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### **New Poll by U.S. and Venezuelan Pollsters Finds Majority of Venezuelans Would Vote Against Recall Referendum**

**New York** — A new poll of Venezuelan voters finds that, if the election were held today, the recall referendum on President Hugo Chavez would fail.

The survey shows the referendum losing by eight percentage points, with forty one percent (41%) of *all* voters in favor of recalling President Chavez and forty nine percent (49%) opposed to recalling the President. Among *likely* voters -- those who tell interviewers that they are certain to vote -- the prospects for recall proponents are even worse, with forty three percent (43%) favoring the recall and fifty one percent (51%) opposing it. Even if the pro-recall base turned out ten percent higher than the anti-recall base, the no vote would still prevail with fifty one percent (51%) of the vote.

These results are strikingly consistent with the less comprehensive survey conducted Stan Greenberg for RCTV and leaked to the media last month. The new poll was conducted for PDV Holding, a US affiliate of the Venezuelan state oil firm, PDVSA, by U.S. opinion research firm Evans McDonough Company (EMC) and Venezuelan firm Varianzas Opinion. The independent survey was done of 2,000 Venezuela voters from July 16 – 22, 2004. All interviews were conducted in homes by trained Venezuelan interviewers and the error margin for the poll is plus or minus 2.2 percent.

The poll shows that the underlying dynamics in the current referendum do not look fundamentally different than those at play in President Hugo Chavez's earlier electoral victories:

- Fifty percent (50%) say that Chavez "cares about people like me" versus twenty nine percent (29%) who identify this characteristic with the opposition leadership.

- Fifty five percent (55%) say that Chavez cares about the poor, versus twenty five percent (25%) who believe this phrase best describes the opposition.
- Forty nine percent (49%) of voters believe that the opposition “only care about the rich” versus only ten percent (10%) who believe this phrase describes Chavez.
- Among poor and working-class Venezuelans, who make up almost eighty percent of the electorate, fifty four percent (54%) oppose the recall versus thirty-five percent (35%) who support it.

Unless there is a sea change in the opinion of poor and working class Venezuelans towards President Chavez or, lacking that, a decrease in turnout of truly historic proportions -- in which case it may be difficult for recall proponents to achieve the necessary 3.76 million vote threshold even if they win a majority of votes cast -- prospects for a successful vote to recall President Chavez appear dim.

Founded in 1989, Varianzas Opinion is a leading Venezuelan polling firm that works for businesses, elected officials and government agencies. Evans McDonough is a leading North American opinion research company and has worked for dozens of presidential, senatorial, and congressional candidates, as well as large international corporations.

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