

# Sandinistas Win by a Landslide! U.S. Dirty Tricks Fail in Derailing Nicaraguan Democracy

By [Nan McCurdy](#)

Global Research, November 10, 2021

[CovertAction Magazine](#) 9 November 2021

Region: [Latin America & Caribbean, USA](#)

Theme: [History](#)

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*In the lead up to the February 25, 1990 elections, President George H.W. Bush told the Nicaraguan people that the U.S. would keep funding the Contras (counter-revolutionaries recruited, funded and directed by President Reagan, the State Department and the CIA in 1980s illegal war), block loans and maintain the brutal economic blockade where Nicaragua couldn’t even get medicine or parts for an x-ray machine.*

Although half a million people came out to show support for the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) days before the vote, the FSLN lost to the U.S. hand-picked candidate, Violetta Chamorro, because of the blackmail and coercion.

With the election result, Nicaragua turned over power effectively, to the U.S., which imposed 17 years of neoliberal austerity. Just about everything was privatized, leading to a reversal of social gains like the glass of milk for children program.

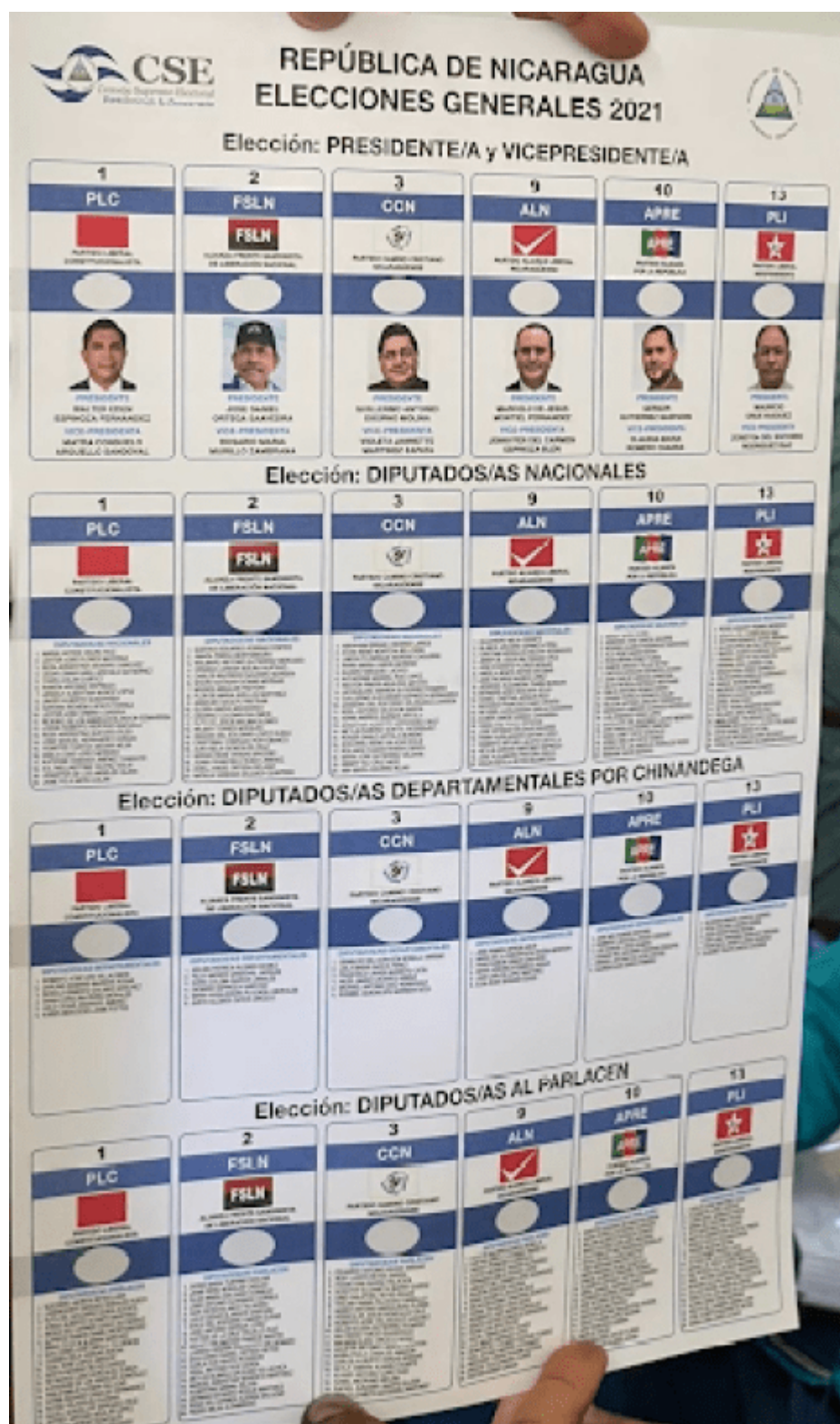
Thousands of people joined the ranks of the unemployed, tried to migrate to the U.S., or went to the cemetery before their time.

This is exactly what the U.S. has again attempted: Brutal sanctions in the form of the 2018 Nica act; and days before the election the State Department pushed a new package of sanctions called RENACER through Congress—screaming to the Nicaraguan people: “you vote Sandinista and we will make your lives hell.”

U.S. agents inside and outside Nicaragua and foreign leaders like the president of Costa Rica, Carlos Alvarado Quesada, told Nicaraguans to boycott Sunday’s election and not to vote.

This message came through to Nicaraguans on all the media created and funded by the United States since the Sandinistas returned to the presidency in 2007. In the weeks and months before the November 7 vote, the U.S. government and its media echo chamber continued to spread misinformation about Ortega and the FSLN to create the idea that the

vote would not be fair.



Ballot [Source: Courtesy of Nan McCurdy]



Polling place board President explains the ballot in Sunday's election in the Barrio Guadalupe, Leon.  
[Source: Photo Courtesy of Nan McCurdy]

On Monday, the results of the election were announced: the FSLN won by a landslide with 75.92% of the vote. Voter turnout was 65.23% of all eligible voters, higher than in the last U.S. election where voter turnout is measured by registered, not eligible voters.

The Constitutional Liberal Party placed second, like in the 2016 elections, with 14.15%; the rest of the vote was spread among the other four parties.



[Source: Courtesy of Nan McCurdy]

The Sandinistas (2.1 million card-carrying in a country of 6.3 million) [danced](#) in the streets all night long throughout the country to celebrate their victory.



## PRESIDENTE Y VICEPRESIDENTE VOTOS VALIDOS TOTALES POR DEPARTAMENTO

RESULTADOS PROVISIONALES, CORTE # 02 - 08/11/2021 11:45:14 AM

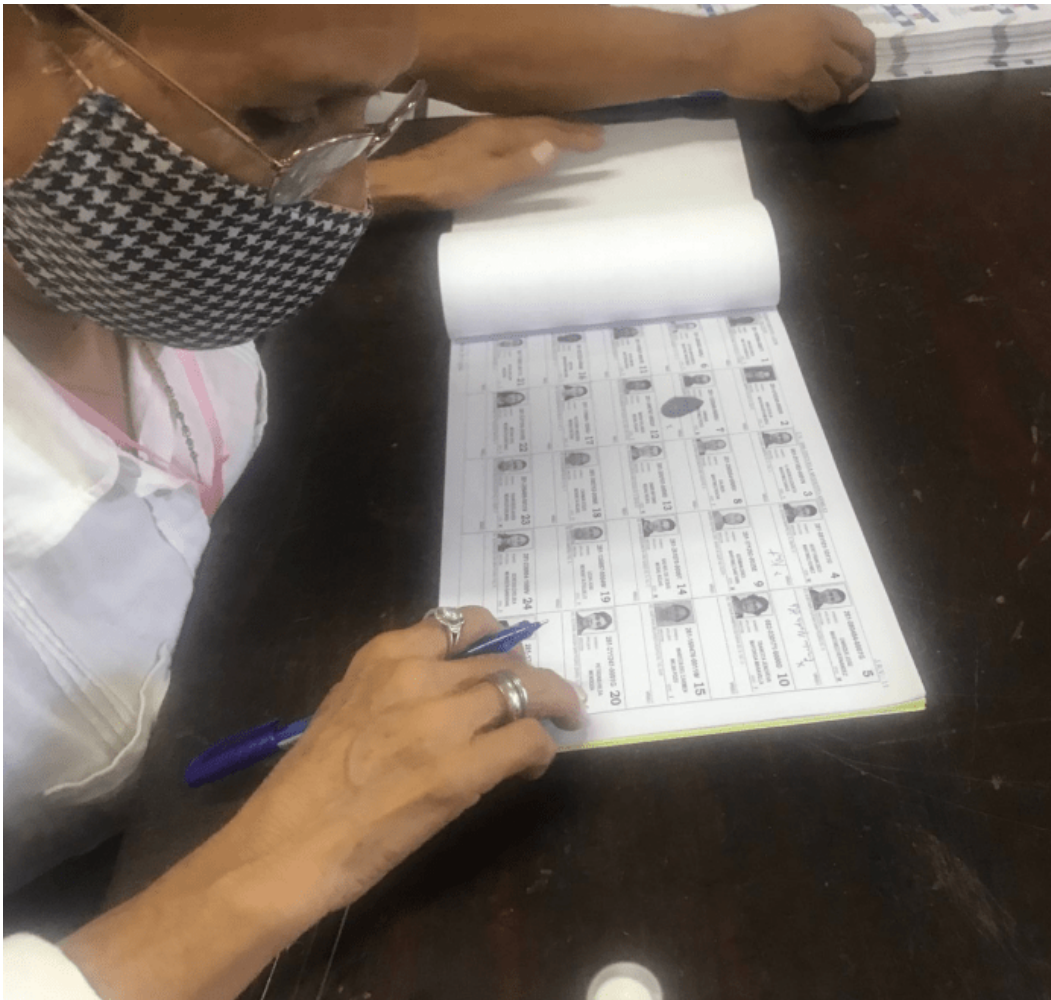
DEPARTAMENTO	PLC	FSLN	CCN	ALN	APRE	PLI	VOTOS VALIDOS
NUEVA SEGOVIA	14,770	77,335	3,498	3,416	2,028	1,780	102,827
MADRIZ	9,397	53,606	2,264	2,261	1,449	1,191	70,168
ESTELI	15,132	86,622	3,640	3,423	2,021	1,843	112,681
CHINANDEGA	26,374	161,099	6,290	6,017	3,368	3,200	206,348
LEON	25,374	156,085	6,249	5,761	3,058	3,011	199,538
MANAGUA	116,383	552,750	27,810	26,343	15,610	13,952	752,848
MASAYA	25,253	125,435	5,929	5,640	2,747	3,101	168,105
CARAZO	13,287	74,843	3,179	3,205	1,603	1,620	97,737
GRANADA	12,798	70,914	3,120	2,953	1,462	1,602	92,849
RIVAS	12,350	71,262	2,996	2,891	1,640	1,539	92,678
CHONTALES	21,190	111,368	4,735	4,544	2,791	2,572	147,200
BOACO	9,742	58,835	2,286	2,114	1,326	1,111	75,414
MATAGALPA	35,761	188,873	8,421	7,810	4,259	4,269	249,393
JINOTEGA	19,379	113,779	4,340	4,290	2,255	2,487	146,530
RACCN	7,927	71,460	888	925	433	785	82,418
RACCS	9,783	39,966	1,768	1,748	1,063	975	55,303
RIO SAN JUAN	7,839	39,110	1,898	1,851	1,040	930	52,668
<b>VOTOS VALIDOS POR PARTIDO</b>	<b>382,739</b>	<b>2,053,342</b>	<b>89,311</b>	<b>85,192</b>	<b>48,153</b>	<b>45,968</b>	<b>2,704,705</b>



Votos Provisionales, Partidos Políticos  
Consejo Supremo Electoral - Managua, Nicaragua

[Source: Courtesy of Nan McCurdy]

Polling Station minutes were pasted on the wall of the school, so people know the results almost immediately.



Polling Station Board President looks for voter's name and picture on that polling station's voter role.  
[Source: Photo courtesy of Nan McCurdy]

After the election results were announced, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken released a [statement condemning the subversion of democratic norms in Nicaragua](#) and pointing to [repression and electoral manipulation by Ortega](#).

Previously, Blinken had accused Ortega of orchestrating a [“sham election”](#) and seeking to establish with his wife, Rosario Murillo, an [“authoritarian dynasty.”](#)

Blinken in turn vowed to [“use coordinated actions with regional allies, sanctions and visa restrictions”](#) in order to [“promote accountability for those complicit in supporting the Ortega-Murillo government’s undemocratic acts.”](#)

These comments point to a longstanding effort by the U.S. government to destroy the Sandinistas.<sup>[1]</sup>

The U.S. is actually the one which has subverted democratic norms by [pumping in money to opposition groups through the National Endowment for Democracy \(NED\)—a CIA offshoot](#).

In 2018, the U.S. used cyberwar to launch a coup against the FSLN—through bott farms in Miami and El Salvador.

In the first few days of the coup attempt, millions of messages saying the government and police were repressing students flooded Facebook—total lies.

When protests erupted, the first three deaths were caused by the opposition—a policeman, a young Sandinista defending the Tipitapa mayor's office and a passerby.

But many people believed the robotic disinformation—[social media is powerful](#).

Since then, many Sandinista citizens have learned well how to use social media to defend the truth about the advances of their revolution.

So, the State Department joined forces with META—the company that owns Facebook, Instagram, and others. They disappeared the personal accounts of nearly 1,000 Sandinistas as well as dozens of pages of digital communicators.

This was to silence the Sandinistas in the last days before the election and turn people against the FSLN. Dr. Timothy Bood, who covered the elections in Nicaragua, was blocked from Facebook for three days for giving his opinion about the U.S. attempted coup in 2018:

Claro LTE

07:05

97%



## You can't post or comment for 3 days

This is because you previously posted something that didn't follow our Community Standards.

This comment goes against our standards on harassment and bullying, so only you can see it.

Repeatedly violating our Community Standards can cause further account restrictions.



**Timothy Bood**

[Flordeliz Salazar](#) Everyone knows the US used a massive campaign of lies and disinformation on social media to attempt to overthrow the government of Nicaragua in 2018. So why do act as an errand boy for the USA? Have you no self-respect?

1 🤔

Continue

[Source: courtesy of Nan McCurdy]

I am one of 67 international journalists covering the elections. There are also 165 people from 27 countries accompanying the elections. We went to Nicaragua's 15 departments and 2 regions.

I was in León—one of the historic colonial cities which houses the country's first university and its most famous cathedral.



Cathedral in León. [Source: Photo courtesy of Nan McCurdy]

I visited some 70 polling stations in 5 Voting Centers—all schools. Election day was a very peaceful day—kids were in the parks—and young adults were playing basketball. The police didn't report even one violent incident in the whole country.

Nicaragua's [electoral process](#) is very well organized with about 245,000 people volunteering to make the elections come off without a hitch. Every party has the right to have a poll watcher—a party election observer—in every one of the 13,459 polling stations.

Each station has a voting board of three people (president, first and second member) from different parties who run the election on the micro level. A voter enters, shows their official ID card—they find her on the voting rolls, then they find her on another page with her name and picture and she signs there.

They explain the ballot to her and she goes to mark the ballot behind a cardboard divider, then folds the ballot and puts it in the ballot box—a process that takes about 6 to 10 minutes. At the end her thumb is stained with ink that takes about three days to come off.

As we were leaving one of the Voting Centers, I started talking to two young men who told me that together with two other friends they made a Facebook Page called La Consigna. Their page was eliminated a week before the elections.



They have been able to re-establish it—unlike many people who tell me that they have not been able to make new accounts. Writer Roger Harris was with me and he asked if they are paid by the government—they cracked up!

They explained that after the attempted coup they wanted to establish a page to defend the revolution and share all the advances the country has in health, education, recreation, food sovereignty, infrastructure, etc.

I asked them what they did for a living—Yasser Hermida is an agro-ecologist and Ricardo García is a graphic designer who teaches at the university

When I looked for La Consigna on Facebook; I scrolled down and they had a picture of our group of U.S. journalists and others covering the elections!



[Source: [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/laconsigna/)]

As we left they asked us to tell people in the U.S. that Nicaraguans just want to be left alone to live in peace.

Secretary of State Blinken claims the Sandinistas have no mandate to govern—however the voter turnout rate of 65 percent on Sunday was much higher than the total for the U.S. election—and the 76% victory tally much higher than the vote garnered by the Democratic Party.

It's hard to imagine in fact how a government could have a greater mandate!

Just after voting himself, late on election day President Ortega said "Today, November 7, ...

we are holding these elections and we are sure that in this battle, which is a historic battle where we have to decide between ... confrontation, war or peace, we are sure that regardless of the political, ideological, religious thought of each one, there are different parties to choose from, and in this way we are burying war and giving life to peace."

On November 7, most Nicaraguans voted to continue with the amazing advances they have enjoyed since 2007, building a country that has become a very good example for others—despite the ongoing U.S. bullying and war through sanctions.

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#### Notes

1. For a classic account of this campaign, see Holly Sklar, *Washington's War on Nicaragua* (Boston: South End Press, 1999).

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