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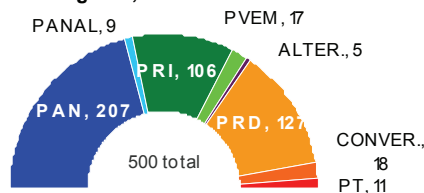
Election Preview

Chamber of Deputies

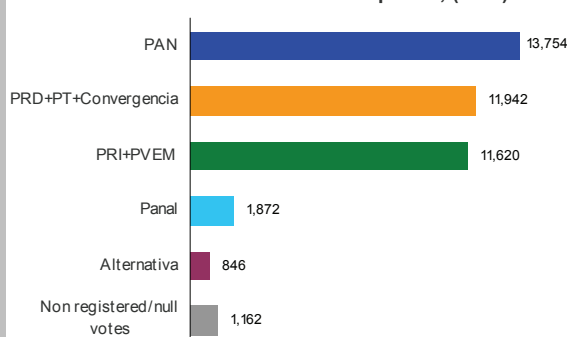
The 2009 election season had its official start with the opening of registration for 'pre-candidates' who are seeking their party's nomination for the July 5 federal Chamber of Deputies election. Among the notables who filed when registration opened were **Cesar Nava**, the former private secretary and chief of staff for President Calderón, and **Javier Corral**, the former PAN Senator who has been an outspoken critic of the telecommunications monopolies.

The major parties will select their candidates for the single member districts and for the proportional representation seats by the end of March. The formal 60-day campaign period begins on May 5.

60th Congress, distribution of seats



2006 Votes for Chamber of Deputies, ('000)



Key Dates

1/24-30: 'Precandidates' register with IFE

1/31-3/11: Federal 'pre-campaign' period

2/1: Beginning of new Congressional session

3/14-29: Major parties select candidates for Congress

4/6: Start of state election campaigns *

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

Prominent Chiapas official arrested

Mariano Herrán Salvatti, who was the chief drug prosecutor in the government of Ernesto Zedillo, was arrested on corruption charges in Chiapas. He was the chief state prosecutor during the 2000-2006 unity government, and was Minister for Economic Development from November 2007 to April 2008 during the first part of the administration of Governor **Juan Sabines** (PRD). He is charged with theft of Ps. 175 million in public funds while he headed the economics post. (Excelsior, Reforma 1/26).

Congress approves public forums on death penalty

The Permanent Commission of Congress approved a PVEM (Green Party) initiative to hold public forums on restoring the death penalty and increasing penalties for some felonies, with the support of the PRI and the PAN. The Green Party has made imposition of the death penalty for murder, kidnapping, or serious crimes committed by police or other security officials a major issue. The PRD dismissed the actions as an election year stunt. (Universal 1/21)

Transparency watchdog orders information about Garcia Luna made public

The Federal Institute for Access to Information (IFAI) ordered the Ministry of Justice to disclose redacted versions of the completed investigations against the Secretary for Public Security **Genaro García Luna**. The IFAI also ordered the PGR to make public the total number of investigations that have been made or are in process against Garcia Luna since 1990. The PGR had previously held that this information would be kept confidential for 12 years. (Reforma 1/21)

IFE gives blessing for PT-Convergencia coalition name

After two false starts, the IFE approved the name "Salvemos México" (*Let's save Mexico*) for the PT + Convergencia electoral coalition. Two other names were rejected by the IFE or Federal Electoral Tribunal after objections from the PT and Convergencia's former coalition partner, the PRD, which will contest the 2009 elections on a stand alone basis. (Reforma 1/20)

AMLO allies secure top spots in PT-Convergencia lists

At least top five AMLO allies, including his brother, are assured candidacies on the PT and Convergencia coalition ticket. They will run for both individual district seats and on the proportional election lists. The two parties have 7 direct election and 22 proportional representation seats in the current Chamber of Deputies. Notes the Templo Mayor column: "**Andrés Manuel López Obrador** doesn't leave the PRD but controls the other two parties; it is he who decides who gets or doesn't get the best spots on the lists. (Reforma 1/22-23)