

**Main Topics**

- *Mexico City passes abortion law*
- *Senate votes to broaden the transparency law*
- *Tortilla price stability pact renewed*
- *Reform of the State Commission takes office*
- *Electoral Tribunal bars public access to 2006 ballots*
- *Foreign Ministry acts to strengthen support for Mexicans in the U.S.*

As expected, last week the Mexico City legislature approved the bill to decriminalize abortion during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy by a vote of 46-19. PRD, PRI, PANAL, Alternativa, PT, and Convergencia deputies voted in favor, and PAN and PVEM against. Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard rejected a plea from the local PAN to veto the reform, saying that the reform “has nothing to do with Church-State relationships. Instead, it is a matter of public health.” Ebrard signed the reform and published it in the Official Gazette. (Universal 4/24)

The Senate approved unanimously a constitutional amendment to broaden public access to information at all levels of government. All public entities will be obliged to apply the same transparency criteria as the federal government, but excludes the Congress, political parties, or unions. The reform must still be approved by a majority of state legislatures. According to Amalia García, the PRD Governor of Zacatecas, the reform bill “will signify a big advance as it will force governments, social and civil organizations, and everybody who receives public funds, to show accountability.” (Universal 4/25-26)

An agreement between producers, sellers, and the Federal Government was reached to extend the cap on tortilla prices at Ps. 8.50 per kilo until August 15. (Proceso 4/25)

The bicameral Reform of the State Commission was officially installed. It is headed by Senator Manlio Fabio Beltrones of the PRI, and includes representatives of all eight parties. The Commission will have a maximum of 12 months to propose legislation on the issues of governance, electoral reforms, federalism, judicial reform, and social guarantees; the Commission agreed to present initial proposals for discussion within 30 days. “Electoral reform is urgent for creating a new legal framework...especially considering that there will be elections to renew the Chamber of Deputies in 2009,” said the official press release. Porfirio Muñoz Ledo of the PRD, one of the original proponents of the Reform of the State, said “what is at stake is nothing less than the capacity of the current political actors and institutions to re-conduct the Mexican [political] transition, to give the Republic new bases of legitimacy and support.” (Reforma 4/26, Universal 4/26)

The Federal Electoral Tribunal, or TRIFE, rejected a suit by the magazine Proceso to give the public access to the ballots from the July 2006 election, saying that electoral law specified the inviolability of the electoral packets, and the persons who could review them and make known their contents. The ballots, which have been preserved pending the outcome of the suit, are now expected to be destroyed. (Reforma 4/26, Proceso 4/25)

At a meeting of the Foreign Ministry’s Institute of Mexicans Abroad (IME), President Felipe Calderón called again on the U.S. government to approve “a migration reform that we know will benefit the economy of the United States, which cannot advance without the work of Mexicans.” Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa said the government was working to strengthen its 47 consulates in the U.S., and push forward three initiatives: to identify in advance laws and administrative actions that affect migrant rights; to assist citizens on migration, labor, and criminal law issues; and to carry out a public affairs campaign to promote U.S. understanding of the contributions by Mexicans to the economy and cultural life of the U.S. (Reforma 4/27)

**Key Dates**

- 05/20/07:** *Yucatán gubernatorial election*
- 06/2-3/07:** *PAN National Assembly meets*
- 08/05/07:** *Baja California gubernatorial election*
- 11/11/07:** *Michoacán gubernatorial election*
- 03/08:** *PAN elects new party president*

**Opinion Polls**

According to a GEA-ISA poll conducted April 20-22, the PAN is leading in the Yucatán gubernatorial race. Election day is May 20. The breakaway PANista, Ana Rosa Payán, and the PRD are polling in the single digits. Yucatán is the first of three gubernatorial elections in 2007. (Proceso 4/27)

**Yucatán Governor’s Race**

