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The Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) lost more than the presidency and control of the Congress in the July 2 federal elections, also suffering a resounding defeat in the gubernatorial and state legislative races in Guanajuato and Morelos states, and in the mayoral election in Mexico City. The PRI also lost the state legislative elections in Nuevo Leon, Queretaro, Sonora, and Mexico state. But the party was able to win a majority in the state legislative races in Colima, San Luis Potosi, and Campeche states. The PAN, meanwhile, won mayoral elections in several large cities, including Monterrey, Hermosillo, Toluca, San Luis Potosi, and Queretaro. But the party lost the mayoral race in the capital city of Guanajuato to the center-left Partido de la Revolucion Democratica (PRD).

PRD retains control over Mexico City
The PRD retained control of the mayoral seat in Mexico City in a closer-than-anticipated race. PRD candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who had been leading in public-opinion polls by as much 10 points, obtained 36% of the vote. Columnist Sergio Sarmiento said some forecasters had projected Lopez Obrador to win the election by a wider margin than the 48% received by Cuauhtemoc Cardenas in 1997. But the PRD candidate faced an unexpectedly strong challenge from Santiago Creel of the center-right Partido Accion Nacional (PAN), who had been running in third place in most pre-election polls. Creel, who received 33% of the vote, apparently benefitted from the strong showing of fellow PAN member Vicente Fox in the presidential race. Fox won the presidential race with 43% of the vote (see other article in this issue of SourceMex). The biggest loser in the Mexico City election turned out to be PRI candidate Jesus Silva Herzog, who received only 22% of the vote. The PRI's poor showing in the capital was also reflected in the elections for seats in the Mexico City legislature (Asamblea Legislativa del Distrito Federal, ALDF). The governing party failed to win even one of the 40 seats up for direct election. But the PRI is assured of some representation in the 66-seat ALDF, since the party will receive five of the 26 at-large seats allocated on the percentage of votes received by each party. The PRD and its coalition partners split the directly elected seats with the alliance formed by the PAN and the Partido Verde Ecologista Mexicano (PVEM). Initial statistics released by the Instituto Electoral del Distrito Federal (IEDF) had the PRD-led coalition taking 22 seats and the PAN-PVEM 18 seats. But this trend was reversed after late ballots were counted. As of late July 4, the PAN-PVEM was leading in 21 districts, and the PRD coalition in 19. The final count will have a bearing on the control of the ALDF, since this will determine the number of at-large seats allocated to each coalition. Regardless of how many seats each party receives, mayor-elect Lopez Obrador will not have the large majority in the ALDF enjoyed by Cardenas following the 1997 election. In that election, the PRD won 38 of the electoral districts (see SourceMex, July 9, 1997).

PAN sweeps Guanajuato elections
The center-right Partido Accion Nacional (PAN) won resounding victories in the gubernatorial, legislative, and mayoral races in Guanajuato, home state of president-elect Vicente Fox. The
Instituto Estatal Electoral de Guanajuato (IEEG) reported extremely high voter turnout, with 85% of the state's registered voters casting ballots. PAN candidate Juan Carlos Romero Hicks won the governor's race in a landslide, taking about 58% of the vote. Romero defeated Juan Ignacio Torres Landa of the PRI and Miguel Alonso Raya of the center-left Partido de la Revolucion Democratica (PRD). Alonso Raya was also representing the Partido del Trabajo (PT) and the Partido Alianza Social (PAS). The PAN won all 22 directly elected seats for the state legislature. The PRI and PRD-PT-PAS alliance will gain a voice in the legislature through distribution of seats allocated on the proportion of the vote received. The PAN also swept a majority of mayoral elections in the state, scoring victories in the major cities of Leon, Irapuato, Salamanca, Silao, and Celaya. However, the PRD won the mayoral election the capital city of Guanajuato.

Morelos voters repudiate former PRI governor

The PAN also scored major gains in the Morelos election, in what was widely considered a repudiation of former governor Jorge Carrillo Olea. PAN candidate Sergio Estrada Cajigal won the gubernatorial election by a landslide, obtaining more than 54% of the votes cast, compared with slightly less than 27% for Juan Salgado Brito of the PRI and 13% for Raul Irragorri of the PRD. Irragorri was also representing the PT, the PAS, and the Partido del Centro Democratico (PCD). Estrada Cajigal, the grandson of former Morelos governor Vicente Estrada Cajigal, said he owed his victory in large measure to the "poor government" of Carrillo Olea. Carrillo, a PRI member, was impeached by the state legislature for abuse of power. He was accused of condoning prisoner torture, protecting drug traffickers, and violating state and federal constitutions in nominating candidates to high posts (see SourceMex, April 22, 1998, May 20, 1998). The federal Supreme Court (Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nacion, SCJN) has upheld the state legislature's impeachment of Carrillo. The impeachment statutes do not subject the former governor to criminal charges, but would bar him from taking another public office for 12 years (see SourceMex, 2000-03-01). In the state legislature, the PAN won 10 of the 18 directly elected seats, while the PRI was victorious in the other eight races. The PRD and its three partners were unable to win a single seat, but should receive one or two of the at-large seats allocated on percentage of the vote each party receives. The PRI won 16 mayoral elections, including Cuautla, which had been governed by the PRD. The PAN won elections in eight cities, retaining the seat in Cuernavaca. (Sources: Proceso, 06/25/00; Associated Press, 07/02/00; El Universal, El Economista, Notimex, 07/03/00; Novedades, 07/03/00, 07/04/00; The News, 07/04/00; Reforma, Excelsior, La Jornada, 07/03-05/00)