

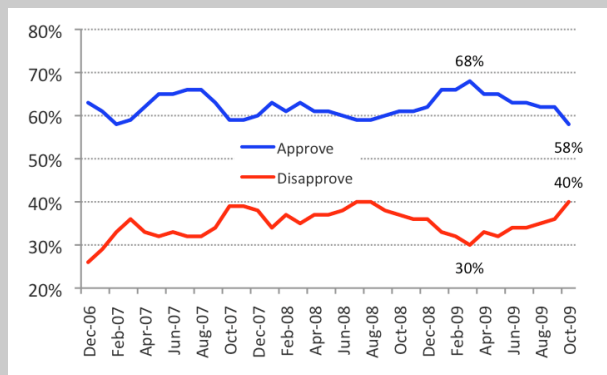
Alan Stoga, President
Daniel Wilson, Managing Director and Editor

Polls

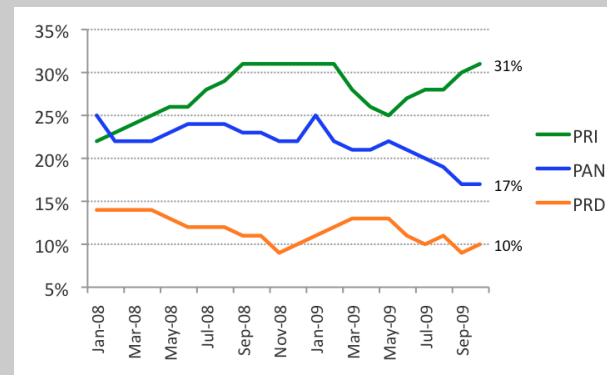
Approval ratings for President, PAN fall to lowest levels since taking office

Mitofsky's monthly national survey shows that support for **President Calderón**, while still high, declined 4 points from September to October to match the lowest levels of his administration. The President had a 58% approval rating, and 40% disapproval. At the same time, party identification with the PRI increased from 25% in May 2009 to 31% in October, while identification with the PAN fell from a recent high of 25% in January 2009 to 17% in October. (www.consulta.com.mx)

Presidential approval



Party identification



Key Dates

12/11: Likely end of congressional session
2/1/10: Start of new congressional session
by 12/31: Terms end for President of Banco de México, and two Supreme Court ministers

Expenditure budget passes

The budget commission of the Chamber of Deputies unanimously passed the 2010 expenditure budget at 4:30 am, after failing to meet the midnight legal deadline. PRI coordinator **Francisco Rojas** postponed four times the meeting of the full Chamber of Deputies, as factions within the party negotiated the reallocation of funds between the states and to different programs. The full Chamber is expected to vote on the package today. The final compromise was reflected in a basket of Ps. 96.6 billion of resources to be reallocated, an increase from the original proposal of Ps. 85 billion. Total expenditures were pegged at Ps. 3,176 billion – only marginally higher than the proposed budget sent by the Government. One of the items that emerged from the congressional negotiations was the requirement that the Ministry of Finance present to congress an austerity plan by March 15 for longer-term improvements in the use of public resources. PRI deputy **Sebastián Lerdo de Tejada** explained, “We can’t ask the citizen to tighten his belt and not demand that the ... executive, judicial, and legislative authorities do the same.”

The *Templo Mayor* column observed: “Almost everyone is content with the slicing up of the budget pie. The *pristas* are congratulating themselves because they ... tied the hands of the federal government and got millions and millions as a gift for their governors. The *panistas* are also jubilant; despite the dark warnings, at they end of the day they salvaged the resources for the three [social] programs dear to **Felipe Calderón**: the leafless *Proarból*, the coveted *Oportunidades*, and the supercharged *Seguro Popular*. ([Excelsior 11/16](#), [Universal 11/16](#), [Reforma 11/16](#))

President renews attack on private sector

In an interview aboard the presidential aircraft en route to Singapore for the APEC summit, President **Felipe Calderón** blamed the private sector for the failure of the government’s original tax proposal. “The business community acted with complete liberty: they were very critical of the government and broadly criticized the package. ... This weakened the possibilities [for passage],” he said. Columnist **Salvador García Soto** noted: “The President’s verbal bombshells ... confirm what we have been saying for several weeks: the relation between the Chief Executive and a good part of the private sector, above all the most influential names, has deteriorated to the point where it has become public. ... A reflection of this distancing is that many of the principal captains of industry have started to build bridges to groups in the PRI.” ([Reforma 11/12](#), [Universal 11/14](#))

Calderón booed

The President was booed by fans at the inauguration of the new soccer stadium in Torreón. The video was widely circulated on [You Tube](#). TV Azteca, which broadcast the game, lowered the volume on the crowd noise to minimize the rare public show of disrespect for a sitting president. “The lusty booing that President **Calderón** received ... is revealing of the enormous black mark that the people have put as their response to the fiscal reform. It has not passed unnoticed by society that the incapacity of the Calderón administration to put the brakes on government spending and the ease with which it decided – once again --- to lay on the people already hit by the recession a higher tax burden, considered unjust and disproportionate,” said columnist **Manuel J. Jáuregui**. ([Reforma 11/12](#), [11/13](#))

Luz y Fuerza strikers disrupt city; buyout advances

The SME electrical workers union carried out protests across Mexico City, including blocking traffic on several expressways. There were scattered arrests and occasional use of teargas, but the demonstrations were largely peaceful. The Mexico City police estimated 100,000 marchers reached the Zocalo to hear defrocked union chief **Martín Esparza** speak. The Government’s offer of a special bonus payment to Luz y Fuerza workers who accepted the liquidation expired; more than 27,000, or 61% of those eligible, accepted the buyout. ([Universal 11/12](#), [11/15](#))