

GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS JULY, 2011

No surprises. The polls were correct, unlike 2010, when they erred by up to 20 percentage points.

In the State of Mexico, the PRI won with a margin of 41%;

In Coahuila: a margin of 25%; and

In Nayarit, a margin of 7%.

The PRI learned from last year's experience, especially in the selection of candidates.

Instead, the PAN and PRD rejected successful coalitions.

That was the difference between the results this year and 2010.

The PRD's new strategy did not make winning these elections its primary goal. Rather, the priority for Andrés Manuel López Obrador was bursting coalitions to ensure that he becomes the candidate of a united left. He cannot be the candidate of an alliance PAN/PRD (Marcelo can).

Also, the PRD took second place in these elections and hopes to situate itself as the real alternative to the PRI candidate in the 2012 election; but it can not openly admit this and therefore AMLO avoids this debate.

All this brings up again the internal dispute within the PRD - between the pro alliance (Marcelo Ebrard) and the ones who opposes it (López Obrador).

Ebrard and "los Chuchos" are holding Encinas or Lopez Obrador responsible of this huge defeat.

However, the chances for a coalition in the presidential race are now very low, if not impossible.

PAN and PRD blame their misfortune on the inequity and unfairness of the electoral process; but that can explain only part of the results - maybe contributing 3 or 4% to the PRI victory - but not 40, 25, or 7 points in the three races.

Moreover, under similar electoral conditions the PAN/PRD alliance won elections in Sinaloa, Oaxaca and Puebla last year.

On the other hand, the movement of López Obrador (Movement of National Renewal – MORENA) didn't make a difference.

Six years ago, when MORENA did not exist, the PRD won 24 % of the votes; three points less than now.

The PAN claimed in 2006 that recognition of Defeat, even if “by one vote”, was the proper democratic behavior.

Now PAN proclaimed victory in Nayarit While trailing by 7% points.

This is not consistent at all.
Parties behave the same in similar conditions.

By reacting in this manner the PAN and PRD are unconvincing that their defeat was due to irregularities and inequities in the electoral system, or the mafia governing Mexico. Instead they evade self criticism that would allow them to correct their mistakes before the presidential election.

The are probably alienating independent voters, especially in the case of PRD.

That benefits the PRI instead of harming it.

The failure of Luis Felipe Bravo benefits Josefina Vázquez by demonstrating what happens to a nominee with backing from *Los Pinos*.

Felipe Calderon loses to some degree his influence within the PAN and over the nomination process for the PAN's presidential candidate.

Enrique Peña Nieto has consolidated
as probable unity candidate of his party.

Manlio Fabio Beltrones will be forced to
negotiate and support Peña instead
of trying the same strategy that followed
Roberto Madrazo against Arturo Montiel,
in 2005.

THE END