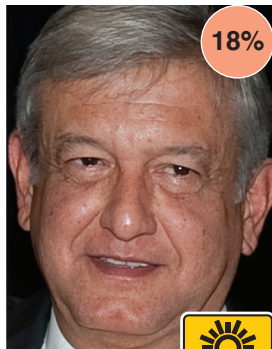


Mexico ruling party picks female candidate

Mexico's ruling conservative party has chosen Josefina Vazquez Mota to take on two other candidates in the July 1 presidential election.

The 51-year-old former congresswoman is the first female to stand for president from one of the country's three main parties



Andres Manuel
Lopez Obrador



*Party of the Democratic
Revolution (PRD)*

Leftist former mayor of Mexico City is making his second run after razor-thin loss in 2006 to President **Felipe Calderon**. Has pledged to tackle corruption and work with Mexico's business community



Enrique
Pena Nieto



*Institutional
Revolutionary Party (PRI)*

Former governor of Mexico State hopes to return power to centrist PRI, which ruled Mexico for 71 years until losing to PAN in 2000. Aims to transform Mexico by creating jobs and improving public security



Josefina
Vazquez Mota



*National Action Party
(PAN)*

Former journalist elected to congress in 2000. Became Calderon's education minister in 2006 before resigning to lead PAN in lower house. Seeks to double Mexico's sluggish economic growth rate

Percentage figures indicate voter preferences according to January 14-18 Mitofsky poll

Source: Wire agencies

Pictures: Getty Images

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