

A glance at Chavez's powers in Venezuela

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CARACAS, Venezuela --

President Hugo Chavez remains determined to transform Venezuela into a socialist state despite losing a vote Sunday on sweeping constitutional revisions. Here is a look at some of the key ways Chavez is able to exercise his authority to bring about changes.

- Through presidential decrees. The National Assembly granted Chavez special powers earlier this year to enact laws by decree in 11 areas, from the economy to defense, until July 2008. The powers were granted under a so-called "enabling law" aimed at giving the presidential special authority to move ahead with creating a "new, sustainable economic and social model."

- Through laws approved by the National Assembly. The congress has been dominated by Chavez supporters since the opposition boycotted 2005 elections expressing concerns about a lack of guarantees for a fair and transparent vote. Seven of the 167 lawmakers have since broken ties with Chavez.