

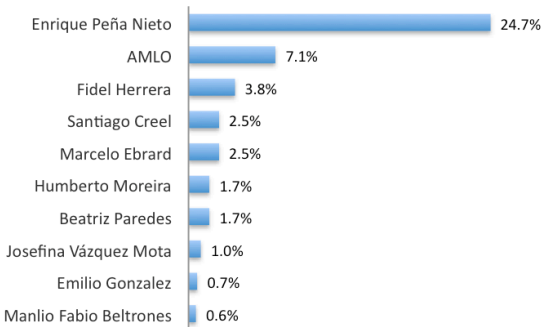
**Alan Stoga, President**  
**Daniel Wilson, Managing Director and Editor**

## Poll

### PRI dominates 2012 vista

A Mitofsky survey looking toward the 2012 presidential race shows the PRI leading voter preferences with 40%, compared to 16% for the PAN and 12% for the PRD. In answer to who would you like to see as president, Mexico state governor **Enrique Peña Nieto** was far ahead of all others. When *pristas* are asked about their preferred candidates, Peña Nieto is followed by Veracruz governor Fidel Herrera and party leader Beatriz Paredes. *Panista* preferences are for Senator Santiago Creel, congressional leader Vázquez Mota, and Jalisco governor Emilio González. Among *perredistas*, AMLO tops Mexico City mayor Marcelo Ebrard by 2:1. ([www.consulta.com.mx](http://www.consulta.com.mx))

Who would you like to see as the next President? (spontaneous answers)



#### PRI preferences

Enrique Peña Nieto	65.1%
Fidel Herrera	11.6%
Beatriz Paredes	9.3%
Manlio Fabio Beltrones	2.6%

#### PAN preferences

Santiago Creel	48.9%
Josefina Vázquez Mota	23.4%
Emilio Gonzalez	10.8%

#### PRD preferences

Andrés Manuel López Obrador	59.4%
Marcelo Ebrard	26.6%
Carlos Navarrete	6.5%

### Signed agreement embarrasses both PAN and PRI party leaders

After days of repeated public denials of a formal pact between the PAN and the PRI, **César Nava** confessed that such an agreement existed. A document signed by Nava on behalf of the PAN and **Beatriz Paredes** on behalf of the PRI last October committed both to not forming electoral alliances with ideologically incompatible parties (i.e., the PRD) in the state of Mexico through the July 2011 gubernatorial elections in this key state. Nava said the pact was void because the PRI reneged on backing the government's original tax plan last fall. The agreement, which was witnessed by **Fernando Gómez Mont** and the chief of staff of Mexico State governor **Enrique Peña Nieto**, is highly embarrassing to both Nava and Paredes, but more to Nava. Columnist Ricardo Alemán concludes: "Nava is politically dead. When will they bury the corpse?" ([Universal 3/8](#))

### Drug war escalates in Nuevo León and Tamaulipas

Three policemen were killed and a fourth gravely wounded when a patrol car was ambushed in the Monterrey suburb of San Nicolas. This attack follows by a week attacks where grenades were thrown into the police compounds of five Monterrey suburbs; only two of the grenades exploded. The Army warns that the Gulf cartel and the Zeta paramilitary gang are battling for control of the cities and transit routes in Nuevo León and Tamaulipas, with at least 17 confrontations between the two gangs since Feb. 25. Nuevo León governor **Rodrigo Medina** (PRI) fired his minister of public security and brought back **Luis Carlos Treviño Berchelmann**, who was Justice minister in the last government. ([Reforma 2/28](#), [3/5](#), [3/5](#), [3/6](#))

### Calderón declares crisis over

Speaking at a tourism promotion event, President **Calderón** declared that the crisis in Mexico was at an end. Specifically referring to those who argued that Mexico was a failed state, the President said: "Nothing is false than this. We not only confronted criminality with determination and energy. We also faced the worst economic crisis that we've seen in generations, the second worst drought in 68 years, and the most drastic decline in oil production in the history of Mexico. ... Despite all this, I can say to you today that adversity has not defeated us, and Mexico is overcoming its problems and moving forward." The President also predicted that economic growth would be at least 4% in 2010, and could reach 5%. ([Presidencia 3/6](#), [Reforma 3/7](#))

### Panel calls Cofetel the most ineffective regulator

A panel of experts sponsored by the Espinosa Yglesias Center for Studies issued a report evaluating the work of Mexico's regulatory agencies. On a 10-point scale, the highest rated institution was the National Banking and Securities Commission (CNBV) with a 6.1 rating, followed by the Federal Competition Commission (CFC, 5.2), and the Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE, 5.1). In last place was the Federal Telecommunications Commission (Cofetel, 4.1). All the agencies were said to face the common challenges of "lack of an integrated vision of Mexican competitiveness, a duplication of functions, and uncertainty on their legal authority and mandate." Cofetel was said to be "badly designed from its creation," with the overlap of regulatory authority with the Ministry of Communications and Transportation (SCT), plus inadequate technical-legal staff expertise. ([Reforma 3/3](#), [CEEY 3/2](#))

### PRI lays out own political reform

Senator **Manlio Fabio Beltrones** put forward the PRI's own political reform proposal. He said that the objectives of the reform were "to renew the regime, democratically strengthen the Presidency, broaden the channels for citizen participation, and modernize political representation." The 15-point PRI proposal dovetails with the President's in calling for (with some differences of detail) re-election of Senators and Deputies and reduction in the size of the Congress. Beltrones also seemed to back independent candidacies and preferential legislative initiatives. More details on our [blog](#). (Senate, [Universal 2/25](#))

## Key Dates

<b>4/30:</b> End of congressional session	<b>9/1:</b> Presidential <i>Informe</i> ; start of fall congressional session
<b>5/16:</b> Yucatán elections	<b>9/15:</b> 200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence
<b>7/4:</b> Elections in 13 states	<b>10/3:</b> Chiapas elections (possible)
	<b>11/15:</b> 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Revolution