

# Electoral Scenario November 23<sup>rd</sup> Regional Elections in Venezuela

30.11  
CONSULTORES

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November 2008

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# GENERAL CONTEXT

- We are awaiting regional and local elections in which **national issues will play an important role.**
- Opposition parties **failed to set forth a global proposal** that would allow them to present themselves as a **political force with an articulated plan and an alternative** to the project led by President Hugo Chávez. Thus, they failed to **present their candidates as a solid bloc and as an alternative to the PSUV and its allies.**
- **The partial unity achieved** by the opposition **seems to have, in political and electoral terms, a smaller “qualitative” effect than the “quantitative” effect of the scope of the unity.** Also, in some key districts for the opposition, such as the Caracas municipality of Chacao, for example, **their inability to unite became a theme for national confrontation within the opposition that diminished the broader effect of presenting a great number of unity candidates in the rest of the country.**
- **Primary elections held by the PSUV** on June 1<sup>st</sup>, which involved the **participation of 2.5 millions of its members** who elected candidates throughout the country, created strong legitimacy for their candidacies. It also **allowed the PSUV**, as a political party, to begin its **messaging and mobilization for the November 23<sup>rd</sup> elections.**

# GENERAL CONTEXT

- **Evaluating attitudes such as: approval ratings and performance evaluations for President Chávez; positive projections about the future, hope and optimism associated with continued support for the political process; as well as more challenging variables like agreement with the construction of 21<sup>st</sup> century socialism proposed by Chávez, we find that all of these indicators have recovered compared to the values they had in November 2007. The values are very similar to those recorded in November 2006.**

# Methodology

- **We began evaluating the scenario** for the November 23<sup>rd</sup> elections **in February 2008.**
- **We have conducted qualitative and quantitative studies.**
- Qualitative studies were used to **design of instruments for quantitative studies.**
- Sample design, sample sizes and sample error depend in each case on the socio-demographic characteristics of each state.
- In general terms, the methodology of every quantitative study conducted **had the following characteristics:**

**Sample type:** Probabilistic, multi-stage and stratified, with proportional assignation for age and sex variables.

**Unit of analysis:** Voters registered in the Permanent Electoral Registry (REP)

**Interview setting for the unit of analysis:** Household

**Margin of error for the sample:** Depending on the design, between 1.96% and 3.5%.

**Confidence level:** 95%

**Sample size:** Depends on the state.

**Sample framework:** With coverage of no less than 85% of registered voters in each state and a distribution proportional to the populations of each municipality and district, with statistical use of a wide range within the sample.

# Strongly consolidated electoral scenarios

- In this group, we included states that have **clear and consolidated** electoral trends in which **we consider the probability of change for November 23<sup>rd</sup> to be extremely low.**
- In our analysis, to characterize a state as having a “strongly consolidated” electoral trend, **we not only took into account the difference with regard to likely voters,** we also analyzed a set of attitudinal variables that set a **frame of values over which voting behavior is structured and defined.**
- **The following states are in this group:**
  - **States where PSUV candidates will be elected:  
LARA, FALCÓN, MONAGAS, APURE, VARGAS,  
ANZOÁTEGUI, ARAGUA, DISTRITO CAPITAL, MÉRIDA and  
DISTRITO METROPOLITANO.**
  - **States where OPPOSITION candidates will be elected:  
NUEVA ESPARTA**

# Consolidated electoral scenarios



- In this group, we include states that have a **clear electoral trend**, and in which **we consider the probability for change on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to be very low**.
- In our analysis, to characterize a state as having a “consolidated” electoral scenario, **we not only took into account the difference with regards to likely voters**, we also analyzed a set of attitudinal variables that set **a frame of values over which voting behavior is structured and defined**.
- **The following states are in this group:**
- **States where PSUV candidates will be elected:**  
**TRUJILLO, BARINAS, MIRANDA, BOLÍVAR, GUÁRICO, TÁCHIRA, PORTUGUESA and YARACUY.**  
**Additionally, COJEDES and DELTA AMACURO (Note: In both of these states there are specific conditions which may create a change in the trends we are seeing today.)**
- **State where OPPOSITION candidates will be elected:**  
**No state was included in this category.**

# Very close electoral scenarios



- In this group we included those **states that have shown important changes and variations during the electoral campaign**, for which it was **impossible to make forecasts with the strength or force with which we have made them in other states.**
- In our analysis, states characterized as having a “very close” electoral scenario display significant changes occurring throughout the electoral campaign in attitudinal variables such as the likelihood of voting. Furthermore, the latest measurements taken have shown very small margins.
- **This group includes the states SUCRE, CARABOBO and ZULIA.**
- **Of these states, SUCRE is slightly more likely to elect a PSU candidate on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

## Very close electoral scenarios



- **CARABOBO** is a scenario in which both options have an equal probability. The final result will depend on voter mobilization on election day and on the **FINAL LEVEL OF POLARIZATION** between the candidates Mario Silva and Henrique Salas. The greater the polarization, the higher probability of victory for Salas.
- **ZULIA** has the election which has created the most confrontation and generated the most attention in the country. June 1<sup>st</sup> marked the first turning point in favor of the PSUV candidate. Changes in each direction have been registered throughout the campaign. As of today, the trend is in favor of Di Martino, but emotions at the close of campaigning and voter mobilization **WILL BE THE DETERMINING FACTORS.**

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