

7-2-1997

Surveys Show PRI Could Lose Majority in Chamber Of Deputies in July Election

LADB Staff

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/sourcemex>

Recommended Citation

LADB Staff. "Surveys Show PRI Could Lose Majority in Chamber Of Deputies in July Election." (1997).
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/sourcemex/3758>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in SourceMex by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Surveys Show PRI Could Lose Majority in Chamber Of Deputies in July Election

by LADB Staff

Category/Department: Mexico

Published: 1997-07-02

According to recent public opinion polls, the two major opposition parties are expected to make significant gains in the Chamber of Deputies in the upcoming July 6 federal elections. The surveys, conducted in June, suggest that the governing Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) will win slightly more seats in the lower house than the opposition Partido Accion Nacional (PAN) and the Partido de la Revolucion Democratica (PRD), but it will fall short of the 42% of the total vote needed to control the lower house. Voters will elect 300 members, while another 200 seats will be assigned to the various parties in proportion to their percentage of votes. According to federal election guidelines, any party that wins 42% of the popular vote will end up with 251 of the 500 seats in the Chamber of Deputies.

PRI and PAN in close race

One poll, conducted by the Universidad de Guadalajara's Centro de Estudios de Opinion (CEO), showed the PAN is neck and neck with the PRI. The CEO poll, which surveyed almost 3,700 potential voters in 196 electoral districts June 12-15, showed the PRI could attain about 31% of the seats, compared with 30% for the PAN, almost 21% for the PRD, and 18% divided among other parties.

Another survey conducted by the daily newspaper El Universal gave the PRI a 36% share of the total vote, compared with almost 34% for the PAN, and 23.7% for the PRD. This poll was conducted June 10-25 with the assistance of the Alducin y Asociados consulting firm. The Universal/Alducin y Asociados poll suggested that only two other small parties the Partido del Trabajo (PT) and the Partido Verde Ecologista Mexicano (PVEM) will receive sufficient voter support to gain representation in the Chamber of Deputies.

A third survey, conducted by Cobarruvias y Asociados, showed the PRI with slightly more than 27% support, followed by 21.5% for the PAN, and about 16% for the PRD. Still, almost 27% of the respondents to the Cobarruvias survey said they were undecided. The Cobarruvias survey, conducted June 21-22, was published in the Voz y Voto magazine. According to Voz y Voto director Jorge Alcocer, a large percentage of the undecided voters are residents of cities, where the PRI has lost popularity in recent years, particularly to the PAN. "The great challenge for the PRI in these elections will be to compete effectively in urban zones like Guadalajara, Monterrey, Puebla, Leon, and other cities," said Alcocer.

PRI lagging in gubernatorial races in Mexico City, two states

In the gubernatorial races, polls show the PRI has lost its advantage in the elections in Queretaro and Nuevo Leon and has fallen further behind in the race for mayor of Mexico City. The greatest surprise is in the gubernatorial race in Queretaro, where PRI candidate Fernando Ortiz Arana appears to have lost a large lead. According to surveys published by the daily newspapers El

Universal and Reforma, support for Ortiz Arana, a former PRI national leader and senator, had eroded to 28% as of June. This compared with 34% in February and 38% in April.

In contrast, PAN candidate Ignacio Loyola has increased his support in Queretaro to between 34% and 38%. The PRD candidate, Jose Ortiz Arana, has maintained support at 25%. Jose Ortiz Arana is the brother of the PRI candidate.

In Nuevo Leon state, PAN candidate Fernando Canales Clariond appears to have regained the lead over Natividad Gonzalez Paras of the PRI. Canales started the year with a wide lead over Gonzalez, only to fall slightly behind the PRI candidate in recent weeks. According to the daily newspaper Excelsior, Canales Clariond regained a slight lead with a strong performance during a recent televised debate.

In the mayoral race in Mexico City, PRD candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas has widened his lead over Alfredo del Mazo of the PRI and Carlos Castillo Peraza of the PAN. A poll conducted by CEO in June showed Cardenas had increased his support to between 40% and 45%, compared with only 15% to 16% each for Del Mazo and Castillo. The polls show 5% support for PVEM candidate Jorge Gonzalez Torres.

According to PRD president Andres Lopez Obrador, the strong support for Cardenas in the capital may help the party's performance in other races around the country, including the elections for the Chamber of Deputies and the gubernatorial races in Sonora and Campeche states. Still, despite the improved chances for PRD gubernatorial candidates Jesus Zambrano in Sonora and Layda Sansores in Campeche, most polls show that PRI candidates hold a large enough lead to win these elections. In Sonora, polls show PRI candidate Armando Lopez Nogales with 41% support. Similarly, surveys show the governing party's candidate in Campeche, Antonio Gonzalez Curi, with almost 50% of support. The PRI is also expected to gain easy victories in the gubernatorial elections in San Luis Potosi and Colima states. (Sources: Reuter, 06/11/97; Associated Press, 06/18/97; The News, 06/12/97, 06/19/97; El Economista, 06/26/97; Novedades, 06/26/97, 06/27/97; El Universal, 06/27/97; Excelsior, 06/26/97, 06/27/97, 06/30/97; La Jornada, 06/26/97, 07/01/97)

-- End --