

News Release



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PANAMANIAN POLL RESULTS TO BE RELEASED AT SEPTEMBER 7 PRESS CONFERENCE

NDI OFFICES
11:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

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Most Panamanians blame strongman Gen. Manuel A. Noriega and the current Panamanian government for the economic crisis Panama is presently experiencing. A strong majority of Panamanians want their country to return to democratic, civilian rule.

These are among the key findings of the first national public opinion poll since U.S.-Panamanian relations began to deteriorate last Spring. The poll was conducted by Penn and Schoen Associates in conjunction with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI). The findings will be released at an 11:00 a.m. press conference on Wednesday, September 7, at the NDI offices.

Also included in the poll are questions concerning Panamanian attitudes toward an eventual return to democracy and the various institutions within the country that might play a part in such a transition.

Mark Penn, president of Penn and Schoen and Associates, and J. Brian Atwood, president of NDI, will present the results and answer questions.

"The National Democratic Institute is very pleased to be associated with this valuable effort to draw attention to current attitudes in Panama," said Atwood. "We believe surveys of this kind can help foster informed debate on U.S. policies in Panama and will contribute to efforts toward democratization there."

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Established in 1983, NDI conducts nonpartisan political development programs overseas. By working with political parties and other institutions, NDI seeks to promote, maintain and strengthen democratic institutions and pluralistic values in new and emerging democracies.

Penn and Schoen Associates Inc. is an independent public opinion survey research firm with extensive experience conducting polls in the United States and Latin America. In 1983 Penn and Schoen conducted wide-ranging public opinion research in Panama. The firm also recently handled the successful presidential campaign of Rodrigo Borja in Ecuador and is currently polling for Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, who is running for reelection.