

Alan Stoga, President
Daniel Wilson, Managing Director and editor

Mid-term election Preview

Positions to be elected

Federal Chamber of Deputies

- 300 direct election seats
- 200 proportional representation seats

6 Governors

- Campeche, Colima, Nuevo León, and Sonora (currently PRI)
- Querétaro and San Luis Potosí (currently PAN)

11 State Legislatures

- Campeche, Colima, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Mexico City, Mexico State, Morelos, Nuevo León, Querétaro, San Luis Potosí, and Sonora

Mayoralties

- 568 posts in the 11 states, including 16 borough presidents in Mexico City

1,508 total elected positions

Key Dates

7/5: Election Day

9/1: Start of new Congressional session; President delivers *Informe*.

10/18: Tabasco and Coahuila local elections

The election campaigns have drawn to a close and there will be no more polls before the July 5 vote. Some of the races to watch:

Chamber of Deputies

Overall outcome. The PRI holds a 4-5% lead over the PAN in most polls, enough to gain a plurality of seats but not a majority. The most likely outcome is a near repeat of the 2003 mid-term vote (PRI 38%, PAN 32%, PRD 18%). If the PAN tops the PRI in the popular vote or, alternatively, the PRI (either by itself, or with the PVEM) gets a majority of the seats (which would require 42%+ of the popular vote), the outcome will have a significant impact on the role of Congress during the second half of the *sexenio*.

Leftist party vote. How will AMLO's alienation from the PRD play out? Will he be able to attract votes for the PT, which has become his *de facto* party? The PRD, PT, and *Covergencia* are currently polling about 16%, 3%, and 2%, respectively.

Performance of the Greens (PVEM). Recently dubbed the 'Party of Televisa' because of the number of congressional candidates who have ties to **Televisa** or **TV Azteca**, and because of the favorable TV coverage its candidates have received, particularly on Televisa. A strong Green vote will say nothing about Mexico's commitment to environmentalism, and much about the ability of the broadcasters to manipulate the system. The PVEM currently polls about 6%, but getting its top listed candidates into Congress may be a more relevant indicator.

Vote nullification/abstention. Polls suggest that null votes could reach 15% of the ballots cast. Anything close to that figure will be a major blow to the credibility of the existing 'partyocracy.' Only 42% of registered voters cast ballots in the last mid-term election; a decrease in participation will increase pressure for meaningful political reform.

State Governors

Nuevo Leon. **Fernando Elizondo** of the PAN vs. **Rodrigo Medina** of the PRI. At the start of the campaign, Elizondo, who is backed by the Monterrey business community, was the odds-on favorite, largely because of the poor performance of outgoing PRI governor **Natividad González**. Elizondo ran a weak campaign, while Medina benefitted from massive TV coverage, especially on sports shows. The PAN has also been hit by the scandal involving its candidate for mayor of the Monterrey suburb of Garza García and his alleged contacts with the Beltran Leyva cartel. The last [Universal poll](#) shows a 6% PRI lead.

Sonora. The outgoing administration of **Eduardo Bours** has been badly hurt by the scandal of the ABC day care center fire. What had been a safe PRI state (in May the PRI had a 15% lead) could now go to the PAN, and the national party has invested heavily in attacking Bours. The PAN candidate is **Guillermo Padrés Elías**, and the PRI candidate is **Alfonso Elías Serrano**. The two are cousins, both descendants of General Plutarco Elias Calles (President 1924-28).

San Luis Potosi. The PAN candidate **Alejandro Zapata Perogordo** has only a 3 point lead over **Fernando Toranzo Fernández** of the PRI according to an [El Universal poll](#). This should have been a safe state for the PAN, and a loss here would be a major blow.

Mexico City borough presidents

Miguel Hidalgo. **Demetrio Sodi** of the PAN will try to keep this well-heeled borough in the PAN column—the PRD holds 14 of the 16 boroughs. Sodi is the former PAN candidate for mayor of Mexico City, and his challenger is **Ana Gabriela Guevara** of the PRD.

Iztapalapa. Will the **López Obrador**-backed candidate for the PT beat the official PRD candidate? At stake is control of the patronage machine in Mexico City's most populous borough, and a test of whether AMLO still dictates the fate of Mexico's Left.