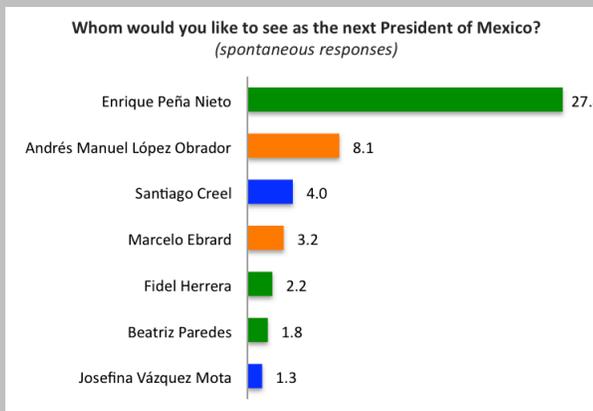
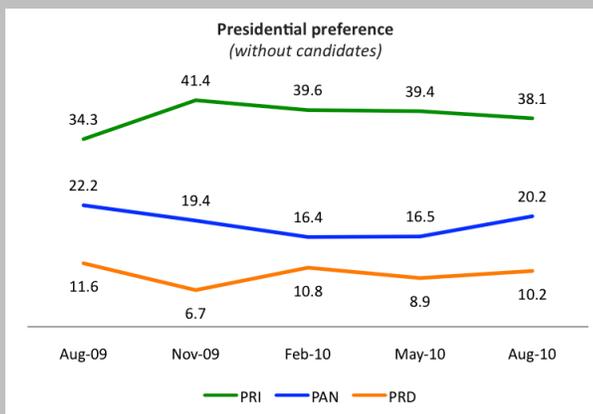


Alan Stoga, President
Daniel Wilson, Managing Director and Editor

Polls

PRI, Peña Nieto hold strong lead in 2012 preferences

A new **Mitofsky** poll shows preferences for the 2012 presidential election largely unchanged. Based on party choices (without naming specific candidates), the PRI is preferred by 38% of those surveyed, the PAN 20%, and the PRD 10%. (The rest are undecided or favor minor parties.) There has been a slight uptick in support for the PAN, which is consistent with an increase in President **Felipe Calderón's** poll ratings in recent months. When voters are asked whom they would like to see as President, **Enrique Peña Nieto**, the PRI governor of Mexico State, outpolls all other contenders by a 3:1 margin. (www.consulta.com.mx)



Key Dates

9/8: Deadline for Government to submit 2011 Budget
9/15: 200th Anniversary of Independence
11/15: 100th Anniversary of the Revolution
11/29-12/11: UN Climate Change Conference (COP-16), Cancún

Presidential *Informe* focuses on security and unity

President **Calderón's** fourth *Informe* largely focused on highlighting the [ten initiatives](#) announced in last year's message, and called for Congress to pass blocked reform legislation. The greatest emphasis was put on security, with the capture of **Édgar Valdez Villarreal**, aka "La Barbie," providing a much-needed exclamation point. The President, however, warned: "Today, crime is the greatest threat to peace, security, and the freedom of Mexicans. ... The fight for security calls for and requires the commitment of all. We have to close ranks to fight it. It is a cause that should be above particular interests, of ideologies, of parties. We need to understand that the common enemy of Mexicans is the criminals, not the authorities who fight the criminals. I have said that this is not, nor can it be, the fight of the President only. It needs to be part of a policy of the State that, as such, corresponds to the three levels of Government and the three powers, to the media, to all society, with each acting in its area of responsibility, and each according to his means."

On the eve of the bicentennial of Independence, the President closed with an emotional call for unity and for taking up the challenge to close the gap between "the two Mexicos": the Mexico of world leaders and the Mexico of extreme poverty. "Our generation has the opportunity to change Mexico. A peaceful change, that will overcome inertia, that will overcome resistance. A profound change that will make Mexico into a nation that is strong, just, prosperous, secure, clean, free democratic; the nation that we want it to be." ([Presidencia 9/1](#))

Accelerated conversion to digital TV biggest surprise

Simultaneously with the *Informe*, **Calderón** issued a decree accelerating the conversion from analog to digital TV. According to the President, this "transcendent measure" will free up the 700 MHz band (currently used for analog) for other uses that will speed the convergence of telephone, Internet, and television services. The recapture of spectrum, sure to be challenged in court by the broadcasters, is now set to begin in 2012 and be completed by 2015. **José Antonio Crespo** writes, "If carried out as proposed, [the decree] could become the greatest legacy of the Calderón government and would have media-political implications of the greatest importance. The competition between the electronic media and telecommunications providers constitutes a reform of great depth, which could contribute to democratization, opening up new information options ... in order to reduce the enormous political influence that the media and communications conglomerates have in Mexico." ([Excelsior 9/3](#))

PRI challenges President on budget, calls for tax cuts

Even as the PRI leadership – **Manlio Fabio Beltrones**, **Beatriz Paredes**, and **Francisco Rojas** – met privately with **President Calderón** to discuss budget priorities, the party published an open letter to the President calling for an economic package with no new taxes and a rollback of the value added tax (VAT) from 16 to 15%. Undersecretary of Finance **José Antonio Meade** said the budget, to be delivered on the 8th, would keep all taxes unchanged from current levels and called the proposal to cut tax rates "irresponsible" given the decline in oil production. Meade said the budget to be proposed would have a deficit of about 0.4% of GDP, and that a 1% cut in the VAT would cost about Ps. 35 billion. ([Universal 9/7](#))

Peña Nieto delivers his own *Informe*

Enrique Peña Nieto gave his fifth and final *Informe* as Governor of Mexico State before an audience that included 13 of the 18 PRI governors and most of the party's luminaries, past and present. As columnist **Ricardo Alemán** noted, Peña Nieto is being treated as the "virtual President," and the fifth *Informe* "seemed like an evocation of the times of Adolfo López Mateos," President from 1958 to 1964. Alemán asks, "Is Peña Nieto an example of the new PRI that will return to power in 2012? If this is the new PRI, what is the old PRI?" ([Universal 9/7](#))