

7-12-2006

PAN Scores Victories in State, Congressional Races; PRD Takes Mexico City

LADB Staff

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

Recommended Citation

LADB Staff. "PAN Scores Victories in State, Congressional Races; PRD Takes Mexico City." (2006).
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/sourcemex/5003>

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.

PAN Scores Victories in State, Congressional Races; PRD Takes Mexico City

by LADB Staff

Category/Department: Mexico

Published: 2006-07-12

On July 2, the governing conservative Partido Accion Nacional (PAN) scored major victories in congressional and gubernatorial elections, while the center-left Partido de la Revolucion Democratica (PRD) easily won the mayoral election in Mexico City. The elections were held on the same day as the Mexican presidential race, which featured an extremely tight race between Felipe Calderon of the PAN and Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador of the PRD (see other article in this issue of SourceMex).

In the races for seats in the Chamber of Deputies, the PAN won in 139 of the country's 300 districts, while the PRD and coalition partners the Partido del Trabajo (PT) and Partido Convergencia por la Democracia (PCD) were victorious in 99 races. The PRI and its coalition partner the Partido Verde Ecologista Mexicano (PVEM) took only 62 seats. Another 200 seats will be distributed based on a formula that determines the percentage of the vote received by each party in the congressional races. The PAN, which obtained 33% of the vote in the congressional races, will likely receive 67 of the at-large seats, giving the center-right party 206 seats in the lower house.

The PAN victories in the lower house are on par with the 2000 election, when it and its then coalition partner the PVEM took 224 seats in the Chamber of Deputies (see SourceMex, 2000-07-05). The PAN then slipped significantly in the midterm elections in 2003, when it obtained only 154 seats (see SourceMex, 2003-07-09).

The PRD-PT-PCD, which formed the Coalicion por el Bien de Todos, is expected to obtain 58 of the at-large seats, giving the alliance 157 seats. The PRD will have to cede about 30 of those seats to the PT and PCD. The PRD and four coalition parties only won 67 seats in the 2000 election, but the PRD and coalition partner the PT increased the number to 96 in 2003.

The PRI-PVEM, which came together as the Alianza por Mexico, will have 123 seats in the lower house, but 20 will go to the PVEM. This is an all-time low for the PRI, which won 211 seats in 2000 and 223 in the 2003 midterm elections. Two newly formed parties, the Partido Nueva Alianza (PANAL) and the Partido Alternativa Socialdemocrata y Campesina (PASC), also received sufficient support in the congressional races to gain seats in the lower house. Electoral authorities will allocate nine at-large seats to PANAL and five to the PASC.

The PAN will also have the upper hand in the 128-seat Senate, winning 52 directly elected and at-large seats, compared with 39 for the Alianza por Mexico and 36 for the Coalicion por el Bien the Todos. Of the total seats obtained by the Alianza por Mexico, four will be allocated to the PVEM. The same is true for the Coalicion por el Bien de Todos, which will have to cede two seats each to the

PT and the PCD. PANAL won enough votes in the congressional election to receive one at-large seat in the Senate.

PAN retains governor's seats in Guanajuato, Morelos

The PAN also scored major victories in the gubernatorial elections. As expected, the party won the races in Morelos and Guanajuato states. In Guanajuato, PAN candidate Juan Manuel Oliva Ramirez took 61% of the vote, compared with only 26% for Miguel Angel Chico of the PRI-PVEM and 13% for Ricardo Garcia Ocegüera of the PRD-PT-PCD, said the Instituto Electoral del Estado de Guanajuato (IEEG). With the victory, the PAN will hold the gubernatorial seat in Guanajuato for a fourth consecutive term. Oliva's predecessors include President Vicente Fox, who was governor of Guanajuato from 1995-1999.

The PAN also won mayoral elections in the state's major cities, including Leon, Salamanca, Guanajuato city, Irapuato, and Celaya. The gubernatorial race was a little tighter in Morelos state, where PAN candidate Marco Antonio Adame took almost 36% of the vote, followed by 32% for Fernando Martinez Cue of the PRD-PT-PCD, 28% for Maricela Sanchez of the PRI-PVEM, and 4% for candidates for minor parties, said the Instituto Estatal Electoral de Morelos (IEEM). Adame, a former federal senator, won with strong support in Cuernavaca and Cuautla, the state's two most populated communities. The PAN also won mayoral races in the two cities.

Adame attained the victory despite the corruption charges levied against outgoing PAN Gov. Sergio Estrada Cajigal. Estrada, who is accused of ties to drug traffickers, was the target of an unsuccessful attempt to remove him from office (see SourceMex, 2004-04-21). As with Estrada, Adame will have to deal with a state legislature dominated by the opposition. The PRD-PT-PCD alliance won 11 of the 18 state legislative districts, compared with seven for the PAN and none for the PRI-PVEM. Another 12 seats will be distributed based on the percentage of votes received in the state legislative elections. Four of those seats are expected to go to the PRI, two to the PVEM, and two to the PANAL.

PAN pulls mild surprise with Jalisco victory

In Jalisco, PAN candidate Emilio Gonzalez Marquez narrowly defeated PRI rival Arturo Zamora in a contest that featured the former mayors of two of the state's largest cities. Ex-Guadalajara mayor Gonzalez Marquez obtained about 45% of the vote, compared with 41% for Zamora, who was most recently the mayor of Zapopan, one of the largest suburbs in the Guadalajara metropolitan area, said the Instituto Electoral del Estado de Jalisco (IEEJ). Gonzalez's victory was somewhat of a surprise, since several respected public-opinion polls had placed Zamora in the lead (see SourceMex, 2006-06-21).

The PRI's fortunes also fell in other mayoral races in Jalisco, with the party losing mayoral elections in many major cities, including Guadalajara, Zapopan, and Tlaquepaque. The party managed to retain the mayoralty in Chapala and Puerto Vallarta. The PRI also lost its status as the majority party in the Jalisco state legislature, where it once held 20 directly elected and at-large seats. The party will only have 13 seats in the state legislature, compared with 21 for the PAN.

The PAN's strong showing in Jalisco, and especially in the highly populated Guadalajara metropolitan area, almost certainly benefited presidential candidate Calderon in his tight race

against Lopez Obrador. The PAN also received strong support in Monterrey, Mexico's third-largest city, where Adalberto Madero of the center-right party took 47% of the vote, compared with 45% for Abel Guerra of the PRI, said the Comision Estatal Electoral de Nuevo Leon (CEENL). Most public-opinion polls had predicted that the PRI would retain the seat by a comfortable margin. "We did not expect such unfavorable results [in Monterrey]," said Mario Guerra Davila, president of the PRI in Nuevo Leon state.

The PAN also won control of the state legislature of Nuevo Leon state, winning in 16 of the 26 electoral districts. PRI Gov. Natividad Gonzalez Paras was torn between supporting Calderon and his own party's candidate Madrazo.

PRD wins Mexico City by landslide

In Mexico City, PRD candidate Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon, who also represented the PT and PCD, won the mayoral election in a landslide with 47% of the vote. This compared with 27% for Demetrio Sodi de la Tijera of the PAN and 23% for Beatriz Paredes Rangel of the PRI. Ebrard, considered Lopez Obrador's protege, previously served as public-safety secretary and social-development secretary.

The PRD's strong performance in Mexico's largest city helped Lopez Obrador in much the same way as the PAN was helped in Guadalajara and Monterrey, Mexico's second- and third-largest metropolitan areas. Lopez Obrador obtained 2.7 million votes in the Mexican capital. The PRD also won 36 of the 40 directly elected seats in the Mexico City legislature (Asamblea Legislativa del Distrito Federal, ALDF) and won 13 of the races for chief executive in the 16 districts comprising Mexico City. The PAN won four seats in the ALDF and three races for district chief executive. The PRD will not be allocated any at-large seats in the ALDF because it received more than 50% of the vote in the legislative election. The PAN will receive 11 at-large seats in the ALDF, and the PRI-PVEM eight seats.

A handful of other states also held municipal and state legislative elections, with the PRI scoring a few important victories. The party took the mayoral seat in the Sonora state capital of Hermosillo from the PAN and won eight of the 10 mayoral elections in Colima state. The PRI failed to wrest the mayoral seat away from the PAN in the port of Manzanillo, Colima's second-largest city. The PRI lost some mayoral seats in Campeche state to the PRD-PT-PCD coalition. The PAN won most of the municipal elections in its stronghold of San Luis Potosi, including the capital with the same name. In state legislative elections, the PRI retained control of Colima state, while the PAN remained the dominant party in San Luis Potosi. (Sources: La Jornada de Morelos, 07/03/06; El Norte-Monterrey, Excelsior, 07/03/06, 07/04/06; Correo-Guanajuato, Publico-Guadalajara, 07/04/06; Milenio Diario, 07/03-05/06; La Crisis, 07/05/06; Mural-Guadalajara, 07/03/06, 07/07/06; La Jornada, 07/03/06, 07/04/06, 07/07/06; Spanish news service EFE, 07/08/06; Reforma, 07/03-05/06, 07/10/06; El Universal, 07/03-06/06, 07/10/06; Reuters, Associated Press, 07/10/06)

-- End --