

Alan Stoga, President

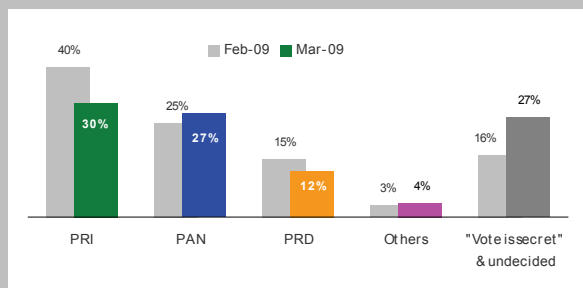
Daniel Wilson, Managing Director and editor

Polls

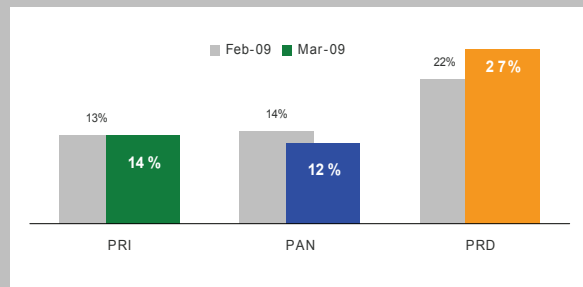
PRI suffers 10 point drop in polls

An *El Universal* poll (3/30) showed a 10 point drop in support for the PRI over six weeks, confirming the trend showed by other polls; the PRD also lost support. A significantly increased share of those surveyed said the "vote is secret." The results leave the PRI and the PAN essentially tied with 90 days to the election. As columnist Salvador García Soto noted, "The same pride that affected AMLO [in the 2006 presidential election] today damages the PRI as the favored party for the July 5 elections – they believe they have such an advantage that they disdain and minimize the damage caused by the war strategy of [PAN party leader] **Germán Martínez**." (Universal 4/1)

If the federal congressional elections were today, for which party would you vote?



For which party would you never vote?



Key Dates

4/6: Start of state election campaigns *

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

Josefina Vázquez leaves cabinet to run for Congress

Education Secretary **Josefina Vázquez Mota** resigned her post to run for Congress on the PAN's proportional representation list. With a guaranteed seat, she is expected to be the next president of the Chamber of Deputies, which returns to the PAN by rotation. In an emotional ceremony in Los Pinos, **President Calderón** said, "The Government needs the support of Congress. I need, as President, the support of deputies, such as Josefina Vázquez Mota, who clearly have a generous commitment to the country. [She] will elevate the election campaign and will also dignify enormously the work of the legislature." Calling her the President's "most effective political operator," columnist **Ricardo Alemán** wonders, "Only time will tell if this was a reward ... or if it is a punishment that leaves her temporarily out of the 2012 [presidential] contest." (Universal 4/5)

Lujambio named new Education Secretary

The President picked **Alonso Lujambio** to be the new Education Secretary. He has been the commissioner of IFAI, the federal transparency institute, and served as an IFE board member from 1996 through 2003; he was a Fulbright scholar at Yale in political science. The appointment will be analyzed for signs of the evolving relationship between the Government and teachers union head **Elba Esther Gordillo**. (Reforma and Universal 4/6)

Scion of Juárez cartel captured

Vicente Carrillo Leyva, the 33-year-old son of Juárez cartel founder Amado Carrillo was arrested in Mexico City, where he was living under an assumed name. He is accused of being one of the finance chiefs of the cartel, which is now run by his uncle **Vicente Carrillo Fuentes**. (His father died in 1997 after a botched plastic surgery.) He becomes the third person on the PGR's most wanted list to be captured in as many weeks. (Universal, Proceso 4/2)

Asset forfeiture law advances

The Senate passed the much delayed asset forfeiture law 87-0; the measure now goes to the Chamber. The PAN's attacks on the PRI for its delays in supporting the law have been one of the major elements in the recent political dynamic. Even as his delegation voted in favor, PRI secretary general **Jesús Murillo Karam** denounced **Germán Martínez**, the PAN party leader, as having "the mentality of a despot" and abusing the legislative process for partisan ends. (Reforma 4/2)

U.S.-Mexico immigration working group formed

Homeland Security Secretary **Janet Napolitano** and Foreign Secretary **Patricia Espinosa** announced the creation of a "High Level Migration Working Group" that will seek "to address migration issues in a more effective manner." According to the Foreign Ministry, the group "will analyze and formulate public policies on issues including legal migration, protection of migrant rights, repatriation procedures, and informing the public about the risks of undocumented crossing of the frontier, among others." (SRE 4/3, Universal 4/3)

Mexican Navy to participate in U.S. naval exercises

Mexico will send two ships, two helicopters, and a contingent of marines to participate in the UNITAS joint naval exercises with the U.S. and other Latin American countries at the end of April. This is only the second time Mexico has participated in the exercises, which have been held annually since 1959. (Universal and Reforma 3/31)