

SWS March 2007 Pre-Election Survey for Party Lists

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Eleven party-list groups meet the minimum 2%-rule for representation in the House of Representatives, in the PDI-SWS Election Survey of March 15-18, 2007.

The eleven groups satisfying the 2-percent rule are: BAYAN MUNA 28%, ANAKPAWIS 6.2%, GABRIELA 5.8%, AANGAT KA PILIPINO 5.0%, AKBAYAN 3.9%, AMIN 3.0%, CIBAC 2.3%, ANAK 2.3%, A TEACHER 2.2%, SUARA 2.0%, and AANGAT TAYO 2.0%.

Of the survey's national sample of registered voters, those who chose a party-list representative from the official Comelec list were 58%.

Applying this to the official total of 45.06 million registered voters gives an estimate of 26 million party-list voters, of which the minimum 2% is 520,000 votes.

Parties or groups meeting the 2%-rule will receive seats in the House of Representative in proportion to their share in the total party-list votes, i.e., one seat for every 2%, subject to another rule that a party or group can have at most 3 seats.

The new survey shows that party-list groups may obtain 17 seats in the next House.

Votes for BAYAN MUNA went up to 28% in March from 19% in the SWS February 24-27 survey, strongly assuring it of keeping its current 3 seats.

AMIN would retain its current single seat, as its votes went to 3.0% in March from 2.2% in February.

Votes for GABRIELA, currently with one seat, went to 5.8% in March from 8.4% in February, meaning that it would increase its seats to two instead of three.

ANAK PAWIS, obtaining 6.2% in March, from 10.5% in February, is still poised to add one more seat to its current two.

AKBAYAN, with 3.9% votes now from 4.2% in February, would retain two out of its current three seats.

CIBAC, which fell short of the minimum 2% in February, has 2.3% in March and is poised to keep its current seat.

AANGAT TAYO, which had 4.4% in February, scored 2.0% in March and thus may get only one seat instead of two.

AANGAT KA PILIPINO, which had 6.2% in February, got 5.0% in March and may get two seats instead of three.

Those qualifying for one seat each are ANAK with 2.3%, and A TEACHER with 2.2%.

Decreases were found in the proportions of votes for AN WARAY (down to 1.8% in March from 5.1% in February), putting it at risk of losing its current two seats, and in ABA AKO (down to 1.2% in March from 2.3% in February).

Other party-list groups below, but within statistical reach of, the threshold are APEC 1.8%, PM 1.8%, ABONO 1.6%, BUHAY 1.6%, KABATAAN 1.5%, COOP-NATCCO 1.5%, ANAK MAHIRAP 1.5%, SANLAKAS 1.5%, FPJPM 1.2%, ASSALAM 1.1%, BABAE KA 1.1%, and ABA ILONGGO 1.0%.

In the Philippine Party-List vote-computation system, parties' votes exceeding the exact 2%, 4%, or 6% proportions are unusable surpluses which lessen the scope for other groups to achieve the 2% threshold, and thus make it virtually impossible to fill up the available Party-List seats completely.

Survey background

This special Pre-Election Survey was conducted over March 15-18, 2007, using face-to-face interviews of 1,200 registered voters divided into random samples of 300 each in the four areas of Metro Manila, the Balance of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. By design, the sample included every city/municipality in Metro Manila, and at least one province in every region in the other three areas. The Balance of Luzon has 6 regions, while Visayas has 3, and Mindanao has 6.

The margin for sampling error of a proportion slides downward, as the proportion gets farther from 50%. For a sample size of 1,200, a margin of plus/minus 2.5% should be applied to proportions in the vicinity of 25%. A margin of plus/minus 2% applies to proportions in the vicinity of 15%, and a margin of plus/minus 1% applies to proportions in the vicinity of 3%.

With a survey outcome of at least 3.0%, it is statistically safe to say that a party has truly reached the threshold of 2.0%. On the other hand, a survey outcome of below 1.0% makes it statistically very unlikely that the threshold has in truth been reached.

The 88 names of party-list groups used in the March survey are as updated by the Commission on Elections on March 14, 2007, adding 7 more groups to the list used in the February survey.

SWS reprocessed its February 24-27 survey database using the March 15, 2007 Comelec count of registered voters (Table 1), and found ten party-list groups meeting the 2%-rule, instead of nine as it earlier reported on March 8, with ANAK MAHIRAP also making the grade in February.

Source: SWS Media Releases Archive