

INFORME DE UNSAM - 19/10/2015

## **1) Lack of split-ballots favours Aníbal F.**

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*Palabras: UNSAM*

### **Scioli's performance likely to push FpV BA gubernatorial candidate into high 30s**

**President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner's Cabinet Chief Aníbal Fernández is poised to be elected governor of Buenos Aires province on Sunday thanks to one main reason: the traditional lack of ballot splitting in the country's largest district.**

While most polls see a head-to-head race between the Victory Front (FpV) contender and Let's Change candidate María Eugenia Vidal, the fact that the provincial race is being held simultaneously with the general election appears to be turning the tide decisively in Fernández's favour.

Six out of the 13 surveys published in national newspapers over the last two months say Vidal may win the election in Buenos Aires province, but even pollsters predicting a slim win for the Mauricio Macri ally are making two important distinctions. First, that results are within the margin of error; second, that they are not actually putting voters in context.

There is no runoff in the gubernatorial race in Buenos Aires province, the country's largest district and home to 37 percent of the national vote. On the other hand, elections in the province are traditionally held alongside national ones, meaning that the presidential race usually has a major carry over effect in the gubernatorial race.

"One of the aspects of the elections in Buenos Aires province is that there is no tradition of ballot splitting," said María Matilde Ollier, dean of the Politics and Government School of the San Martín National University ([Unsam](#)).

Buenos Aires province uses a paper ballot system, meaning that voters opting to vote for candidates of different political parties on the same ballot — instead of for candidates of only one party — should be prepared to use a pair of scissors in the ballot boxes to produce a complex, mixed option of six different categories.

In the upper thirties

In the August 9 PASO, FpV presidential candidate Daniel Scioli received 39.7 percent of

the votes in the district, while the two Kirchnerite lists (Aníbal Fernández-Martín Sabbatella and Julián Domínguez-Fernando Espinoza) got a combined 40.2 percent of the votes. A first conclusion? Split-ticket voting in BA province was a relatively small phenomenon, even though a high number of citizens cast a blank option for governor.

Should Scioli repeat the results of the primaries in the district, Fernández is likely to reach the upper thirties — a major increase from the 21.2 percent he received in the PASO.

On the other hand, Vidal will have a hard time trying to improve her performance in August (when she received 30 percent of the votes), as the Peronist vote appeared to have remained loyal to both Fernández and Renewal Front candidate Felipe Solá.

"Unless we see a more-than-average level of split tickets, Aníbal Fernández will be the province's next governor," said political analyst Hugo Haime, head of the Haime & Asociados polling firm.

Vidal is a strong candidate, the consultant said, "but we should not forget that the ruling party divided its votes (between two candidates) in the PASO — and those voters are now unified."

Pollsters believe that the Let's Change candidate, the outgoing Deputy-Mayor of Buenos Aires City, has been unable to siphon voters from Solá, who still maintains his electoral base from the primaries. The dissident Peronist leader, a former Buenos Aires province governor, still holds a strong third place, meaning that the polarization expected by PRO leaders after the PASO never took place.

According to Ollier, the combination of all these factors suggest that Fernández "would come out victorious" in the race to succeed Scioli.

Despite his negative image

But Fernández, a divisive figure with well-known negative image, could still affect the ruling coalition by hurting Scioli's chances to win in the first round.

"Aníbal has a high negative image," said Federico González, the director of the polling firm González y Valladares.

In the last few weeks, he and other pollsters suggested that the small percentage of voters who will not cast an FpV ballot because of their rejection of CFK's Cabinet Chief could prevent the Kirchnerite presidential nominee from reaching the 40-percent threshold with the 10-point lead needed to avoid a second round of voting in November.

Herald staff with DyN, Télam, online media

( Información General )

# Lack of split-ballots favours Aníbal F.

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# Lack of split-ballots helps Aníbal Fernández

Cabinet chief may end up in the upper thirties thanks to Scioli's performance in BA province

*Continued from front page*

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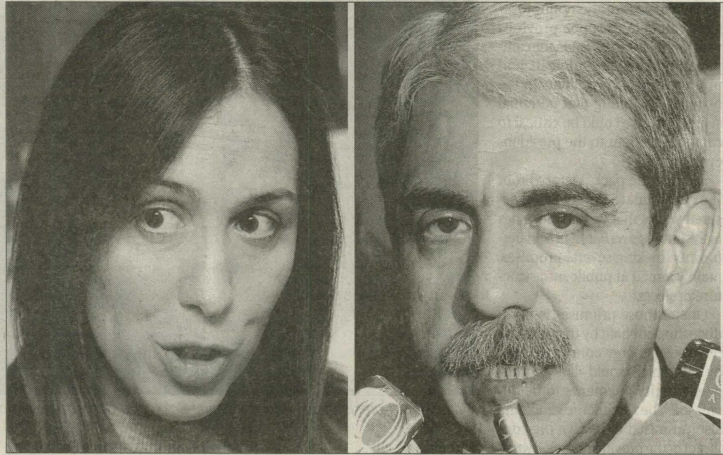
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Let's Change candidate María Eugenia Vidal and Victory Front contender Aníbal Fernández.

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