

TBI Fact Sheet: Mexico's 2006 Elections

2006 Elections in Mexico: Federal, State, and Local Races

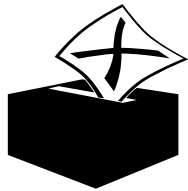
Seats for grabs in 2006:

- **Presidency** (6 year term of office)
- **Senate** (128 seats; 6 year terms)
- **Chamber of Deputies** (500 seats; 3 year terms)
- **Governorships** (6 year terms of office)
- **State Legislatures** (3 year terms of office)
- **Municipalities** (3 year terms of office)

Electoral Calendar for 2006:

- March 12, 2006: Mexico State (PRI)
- July 2, 2006: Federal elections; State elections in Campeche, Federal District, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Morelos, Nuevo León, Sonora, Tabasco
- August 20, 2006: Chiapas
- October 15, 2006: Tabasco

2006 Major Parties and Presidential Candidates:



PAN: Founded 1939. Center-right; traditional ties to church & business.

PRD: Founded 1989. Comprises former PRI & old leftist parties. Never won presidency.

PRI: Founded 1929. Former-ruling party. Varied ideological positions.

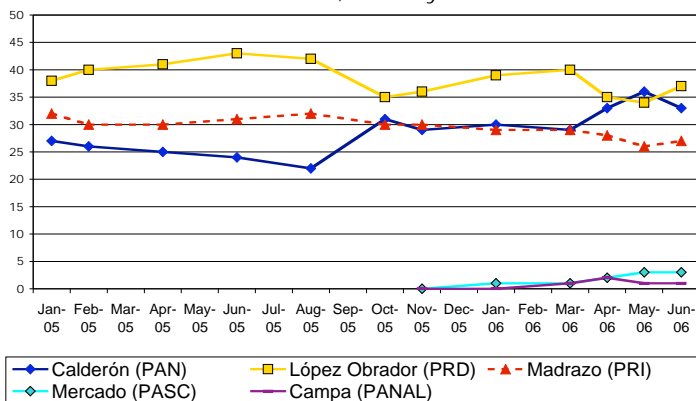
◆ **Felipe Calderón Hinojosa (PAN):** Former-PAN party chairman (1996-99). PAN Party Leader in Lower House of Congress (2000-2003) and Energy Secretary under Fox (2003-04). Has never won a direct election for public office.

◆ **Andres Manuel López Obrador (PRD/PT/PC):** Former PRI member, former-PRD party chairman. Head of Mexico City government (2000-2005). Lost 1994 Tabasco gubernatorial election to Madrazo. Seen by some as populist.

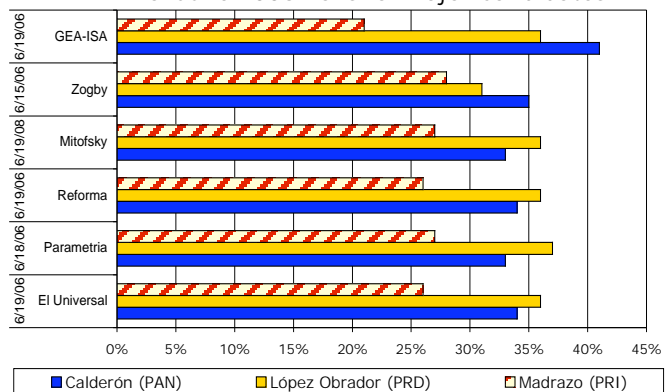
◆ **Roberto Madrazo Pintado (PRI/PVEM):** Former-PRI party chairman (2001-2005), Federal Deputy (1976-79; 1991-94); Senator (1988-91). Won Tabasco governorship in fraud-ridden election in 1994. Nomination generated "All Against Madrazo" movement in PRI in 2005.

Recent Trends in National Polls:

Parametria Polls, January 05-June 06



Final June 2006 Polls for Major Candidates



Data sources: www.parametria.com.mx; www.opinamexico.org. Parametria featured due to availability of long-term data.

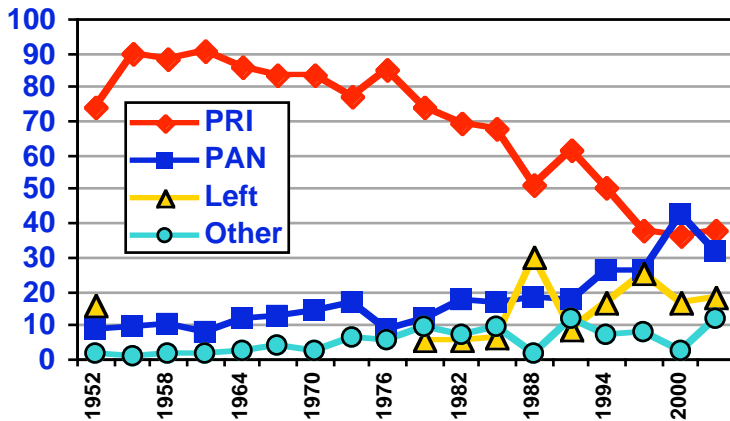
Major Campaign Swings:

- ◆ **February 2004:** Sharp decline for López Obrador (PRD) due to corruption scandals caught on video.
- ◆ **April/May 05:** López Obrador (PRD) surges despite *desafuero*; federal effort to impeach for contempt of court.
- ◆ **April/May 06:** Calderón (PAN) surges after 1st presidential debate and attack ads on López Obrador (PRD).
- ◆ **June/July 06:** Polls narrowed with 2nd presidential debate and nearing of July 2nd election day.

Key Electoral Regulations in Mexico:

- **No re-election:** No person may be re-elected to as President or Governor. No person may be consecutively re-elected to the same legislative or municipal office.
- **Proportional representation:** 200 seats (40 seats in 5 different zones) in the lower house are filled by party lists according to their share of the vote.
- **Electoral Authorities:** Federal elections are regulated by the Federal Electoral Institute, or IFE (www.ife.org.mx); State elections are regulated by the State Electoral Institutes, or IEE (www.ife.org.mx)
- **Key Regulations:** Parties must observe campaign spending limits or face fines, and in 2006 have been regulated for the content and tone of campaign advertisements. Candidates and their parties may not formally campaign outside of Mexico.
- **Polling Data:** To avoid biasing the elections, by law, June 23, 2006 is the last day to publish polls and survey results in Mexico.

Federal Electoral Trends in Mexico, 1952-2003:



- **Gradual PRI decline:** PRI hegemony declined steadily after 1976 and subsequent reforms to increase proportional representation and electoral transparency (e.g., IFE).
- **Rise of Opposition:** By 1997, opposition gained majority control of Chamber of Deputies. In 2000, PAN presidential candidate Vicente Fox defeats PRI candidate Francisco Labastida, heralding new era of democratic change.
- **Multi-party competition:** Competition between three major parties and various minor parties results from the use of proportional representation.

Source: David A. Shirk, *Mexico's New Politics*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publisher, 2005.

Current Federal Legislative Dynamics in Mexico:

Party Senate Chamber of Deputies Discussion

Party	Seats	%	Seats	%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Fragmentation: A multi-party split of the legislature is virtually certain in the next presidential administration. • Mixed Results from Divided Government: While Congress has been very productive in the number of bills passed, Fox's major reform initiatives (e.g. taxation, energy, justice system) have been blocked.
PAN	47	36.7%	148	29.6%	
PRD	15	11.7%	97	19.4%	
PRI	58	45.3%	203	40.6%	
PVEM	5	3.9%	17	3.4%	
Other	3	2.3%	35	7.0%	
Total	128	100%	500	100%	

Sources: www.cddhcu.gob.mx and www.senado.gob.mx. Note: Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Note: 2006 Mexican Election TBI Fact Sheet Compiled by David A. Shirk, Emily Mellott, and Doris Franyutti. Originally distributed on June 15, 2006 and revised on June 21, 2006.