

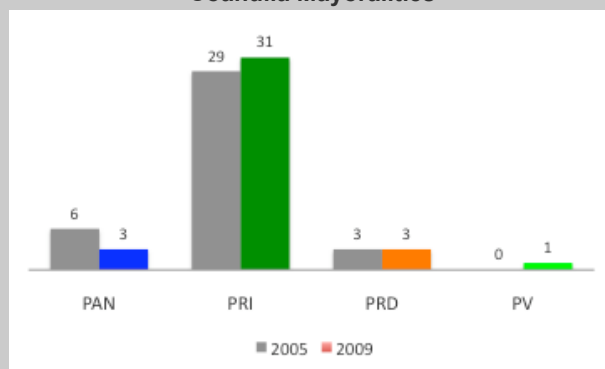
**Alan Stoga, President**  
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## Elections

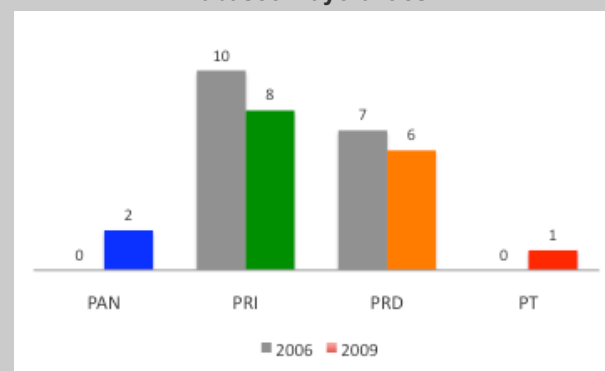
### PRI wins big in Coahuila and Tabasco

The PRI extended its string of election wins with victories in Coahuila and Tabasco. In Coahuila, the PRI won an estimated 31 of the 38 mayoralities, including the former PAN strongholds of Torreón and Ramos Arizpe. The PRI share of the vote was 60%, the PAN 25% and the PRD 2% ([PREP Coahuila, Reforma 10/19](#)). In Tabasco, the PRI unseated the PRD in Mascupana, Andrés Manuel López Obrador's hometown, and kept control of the large cities. The PAN, not a major factor in the state, appears likely to win 2 towns formerly held by the PRI. The PRI won 44% of the total vote for mayors, the PRD 38%, and the PAN 8%. In the state congress, the PRI appears to have won 14 of the 21 direct election districts, the PRD 6, and the PAN 1. ([PREP Tabasco, Universal 10/19](#))

Coahuila Mayoralities



Tabasco Mayoralities



## Key Dates

**11/15:** Deadline for budget approval

**by 12/31:** Terms end for President of Banco de México, CNDH, and two Supreme Court ministers

### Luz y Fuerza liquidation proceeds despite protests

The unionized workers of **Luz y Fuerza del Centro (LFC)**, the state owned electrical utility ordered liquidated by President Calderón, mobilized an estimated 150,000 protestors in the Zocalo in a peaceful demonstration to demand a reversal of the decree. The government agreed to negotiations, headed by Government Secretary **Fernando Gómez Mont**, but made clear that reversing the liquidation was not a option: "The Ministry of Government will establish a dialogue table in the ministry offices to explore alternatives for the reinsertion of workers in the work force, as well as to give strict adherence to the rights of workers," an official announcement said. Secretary of Labor **Javier Lozano** and Secretary of Economy **Gerardo Ruiz** said the government would allot Ps. 500 million for worker retraining, educational grants, and other assistance, in addition to the Ps. 20 billion in labor indemnities already announced. In the first three days since the buyout was announced, 2,527 of the 44,000 LFC workers accepted the government's offer. ([Reforma 10/16](#))

### Last minute negotiations on tax package

The PRI leadership met with Finance Ministry officials to seek a consensus tax package, but no final agreement appears to have been reached. The Ministry of Finance issued a statement that acknowledged that the 2% anti-poverty sales tax—the centerpiece of the government's original proposal to offset the decline in oil revenues—was dead because of PRI opposition. The alternative under discussion appears to be a 1% increase in the value added tax to 16%, with continued exemptions for food and medicine, and endorsing a higher deficit. However, continued differences between the PRI governors and the party's congressional delegation remain an obstacle. A meeting of the Finance Commission of the Chamber of Deputies was cancelled Sunday night, after being repeatedly postponed by the PRI. The statutory deadline for approving the revenue law part of the 2010 budget is October 20<sup>th</sup>. ([Excelsior 10/19, Reforma 10/19](#))

### Supreme Court rules against Oaxaca governor Ruiz

The Supreme Court ruled by 7-4 that PRI governor **Ulises Ruiz** committed "grave violations of individual rights" during the state government's 2006 crackdown on the APPO radical group, principally for failing to maintain public order. Three former public security officials were also cited. The court's ruling, which will not be finalized for several weeks, has no direct effects, and will be referred to the Congress. Ruiz's term ends in December 2010, and he has pledged to finish his term and hand over power to a PRI successor. Columnist **Miguel Angel Granados Chapa** notes, "Without minimizing a jot the relevance of the ruling by the Republic's highest tribunal, it would not appear that the ruling will set off any adverse consequences, political or penal, for the governor of Oaxaca. The demands for political judgment against him have multiplied, but they will not prosper because his party will support him. Since [the PRI] is the largest group in the Chamber of Deputies, and able to form a majority with the Green Party, it will scarcely happen that the Government Commission will move forward with the proposal to politically sanction Ruiz." ([Reforma 10/14, 10/18](#))