



**Email this article**  
**Print this article**  
**Most popular pages**

**Click to send**  
**Choose File Print or Ctrl P or Apple P**  
**Today | This Week**

## 'Americanized' Mexican state of Sonora is Calderón country

**Daniel González**  
The Arizona Republic  
Jul. 4, 2006 12:00 AM

Conservative candidate Felipe Calderón was the clear winner in the neighboring state of Sonora, following a trend of industrialized northern states that favor the pro-business, free-enterprise policies initiated under President Vicente Fox.

With 420,747 votes, Calderón of the National Action Party received 50 percent of the vote in Sonora and twice as many votes as his nearest rival, leftist candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador of the Democratic Revolution Party, based on 98 percent of the ballots counted.

The PAN, formed by business leaders from northern Mexico in the 1980s, retains a stronghold in Sonora and other industrialized northern states, said Michael Lettieri, a research fellow at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs.

The size of Calderón's victory in Sonora reflected as much a vote against López Obrador as a vote in favor of Calderón, he said. Voters from the north tend to be more Americanized and better off financially than in central and southern regions of Mexico.

Calderón supporter Neftali Peña Miranda, a 46-year-old accountant from Hermosillo, the capitol of Sonora, said he fears López Obrador will turn the country away from the free-market policies started under Fox and return Mexico to its times of high inflation.

"I think López Obrador will be dangerous for Mexico," he said. "A lot of younger people don't remember the inflation and instability of the past."

**Email this article**  
**Print this article**  
**Most popular pages**

**Click to send**  
**Choose File Print or Ctrl P or Apple P**  
**Today | This Week**