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## Center-Right PAN Loses Control Over State Legislature in Jalisco State

by LADB Staff

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In elections held in early November, the center-right Partido Accion Nacional (PAN) lost its hold on the Jalisco state legislature after losing several elections to the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI). According to preliminary results released by the state electoral council (Consejo Estatal Electoral de Jalisco), the PAN and the PRI each won 10 of the 20 directly elected seats in the state legislature. In the 1995 elections, the PAN won 17 seats, compared with only three for the PRI.

Another 20 at-large seats will be divided among the PAN, the PRI, and other parties, based on the total percentage of votes received in the elections. The PAN is expected to receive nine at-large seats, based on its 41% share of the total statewide vote. The PRI, which received about 36% of the vote, will be allocated seven additional seats. Another three at-large seats will be allocated to the center-left Partido de la Revolucion Democratica (PRD), which obtained 15% of the statewide vote. The Partido Verde Ecologista Mexicano (PVEM), which obtained almost 4% of the statewide vote, will be allocated one seat in the state legislature. The PAN and PRI both appear to have lost some support to the PRD, whose percentage of the total votes was three times larger this year than in the 1995 election.

### *PAN wins Guadalajara, but PRI takes most mayoral races*

In mayoral elections, the PAN won races in only 36 of the state's 127 cities and towns, including Guadalajara, Puerto Vallarta, Zapopan, and Tlaquepaque. In the 1995 elections, the PAN won 52 mayoral races. The PRI took back several medium-sized cities lost to the PAN in the 1995 elections, including Lagos de Moreno, Ocotlan, and the Guadalajara suburb of Tonalá. The PRI won races in 72 cities, compared with only 63 cities after the 1995 elections.

The PRD won races in 11 cities. For its part, the PVEM which is a fairly new party scored a victory in one mayoral race. The CEEJ said voter turnout in this year's election was only about 52%, a sharp decline from the 75% participation reported during the 1995 elections. On the other hand, the CEEJ and the state presidents of the PAN, PRI, and PRD said the election was free of major fraud, as evidenced by the lack of major complaints regarding the electoral process.

The PRI's relatively strong performance in this year's election was in sharp contrast to 1995, when voters "punished" the governing party for economic and political missteps, including the economic crisis that followed the devaluation of the peso (see SourceMex, 02/15/95). PRI victories tied to campaign to link PAN with corruption Political observers attributed some of the PRI's success to an intense campaign to link the administration of PAN Gov. Alberto Cardenas Jimenez with massive corruption, including the use of public funds for personal expenses. However, Cardenas disputed those allegations. "I am amused that the PRI decided to use such tactics," said Cardenas. "One of the five major accomplishments of my administration is transparency in management of public funds."

In addition to charges of corruption, the PRI also alleged that the PAN government was planning to transfer public education to the private sector. Following the elections, the leaders of the PAN and PRI both attempted to put a positive spin on the results. "The election shows that the PAN consolidated its position as a leading force in the state," said PAN president Felipe Calderon.

For its part, the PRI celebrated the end of the PAN dominance in the state legislature. "Gov. Cardenas will have to contend with an opposition legislature," said Carlos Armando Biebrich, a member of the PRI's national executive committee. "I assure you, this legislature will fully exercise its right to closely monitor the policies of the executive."

National PRI leaders also said the party's performance in Jalisco this year was a positive development leading to gubernatorial, state legislative, and mayoral elections in 1998. The PRI is particularly targeting states such as Chihuahua, Baja California, Veracruz, and Michoacan where the opposition parties have strong support. (Sources: Proceso, 11/02/97; El Occidental, 11/06/97; Notimex, 11/09-11/97; La Jornada, 11/05/97, 11/06/97, 11/10/97; Siglo 21, 11/06/97, 11/07/97, 11/10/97, 11/11/97; The News, 11/04/97, 11/05/97, 11/10/97, 11/11/97; Excelsior, 11/05/97, 11/10-12/97; Novedades, 11/05/97, 11/10-12/97; El Economista, 11/05/97, 11/12/97; El Universal, 11/10-12/97)

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