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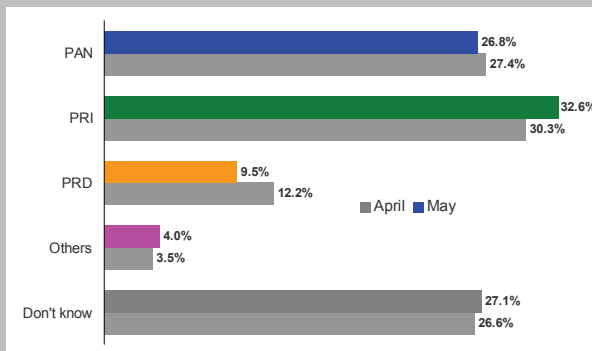
Polls

PRI support edges back up

After several months of declining support for the front-running PRI, the latest *El Universal* poll ([published 5/11](#)) shows that its support edged back up. The nationwide survey, carried out from May 1-5, gives the PRI a 32.6% to 26.8% lead over the PAN. The PRI's advantage increased to 5.8%, compared to 2.9% last month. Support for the PRD hit a new low of 9.5%. More than a quarter of respondents are still undecided.

Overall, 29.4% of respondents said they would never vote for the PRD — more than double the rejection rate for the other two large parties. Almost half of self-identified PAN supporters said they would never vote for the PRD, while PRD supporters were even more hostile to the PRI than to the PAN.

If congressional elections were held today, for which party would you vote?



For which party would you never vote?

	By party identification			Overall
	PAN	PRI	PRD	
PAN	—	14.8%	29.5%	11.0%
PRI	15.6%	—	35.2%	12.5%
PRD	49.1%	35.4%	—	29.4%
Other	24.7%	27.7%	20.9%	21.5%
Won't say	10.6%	22.1%	14.4%	25.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Key Dates

7/5: National congressional, 6 gubernatorial, and 5 other local elections. **10/18:** Tabasco and Coahuila local elections

9/1: Start of new Congressional session; President delivers [Informe](#).

Flu outbreak loses momentum, spreads to provinces

Even as the H1N1 flu outbreak seemed to stabilize at the national level — Health Secretary **José Ángel Córdova** spoke at the daily press conference on Friday without a face mask — several states reported new outbreaks. Hidalgo, Jalisco, San Luis Potosí, Guerrero, Michoacán, and Colima all decided to keep their elementary schools closed for another week, while all other elementary schools reopen today. ([Milenio 5/9](#), [Reforma 5/7](#), [5/9](#))

International discrimination reverberates

First Lady **Margarita Zavala** and family members welcomed with great fanfare the 74 Mexican tourists returning on a special Aeroméxico flight from China, after they were quarantined by the Chinese government. President Calderón's trip to Cuba, which was intended to signal a normalization of relations between the two countries, has been postponed "indefinitely;" Cuba was the first country to suspend air travel to Mexico. Separately, the Foreign Ministry sent diplomatic notes to Peru, Ecuador, and Argentina to protest their suspensions of air travel to Mexico. The *Templo Mayor* column noted, "The traditional prudence of Chancellor **Patricia Espinosa** is causing annoyance in Los Pinos. It's known that the President's team ... thinks she lacked firmness in her posture towards governments that are discriminating against Mexicans." ([Reforma 5/6](#), [Proceso 5/9](#), [Universal 5/10](#))

Soccer wars

The Mexican Soccer Federation (FMF) suspended its participation in the tournaments organized by the South American Football Federation, Conmebol, because of a nasty dispute over rescheduling games affected by the flu epidemic. **Chivas** of Guadalajara and San Luis Potosí both made it to final 16 in the *Copa Libertadores*. Their opponents Sao Paulo and Uruguay's Nacional refused to travel to Mexico, and efforts to find neutral venues failed. (The Brazilians rejected the U.S., while Chile and Colombia said they didn't want to host the Mexicans.) Conmebol then unilaterally changed the rules of the tournament to disadvantage the Mexican teams, causing the FMF to withdraw. Notes former Chancellor **Jorge Castañeda**: "The grand fraternity [among Latin American countries] exists only in the naive and fevered imagination of the Foreign Ministry, the political class, and the Mexican commentocracy." ([Reforma 5/7](#), [Milenio 5/7](#))

AMLO flouts flu guidelines

Andrés Manuel López Obrador held a campaign rally in Veracruz that openly flouted the health guidelines of the Ministry of Health and the IFE for campaign rallies. AMLO said, "This influenza isn't worth a plugged nickel; we will go forward until we have democracy," even as his close ally **Manuel Camacho** was hospitalized with the flu. ([Excelsior 5/8](#))

Guanajuato Congress passes stringent right to life law

The state congress of Guanajuato, the most PANista of states, passed a constitutional reform declaring that life begins at conception and prohibiting abortion in all cases, including rape. Governor **Juan Manuel Olivas** has to sign the amendment for it to become effective. ([Reforma 5/9](#))

Ahumada book implicates everyone

Carlos Ahumada, the protagonist of the 2004 *video scandals* that stained AMLO's image, has written a tell-all book that implicates members across the political establishment, but especially the PRI and PAN, in corrupt acts involving Ahumada himself. More on [our blog](#).