

EL SALVADOR'S PRESIDENT TOPS HEMISPHERE LEADER LIST;

Presidential Job Performance at the end of 2009

Mauricio Funes, inaugurated on June 1, receives high marks (85 per cent approval) for the way he is doing his job as president. In fact, the Salvadoran people rate their leader better than any other country's people rate their own president – at the close of 2009 Funes is number one in the Western Hemisphere. In comparison, Costa Rica's President Oscar Arias ranks fifth, (73 per cent approval) while his fellow Nobel Peace Prize winner Barack Obama, (50 per cent approval) president of the United States, ranks eleventh in terms of job approval.

These are some of the results of surveys conducted by CID/Gallup, The Gallup Organization and other top line public opinion research companies operating throughout the Western Hemisphere using similar questions and samples with similar margins or error. The ratings are all produced by

interviewing the president's own people and countries like Cuba which are not democratic are excluded because survey research is not possible in them. Surveys were conducted in the second semester of the year.

Panama's new center right president Ricardo Martinelli ranks second on the list, (82 per cent approval) while outgoing chief executive of Chile Michelle Bachelet (80 per cent approval) and only one of two women who currently govern a nation ranks third. Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva (77 per cent approval) of Brazil ranks fourth in the Hemisphere in terms of the way his job performance is evaluated by his own people.

The worst job rating in the Western Hemisphere was awarded to Argentina's President Cristina Fernández, the only other woman in the group of twenty nations. The way

Fernandez is doing her job is approved by only 20 per cent of the Argentine people. The other two lowest rated chief executives are Fernando Lugo of Paraguay (approved by 25%) and Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega. (Approved by 30%)

The difference between Funes at the top and Fernandez at the bottom is 65 points. History has shown that leaders that score under 50 per cent approval have trouble reelecting themselves, and in many cases also encounter difficulties in maintaining their own political party in power. Within this context it is interesting to note that Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez currently has a 46 job approval rating, which is four points below the minimum he will need to continue on at the helm of the government of his country.

PAÍS / COUNTRY	MANDATARIO / PRESIDENT	% APROBACION / % APPROBAL	FECHA / DATE	FUENTE / SOURCE
1  EL SALVADOR	 Mauricio Funes	85%	OCT/09	CID Gallup Latinoamérica
2  PANAMÁ	 Ricardo Martinelli	82%	AUG/09	CID Gallup Latinoamérica
3  CHILE	 Michelle Bachelet	80%	OCT/09	Adimark
4  BRASIL	 Luís Inácio Lula	77%	SEP/09	Instituto Sensus
5  COSTA RICA	 Óscar Arias	73%	OCT/09	CID Gallup Latinoamérica
6  URUGUAY	 Tabaré Vázquez	71%	NOV/09	Equipos Mori
7  COLOMBIA	 Álvaro Uribe	64%	NOV/09	Invamer Gallup
8  BOLIVIA	 Evo Morales	57%	OCT/09	Ipsos Apoyo, Opinión y Mercado
9  GUATEMALA	 Alvaro Colom	55%	NOV/09	CID Gallup Latinoamérica
10  MÉXICO	 Felipe Calderon	54%	SEP/09	El Universal (Mexico)
11  ESTADOS UNIDOS	 Barack Obama	50%	NOV/09	Gallup Organization
12  REP. DOMINICANA	 Leonel Fernandez	47%	NOV/09	CID Latinoamérica
13  VENEZUELA	 Hugo Chávez	46%	OCT/09	Datanalisis
14  ECUADOR	 Rafael Correa	44%	OCT/09	Santiago Pérez
15  PERÚ	 Alan García	36%	OCT/09	Universidad de Lima
16  CANADA	 Stephen Harper	34%	OCT/09	Angus Reid Strategies
17  HONDURAS	 Roberto Michelleti	33%	OCT/09	CID Gallup Latinoamérica
18  NICARAGUA	 Daniel Ortega	30%	NOV/09	CID Gallup Latinoamérica
19  PARAGUAY	 Fernando Lugo	25%	AUG/09	La Nación / Ati Snead
20  ARGENTINA	 Cristina Fernández	20%	OCT/09	Management & Fit