



## **Curia's Polling Newsletter – Issue 27, October 2008**

October saw, not surprisingly, a record ten public polls conducted– four TVNZ polls, two Morgan, two TV3 a Herald poll, a TVNZ poll and a Fairfax poll.

The average of the public polls has National 12% ahead of Labour and by the narrowest of margins able to form a Government with ACT and United Future. The gap last month was 15% so the average lead slightly narrowed in October.

**Australia** sees Labor on 56.5% for a 13% lead.

In the **United States** Barack Obama has a 6% lead in the popular vote and a projected huge 168 vote margin in the Electoral College. Only 10% of Americans say the country is heading in the right direction, which gives some idea of why the tide is not favouring incumbents. The polls also show the Democrats gaining eight Senate seats (to 59), 15 House seats and one Governorship.

The **UK** Labour Party is 12% behind the Conservatives who are projected to have a 70 seat majority on these results. The gap has narrowed thanks to Gordon Brown's handling of the financial crisis.

In **Canada** we compare the election results to the average of the public polls and the seat predictions. The polls came out of it looking pretty good.

We also carry details of polls in NZ. There are polls in the seven Maori seats, plus Nelson, West Coast-Tasman, Palmerston North and Tauranga. Also issue polls on economic management, coalitions, organic food, beach nudity plus the usual business and consumer confidence.

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Correspondence and feedback is also welcome to the same address.



## New Zealand Political Polls

There were ten public polls in October 2008. There were two Morgan polls, a Digipoll for the NZ Herald, four Colmar Brunton polls for TVNZ, two TNS polls for TV3 and a Nielsen poll for Fairfax.

The polls show National leading Labour by 3% to 19%.

Poll	Colmar Brunton	Morgan	TNS	Colmar Brunton
<b>Publisher</b>	One News	Morgan	TV3	One News
<b>Date</b>	02/10/08	05/10/08	08/10/08	09/10/08
<b>Size</b>	877	923	1000	860
<b>MoE</b>	3.4%	3.4%	3.2%	3.4%
<b>Undecideds</b>	8.0%			11.0%

	Results	Change	Results	Change	Results	Change	Results	Change
<b>National</b>	52.0%	-1.0%	40.5%	-7.0%	45.0%	-4.0%	51.0%	-1.0%
<b>Labour</b>	33.0%	-2.0%	37.5%	+1.0%	39.0%	+3.0%	33.0%	+0.0%
<b>Green</b>	7.0%	+2.0%	9.0%	+2.5%	6.8%	+1.8%	8.0%	+1.0%
<b>NZ First</b>	2.0%	+0.2%	4.0%	-1.0%	2.7%	-0.3%	2.6%	+0.6%
<b>Maori</b>	2.5%	+0.7%	2.0%	+0.5%	2.5%	+0.5%	2.8%	+0.3%
<b>United</b>	0.7%	+0.7%	1.0%	+0.5%	0.1%	+0.1%	0.1%	-0.6%
<b>ACT</b>	1.5%	-0.5%	3.5%	+2.0%	1.8%	-0.2%	1.6%	+0.1%
<b>Progressive</b>	0.3%	+0.3%	1.0%	+1.0%	0.1%	-0.1%	0.3%	+0.0%
<b>Total</b>	99.0%	0.4%	98.5%	-0.5%	98.0%	0.8%	99.4%	0.4%
<b>Lead</b>	19.0%		3.0%		6.0%		18.0%	

Poll	Neilsen	Colmar Brunton	Morgan
<b>Publisher</b>	Fairfax	One News	Morgan
<b>Date</b>	14/10/08	16/10/08	19/10/08
<b>Size</b>	1160	861	743
<b>MoE</b>	3.0%	3.4%	3.6%
<b>Undecideds</b>		9.0%	

	Results	Change	Results	Change	Results	Change
<b>National</b>	51.0%	-1.0%	50.0%	-1.0%	43.0%	+2.5%
<b>Labour</b>	33.0%	-1.0%	36.0%	+3.0%	32.0%	-5.5%
<b>Green</b>	7.0%	+2.0%	5.0%	-3.0%	11.5%	+2.5%
<b>NZ First</b>	3.0%	+0.0%	2.1%	-0.5%	4.5%	+0.5%
<b>Maori</b>	2.0%	-1.0%	2.1%	-0.7%	2.5%	+0.5%
<b>United</b>	1.0%	+1.0%	0.5%	+0.4%	0.5%	-0.5%
<b>ACT</b>	1.0%	+0.0%	2.1%	+0.5%	3.5%	+0.0%
<b>Progressive</b>	0.0%	+0.0%	0.5%	+0.2%	0.5%	-0.5%
<b>Total</b>	98.0%	0.0%	98.3%	-1.1%	98.0%	-0.5%
<b>Lead</b>	18.0%		14.0%		11.0%	



<b>Poll</b>	TNS	Digipoll	Colmar Brunton
<b>Publisher</b>	TV3	NZ Herald	One News
<b>Date</b>	20/10/08	22/10/08	23/10/08
<b>Size</b>	1000	657	1000
<b>MoE</b>	3.2%	3.8%	3.2%
<b>Undecideds</b>		12.4%	

	<b>Results</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>National</b>	45.1%	+0.1%	50.4%	-1.0%	47.0%	-3.0%
<b>Labour</b>	37.4%	-1.6%	37.0%	+1.3%	35.0%	-1.0%
<b>Green</b>	8.8%	+2.0%	5.4%	+0.5%	8.0%	+3.0%
<b>NZ First</b>	3.5%	+0.8%	2.1%	-0.7%	3.0%	+0.9%
<b>Maori</b>	2.3%	-0.2%	2.4%	+0.5%	2.8%	+0.7%
<b>United</b>	0.2%	+0.1%	0.2%	-0.2%	0.5%	+0.0%
<b>ACT</b>	1.7%	-0.1%	1.2%	+0.1%	2.1%	+0.0%
<b>Progressive</b>	0.1%	+0.0%	0.3%	-0.1%	0.0%	-0.5%
<b>Total</b>	99.1%	1.1%	99.0%	0.4%	98.4%	0.1%
<b>Lead</b>	7.7%		13.4%		12.0%	

On average from last month National has decreased by 3.1%, and Labour has decreased 0.1%. The Greens have risen 2.4%, Maori Party 0.4% and ACT 0.5%

### Weighted Average of Public Polls

	<b>Results</b>	<b>Projected Seats</b>	<b>05 election</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>National</b>	47.5%	59	48	+11
<b>Labour</b>	35.3%	44	50	-6
<b>Green</b>	7.6%	10	6	+4
<b>NZ First</b>	3.0%	0	7	-7
<b>Maori</b>	2.4%	4	4	+0
<b>United</b>	0.5%	1	3	-2
<b>ACT</b>	2.0%	3	2	+1
<b>Progressive</b>	0.3%	1	1	+0
<b>Total</b>	98.5%	122	121	+1
<b>Right</b>	50.0%	63	50	+12
<b>Centre</b>	2.4%	4	7	-2
<b>Left</b>	46.2%	55	64	-9
<b>Total</b>	98.5%	122	121	+1

**National could govern with ACT and United Future on 63 seats out of 122.**



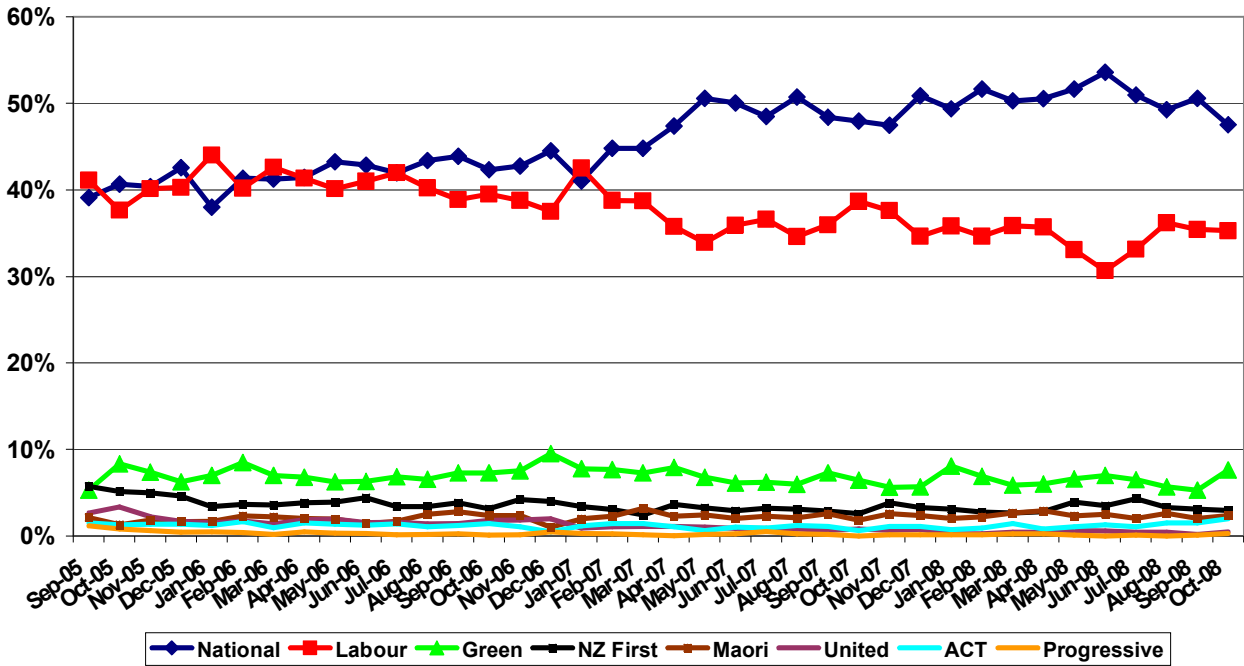
Right Parties are defined as National, ACT and United Future (in 2008)  
 Centre Parties are defined as Maori Party  
 Left Parties are defined as Labour, Green, Progressive and NZ First.

The NZ First Party has been reclassified from “Centre” to “Left” as National has ruled out any agreement with them. United Future has been added to “Right” as they have ruled out Labour.

“Centre” is meant to denote parties that could go with either National or Labour.

It is assumed that the Maori Party will win four of the seven Maori seats (based on latest public polls), and that Jim Anderton, Rodney Hide and Peter Dunne will retain their seats.

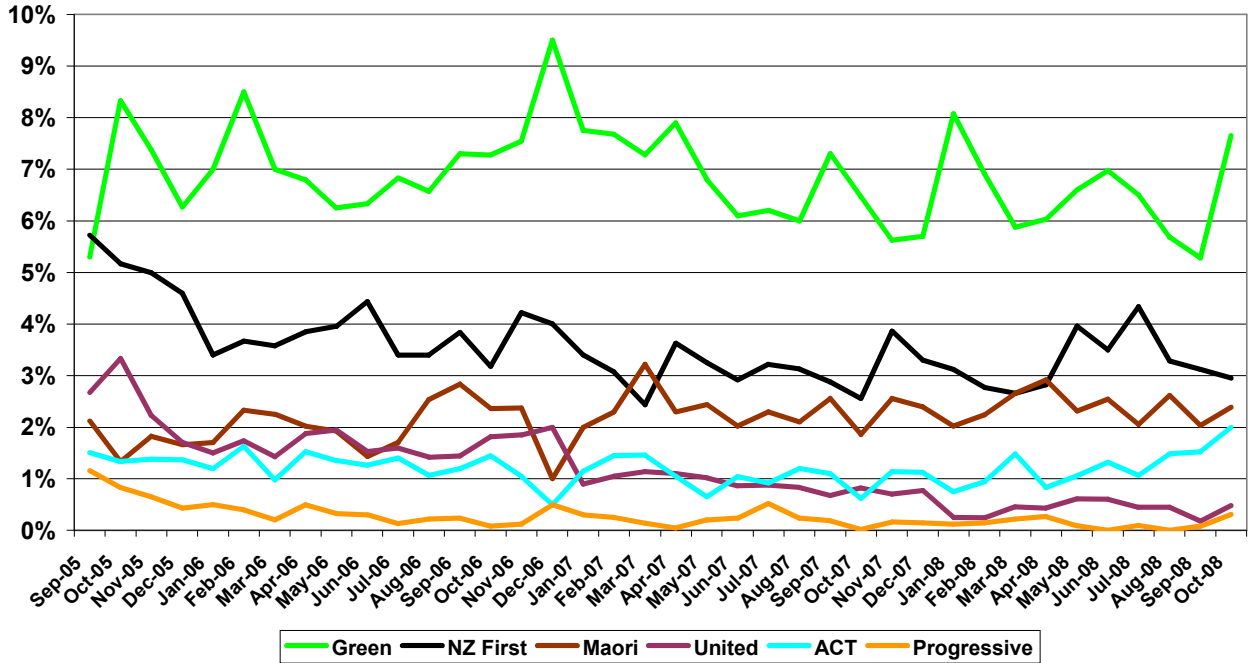
**All Public Polls**



The gap has decreased from 15% to 12%.

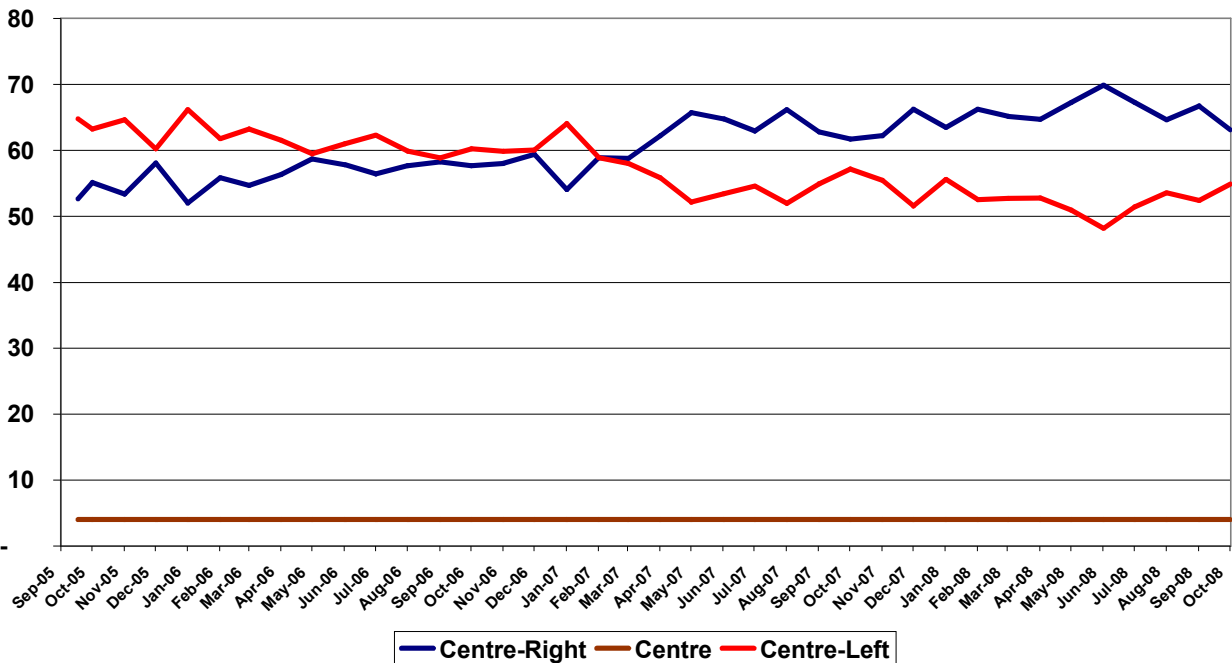


### All Public Polls - Minor Parties



Greens have a big increase in October.

### Seats on Average of Public Polls



This graph shows the projected seats for each bloc. The blue line remains just above that critical 62 mark.



## **Other New Zealand Polls**

**Trust:** One News Colmar Brunton found the following levels of trust in political leaders – Fitzsimons 64%, Clark 59%, Key 57%, Sharples 54%, Hide 50%, Peters 19%

**Maori Seats:** Marae Digipoll has the following:

- Tamaki Makaurau: Sharples beating Wall by 64%
- Te Tai Tokerau: Harawira beating Davis by 43%
- Te Tai Hauauru: Turia beating Mason by 63%
- Waiariki: Flavell beating Ririnui by 51%
- Te Tai Tonga: Katene beating Okeroa by 6%
- Hauraki-Waikato: Mahuta beating Greensill by 0.6%
- Ikaroa Rawhiti: Horomia beating Fox by 5%

Maori TV/TNS calls some differently:

- Te Tai Tonga: Okeroa beating Katene by 10%
- Hauraki-Waikato: Mahuta beating Greensill by 13%
- Ikaroa Rawhiti: Horomia beating Fox by 5%

### **General Electorate Polls:**

- West Coast-Tasman: O'Connor beating Auchinvole by 3.5% according to Nelson Mail
- Nelson: Smith beating Street by 36% according to Nelson Mail
- Palmerston North: Plimmer beating Lees-Galloway by 3% according to Manawatu Standard
- Tauranga: Bridges beating Peters by 26% according to One News

**Economic Management:** One News Colmar Brunton found 35% say international forces are to blame for NZ's economic strife, 14% say the Government and 49% say both. Key is more trusted to manage the economy by 48% to 41% for Clark.

**Coalitions:** One News Colmar Brunton found 79% agree the party with the most votes should form the Government. 47% want National or Labour to govern alone and 47% want a coalition.

**Wellington Business Confidence:** 68% of Wellington business owners think economy will get worse, and 11% better. 37% satisfied with Clark performance, 64% satisfied with Key performance.

**Organic Food:** 41% have purchased organic food according to Research NZ. 55% say they will buy organic if no more than 10% more expensive.



**Beach Nudity:** A Research NZ poll found 28% support nudity on beaches, 45% do not and 26% say it is okay but only on specially designated beaches.

**Business Confidence:** The monthly National Bank survey sees the largest ever plunge in business confidence from +2 in September to -42 in October.

**Consumer Confidence:** Roy Morgan has consumer confidence falling from 109.9 in September to 97.0 in October.

Fuller details of these polls, and links to the original reports can be found on our blog – <http://curiablog.wordpress.com>.

## Overseas Polls

### United States

With one day to go, it is looking very good for Barack Obama and the Democratic Party.

The range in the last few days is Obama from 2% to 13% ahead, with an average of 6%.

The current projections by Real Clear Politics for the individual states that make up the Electoral College are that Obama would win 353 electoral votes to 185 for McCain. Obama even has a majority just in “solid” states in his corner – 278 to 132 with 128 marginal races. It would require a major upset for Obama not to win.

The states that Obama is ahead in, which Bush won last time are Ohio (20), Florida (27), Nevada (5), Virginia (13), North Carolina (15), Colorado (9), New Mexico (5), and Iowa (7),

Bush’s approval ratings are still on 27% (nc). And the right vs wrong direction for the country is 10% (-2%) saying right and 85% (+6%) saying wrong. This shows how difficult it is for the party of the incumbent when only 10% say the country is heading in the right direction.

In the Senate, the Democrats are defending only 12 seats while the Republicans have 23 to defend. The Democrats look to pick up seats in Virginia, New Mexico, Colorado, Alaska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, and Minnesota. The Democrats have 51 votes in the Senate already and this would give them 59 – just one short of the 60 votes needed to overturn a filibuster.

Nationally 47% (-1%) are saying they will vote Democrats for Congress vs 39% (nc) for the Republicans.

In the House the Republicans have 41 seats at risk. 21 look safe, at least 8 likely to go and 21 very close. The Democrats are defending 13 seats and look likely to lose only three.

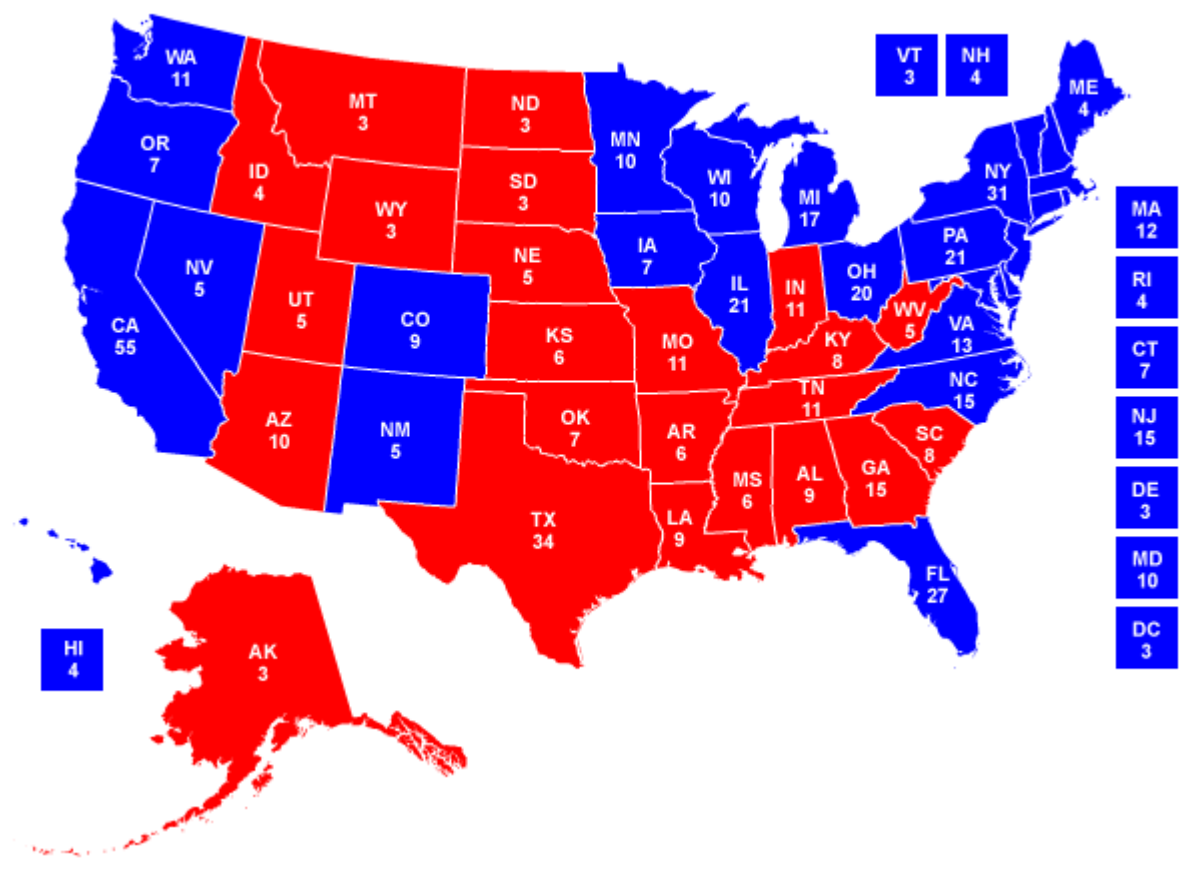


Net gain for the Democrats in the House should range from 5 to 25 with 12 seats having the majority of pundits saying they will fall. They currently have 235 seats to 199 for the Republicans.

Finally we take a look at the State Governors. 11 states having gubernatorial elections – six have incumbent Democrats and five incumbent Republicans. Only one looks likely to change hands – Missouri.

**Obama/Biden 353**    **McCain/Palin 185**

(Click on State or Table Below for Latest Polls and to Change Status)



### United Kingdom

In the ConservativeHome Poll of polls ([conservativehome.blogs.com/torydiary/](http://conservativehome.blogs.com/torydiary/)) the Labour Party is closing the gap in the wake of widespread praise for Gordon Brown's response to the credit crisis. The Conservative Party is on 43% (-1%) with Labour on 31% (+3%) and the Lib Dems are on 16% (nc).





It is also important to note the UK FPP system, favours the Labour Party significantly). In 2005 Labour won 356 seats off 35.3% of the vote, and the Conservatives won 198 seats off 32.3%. Experts predict that the Conservatives need to win 6% more of the popular vote than Labour, to win more seats. And they need to win 9% more than Labour to have a majority in their own right.

The average current poll lead of 12% is projected to give a 70 (-58) seat absolute majority to the Conservatives.

## Australia

Roy Morgan says on a two party-preferred basis, Labor is on 56.5% (down 1.0% from August) with support at 43.5% (up 1.0%) for the Coalition.

The new Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull is enjoying higher personal ratings than his predecessor, but at this stage that is not translating through to support for the Coalition.

54.5% (up 0.5%) say the country is heading in the right direction and 26.5% (down 1.5%) say wrong direction.

## Canada

The 40<sup>th</sup> Canadian general election was on Tuesday 14 October 2008.

It is a good opportunity to compare the result to the average of the public polls.

Conservatives – 38% result vs 36% poll average

Liberals – 26% vs 25%

NDP – 18% vs 19%

Bloc Québécois – 10% vs 10%

Green – 7% vs 10%

The polls look to have been right pretty accurate. Now let us look at the seat projections:

Conservatives	143 result vs 142 prediction in last newsletter
Liberals	77 vs 74
NDP	37 vs 39
BQ	49 vs 53
Greens	0 vs 0
Other	2 vs 0

Also pretty close to the actual result.

Since the election there has been just one poll – Conservatives 38%, Liberal 26%, NDP 18%, Bloc Québécois 10% and Green 7%