

# Close vote in Chiapas spurs 2 Mexican victory parties

The Miami Herald  
Aug. 22, 2006

**TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, Mexico** - (AP) -- Mexico, mired for nearly two months in a presidential election dispute, woke up Monday to a disputed governor's vote in the country's poorest state.

In Sunday's Chiapas state race, the candidate backed by President Vicente Fox's party, José Antonio Aguilar Bodegas, vowed to contest the vote if he loses to the main leftist party.

Meanwhile, supporters of leftist presidential candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador have clogged the heart of Mexico City with protest camps to demand a recount of the July 2 presidential election.

Incoming Mayor Marcelo Ebrard, of López Obrador's Democratic Revolution Party, said Sunday that party officials had accepted a proposal from the city government to allow traffic to pass through the five-mile blockade at several points.

Preliminary results in southern Chiapas state showed little more than 2,000 votes separating the two gubernatorial candidates in Chiapas.

With 94 percent of 4,761 polling places counted, Juan Sabines of the Democratic Revolution Party, or PRD, was leading with 48.39 percent, or 517,129 votes.

Aguilar had 48.17 percent, or 514,743 votes.

Both claimed victory late Sunday and held celebrations within blocks of each other -- as if there were a clear winner.

Aguilar, a 56-year-old lawyer and former federal senator, is a member of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, but also is backed by Fox's conservative National Action Party, which formed a last-minute alliance with the PRI to try to defeat Sabines.