

Reuters Poll

By Raymond Colitt

BRASILIA, July 8 (Reuters) - Ruling party candidate Dilma Rousseff's chances of winning Brazil's October presidential race have improved for the second consecutive month, according to a Reuters poll of 17 political experts.

The political analysts gave Rousseff of the center-left Workers' Party an average 57 percent probability of winning, up from 56.1 percent in May and 54.8 percent in April.

Jose Serra, a former Sao Paulo state governor who is the centrist PSDB party's candidate, fell to 42 percent from 43.9 percent in May, the poll of political consultants and academics showed.

It was the worst result for Serra since the poll began in March and comes as Rousseff, Lula's former chief of staff, gains in opinion polls on the back of the president's huge popularity and Brazil's strong economic recovery.

For a graphic on the latest Reuters polls of analysts:

<http://link.reuters.com/gun56m>

<http://graphics.thomsonreuters.com/>

Rousseff has made up a double-digit gap on Serra and is tied with him in most opinion polls. (For a factbox on the latest public opinion surveys, click on [ID:nN08241851])

Former environment minister Marina Silva trails a distant third in public opinion polls. Lula is barred by the constitution from seeking a third consecutive term.

The chart shows, as a percentage, the chances of victory each consultant sees for Serra and Rousseff.

	Rousseff	Serra
Ricardo Guedes (Sensus):	70	30
Chris Garman (Eurasia):	70	30
Fernando Abrucio (FGV)	65	35
Jose Luciano Dias (CAC):	60	40
Rafael Cortez (Tendencias):	60	40
Cristiano Noronha (Arko):	60	40
Ricardo Ribeiro (MCM):	60	40
Valeriano Costa (Unicamp):	60	40
Lucia Avelar (UNB):	60	40
Maria do Socorro Braga (UFSCAR):	55	45
Rachel Meneguello (Unicamp):	54	46
Alexandre Barros (Early Warning)	55	45
Amaury de Souza (Techne):	50	50
David Fleischer (Brazil Focus):	50	50
Joao Paulo Peixoto (UNB):	50	50
Daniel Wagner(CRS):	45	39
Bolivar Lamounier (Augurium):	45	55
Average:	57	42

(Editing by Vicki Allen)

((For recent stories on Rousseff and Serra, respectively, click on [ID:nN05246949] and [ID:nN12147535])).

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