

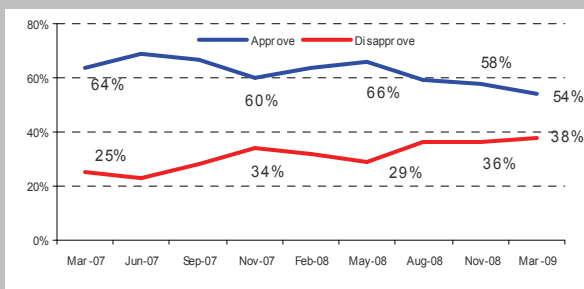
Alan Stoga, President
Daniel Wilson, Managing Director and editor

Polls

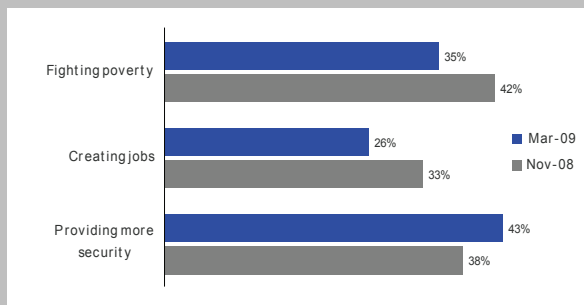
Presidential approval sags

The same GEA-ISA national survey released last week that showed a tightening congressional race, also shows a 4 point decline in presidential approval since last November. The share of those who believe the government is meeting its economic and social commitments has fallen about 7 points since then, while the share saying the government is meeting its security commitments has risen. (www.isa.com.mx)

In general, do you approve or disapprove of Felipe Calderón's work as President?



Do you believe the Calderón government is meeting its commitments regarding:



Key Dates

- 3/30-31: Calderón state visit to UK
- 4/1-2: Janet Napolitano, Eric Holder visit to Mexico
- 4/2: G20 summit, London
- 4/6: Start of state election campaigns *
- 4/16-4/17: President Obama visit
- 4/18-19: Summit of the Americas, Trinidad
- 4/30: End of regular Congressional session
- 4/29-5/2: Deadline for registering candidates for Chamber of Deputies
- 5/5: Start of federal election campaigns
- 7/5: National congressional, 6 gubernatorial, and 5 other local elections.

* May vary by state

Clinton strikes co-responsibility theme; Pascual tipped as Ambassador

The two day visit of U.S. Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** saw both sides emphasize the theme of co-responsibility. Columnist Jaime Sánchez said, "Clinton surprised every camp ... Nobody expected such a turn." The press reported that the U.S. proposed **Carlos Pascual** to be Ambassador. Pascual, a Cuban-American, is the head of foreign policy at Brookings, and former Ambassador to Ukraine. The *Templo Mayor* column observed, "What also stands out in the CV of the next ambassador is that he has been dedicated to the study of 'failed states' among which, at least 'til now, he has never included Mexico." (Reforma 3/27-28, Universal 3/28)

Government provides rewards for most wanted

The Justice Ministry published a list of the most wanted drug lords, with rewards of up to Ps. 30 million for information leading to their capture. The list of 37 includes the leaders and top operators of the **Gulf Cartel** and their **Los Zetas** paramilitary wing, the **Pacific Cartel**, the **Beltrán Leyva** gang, the **Carrillo Fuentes** gang, **La Familia**, and the **Arellano Félix** cartel. The same day, the army captured one of the most wanted: **Héctor Huerta Ríos**, *La Burra*, described as the chief operator for the Beltrán Leyvas in Monterrey. (Reforma 3/23, Universal 3/25)

Army bulldozes 'Holy Death' chapels

The army used excavators to destroy 30 chapels dedicated to **Santa Muerte**, "Holy Death," the patron saint of drug traffickers, on the highway between Nuevo Laredo and Monterrey. The chapels, including at least one with two stories, started proliferating in 2007. According to one official, "When you enter or leave Nuevo Laredo, you see these chapels, which are impressive—a spectacle—but the people were constantly complaining that they leave the impression that it was a place of criminals." (Reforma 3/25)

PRI nominates alleged narcos for office

The PRI in Chihuahua nominated **Héctor Murguía** to run for congress, despite long-standing allegations of corruption and links to trafficking. Murguía was mayor of Ciudad Juárez, and his former head of security is currently imprisoned in Texas on drug charges. In addition, the PRI in Colima nominated **Mario Anguiano**, the former mayor of the capital city of Colima, as their candidate for governor. His brother Humberto is serving a 10 year sentence for trafficking methamphetamines, and his cousin Rafael is in jail in Los Angeles. The PAN is circulating a crossword puzzle titled "13 characteristics of the PRI" that include the words corruption, crisis, complicity, and narco. (Universal 3/30, Excelsior 3/25)

Chihuahua security chief resigns after escape

The minister of public security in Chihuahua, **Javier Torres Cardona**, resigned after 15 gunmen freed convicted trafficker **Crispin Borunda** from a hospital where he was being treated. Borunda is on the DEA's list for extradition to the U.S. The state prosecutor acknowledged that Borunda was staying in a minimum security part of the hospital, despite warnings of a rescue attempt. (Universal 3/28)

Jorge Tello named new national security coordinator

President Calderón named **Jorge Tello Peón** as the executive director for the national security system, which coordinates security issues among federal and state authorities, and among the ministries. Tello joined the presidential staff in October; he has been the head of the Cisen intelligence agency and Undersecretary of Government. (Presidencia 3/25)