

# Spanish election race too close to call

Spain's Socialist Prime Minister *Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero* is tipped to win a second mandate in the general election, but opposition Popular Party leader *Mariano Rajoy* trails by only a narrow margin, leading analysts to believe the election is too close to call



## KEY ISSUES

### ECONOMY

**Hit by slowing growth, rising unemployment and inflation, and steep decline in housing market**

Zapatero promises tax cuts and more public spending. Rajoy also promises tax cuts, including controversial proposal to allow working women to pay lower rate of income tax

### TERRORISM

**While government moves to negotiate peace with armed Basque separatist group ETA failed last June, ETA number of attacks fell to all-time low last year**

Rajoy accuses government of "negotiating with terrorists", Zapatero vows to support whatever government is elected "without conditions" in fighting terrorism

Source: Congreso de Diputados

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### IMMIGRATION

**Spain's foreign-born population has increased fivefold to around 10% in last seven years**

Rajoy wants immigrants to sign "integration contract" obliging them to return home if they lose their jobs in Spain. Zapatero insists immigration has helped balance labour shortages

## CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES

