Haiti: Elections Planned For Next Year

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On Aug. 22, Louis Antoine Auguste, head of the independent Electoral Council, told 150 people attending a town meeting in Jacmel that due to a budget shortage, elections cannot be held before next year. The town of Jacmel is located on the southern coast. The nine-member Council, appointed in April by several institutions, including the Roman Catholic Church, human rights groups and labor unions, has been touring rural Haiti since July. Members are asking Haitians whether they think national and local elections should be held simultaneously or staggered, and whether 1 million Haitians residing abroad should be allowed to vote. Jacmel residents preferred elections in two stages, first national and then local, beginning early next year, and strongly supported the participation of non-resident Haitians. (Basic data from AP, 08/24/89)

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