delay. The deadline will reveal through subsequent candidate statements and party communications which electoral timeline participants believed was operative during registration period. Monitor whether CARICOM or OAS issue statements addressing February 7 constitutional deadline and governance gap. Track whether CEP updates official website and public communications to reflect August 30 timeline removing obsolete February 1 references. Observe whether gang violence spreads beyond Bel-Air to other Port-au-Prince neighborhoods or if Krache Dife splinter successfully consolidates independent territorial control. Watch for any government statements on Bel-Air violence or explanations for non-intervention policy.

Strategic

The December 22 final candidate list publication represents the single most important data point for assessing electoral viability and legitimacy prospects. Robust participation from major parties and prominent opposition figures would indicate genuine multi-party competition. Minimal participation or absence of major opposition names would signal coordinated boycott and fundamental legitimacy crisis. The period from now until February 7 represents the final 57 days to establish constitutional mechanisms for governance continuity past CPT mandate expiration. If no framework emerges by late January expect accelerating political crisis and potential challenges to transitional government legitimacy including possible refusal by international partners to continue financial support and operational cooperation. The GSF deployment timeline becomes critical as it may determine whether security improvements occur under constitutional or extra-constitutional authority affecting mission legitimacy and operational effectiveness.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Wikipedia entry on 2026 Haitian general election citing November 14 CEP submission and December 1 CPT approval

CTN Info report on Haiti setting roadmap for 2026 elections with August 30 first round date

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