

Who Is Claudia Sheinbaum, Mexico's First Female President-elect?

Long tied to outgoing President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, will Sheinbaum be able to carve out a new path?

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She is poised to become Mexico's first female president, after winning a historic mandate in the country's [June 2 election](#).

But Claudia Sheinbaum faces a challenge: how to distinguish herself from her political mentor, current President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, popularly known as AMLO.



Sheinbaum during her victory speech on June 2, 2024. (Licensed under CC BY 4.0)

Representing the left-leaning Morena party, Sheinbaum campaigned in Lopez Obrador's image, embracing many of his trademark projects and policies.

But experts say her personal history and past governing experience offer valuable clues about how her tenure in office might differ from Lopez Obrador's.

"Sheinbaum has always been disciplined and strategic," said Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, a Mexican political analyst. "She's not going to be as radical as AMLO."

A Mix of Academics and Politics

The former head of Mexico City's government, Sheinbaum was born into a family of Jewish heritage, and she initially followed her parents into the field of science.

She studied physics and then energy engineering, pursuing research for her doctoral degree at the University of California, Berkeley in the United States.

But early on, Sheinbaum also mirrored her parents' commitment to political engagement, becoming involved in student activism. On the campaign trail, she often credits her parents' involvement in the 1968 student protests as an inspiration for her own work.

"I have always said it: I am a daughter of '68," she wrote on social media in April.

Her transition to a political career came under Lopez Obrador's wing. In a campaign [video](#) chronicling her life, Sheinbaum explained that she and Lopez Obrador often participated in the same protests and activist work, but it was only in 2000, a week after he was elected mayor of Mexico City, that she was formally introduced to him during a meeting at her house.

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