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Canada

## Election Polls Show Liberals Narrowly Ahead



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TORONTO (Reuters) - Canada's ruling Liberals hold a projected one-seat lead over the opposition Conservatives just days before a national election on June 28, according to poll released on Thursday evening.

The poll shows Prime Minister Paul Martin's Liberals are set to take 112 seats in the 308-seat House of Commons, compared with 111 for Stephen Harper's Conservatives. The separatist Bloc Quebecois would take 60 seats -- all in the province of Quebec where they only field candidates -- and the left-leaning New Democratic Party would take 25 seats.

The Compas poll of 800 people, taken on June 22 and 23 for Global television and the National Post newspaper, shows the Liberals with 34 percent of national voter support. The Conservatives with 33 percent, the NDP with 15 and the Bloc with 13.

The poll is considered accurate within 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The poll also showed the Liberals ahead in vote-rich Ontario, where they were projected to take 60 seats. The Conservatives were projected to take 37 and the NDP nine. Seat projections are based on recent polls compiled by a political scientist at Wilfrid Laurier University and have a five-seat margin of error.

The Compas poll shows results similar to a daily tracking poll released earlier on Thursday.

The SES Canada Research poll put support for the Liberals at 34 percent among decided voters, compared with 30 percent for Conservatives.

A poll by the same firm on Wednesday put the Liberals at 34 percent while backing for the opposition Conservatives was 31 percent -- identical to an SES survey released on Tuesday.

The poll of 1,000 people was taken between June 22 and June 24, and is considered to be accurate to within 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The New Democratic Party received 21 percent support, while the Bloc Quebecois was at 12 percent nationally.

SES also said 28 percent of those polled thought that Martin was the best choice to lead the country, down 1 percentage point from the previous poll, while 20 percent backed Conservative Harper, unchanged from Wednesday's poll results.

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