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OTTAWA (Reuters) - The Conservatives lead [Prime Minister Paul Martin](#)'s Liberal government anywhere from 5 to 16 percentage points ahead of Monday's election, according to a poll released on Wednesday.

A Strategic Counsel poll provided on Wednesday night to CTV News and the Globe and Mail newspaper had the Conservatives ahead 41 percent to 25 percent -- a still-substantially larger lead than the company released on Tuesday.

An EKOS Research Associates survey showed the Conservatives rising to 36.9 percent from 35.8 percent earlier this week and support for the Liberals falling to 27.2 percent from 28.1 percent. Fourteen percent of respondents remained undecided.

An SES/CPAC survey portrayed a much tighter race. It had the Conservatives holding a 37 percent lead, but support for the Liberals rising to 32 percent, from 30 percent on Tuesday. Sixteen percent had not yet made up their minds in the survey of 1,200 voters, with a margin of error of 3.1 percent.

EKOS said its results would give the Conservatives about 135 of the 308 seats in the House of Commons, 20 short of a majority. The Liberals, hit by a series of scandals, could win only a few dozen seats, EKOS said. In 1984, the Liberals got 40 seats on 28 percent of the vote.

The poll of 2,018 people surveyed from January 15 to January 17 has a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points. Strategic Counsel covered the same period, with 1,500 people surveyed and a 3.1 point error margin.

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