

Far-right Vox party in Spain sees increasing support



Madrid, February 4 (RHC)-- Spain's far-right Vox party witnessed a surge in the polls for the 2020 elections while the Socialists still lead, according to a voting intention poll released in Madrid.

National elections are not scheduled until next year, but the ruling Socialists only hold a minority of seats in parliament and speculation has been rife in Spain over the possibility that early elections could be held this year.

The official poll by the Center for Sociological Studies (CIS) showed that the Socialists would win an election if it were held today with 29.9 percent of the vote, up from 28.9 percent when the poll was taken last month.

Relative newcomer Vox would win 6.5 percent of the vote, putting them in fifth place, up from 3.7 percent forecast in the poll carried out in December. Vox was established in 2013 as an anti-immigration party that also opposes giving more autonomy to Spain's regions. It has benefited from Europe's rise of far-right parties.

In December, it upended Spanish politics when it won 12 seats in an election in the region of Andalusia, the first electoral victory for the far-right since Spain returned to democracy in the late 1970s.

The CIS poll said center-right Ciudadanos would come in second with 17.7 percent of the vote, slightly below the 17.9 percent recorded previously, followed by left Podemos, which would win 15.4 percent, up from 14.9 percent in the December poll.

The traditional conservatives, the People's Party (PP) were seen winning 14.9 percent of the vote, placing them in fourth place, down from 19.1 percent previously.

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