

Main Topics

- “Knockout” for Calderón at the PAN National Assembly
- Supreme Court takes preliminary votes on the Ley Televisa
- Governors back the President’s war against drug traffickers
- Calderón presents his National Development Plan

Key Dates

- 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

Supporters of President Felipe Calderón dominated the PAN’s National Assembly. The 9,000+ delegates elected 150 members of the party’s National Council. Observers estimated that at least **55% of those elected were Calderón supporters**, only 20% supporters of party president Manuel Espino, and most of the rest associated with Senate leader Santiago Creel. Cesar Nava, the President’s private secretary, and other Calderón allies were the top vote getters. Several key Espino supporters failed to capture enough votes to be seated, and Espino himself was booed when he took the podium. The Templo Mayor column called it a “knockout” for Calderón.

The 382-member National Council (another 150 members were previously elected at the state level, and there are 82 *ex officio* or life members) will elect a new party president and central committee in March 2008. **Calderón supporters**, led by Tourism Minister Rodolfo Elizondo, **were already calling on Espino to resign.**

Columnist Raymundo Riva Palacio said, “**The defeat of Espino will open the door for governability by Calderón**, and will also allow **a move toward creating a modern right that takes more centrist positions on social issues**, which was impossible under the current leadership.” The leading names to succeed Espino are Cesar Nava and Germán Martínez, the Minister of Public Function. (Reforma 6/2, Universal 6/2-3)

The Supreme Court discussed—in proceedings broadcast live throughout the week—various aspects of the so-called Televisa Law. Based on preliminary votes, it appears that **at least some portions of the Radio and TV Law will be declared unconstitutional**, which requires the vote of at least 8 of the 11 Ministers on the Court. (Universal 5/29, Reforma 5/31)

Public safety themes dominated the 32nd annual meeting of the state governors’ council (CONAGO). The **governors repeated their support for President Calderón’s anti-crime actions.** The PRI governor of Sonora, Eduardo Bours, as the spokesman for the group, called on Congress to approve the security reforms presented by the President. Calderón thanked the governors and said, “In this front, national unity is our greatest asset. We must strengthen the federal pact and close ranks in the fight against organized crime.” (Reforma 5/30)

President **Calderón unveiled the National Development Plan** for 2007-12. The plan included a series of regional forums to include citizen input. At the heart of the exercise was the elaboration of a vision of where Mexico could be in 2030 if a series of economic, social and political reforms were undertaken. The top five highlighted goals of the vision include:

- To raise Mexico to the top 20% of countries in terms of “institutional strength” as measured by the World Economic Forum; it currently ranks 69th out of 125 countries.
- To raise per capita GDP to US\$29,000 from US\$8,000.
- To eliminate food poverty; at present, 18.9 million Mexicans lack minimum nutrition.
- To reach 100% treatment of waste water; at present only 35% is treated.
- To achieve a score of 9 on the Transparency International corruption and transparency perception index, compared to 3.3 at present. (Universal 5/31, Presidencia)

Opinion Polls

A nationwide Reforma poll (6/1) gives Calderón a 65% approval rating, compared to 58% in their previous survey in March. The government got the highest marks for its health programs and the anti-crime initiatives. Economic issues—jobs and poverty programs—got the lowest approval ratings.

How well is Pres. Calderón performing on the following issues:

