

**Main Topics**

- *Governors for, Congress against using Army for domestic law enforcement*
- *PANista infighting intensifies*
- *Yucatán post-election reactions*
- *Campaigning starts in Baja California*

**Key Dates**

- 06/2-3/07:** PAN National Assembly meets
- 07/01/07:** Chihuahua, Durango and Zacatecas state congress and local elections
- 08/05/07:** Baja California gubernatorial election
- 09/02/07:** Aguascalientes and Oaxaca state congress elections
- 11/11/07:** Michoacán gubernatorial election
- 03/08:** PAN elects new party president

President Calderón vowed “not one step backward in defending Mexico,” after the Permanent Commission of **Congress passed a resolution opposing use the military** in the fight against drug traffickers. PRI and PRD voted in favor, the PAN against. In reaction, the **National Governors Conference (CONAGO)** unanimously agreed to **support the President and armed forces**. Fidel Herrera, the PRI governor of Veracruz, said the CONAGO will call for “uniting the entire nation in a grand pact supporting the President and the institutions of security and justice...in order to defend the rule of law and to fight against organized crime.” (Proceso 5/24, Universal 5/29)

The triumph of the PRI in the **Yucatán state elections** continues to reverberate within the PAN. Party chief Manuel Espino attacked Juan Camilo Mouriño, the President’s Chief of Staff for meddling. “I told Juan Camilo Mouriño that I expect respect in the upcoming elections and that I don’t want him to send political operators from Los Pinos without coordination with the party leadership.” (Reforma 5/22)

In analyzing the Yucatán results, political commentators focused on:

• **The split within the PAN**

“One cannot understand the loss of the PAN in Yucatán without looking at the irresponsible...policies of Espino....The PAN leader imagines himself the captain of a ship invaded by enemies....He is ready to sink the boat rather than allow the traitors from the government to take the tiller. This is the brilliant plan of navigation of Mr. Espino: to save the integrity of the PAN boat by sinking it.” Jesús Silva Herzog (Reforma 5/28)

“The difficulties between [Calderón and Espino] are well known, but with the defeat in Yucatán, they have deepened....The consequences of this fight can be disastrous for the PAN’s plans to reach a majority in Congress in the 2009 elections.” (Proceso 5/24)

• **Beatriz Paredes’ leadership of the PRI and an excellent campaign by candidate Ivonne Ortega**

“Beatriz Paredes...got her presidency off on the right foot.” “By supporting [the Federal Pension Law reform] the PRI didn’t pay any price at the polls; on the contrary, it was rewarded.” (Templo Mayor 5/22, 5/24)

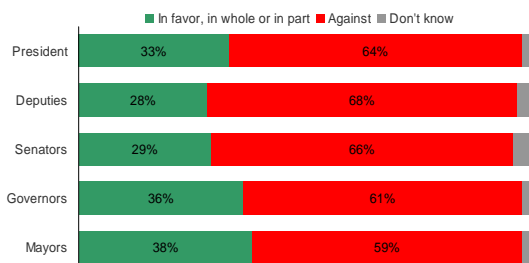
“Evidence of a political agreement [between Paredes and Calderón] are evident to everyone....What matters more, the governorship of Yucatán or an alliance of Calderón with the PRI?” Miguel Aleman, (Universal 5/22)

**The campaign in the Baja California elections formally began.** The leading candidates for governor are Jorge Hank Rhon, the controversial mayor of Tijuana (PRI and PVEM) and José Guadalupe Osuna Millán (PAN and PANAL). Others running are Enrique Hurtado (PRD), Carmen García Montaña (Alternativa), and Mercedes Maciel (PT and Convergencia). The outgoing governor is from the PAN. Voters will also elect five mayors and 25 state congress deputies on August 5.

**Opinion Polls**

A Mitofsky poll on political reform indicates that Mexicans remain strongly opposed to re-election of officials at any level of government, as well as to the concept of second round elections. They favor (62%) reducing the size of Congress; giving Mexicans abroad the right to vote (69%); and are against congressional immunity (62%). In addition, a small majority (52%) think it is better for the country when Congress and the Presidency are held by different parties. ([www.consulta.com.mx](http://www.consulta.com.mx) 5/15)

Are you for or against reelection of the following:



Are you for or against a second round when the separation between the candidates is small?

