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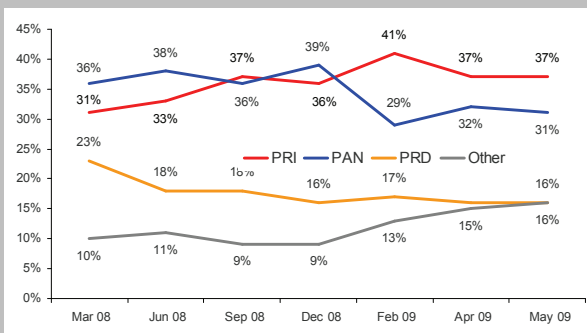
Polls

PRI lead holds steady

A *Reforma* nationwide poll [published 5/29](#) shows the PRI holding a 37%-31% lead over the PAN in the run up to the July 5 Chamber of Deputies election, with the PRD trailing at 16%. Among the minor parties, the Green Party (PVEM) has 6% and the Workers' Party (PT) has 4%. The vote shares exclude the 25% of respondents who are undecided. The dominance of the two major parties increases if only probable voters are considered, while the spread between the top two remains about constant.

Of those surveyed, only 41.7% said they would definitely vote if the elections were held today. Only 28% of respondents said they believed the campaign messages of the parties, and 69% said they did not. In terms of the credibility of the parties, 67% agreed with the statement that the campaigns were based more on attacks than proposals, and a similar share said that they would vote for the party they considered 'less bad.'

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



	Probable voters		
	Feb 09	Apr 09	May 09
PRI	41%	38%	41%
PAN	33%	36%	34%
PRD	16%	14%	13%
Others	10%	12%	12%

Key Dates

7/5: National congressional, 6 gubernatorial, and 5 other local elections. **10/18:** Tabasco and Coahuila local elections

9/1: Start of new Congressional session; President delivers *Informe*.

Massive drug sweep in Michoacán strikes PRD hardest

In an unprecedented operation, federal police and the Army arrested 30 state and local officials in Michoacán for giving protection to the **La Familia** cartel. Those arrested included ten mayors (6 from the PRI, 2 PRD, and 2 PAN), a judge, and several police chiefs. The most prominent state official arrested was **Citlalli Fernández**, the former Secretary of Public Security of the state and close advisor to Governor **Leonel Godoy**. The arrests were a deep blow to the PRD, which views Michoacán as one of its key bastions. Godoy was not given any advance notice of the sweep; only the next day did Government Secretary **Fernando Gómez Mont** state clearly that neither Godoy nor his predecessor, **Lazaro Cárdenas Batel**, was a target. PRI and PRD leaders met urgently with Gómez Mont the next day. PRD party president **Jesús Ortega** said, "We made clear to the Secretary that the PRD will not allow an issue of such importance as public security ... to be used for electoral purposes." This was the first time during the Calderón government that PRD leaders have visited the Ministry of Government offices. (Universal 5/27, Excelsior 5/29)

PRI and PAN party leaders agree to debate

PAN leader **Germán Martínez** agreed to a challenge from his PRI counterpart, **Beatriz Paredes**, to debate the state of the nation and their respective parties' policy proposals before the July elections. Martínez demanded a two-person debate, excluding the PRD and minor parties. No date or format has yet been agreed. This agreement follows on the heels of a call by Government Secretary **Fernando Gómez Mont**: "I encourage a debate in front of the nation by the principal political forces, and the federal government will be more than disposed to respond to its critics." (Universal 5/26)

Government seeks to jump start tourism

President Calderón launched a Ps. 1.2 billion tourism promotion campaign called *Vive México* to help re-launch the tourist sector after the flu outbreak. Accompanied by sports figures, artists, actors, businessmen, and public officials, the President said, "We will tell the world who we are: a strong nation, united, and with a unique identity. However hard, however difficult have been the tests through which we have had to pass,... Mexico is united and Mexico will go forward." (Universal 5/26)

Gordillo crony resigns as head of National Lottery

Miguel Ángel Jiménez resigned as head of the National Lottery, eight weeks after taking a leave of absence. Jiménez is under investigation for using Lottery funds to buy favorable coverage for the PAN in the paper *Diario de Yucatán*. The one-time congressional leader of the PANAL party and associate of Teachers' Union leader **Elba Ester Gordillo** is under investigation by the Ministry of Public Function. The Government proposed congressman **Benjamín González Roaro**, another *gordillista*, as the new Lottery head. However, the PRI and PRD representatives in the leadership council in Congress united to refuse to authorize a leave of absence, normally a routine step, effectively blocking the appointment until September 1. (Universal 5/26, 29, Excelsior 5/29)

Crime reporter murdered

Eliseo Barrón Hernandez, a veteran crime reporter for *La Opinión* in Torreón was kidnapped from his home in the presence of his wife and daughters. His body was found dumped in an irrigation canal, with signs of torture and 11 bullet wounds. One of the last stories he wrote was on the firing by the police chief of Torreón of 302 cops for 'loss of confidence.' (Universal 5/26, Reforma 5/27)