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.

Recent Trends in National Polls:


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:

![Graph showing electoral trends in Mexico from 1952 to 2003](image)

- **Gradual PRI decline:** PRI hegemony declined steadily after 1976 and subsequent reforms to increase proportional representation and electoral transparency (e.g., IFE).
- **Multi-party competition:** Competition between three major parties and various minor parties results from the use of proportional representation.

Current Federal Legislative Dynamics in Mexico:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>Chamber of Deputies</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seats</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Seats</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRD</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRI</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVEM</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **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.

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.