
Rousseff Overtakes Neves 4 Days Before Election, Latest Poll Shows

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RIO DE JANEIRO – Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, who is running for reelection, is three percentage points ahead of opposition candidate Aécio Neves in the latest voter intention poll conducted in the week before the runoff and released Wednesday.

The head of state and candidate of the ruling Workers Party, or PT, was supported by 47 percent of the people surveyed, compared to 43 percent for the senator from the Brazilian Social Democratic Party, or PSDB, according to the poll conducted by Datafolha.

Despite the president's advantage in the new survey, the two candidates remain technically tied four days before the runoff election due to the survey's 2 percent error margin.

The new survey, however, confirms the three earlier polls released on Monday that showed Rousseff taking the lead against Neves for the first time during the period after the Oct. 5 first electoral round, in which the president had garnered a plurality.

The new survey was conducted among 4,355 people on Tuesday.

According to Datafolha, 6 percent of those surveyed said they intend to cast blank or invalid ballots and 4 percent said they were undecided.

Considering only those respondents who said they would cast valid votes, Rousseff received the support of 52 percent compared with 48 percent for Neves, the same percentages revealed in the poll on Monday, which also showed the pair to be in a statistical tie.

In the first round of the presidential balloting, Rousseff received 41.5 percent of the votes and Neves garnered 33.5 percent.
