

'Indefinite' Chávez reign?

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CARACAS - (AP) -- Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez said he could seek "indefinite" reelection through a referendum if the opposition boycotts upcoming presidential elections.

Chávez made the remark Friday, saying if the opposition pulls out of the Dec. 3 vote or makes false claims of electoral fraud, "I would call a national referendum to have the people decide if I can continue here indefinitely or if I have to go after six years in 2014." Venezuela's constitution allows a president to be reelected only once in immediate succession. That limit would give Chávez six more years in office if he is reelected.

Polls shows Chávez is likely to win the elections, and international observers have validated recent votes. But some opposition members have questioned the selection of new directors for the country's electoral council, claiming they are government sympathizers.