

Jamaica: Premier Faces Pressure to Concede Loss

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Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller faced pressure to concede defeat as officials began a final tally of ballots from an election Monday praised by international observers as “professional and transparent.” With her People’s National Party apparently suffering a razor-thin defeat, she refused to give up, saying the final count, expected to take two days, could shift some close races. Preliminary returns gave the opposition Labor Party 31 of the 60 seats in the House of Representatives, just large enough to end the governing party’s nearly 20 years in power and make Bruce Golding, the Labor leader, prime minister. In an editorial, *The Gleaner*, [Jamaica](#)’s leading newspaper, urged Ms. Simpson Miller to accept defeat. “Political leaders need to both show statesmanship and encourage calm and good sense, not the opposite,” it said.