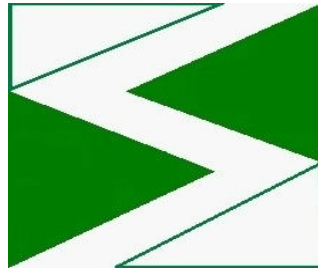


THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLE
A NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC POLL TO IDENTIFY
**PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF UDP/PUP/ AND THIRD PARTY VOTING,
EARLY ELECTIONS, AND CURRENT LEADERSHIP.**

PREPARED BY:

SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (SPEAR)



AND

BELIZEAN STUDIES RESOURCE CENTER, (BSRC), ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

OCTOBER 17, 2005

Margin of Error + or - 5%

I. INTRODUCTION

I. DEMOGRAPHIC

A national poll was executed to obtain people's perception on voting for a UDP/PUP/or Third Party, current leadership, and whether general elections should be called early. A copy of the questionnaire is attached in the appendix.

A proportionate random sample of 388 was selected from each district with a breakdown as shown in Table 1.

*Table 1.
Actual Sample employed from each district*

| DISTRICT | PERCENTAGE (%) |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Corozal | 11.3 |
| Orange Walk | 29.1 |
| Belize | 22.9 |
| Cayo | 22.9 |
| Stann Creek | 11.3 |
| Toledo | 4.6 |

From this sample, 51.8% represented urban and 48.2% represented rural. The highest age range were those between 18 to 23 (23.2%) and those over 48 (23.2%). There were much more females than males, 67.0% and 33.0% respectively. This may be that the survey was done during working hours of which most males were at work. There was a similar pattern with the level of education, with only 3.4% having none at all, whereas, 28.6% having primary, 27.3% secondary and 27.3% tertiary. Only 8.2% had university and only 5.2% had none.

II. FREQUENCIES

Basic descriptive were executed to obtain frequencies on the 5 major questions asked. Table 2 shows a summary of the responses.

Table 2
Frequencies showing responses to questions asked.

| QUESTION | YES (%) | NO (%) |
|---|---------|--------|
| 1. If early elections, would Belizeans vote for UDP | 65.7% | 34.3% |
| 2. If early elections, would Belizeans vote for a third party | 49.0% | 51.0% |
| 3. If early elections, would Belizeans vote for PUP | 34.5% | 65.5% |
| 4. Agree with the way Prime Minister is leading the country | 19.8% | 80.2% |
| 5. Should call early general elections | 71.6% | 28.4 |

This shows that although 65.7% would vote for a UDP government, almost the same amount would also vote for a third party, 49.0%, with a margin of mean difference of only 15.3%. Only, 34.5% or approximately 1/3 would vote for a PUP government, with a significant amount of 80.2% disagreeing with the way that the Prime Minister is currently leading the country. Likewise, most people agree that early elections should be called (71.6%).

III. CROSS TABULATIONS

Cross tabulations were executed to identify the demographic factors such as age, gender, education level, rural/urban, and per district and their distribution of responses to questions asked. These responses are shown below.

Urban/Rural

i. There was agreement from both urban and rural on all questions. Both urban and rural agree that the *Prime Minister is not leading the country well*, as well as *calling general elections early*, would *not vote for a PUP government*. However, a higher urban population (20%) more than rural said that they *would vote for a third party*. Whereas, 30% overall said that they *would vote for a UDP government* with no difference between urban and rural. **This implies that there were no significant differences between urban and rural and their responses, they were both consistent that they would vote for a UDP government, however, more urban persons are welcome of a third party than rural.**

District and Education level

ii. Persons with the highest education level were sampled from the Belize District followed by the Cayo District.

iii. *District and call general elections early*

The Belize district mostly agreed that general elections would be called early, followed by the Cayo District. The lowest representation of the sample came from the Toledo

District. **This implies that the Belize District and the Cayo district are mostly welcome of general elections to be called early whereas Toledo is the district which is comfortable as is.**

District and whether they would vote for a Third Party

iv. Corozal was the highest district that said they would vote for a third party, followed by Toledo and then Stann Creek. The Belize and the Orange Walk districts were the only district which stated that they would not vote for a third party. **This implies that a Third Party is mostly welcome in the Corozal district, followed by the Toledo and Stann Creek District.**

v. District *and vote for PUP*

None of the districts stated that they would vote for a PUP government. The closest margin of 12 points however was found with Corozal with a close margin of 6 points or over 75% stating that they would still vote for a PUP government followed by Toledo, where 30% saying they would vote for the PUP. Whereas the largest gap was found were with Belize, followed by Orange Walk then the Cayo district where consistently over 70% said they would not vote for another PUP government. **This implies that the PUP are the strongest in the Corozal District followed by the Toledo District and weakest in the Belize District, Orange Walk and Cayo District.**

v. District *and vote for UDP*

The Belize district has the largest confidence margin of voting for a UDP government with a margin of over 40 points followed by Orange Walk and the Cayo District. The closest margin of only 4 points was with Corozal, followed by Toledo then Stann Creek. **This implies that the UDP is the strongest in the Belize District, Cayo and Orange Walk district and weakest in the Corozal district followed by Toledo and Stann Creek.**

vi. Gender *and education*

More females than males consistently showed a pattern of being more educated at the primary, secondary, tertiary and university level.

Gender and way Prime Minister is leading the country

vii. There was no significant difference between male and female on whether they agree on how the Prime Minister is leading the country. They both strongly disagreed, with a minor difference of only 3% among themselves. **This implies that both males and females alike disagree with the way the Prime Minister is leading the country.**

viii. Gender *and whether general elections should be called.*

Significantly, more males (25%) than females agree that general elections should be called early. **This implies that more males than females are upset with the general status quo.**

ix. Gender *and whether vote for Third Party*

Significantly, more males (89%) than females would vote for a third party. **This implies that more males are welcome of a third party than females.**

x. *Gender and whether vote for PUP*

Significantly, more males than females would vote for a PUP government.

xi. *Gender and whether vote for UDP*

Significantly, more females than males would vote for a UDP government.

xii. *Age and whether agree with the way Prime Minister is leading the country*

The highest age group who disagreed with the way the Prime Minister is running the country are those in between 18 to 23, followed by those in the age range of 36 to 41. Those least to disagree were those between the age range of 42 to 47 and 48 to 53. **This implies that the younger generation is those who mostly disagree with the way the Prime Minister is running the country whereas the older persons are the least to disagree.**

xiii. *Age and whether general elections should be called early.*

Those who are older, especially from age 48 are the ones who mostly agree that general elections should be called early, followed by the youngest age group of 18 to 23, whereas those least to disagree are the middle age between 42 to 47 then those older from 48 to 53. **This implies that the youngest age group and the oldest age group are most welcome for general elections to be called early, whereas the middle age group and the oldest age group are the least to agree.**

xiiii. *Age and whether they would vote for a Third Party*

The group most likely to vote for a third party would be those from 24 to 29 followed by those from 18 to 23. The group most likely not to vote for a third party are those older than 48. **This implies that the younger age group would most likely vote for a third party than older people.**

xv. *Age and whether they would vote for UDP*

The age group most likely to vote for the UDP would be those that fall in the middle age group such as 42 to 47 and 48 to 53 whereas the older age group of over 48 would be the least to vote for the UDP followed by the younger age group of 18 to 23 and 24 to 29. **This implies that the younger people and more senior people would most likely not vote for the UDP whereas the middle age group would.**

xvi. *Age and whether they would vote for PUP*

The group most likely not to vote for a PUP government would be those between the middle age group 30 to 35 followed by the oldest age group of over 48 and the younger age group of 24 to 29. Those most likely to vote for the PUP would be the older age group between the age of 42 to 47 and 48 to 53. **This implies that the younger age group and the senior age group are most likely not to vote for PUP whereas the middle age group would.**