

# Poll: Venezuela's Chavez has wide lead

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**CARACAS, Venezuela** - President Hugo Chavez has a wide lead over his top contender as he seeks re-election in Venezuela's upcoming elections, according to a new poll.

The survey by Zogby International found 59 percent support Chavez, compared to 24 percent for the opposition's top candidate, Manuel Rosales.

The poll released Monday also dealt with Chavez's comments last month when he called President Bush "the devil" in a speech to the United Nations.

Asked generally about Chavez's U.N. speech, 36 percent said it made them proud of him as their president, while 23 percent said it made them ashamed. An additional 15 percent were indifferent, while 26 percent said they were either unfamiliar with the speech or unsure what to think about it.

The Zogby poll, conducted with support from the University of Miami School of Communication, found just 2 percent preferred second-tier Chavez opponent Benjamin Rausseo, a well-known comedian.

The survey included face-to-face interviews with 800 registered voters between Oct. 1 and Oct. 16. The U.S. polling company reported an error margin of 3.5 percentage points.