

Menchu trails in new Guatemala polls

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GUATEMALA CITY --

Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu is garnering only single-digit support ahead of September's presidential election, according a poll published Wednesday.

Menchu was in fifth place with 1.5 percent support, according to the poll conducted by the firm Vox Latina and published in the daily newspapers Prensa Libre and Nuestro Diario. The survey of 1,200 potential voters June 15-23 had a margin of error 4 percentage points.

A separate poll published Tuesday showed the Indian-rights activist in third place with 6.7 percent. That June 6-17 survey by Borge and Associates had a margin of error of 5 percentage points.

Menchu, a Guatemalan Quiche Indian, would be the first woman and the first Indian ever to serve as president in this overwhelmingly Indian country. She is running on promises to clean up entrenched corruption in Guatemala and plans to review the new Central American Free Trade Agreement with the United States.

Wednesday's poll showed 21 percent support for opposition contender Alvaro Colom, a three-time contender for the center National Unity of Hope party. He is followed by retired Gen. Otto Perez Molina of the Patriot Party, who received 12 percent support.

Ruling party candidate and former prison system director Alejandro Giammattei had 8 percent support.

The election is scheduled for Sept. 9.