

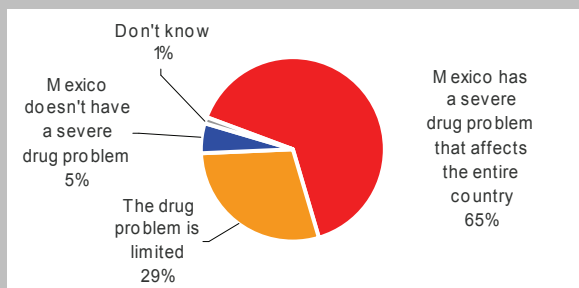
Alan Stoga, President
Daniel Wilson, Managing Director and editor

Polls

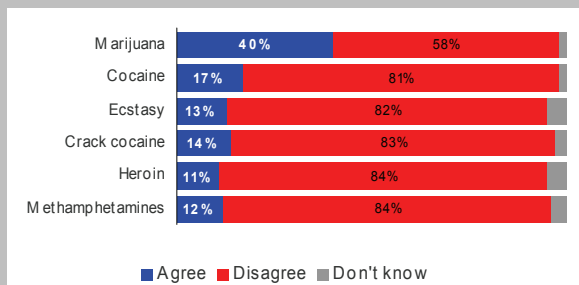
Broad rejection of drug law liberalization

A BGC-Ulises Beltrán poll in [Excelsior \(4/7\)](#) showed that Mexicans believe that drug consumption is a national problem, and are overwhelmingly opposed to most initiatives to liberalize the drug laws. 65% believe that drug consumption is a national problem, with only 29% believing that it is limited to certain regions or individuals. For most drugs, over 80% are opposed to legalizing possession of small quantities for personal use. Even for marijuana, 58% are opposed to limited decriminalization. Respondents were evenly split on whether the government should facilitate access to drugs for registered addicts.

Does Mexico have a severe problem of drug use, or is it limited to certain regions or to certain persons?



Do you agree or disagree with legalization of small quantities for personal consumption of the following?



Key Dates

- 4/16-4/17:** President Obama visit
- 4/18-19:** Summit of the Americas, Trinidad
- 4/30:** End of regular Congressional session
- 4/29-5/2:** Deadline for registering candidates for Chamber of Deputies
- 5/5:** Start of federal election campaigns
- 7/5:** National congressional, 6 gubernatorial, and 5 other local elections.

* May vary by state

Mexico to make arms trafficking central focus of Obama—Calderón meeting

El Universal reports that the Government will try to make reducing the flow of arms across the U.S.-Mexico border the central focus of this week's meeting between Presidents **Obama** and **Calderón**. Mexico will also push the issue in the U.N. Security Council, where it holds the rotating chairmanship this month. On *Face the Nation*, Ambassador **Arturo Sarukhan** noted that 90% of the arms seized in Mexico came from the U.S. "The key issue right now is how can the United States help to shut down those guns and shut down that bulk cash that is providing the drug syndicates in Mexico with the wherewithal to corrupt, bribe, to kill," Sarukhan said. Last week, Attorney General **Eduardo Medina Mora** said that the 52,000 arms seized by the Government in the last two years were more than five times the number seized from FARC guerrillas in Colombia last year. ([Universal 4/12](#), [CBS News 4/12](#))

PAN and PRD clash on capital's water crisis

Drought conditions and a failed valve caused the national water commission Conagua to order a 36-hour shutdown of water to Mexico City from the reservoir system that supplies one-fifth of the city's drinking water. Between two and four million residents experienced reductions in supply. Before the shutdown, Conagua head **José Luis Luege** accused Mexico City mayor **Marcelo Ebrard** of sowing panic: "If there is a total lack [of water] it will not be because of the cuts, but because of the poor distribution by the Government of the Federal District." Ebrard responded that his government only repeated warnings received from Conagua. The city dispatched 500 water trucks to the affected neighborhoods. Columnist Sergio Sarmiento noted, "No tragedy has been as foretold as that of water. ... Both the *panista* federal government and the *perredista* government in the capital seem more interested in using water to win votes than to ensure the well being of the inhabitants of the Valley of Mexico." ([Universal 4/8](#), [Reforma 4/8](#), 4/10)

PAN wins support of social security workers union chief

The PAN won the support of **Valdemar Gutiérrez Fragoso**, the leader of the 300,000-strong Social Security workers' union. Gutiérrez, who had previously agreed to run for the PRI, got the number two slot on the PAN's proportional representation list – a guaranteed seat – in the next Congress. Gutiérrez said that the decision to go with the PAN "isn't personal, ... but that of the congress of the social security union.... And to [PRI leader] **Beatriz Paredes**, we offer our diplomatic thanks." ([Universal 4/8](#))

'Electoral bribery' charge sinks Gordillo protégé, tarnishes PAN in Campeche

The head of the National Lottery, **Miguel Ángel Jiménez**, took a leave of absence after the *Diario de Yucatán* published a story titled 'Electoral Bribery.' The **Elba Esther Gordillo** protégé reportedly offered to buy Ps. 3 million in ads during a meeting with the paper's owners using Lottery funds, in exchange for *Diario de Yucatán's* support for **Mario Ávila Lizárraga**, the PAN candidate for Governor of Campeche. ([Excelsior](#), [Reforma 4/8](#))

New Education Secretary promises continuity

The new Education Secretary **Alonso Lujambio** promised to continue the Alliance for Quality Education agreed to with the Teachers' Union (SNTE) in 2007 that seeks to professionalize the nation's school teachers and "to revive" the relationship with the SNTE. He also confirmed in their positions the three Education undersecretaries, including the son-in-law of SNTE head **Esther Elba Gordillo**. ([Reforma 4/7](#), [Excelsior 4/8](#))