

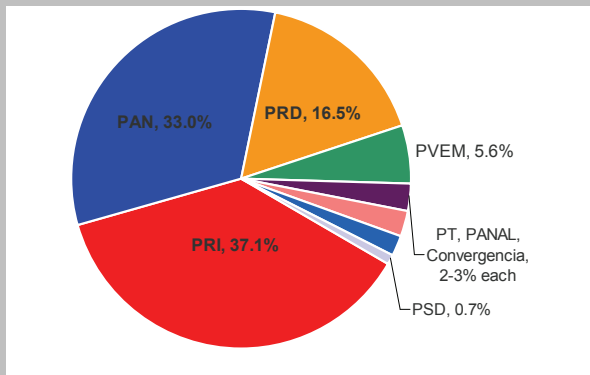
Alan Stoga, President
Daniel Wilson, Managing Director and editor

Polls

PRI and PAN build advantage; no majority likely

The latest [Mitofsky national survey](#) indicates that the PRI and the PAN continue to increase their voting share, while the PRD slipped again and minor party votes increased slightly. Looking only at probable voters and eliminating the undecideds, Mitofsky's central estimate is that the PRI will win 37.1% of the vote against the PAN's 33.0%. The PRD would capture 16.5%. All the minor parties, except the Social Democrats (PSD) are likely to get the minimum 2% needed to maintain their registration. In terms of seats in the Chamber of Deputies, Mitofsky estimates that the PRI will get between 210-238 seats, doubling their current representation but falling short of an absolute majority. The likely distribution of seats could be very similar to the 2003 Congress.

Preferences for Federal Deputy, probable voters, excluding undecideds



Chamber of Deputies - Estimated Distribution			
	2006	Min.	Max.
PRI	104	210	238
PAN	206	148	171
PRD	123	80	93
PVEM	19	9	14
PT	17	4	7
Convergencia	18	4	7
PANAL	9	4	7
PSD	4	-	-
	500		

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](#).

Day care tragedy points to official corruption

As the death toll at the ABC day care center fire in Hermosillo, Sonora reached 43 (with 12 still in critical condition), outrage over the tragedy mounted. The day care center was in a former factory building in an industrial zone—clearly inappropriate for children. It was a Social Security Institute (IMSS) facility, but outsourced to a private company (that may be linked to the local PRI establishment). **Daniel Karam**, the head of the IMSS, said in a press conference that the facility passed its last safety inspection on May 26th, but neighbors and parents contradicted his every statement. Columnist **Ricardo Alemán** [called](#) for the resignation of Karam as well as Governor **Eduardo Bours** and Hermosillo mayor **Ernesto Gándara** (both PRI), but predicted that nothing would happen: “We are in Mexico, where official impunity rules!” Sonora will have gubernatorial, state congress, and mayoral elections in July. ([Reforma 6/7](#), [6/8](#), [Excelsior 6/8](#))

Vote nullification campaign gains momentum

A viral Internet campaign calling on voters to spoil their ballots in the July 5 elections is forcing the political establishment to respond. *Reforma* posted a [gallery of YouTube videos](#) from the different organizations. Writer **Lydia Cacho** is one of many opinion makers joining the movement: “I will leave my ballot blank. Although there is no legal validity in a blank vote, even though the parties say it will be a null vote, they know very well what the message is: ‘I am not your accomplice, you do not deceive me, you cannot use me, your candidates don’t represent me....To cast a blank ballot is civic action, an act of liberty.’” The IFE and the parties are planning on holding several forums specifically oriented to counteract vote nullification. ([Universal 6/1](#), [6/7](#), [Reforma 6/7](#))

See [our blog](#) for links to the nullification websites.

SCT fires 15 lawyers for acting to benefit Grupo Salinas

Ministry of Communications and Transportation (SCT) general counsel **Gerardo Sánchez Henkel** fired 15 staff lawyers for failing to protect the SCT’s interests in auctions of radio frequencies. Iusacell, a cell phone company owned by **Ricardo Salinas** (TV Azteca), was in the process of getting a permanent injunction to block the auctions. (Iusacell owns unused bandwidth which it could resell for more than US\$400 million if the new frequencies are not made available, according to specialists.) Those fired allegedly failed to defend the case aggressively. “There was an inconsistency in their actions, and this led to a loss of confidence in the attorneys,” said Sánchez Henkel. ([Reforma 6/4](#), [6/5](#))

Shootout in Acapulco leaves 18 dead; Veracruz transit police chief held in disappearance of Customs official

An Army operation in downtown Acapulco Saturday evening in the heart of old entertainment district, left two soldiers and 16 gang members dead after a four hour gun battle that resulted in the firing of hundreds of rounds and at least four hand grenades. Separately, the chief of the traffic police in the port city of Veracruz, **Héctor Peñafiel Parra**, and eight of his officers were ordered held by the Justice Ministry in the disappearance (and presumed kidnapping) of the head of Customs at the port, **Francisco Serrano**. ([Universal 6/7](#))

DEA investigating soccer teams for narco links

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency is investigating several second and third division soccer teams for links to the major cartels. The *Project Reckoning* investigation is looking at money laundering, particularly in buying and selling players, ownership of clubs, and extortion. At least one first division club, the Indios of Ciudad Juarez, is also under investigation. The Mexican Football Federation has refused to comment. ([Universal 6/7](#))