

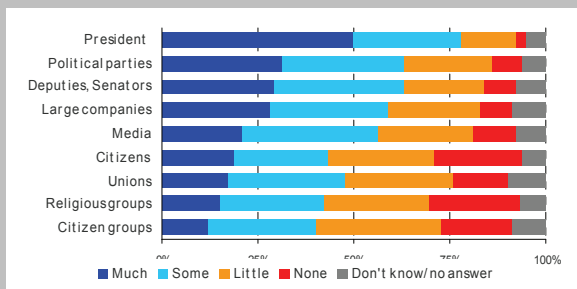
Alan Stoga, President
Daniel Wilson, Managing Director and editor

Polls

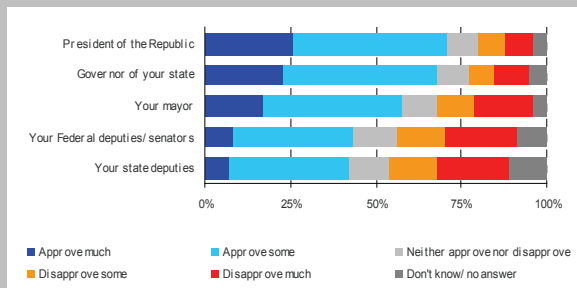
Mexicans prefer executive power

INEGI, the government's statistical arm, published its fourth comprehensive national survey on political culture. The 76 question survey interviewed more than 4,300 persons. Among the findings, Mexicans believe that the President still has the overwhelming advantage over others in having the power to change things, and they have more confidence in the President than in other elected officials. However, the Church and the Army continue to be the most respected institutions. ([ENCUP, Universal 4/18](#)) See [our blog](#) for more survey results.

Who has the power to change things in Mexico?



In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way in which the following carry out their work?



Key Dates

- 4/30: End of regular Congressional session
- 5/5: Start of federal election campaigns
- 4/29-5/2: Deadline for registering candidates for Chamber of Deputies
- 7/5: National congressional, 6 gubernatorial, and 5 other local elections.

Obama visit hits the right notes

President **Barack Obama** received an enthusiastic welcome during his 20-hour stopover in Mexico City before the Summit of the Americas. At their joint press conference, **President Calderón** called the meeting “an historic event that will inaugurate, I am sure, a new era, a new relationship between our countries.” During the gala dinner at the Museum of Anthropology, Calderón said that Obama had “the intelligence, the charisma, and the sensitivity” to be an ally in reconstructing the relationship between the two countries. In turn, Obama said that he was pleased to have as a partner President Calderón, “a person who has demonstrated his courage, his bravery – a person who combines a sense of principle with a sense for the practical.” The guest list included Nobel prize winners **Gabriel García Marquez** and **Mario Molina**, essentially all the PAN and PRI national leadership, top business leaders, and the major union bosses. Almost the only PRD figure was Senator **Carlos Navarrete**. ([Excelsior 4/17, Presidencia 4/16](#)) More on [our blog](#).

Hidalgo awarded new Pemex refinery – with conditions

Pemex announced that the new US\$9 billion refinery will be located in Tula, Hidalgo. The award was a blow to PANistas who lobbied hard for Salamanca, in PAN-controlled Guanajuato. Ten states had submitted proposals for siting the refinery. The award came with the condition that Hidalgo deliver at its own cost a 700 hectare site near the existing refinery within 100 days. Governor **Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong** (PRI) assured that it could be done. Some observers worried that intransigent communal landholders (*ejidatarios*) could scuttle the project. Others opined that the refinery would be re-awarded to second place Guanajuato after the 100 days. Guanajuato Governor **Juan Manuel Oliva** was quoted as saying: “The refinery will eventually come to Salamanca, and we know how to wait.” ([Reforma 4/15, Pemex 4/15, Universal 4/15](#))

Rescue attempt for mob accountant foiled: 8 federales killed

Gunmen tried to liberate the top financial operator for the **Beltrán Leyva cartel**, Jerónimo Gámez García, and eight other prisoners as they were being transferred to a prison in Nayarit from Mexico City. The brazen attack on the police convoy on the highway from the airport to the prison in Tepic, Nayarit left 8 federal agents and prison guards dead, but none of the prisoners escaped. Gámez, who was captured in January, is the cousin of Arturo Beltrán Leyva. He is said to have been the chief negotiator for financial dealings between the Beltrán Leyvas and the Colombian cartels. ([Reforma 4/19, 4/20](#))

Two senior narcos captured

A 400-man federal task force captured one of the top lieutenants of **La Familia**, Rafael Cedeño Hernández, at a baptismal ceremony in Morelia, along with 43 others. Cedeño controlled cartel operations in the port of Lazaro Cardenas, Michoacán. Separately, one of the chiefs of the **Beltrán Leyva cartel** responsible for marijuana growing operations along the Costa Grande of Guerrero, Rubén Granados Vargas, was captured. ([Universal 4/18, 4/19](#))

Archbishop says ‘El Chapo’ lives in Durango

The Archbishop of Durango, **Héctor González Martínez**, declared that “**El Chapo**” **Guzmán**, the head of the Sinaloa Cartel, lived near the small town of Guanacevi in Durango. “Everybody knows it, except the authorities,” he said during comments on threats to priests in parts of the state. A Justice Ministry spokesman called on the Archbishop to provide any specific information that he had. The conference of bishops is expected to meet to discuss measures to protect Bishop González from retaliation. ([Reforma 4/18, 4/20](#))