

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (Lula)

Worker's Party
(PT)



[@presidente_lula](#)

Date of Birth: 6 November, 1957 (age 60)

Hometown: Guaranhuns, Pernambuco

Education: Trained as machinist in São Paulo's professional middle school SENAI

Running mate: Fernando Haddad - Worker's Party (PT)

Political History

Lula rose to national prominence as a metalworker and **union activist** during the military dictatorship (1964-1985). He was elected president of the Metallurgists' Union in São Bernardo do Campo, and in 1979 led a strike that paralyzed 180,000 different metal-working operations nationwide. In 1980, Lula **helped found the Worker's Party (PT)**. In 1986, with the transition to democracy, he was **elected as a federal deputy** for the State of São Paulo with the PT. Lula subsequently **ran unsuccessfully for president in 1989, 1994, and 1998**, before **winning in 2002** and becoming Brazil's first president to come from the working class. He was reelected in 2006.

Lula's **presidency** was marked by a **time of great economic prosperity** for Brazil in the midst of a commodity boom. He championed several **social assistance programs**, such as the famous Bolsa Família, which was credited with lifting millions from extreme poverty. However, Lula's presidency was also marked by **scandals**, both during his time in office and afterwards.

Corruption

In 2005, a vote-buying scandal (known commonly as the "mensalão scandal") implicated many prominent members of Lula's government, who were sentence jail time. Earlier this year, **Lula was found guilty** of receiving improper benefits and imprisoned, as part of the broader Lava Jato anti-corruption investigations. Currently, **servicing a twelve-year prison sentence**, Lula has remained popular and was named by the Workers' Party as its presidential candidate. His **eligibility** remains, however, very much **in question** as a consequence of a statute adopted by popular initiative that **he signed into law** as president, in 2010, banning those convicted in a criminal court of appeal from elective office.

"The state is nothing more than a mother, and a mother must always give attention to its **most vulnerable child**."