

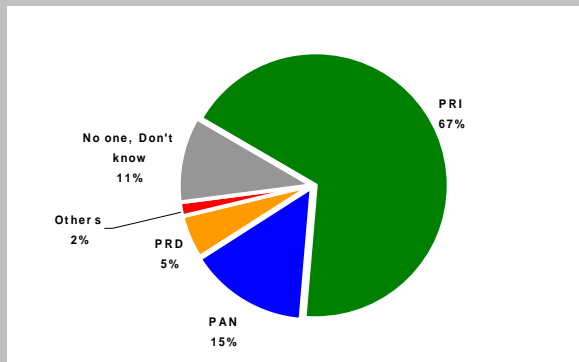
Alan Stoga, President
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Poll

Mixed views on election 'loser'

A new Mitofsky survey shows that two-third of those surveyed saw, not surprisingly, the PRI as the winner of the July 5 elections. Views of which party was the principal loser were divided. *Priistas* and independents saw the PRD as the big loser in the election, followed by the PAN. *Panistas*, on the other hand, saw their own party as the big loser – a view shared by *perredistas*. The other party mentioned frequently was the Social Democrats, who will lose their registration. ([Mitofsky 8/17](#))

Which party was the national winner of the July 5th elections?



Which party do you think lost the elections? (based on party self identification)

	PAN	PRI	PRD	Others	Don't know/ no answer
Priista	21%	7%	28%	27%	18%
Panista	34%	4%	26%	25%	11%
Perredista	42%	10%	21%	16%	12%
Other party	24%	5%	17%	27%	27%
Independent	21%	7%	28%	27%	18%
National	27%	6%	23%	26%	19%

Key Dates

- 9/1:** Start of new Congressional session; President delivers *Informe*.
- 9/8:** Delivery of 2010 economic package to Congress
- 10/18:** Tabasco and Coahuila local elections
- 11/15:** Deadline for approving budget

Carstens declares Mexico to be in 'financial shock'

In statements before the Senate and the PAN congressional delegation, Finance Secretary **Agustín Carstens** declared that Mexico's public finances were facing the worst "financial shock" in 30 years, and that the 2010 budget would have to solve a budget gap of Ps. 300 billion. Asked about tax increases, Carstens said, "We'll see on September 8," when the government presents its budget proposal. Speaking to reporters during his state visit in Colombia, **President Calderón** said, "The truth is that in order to close the gap in public finances we need to reduce spending or increase public revenues or allow a deficit.... It seems to me that we need to find the best combination of the three alternatives." ([Universal 8/12](#), [Reforma 8/13](#), [8/15](#))

PAN and PRD set congressional leadership

The PAN chose **Josefina Vazquez Mota** as the party's leader in the new Chamber of Deputies, over former Government Secretary **Francisco Ramírez Acuña**, while the PRD selected **Alejandro Encinas** as its leader. The second move was a surprise, since AMLO-protégé Encinas lost a bitter PRD leadership contest to **Jesús Ortega** last year. Encinas and Ortega were seen having breakfast in a Mexico City hotel during the week, in another public sign of the efforts to stitch up the divisions within the PRD. The PRI has not yet announced its congressional leader. ([Excelsior 8/17](#))

Supreme Court frees prisoners based on 'illegal acts' by prosecutors

The Supreme Court voted 4-1 to free 20 men imprisoned for more than 11 years for a massacre in the village of **Acteal**, Chiapas in 1997. Another 30 are expected to be freed soon. Citing severe misconduct by the prosecutors and lower court judges, including the fabrication of evidence and testimony, the Court ruled that the accused were denied the constitutional rights of due process and an adequate defense. The killing of 45 **Tzotzil Indians**, mostly women and children, by assailants from a rival community and the railroaded prosecutions by the **Zedillo** government during the Zapatista rebellion has long been an open wound. The Court pointedly did not declare the innocence of those freed. Columnist **Héctor Aguilar Camín** wrote, "Acteal continues to be a hieroglyphic. Beyond the legal aspects, it is a problem of truth: what happened during the massacre, and who were the killers.... The ruling, however, could have enormous consequences in the correction of the Mexican justice system in all the cases where guilt is fabricated, a lamentable specialty of our justice system." **Emilio Chuayffet**, Government Secretary under Zedillo (and who was fired after the massacre), returns to Congress in September as a PRI deputy from the State of Mexico. ([Reforma 8/12](#), [Universal 8/12](#), [Milenio 8/13](#), [NY Times 8/12](#))

Controversy on human rights and the military continues

During the joint news conference ending the North American Leaders Summit, **President Calderón** defended the "scrupulous efforts" of the military to protect human rights in its operations against drug traffickers, and challenged critics to come up with "just one case where human rights have been violated and the competent authorities have not responded." **José Miguel Vivanco**, the director of Human Rights Watch for the Americas immediately shot back that Mexico's own human rights commission had received 1,230 allegations of human rights violations during 2008, triple the prior year level, and said, "The Calderón administration ought to focus on the problem and not continue to defend defective military and judicial systems that perpetuate these actions." It was noted that of the 12 cases cited by the government for prosecution of military crimes against civilians, eight dated to the Salinas and Zedillo governments. ([Reforma 8/10](#), [8/10](#))