

3rd Quarterly Delegate Report

March 28th, 2022



DR. RICARDO ROSSELLO NEVARES
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
PUERTO RICO (SHADOW)

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A Recognition

This report is submitted in memoriam of Don Young. A champion for equality of the People of Puerto Rico. He will be greatly missed.

I would like to recognize and thank the people that have made this initiative possible.

To my wife Beatriz, for her support and creative direction on many aspects that the delegation is pursuing.

To Melinda Romero, Roberto Lefranc and Mayita Melendez, thank you for your ongoing individual efforts and willingness to collaborate, so that we may achieve our goal: Equality for the US Citizens of Puerto Rico.

To the thousands of citizens that have become members of our extended delegation. We envision you just as much a delegate as those of us that were elected. Your commitment and passion are the driving force of our lofty goals. Specifically, to Maver Rivas for outstanding administrative and organizational support.

To Governor Pierluisi and his team. Amidst plentiful challenges, it is evident that your priority continues to be to fulfil the will of the people and provide our citizens a path to statehood. We are particularly grateful to PRFAA, it's Executive Director and Staff, for their commitment and support in activities for our extended delegation. Special thanks to Lorraine Carrasco and Joshua Bonet for their outstanding work.

To the Resident Commissioner and her Office for important support in our turnkey activity, *La Toma de Acción en el Congreso*. Special thanks to Gabriella Boffelli for her leadership and support.

To the People of Puerto Rico. You motivate our effort to achieve full equality as citizens, and provide future generations with the best available tools and options.

Reconocimientos

Este informe se presenta en honor a la memoria de Don Young, férreo defensor de la igualdad para el Pueblo de Puerto Rico. Se le extrañará profundamente.

Quisiera reconocer y agradecer a las personas que han hecho posible esta iniciativa.

Mi esposa Beatriz, por su apoyo y dirección creativa en muchos de los aspectos que persigue nuestra delegación.

A Melinda Romero, Roberto Lefranc y Mayita Meléndez, gracias por sus esfuerzos continuos y su disposición a colaborar para lograr nuestra meta: la igualdad para los ciudadanos americanos de Puerto Rico.

A los miles de ciudadanos que se han inscrito como miembros de nuestra delegación extendida. Su compromiso y pasión es la fuerza motriz que impulsa nuestras metas. Especialmente, a Maver Rivas, por su extraordinario apoyo administrativo y organizacional.

Al gobernador Pierluisi y su equipo de trabajo. Aun enfrentando tantos retos, ha sido evidente que su prioridad continúa siendo el hacer valer la voluntad de nuestro pueblo y proveer un vehículo para que nuestra gente logre la estadidad. Agradecemos particularmente a PRFAA, su Directora Ejecutiva y su equipo de trabajo, por su compromiso con y apoyo a las actividades de nuestra delegación extendida. Un agradecimiento especial a Lorraine Carrasco y Joshua Bonet por su trabajo de excelencia.

A la Comisionada Residente y toda su oficina por su importante apoyo a nuestra actividad principal, La Toma de Acción en el Congreso. Un agradecimiento puntual a Gabriella Boffelli por su liderazgo y apoyo.

Al Pueblo de Puerto Rico, que motiva nuestros esfuerzos para lograr la igualdad plena como ciudadanos y brindar las mejores herramientas y opciones para nuestras futuras generaciones.

Letter from Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares

March 28th, 2022

Hon. Pedro Pierluisi Urrutia
Gobernador de Puerto Rico
La Fortaleza

Dear Governor Pierluisi,

As established by public law 167-2020, I am submitting the third iteration of our 90-day report for your evaluation. In it, you will find part of the work done by our office and the extended congressional delegation for Puerto Rico. It is important to note that the cost of my office and of the extended delegation to the people of Puerto Rico is \$0.00.

The report is designed to follow the same structure as the previous report in order to establish continuity of action. The report contains an executive summary, a mission and vision statement, an updated background, and the actions taken during the past 90 days that have driven our mission forward. Appendices at the end evidence and support the efforts undertaken.

Briefly, our extended delegation now boasts **2813** members of the in 44 states. Moreover, we have also impacted 17 states with grassroots organizational events. Our office held a total of 120 meetings with Congressional leaders. In addition to this, the extended delegation has had 91 total meetings (documented). As part of the *Toma de Acción en el Congreso*, more than 100 delegates from 14 states visited 60% of the offices of the Natural Resources Committee members and held a total of 60 meetings. Post-event, we have been able to secure an additional 40 meetings to date. Our office was also able to submit a full consensus bill proposal to the Senate, on February 2nd. Our delegates have joined efforts with the Delegates' Takeover Events, in places like New York, DC, Maryland, Texas, Puerto Rico, and Florida. The rest of the details can be seen in the full report.

The next couple of weeks should be paramount to the eventual outcome of HR. 1522. Namely, two questions need to be answered: (1) Will there be a consensus bill? (2) Will the committee put the competing bills (or consensus) to a vote? Those two items will define the future action in our roadmap for the year (figure). Independently of that result, we will be having an Equality Summit late in the Summer, to establish action items prior to the midterm elections. Let this serve as an invitation to you and your team to participate in that event. Details will soon follow.

Your comments, as well as those from my constituents are always welcomed. Once again, it is an honor to serve the People of Puerto Rico in this initiative aimed at eliminating colonialism and asserting their will to become the 51st state of the Union.

Best regards,



Ricardo Rosselló Nevares
Former Governor of Puerto Rico, United States House Representative for Puerto Rico (Shadow)
CC: The People of Puerto Rico

Carta del Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares

28 de marzo de 2022

Hon. Pedro Pierluisi Urrutia
Gobernador de Puerto Rico
La Fortaleza

Estimado Gobernador:

Conforme a los requisitos de la Ley Pública 167-2020, someto para su consideración el tercer informe de 90 días de nuestra delegación. En éste encontrará parte del trabajo efectuado por nuestra oficina y por la delegación extendida. Cabe señalar que el costo de mi oficina y el de la delegación extendida para el pueblo de Puerto Rico es \$0.00.

Este informe está diseñado bajo la misma estructura que el anterior, con el fin de establecer la continuidad de los trabajos. El informe contiene un resumen ejecutivo, una declaración de misión y visión, un trasfondo actualizado, y los trabajos efectuados durante los pasados 90 días que siguen impulsando nuestra misión. Los anejos al final evidencian y apoyan los esfuerzos realizados.

En resumen, nuestra delegación consta ahora de **2,813** miembros en **44** estados. Además, hemos impactado 17 estados con eventos de organización entre constituyentes (*grassroots*). Nuestra oficina ha sostenido 120 reuniones con líderes del Congreso y la delegación extendida tuvo igualmente **91** reuniones en total (documentadas). Como parte de *La Toma de Acción en el Congreso*, más de 100 delegados provenientes de 14 estados, visitaron el 60% de las oficinas de los miembros del Comité de Recursos Naturales y llevaron a cabo 60 reuniones. El 2 de febrero, nuestra oficina sometió ante el Senado una propuesta de proyecto de ley de consenso. Adicionalmente, nuestros delegados han aunado esfuerzos con otros eventos de *Toma de Acción* efectuados por delegados en Nueva York, D.C., Maryland, Texas, Puerto Rico y Florida. El resto de los resultados se resumen y detallan a lo largo del informe y en las graficas adjuntas..

Las próximas semanas serán críticas relativo al resultado final del H.R 1522. Primordialmente, tendrán que contestarse dos preguntas: (1) ¿Habrá un proyecto de consenso? (2) ¿Llevará el Comité a votación los proyectos contendientes bajo consideración (o uno de consenso)? Esos dos puntos definirán las acciones futuras de nuestra ruta para el resto del año. Independientemente del resultado, llevaremos a cabo una *Cumbre de la Igualdad* hacia finales del verano para establecer los pasos que tomaremos antes de las elecciones de mitad de cuatrienio. Sirva esto como una invitación a usted y a su equipo de trabajo a participar del evento. Enviaremos los detalles más adelante.

Sus comentarios, al igual que los de nuestros constituyentes, son siempre bienvenidos. Nuevamente, es un honor servir al pueblo de Puerto Rico ayudando a erradicar el colonialismo y reafirmando el deseo de nuestros ciudadanos de convertirnos en el estado 51 de la Unión.

Con mis mejores deseos,

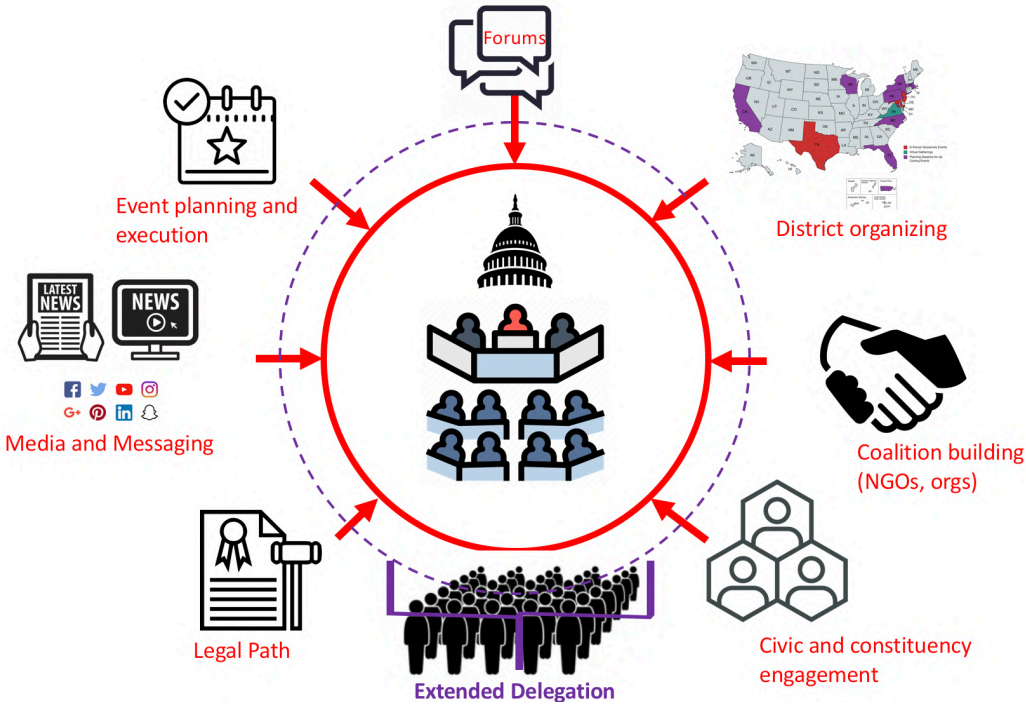


Ricardo Rosselló Nevares
Exgobernador de Puerto Rico; Representante (Shadow) de Puerto Rico ante la Cámara de Representantes de los EE. UU.

cc: El pueblo de Puerto Rico

Executive Summary

Synopsis: The following provides a high-level executive summary of the delegate’s actions and operations. The **vision** of our office is to provide equality to the United States Citizens that reside in Puerto Rico. Our **mission** is to exert external pressure on Congress to induce an action that will end colonialism and provide the binding choice of statehood to Puerto Rico. Those actions, in short order, are: (1) district organization, (2) congressional efforts, (3) coalition building, (4) civic and constituency engagement, (5) event planning and execution, (6) media and messaging, (7) legal path, (8) forum participation. All these efforts are accentuated by our extended delegation. A visual representation can be seen in image below.



Operations: Different from other elected officials, delegates are responsible for all administrative and clerical duties, in addition to official duties. Guidelines were provided by PRFAA. We have created an ecosystem with our Extended Delegation to overcome some of these limitations. We have created a novel phone banking, newsletter, congressional letter writing, and district organization mechanism that have proven to be effective. We have also empowered a **feedback database** from all the meetings that have been performed on *La Toma de Acción en el Congreso* and since. The information allows us to make an internal map on the status and behavior of congressional leaders, to address blind spots and make better decisions. Currently, we have covered about **22%** of Congress.

Extended Delegation: Key initiative spearheaded by 4 members of the delegation (Melinda Romero, Roberto Lefranc Fortuño, Mayita Melendez and myself) to expand the network of

collaborators. We currently have 2813 extended delegates, **41%** being from the mainland, spanning **44 states**. I designed, wrote content, programmed, and executed the website: delegates.us. Currently, with help provided by Extended Delegate Roberto Delgado and others, we are enhancing our capabilities. IDs and Pins have been facilitated for identification purposes. The extended delegation played a pivotal role in *La Toma de Acción en el Congreso*, as well as organizing several Delegates Takeover Events. Several states have started to organize autonomously to provide greater flexibility and bandwidth. We have had over 30 workshops and meetings. Extended delegates have been part of 91 meetings, including 27 with direct constituent contact.

District Organization: The chief objective of our office is to organize congressional districts and establish a national network of support for statehood. So far, we have had **14 in-person district** grassroots events (Texas, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, DC, Virginia, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Florida, New York, Puerto Rico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia) and **21** total, including virtual events. Five of these states already have an organized structure to aid in recruiting efforts and fulfilling the objectives of the delegation.

Congressional Effort: A total of **120** congressional meetings held and **478** individual letters sent (including all the Natural Resources Committee members). Extended delegates have held 91 total meetings. On February 2nd, I submitted a proposal and a full bill to the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources (Full Committee Hearing To Examine The State Of The U.S. Territories). The statement and proposal are part of this report, the essence of which is to demonstrate that there is at least one path that provides both sides (supporters of HR.1522 and HR.2070) a mechanism that gives them all of their provisions, allowing the people of Puerto Rico to choose between them.

Constituency and Civic Engagement: We have held town-hall meetings (>**55** Equality Gatherings) covering **100%** of the municipalities in Puerto Rico. We have also held **414** individual meetings with constituents. We have had civic engagement in various states as well. Extended delegates have executed several initiatives, including Delegates Takeover events in Florida, New York, Texas, Puerto Rico, New Jersey, DC, and Maryland. These are the first steps towards organizing a strong advocacy core behind the principals of the Extended Delegation. I participated in two events in Puerto Rico to address constituent concerns and suggestions, as well as workshops for the Extended Delegation. In addition, rather than wait 90 days to communicate with constituents about the progress of the delegation, I have started doing monthly townhalls. These were done in January, February, and the next one will be this final week of March.

Communications, Media and Messaging: We participated in several media and some of the actions pertaining to our efforts were highlighted. There were 27 media interventions in all. In addition, the extended delegation issues a second and third newsletter to showcase actions from the delegation (appendix).

Event Planning and Execution: Our focus shifted to several initiatives: (1) Delegates takeover events, (2) District organization and grassroots activities, and (3) *La Toma de Acción en el*

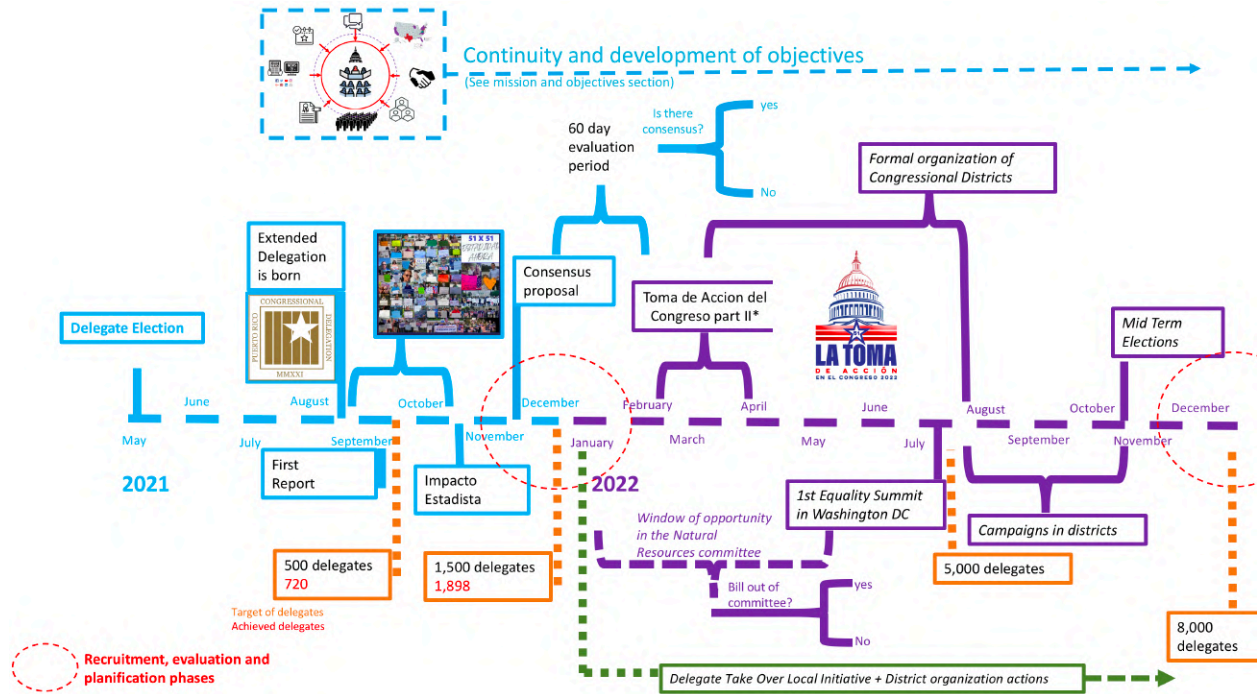
Congreso, which was a huge success. It was only possible thanks to the commitment and support of the Governor's Office in Washington DC (PRFAA), the Resident Commissioner's office, *La Sociedad Civil Estadista*, and above all, over 100 members of the Extended Delegation that came to Washington D.C. from 14 states. The event took months of planning and involved sending over 300 letters, making 400 phone calls, workshops to prepare and engage, properly identify congressional leaders and constituents, working rooms, press conferences, among other initiatives. Overall, we impacted over 60% of the offices from the Natural Resources Committee, and held more than 60 meetings between the two days. The event was designed to have an after effect, and already several dozen meetings have been produced because of the event. Congresswoman Velazquez felt the urge to mail her colleagues and tell them that these were of "special interest." More details on the event in the report.

Legal Path: We are continuously monitoring opportunities to engage on the legal front. We continue to follow up on our previous two initiatives. We have held several follow-up actions on the amicus brief submitted by the delegation. In addition, as part of the extended delegation workshop, we submitted a complaint to the United States Commission on Civil Rights for voting right and civil right violations to the People of Puerto Rico by the Presidents of the Puerto Rico House and Senate.

Coalition Building: Have engaged with **21** organizations whose objectives align with our effort. Admittedly, there is more room for improvement in this area. In the next two quarters, our extended delegation will do targeted work in this front.

Participation in Forums: Our office participated in **12** forums. These ranged from the academic front, to special interest groups, and the political structures of national parties.

Path Forward -- Short, Mid and Long Term Goals: The Short-term goals are focused on the two pertaining questions regarding the status bills and, particularly, HR.1522. Namely, (1) will there be a consensus bill and (2) will the Natural Resources Committee vote on them. Time is of the essence. If action is not taken within the next month or so, there is very little space for success within this congress. At which point, our attention should shift completely to intervening in key congressional races. Alternatively, if HR.1522 or a consensus bill is passed in the committee, the immediate action turns to rallying House and Senate votes. We will have an **Equality Summit** by the end of the summer to prepare a strategic path towards the midterm elections. A snapshot of the short-term roadmap can be appreciated below, and with greater detail within the report.



Mid-term objectives (1-2 years) are to organize districts, continue growing as a delegation/organization, and to impact the next cycle of congressional races; all the aforementioned objectives will be in full flight. Long-term (3-5 years) goals are to establish a robust self-standing national network for Puerto Rican equality and community engagement. We have achieved congressional action regarding the colonial status for Puerto Rico and offering the island the CHOICE to become a state.

Expenses: Ricardo Rosselló does not receive a salary, nor does he ask for expense reimbursements. All expenses are shouldered by the delegate. These include travel, lodging, IDs (shared expense with Roberto Lefranc), delegation pins, mailing letters, etc. Total cost to the People of Puerto Rico: \$0.00

Actions and KPIs

Dr. RICARDO ROSSELLÓ NEVARES
 (SERVIDOR PÚBLICO, REPRESENTANTE
 PUERTO RICO (SHADOW))

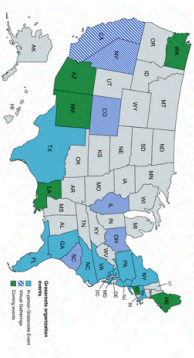
Constituency engagement



- 100% of island municipalities covered (equality gatherings)
- 50-60 people per townhall
- 414 individual constituent meetings
- In-person work shop



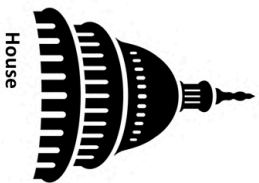
District organization



- 13 states with in person grassroots district organization meetings
- 19 states virtual meetings

Congressional effort

| | NRC | House | Senate |
|----------|-----|-------|--------|
| Letters | 46 | 414 | 64 |
| Contacts | 46 | 202 | 89 |
| Meetings | 25 | 92 | 28 |

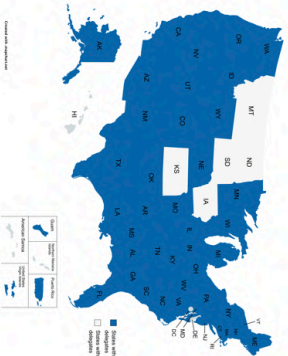


+79 **+12**

Extended delegation

Documented meetings from extended delegates*

2813 extended delegates
 1261 state side
 44 states with delegates
 17 work meetings with the extended delegation



Events

- Toma de Acción en el Congreso II
- Delegate Takeover events
- Grassroots Events



Legal Path: US Commission on Civil Rights + Amicus Brief SCOTUS

Organizations engagement: 21 orgs and NGOs

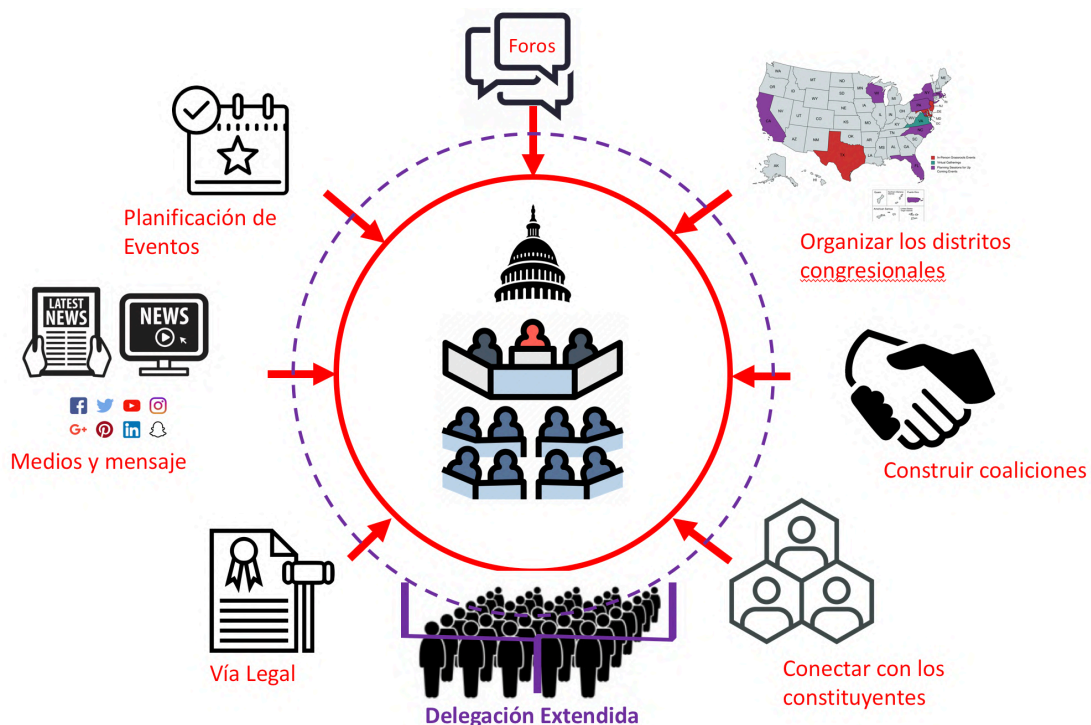
Forums participated: 12

Media and messaging: 27 interventions and 30 workshops

Expense to Puerto Rico: \$0.00

Resumen Ejecutivo

Sinopsis: Éste es un resumen ejecutivo de alto nivel sobre las acciones y operaciones de nuestros delegados. La **visión** de nuestra oficina es llevar igualdad a los ciudadanos americanos que residen en Puerto Rico. Nuestra **misión** es **ejercer presión externa sobre el Congreso** para generar acción que termine con el colonialismo y que provea una opción vinculante de Estadidad para Puerto Rico. Estas acciones, en resumen, incluyen: (1) organización de distritos; (2) esfuerzos en el Congreso; (3) formación coaliciones; (4) involucrimiento civil de constituyentes; (5) planificación y ejecución de eventos; (6) mensajes en medios; (7) ruta legal; (8) participación en foros. Todos estos esfuerzos son amplificados por nuestra Delegación Extendida. A continuación, una representación gráfica de los objetivos para lograr nuestra misión y un resumen ejecutivo de las acciones tomadas.



Operaciones: Contrario a otros funcionarios electos, los delegados son responsables de todas sus funciones administrativas y clericales, además de sus gestiones oficiales. Las guías para estas responsabilidades fueron provistas por PRFAA. Hemos creado un ecosistema con nuestra Delegación Extendida para sobrellevar algunas de estas limitaciones. Hemos creado un novel banco de llamadas, una carta circular, sesiones de llamadas al Congreso y mecanismos de organización en los distritos, todo lo cual ha sido muy efectivo. Asimismo, hemos creado una base de datos para informar sobre todas las reuniones efectuadas en *La Toma de Acción en el Congreso*, y en adelante. Esta información nos permite crear un mapa interno del estatus y comportamiento de líderes del Congreso, para así identificar puntos de atención y poder tomar decisiones más precisas. Al momento, hemos cubierto el 22% del Congreso.

Delegación Extendida: Una iniciativa clave, liderada por cuatro miembros de la delegación (Melinda Romero, Roberto Lefranc Fortuño, Mayita Meléndez y este servidor) es expandir nuestra red de colaboradores. Actualmente, tenemos **2813** delegados extendidos, el **41%** de ellos provenientes de **44** estados de la Nación. Yo diseñé, programé, elaboré el contenido y ejecuté el portal de internet delegates.us. Actualmente, con la ayuda provista por el delegado extendido Roberto Delgado y otros, estamos aumentando nuestras capacidades. Se han facilitado tarjetas de identificación y “pins” para identificar a los delegados. La delegación extendida desempeñó un rol central en *La Toma de Acción en el Congreso*, como también en organizar varios eventos de *Toma de Acción* por parte de delegados en distintos distritos. Varios estados han comenzado a organizarse independientemente, ofreciéndonos así mayor flexibilidad y alcance. Hemos llevado a cabo 30 talleres de trabajo y reuniones. Los delegados extendidos han asistido a 91 reuniones, que incluyen 27 de contacto directo con constituyentes.

Organización de Distritos: Uno de los objetivos principales de nuestra oficina es organizar distritos congresionales y establecer una red nacional para apoyar la Estadidad. Hasta el momento, hemos llevado a cabo **14** eventos presenciales de votantes en distritos (Texas, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, D.C., Virginia, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Florida, New York, Puerto Rico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia), 21 en total al incluir interacciones virtuales. Cinco de estos estados ya tienen una estructura organizada para ayudar a reclutar más delegados y cumplir con nuestros objetivos.

Esfuerzos en el Congreso: Se han llevado a cabo un total de **120** reuniones en el Congreso, y se han enviado **478** cartas individuales (incluyendo a todos los miembros del Comité de Recursos Naturales). Los delegados extendidos han logrado 91 reuniones con congresistas. El 2 de febrero, sometí un proyecto de ley ante el Comité de Energía y Recursos Naturales del Senado (*Full Committee Hearing To Examine The State Of The U.S. Territories*). Mis declaraciones y mi propuesta forman parte de este informe. En esencia, éstos demuestran que existe al menos un remedio que ofrece a ambas partes (los que apoyan el H.R. 1522 y el H.R. 2070) un mecanismo que presenta todas opciones, y permiten al Pueblo de Puerto Rico elegir entre ellas.

Envolvimiento Cívico y de Constituyentes: Hemos efectuado reuniones de pueblo (más de **55 Encuentros de Igualdad**) en el **100%** de los municipios de Puerto Rico. Asimismo, hemos tenido **414** reuniones individuales con constituyentes. También hemos llevado a cabo encuentros en varios estados. Los delegados extendidos han ejecutado varias iniciativas, incluyendo actividades de *Toma de Acción* en Florida, New York, Texas, Puerto Rico, New Jersey, D. C. y Maryland. Estos son los primeros pasos para organizar un grupo medular que abogue por los principios de la Delegación Extendida. Además, en lugar de esperar 90 días para informarles a los constituyentes sobre el progreso de la Delegación, he comenzado reuniones de pueblo mensuales. Éstas se llevaron a cabo en enero y febrero; la próxima será a finales de marzo.

Comunicaciones, Medios y Mensajes: Nuestro enfoque se ha centrado en varias iniciativas: (1) eventos de *Toma de Acción* por parte de los delegados; (2) actividades con constituyentes (*grassroots*) y en los distritos; y (3) *La Toma de Acción en el Congreso*, que tuvo un éxito rotundo, y fue posible gracias al compromiso y apoyo de la Oficina del Gobernador en D.C. (PRFAA), la

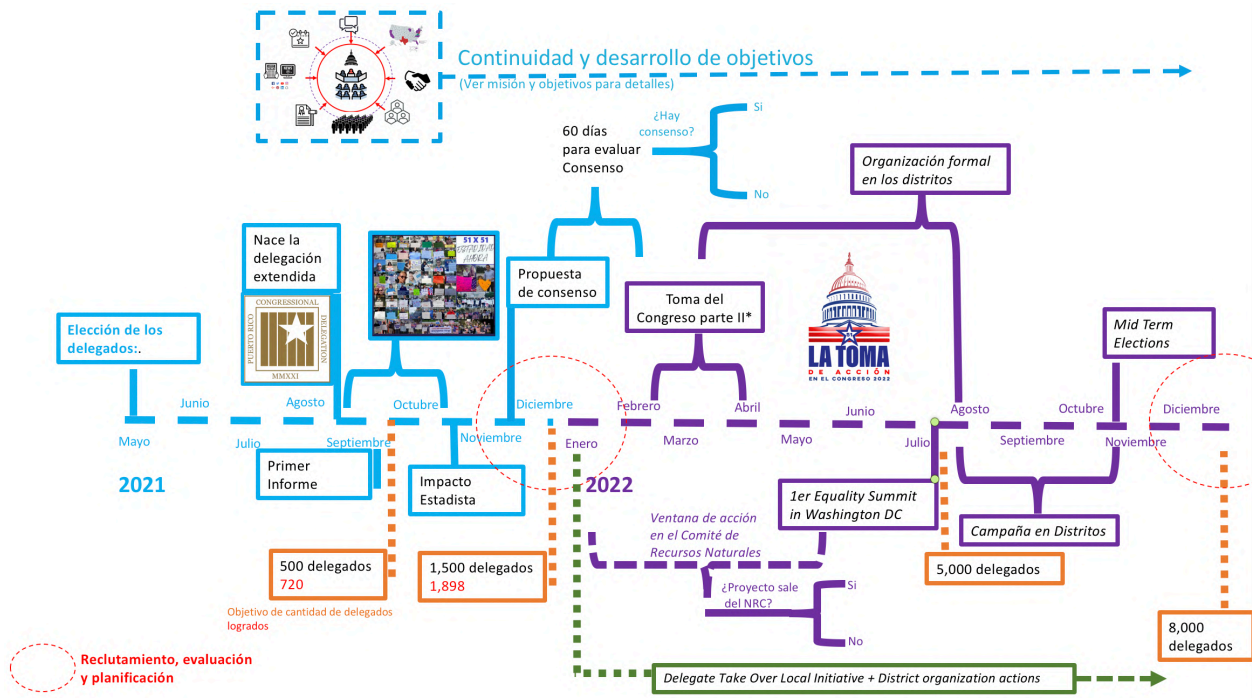
oficina de la Comisionada Residente, La Sociedad Civil Estadista y, sobre todo, los más de 100 miembros de la Delegación Extendida que vinieron a Washington, D.C., provenientes de 14 estados. Este evento tomó varios meses de planificación, el envío de más de 300 cartas, 400 llamadas telefónicas, talleres para preparar, involucrar e identificar efectivamente a líderes del Congreso, salones de trabajo, conferencias de prensa, y otras iniciativas. Con ello se logró impactar el 60% de las oficinas del Comité de Recursos Naturales, y se efectuaron más de 60 reuniones en dos días. El evento fue diseñado para tener un efecto posterior, y ya se han producido varias docenas de reuniones futuras como producto de esta iniciativa. La congresista Velázquez se vio obligada a informarle a sus colegas que estas reuniones eran de “especial interés”. Más detalles al respecto en el informe.

Ruta Legal: Estamos continuamente monitoreando oportunidades legales que ayuden en nuestros esfuerzos. Continuamos dando seguimiento a nuestras dos primeras iniciativas, al igual que hemos tenido actividades de seguimiento relativas al *amicus brief* sometido por nuestra delegación. Además, como parte del taller de la Delegación Extendida, sometimos una querrela ante la Comisión de Derechos Civiles por violaciones civiles y al derecho al voto contra el pueblo puertorriqueño por parte de los presidentes de la Cámara y el Senado de Puerto Rico.

Formación de Coaliciones: Hemos entablado relaciones con **21** organizaciones cuyos objetivos están alineados con los nuestros. Hay que admitir que en esta área falta mejorar. En los próximos dos trimestres, nuestra delegación extendida hará trabajo puntual en este frente.

Participación en Foros: Nuestra oficina participó en **12** foros. Éstos incluyen desde foros académicos, a grupos de intereses especiales y hasta estructuras políticas de partidos nacionales.

Ruta Adelante – Metas a Corto, Mediano y Largo Plazo: Las metas a corto plazo se centran en dos preguntas clave relativas al proyecto de ley de status, particularmente el H.R. 1522. Éstas son: ¿Habrá un proyecto de consenso?, y (2) ¿Votará el Comité de Recursos Naturales sobre ellos? El tiempo apremia. Si no se toma acción dentro del próximo mes, habrá muy poco espacio para lograr algo al respecto en este congreso. Entonces, nuestra atención deberá dirigirse completamente a intervenir en elecciones congresionales clave. De otra parte, si se aprueba el H.R. 1522 o un proyecto de consenso en el Comité, la acción inmediata debería centrarse en conseguir votos en la Cámara y el Senado. Llevaremos a cabo una *Cumbre de la Igualdad* a finales del verano para preparar las estrategias para las elecciones de mediados de cuatrienio. Se puede apreciar a continuación una gráfica sobre las iniciativas a corto plazo, las cuales se detallan en el informe.



Los objetivos a mediano plazo (1-2 años) incluyen organizar los distritos, continuar creciendo como delegación/organización e impactar el próximo ciclo de elecciones congresionales – todas estas iniciativas irán a todo vapor. A largo plazo, (3-5 años) las metas incluyen establecer una red nacional autosuficiente para lograr la igualdad de los puertorriqueños e involucrar más comunidades. Hemos logrado que el Congreso tome cartas en el asunto del estatus colonial de Puerto Rico y en ofrecer a nuestro pueblo la OPCIÓN de convertirse en estado.

Gastos: Ricardo Rosselló no recibe salario ni solicita ningún reembolso por gastos. Todos los costos los sufraga el delegado. Éstos incluyen viajes, alojamiento, tarjetas de identificación de delegados, “pins” para delegados, envío de correspondencia, etc.). **El costo total para el pueblo de Puerto Rico: \$0.00**

Acciones y KPIs

Dr. RICARDO ROSSELLÓ NEVARES
 UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
 PUERTO RICO (SINOPSIS)

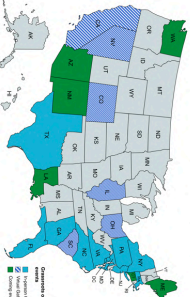
Conectando con Constituyentes



- 100% de los municipios han sido impactados (equality gatherings)
- 50-60 por evento
- 414 reuniones individuales con constituyentes


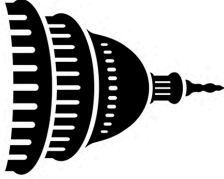



Organización de Distritos



- 13 estados con reuniones en persona de "grassroots"
- 19 estados con reuniones virtuales

Esfuerzo Congresional

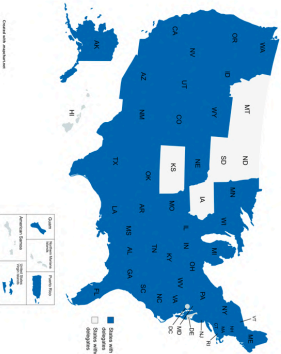
| | | | |
|-----------|---|--|---|
| |  |  |  |
| Cartas | 46 | 414 | 64 |
| Contactos | 46 | 202 | 89 |
| Reuniones | 25 | 92 | 28 |

Delegación Extendida
 delegates.us

Reuniones documentadas por parte de los Delegados Extendidos

+79 **+12**

2813 delegados extendidos
 1261 residen en los estados
 44 estados con delegados
 17 eventos de trabajo con los delegados.



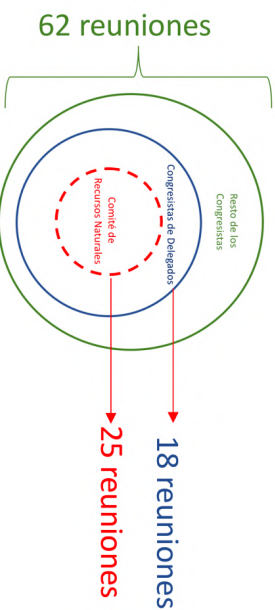
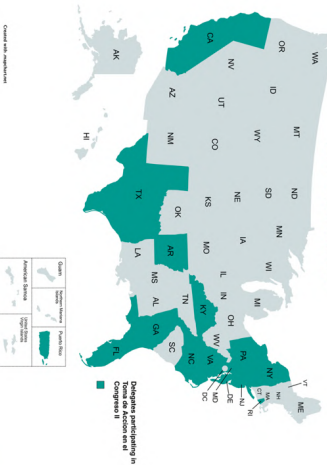
Eventos

- Toma de Acción en el Congreso II
- Delegate Takeover
- Eventos Grassroots

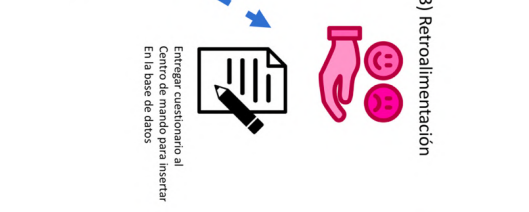
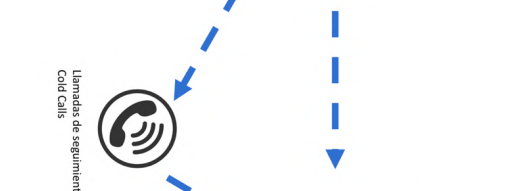
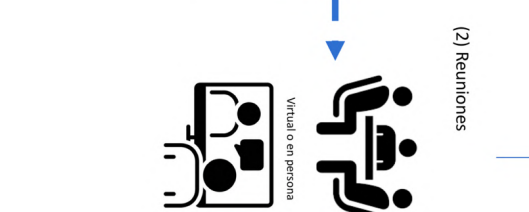
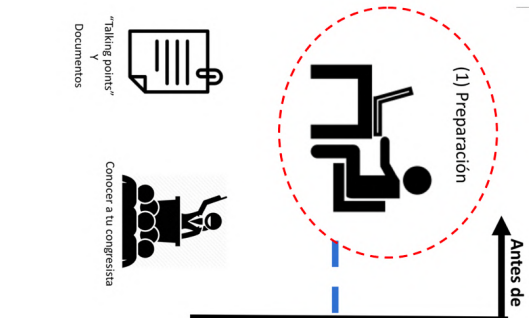


- Acción Legal: US Commission on Civil Rights + Amicus Brief SCOTUS
- Conectando con las organizaciones: 21 orgs and NGOs
- Foros: 12
- Medios y mensaje: 27 intervenciones
- Costo para Puerto Rico: \$0.00

Delegados de 14 Estados



KPIS de



22% cobertura
congresional
+300 llamadas
+40 reuniones
después de La Toma

- 10 workshops
- 2 reuniones preparativas
- Documentación

Introduction & Background

The following section provides a condensed historic perspective on the status issue in Puerto Rico, leading to the current state of play.

500 Years of Colonialism

Living for more than 500 years in a colonial territory, Puerto Ricans have never been treated as equal citizens. The first 400 years, as a colonial possession of Spain; the past 120 as a colonial territory of the United States. After 40-some odd years as a territory of the U.S., the colony was rebranded as a “Free Associated State” (in Puerto Rico), but known as a Commonwealth in the United States. At the beginning of this rebranding, a narrative was established that this would enhance the quality of life and reduce the socio-economic gap between the states and Puerto Rico. In addition, this “new pact” was said to be a bilateral agreement between the United States and Puerto Rico. Far from reducing inequities, the gaps in poverty, income, and other critical measures of wellbeing grew. In addition, the falsely claimed bilateral pact is still, in fact, a complete unilateral power venue, supported by the territorial clause of the Constitution of the United States.

The last 50 years have been an ideological struggle to solve this status problem. Furthermore, the integrity and functionality of government started having severe problems, which would inevitably lead to economic, fiscal, and structural collapse. The poverty, inequality, and economic gaps are all larger now than they were in the late 1960s.

The last 10 years: Structural breakdown and the will of the people squarely supporting statehood

In 2012, a plebiscite was held on election day (November 6th). This referendum was a two-part question. First, it asked: **Should Puerto Rico continue its current territorial status?** Secondly, it proposed: **Which non-territorial option do you prefer?** The results from that event were as follows:

| First question | | | Second question | | |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Choice | Votes | % | Choice | Votes | % |
| No | 970,910 | 53.97 | Referendum passed | 834,191 | 61.16 |
| Yes | 828,077 | 46.03 | Statehood | | |
| Valid votes | 1,798,987 | 95.74 | Free Association | 454,768 | 33.34 |
| Invalid or blank votes | 80,215 | 4.26 | Independence | 74,895 | 5.49 |
| | | | Valid votes | 1,363,854 | 72.58 |
| | | | Invalid or blank ballots | 515,348 | 27.42 |
| | | | Registered voters and turnout | 2,402,941 | 78.19 |

Table 1: Results from the 2012 plebiscite.

Source: CEEPUR

However, the general election was won by the party that supported the colonial regime, and efforts were stalled. Things continued to get worse for Puerto Rico, hitting historical milestones. Under the Alejandro García Padilla administration, the Government of Puerto Rico defaulted on its debt, causing a severe rating degradation of Puerto Rico's bonds, and closing the door to the markets for the foreseeable future. All the while, rampant unemployment and a moribund economy had taken hold.

Statehood Commission (2017) Tennessee Plan

In 2016, a new administration took form and established as a priority employing bolder mechanisms to validate the will of the People of Puerto Rico.

On July 11th, 2017, another plebiscite was held (A Plebiscite for the Immediate Decolonization of Puerto Rico). In this occasion, the plebiscite asked the voters to choose amongst the three status alternatives readily accepted by international law. The results once again favored statehood.

| Choice | Votes | % |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Statehood | 508,862 | 97.13% |
| Free Association / Independence | 7,981 | 1.52% |
| Current Status | 7,048 | 1.35% |
| Valid votes | 523,891 | 99.76% |
| invalid or blank votes | 1,247 | 0.24% |
| Total votes | 525,138 | 100% |
| Registered voters and turnout | 2,260,804 | 23.23% |

Table 2: Results from the 2017 plebiscite. Source: CEEPUR

Following the tradition established by Tennessee in 1796, Puerto Rico embarked on an effort to send a Shadow Delegation to Congress. This strategy has been utilized by 7 states that had petitioned statehood, but action had not been forthcoming. These were Michigan, Iowa, California, Oregon, Kansas, and most recently, Alaska. Currently, Washington, D.C. has a Shadow Delegation as well. In 2017, as a programmatic commitment of the *Plan para Puerto Rico*, I put forth the legislation to create our shadow delegation (Puerto Rico Statehood Commission, Act 30-2017). That delegation was composed of 2 Senators and 5 representatives. Among them, 3 former governors were appointed serve as Shadow Delegates. The delegation submitted yearly reports to the governor.

2020 Plebiscite

In 2020, Puerto Rico embarked on yet another plebiscite, the third one in the last decade. As with the previous two, statehood prevailed. In this circumstance, statehood was pitted against all other alternatives (viable or not) in a Yes or No vote. The Yes vote garnered 52.52% of the ballots, demonstrating once again that the majority in Puerto Rico prefers statehood over the sum of all other alternatives.

Elected Congressional Delegation

Based on the result of the 2020 plebiscite, Act 167-2020 was enacted to continue with the Tennessee Plan strategy established in 2017 (see **Appendix**). The main difference now being that this delegation would be elected and not appointed. On May 17th, 2021, an election was held where 4 House Representatives (shadow) and 2 Senators (Shadow) were selected. On the 1st of July, most of the delegates were sworn-in at La Fortaleza, and by July 8th, all the delegates had been duly sworn-in.

Current State of Play

The House recently passed a bill to grant statehood to Washington, D.C., a great first step to give its citizens equal representation. The time is ripe for the 3.2 million Puerto Ricans, who share Washingtonians' predicament of second-class citizenship, to get a binding commitment from Congress to become a state.

During the 2020 presidential campaign, Joe Biden declared: "I happen to believe that statehood would be the most effective means of ensuring that residents of Puerto Rico are treated equally, with the same representation at the federal level. But the people of Puerto Rico must decide, and the United States federal government must respect their decision and act on it."

The House has begun moving in the right direction with H.R. 1522, a statehood bill sponsored by Reps. Darren Soto, Jennifer Gonzalez and others. H.R. 1522 represents the best solution to Puerto

Rico’s colonial dilemma, as it responds directly to the democratic will expressed by the island’s voters and binds Congress to that decision (see HR.1522 in **Appendix**).

However, a second bill (H.R. 2070), pushed by Reps. Nydia Velazquez and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, proposes an assembly that allows a “self-determination process” to decide between “the viable options,” even though it has been demonstrated by the direct vote of the people that statehood is the most viable and popular option. H.R. 2070 is essentially kicking the can further down the road. It is an anti-democratic bill, as it runs directly counter to the notion of self-determination, it dismisses the elected will of the people, and is downright discriminatory. It also creates a new level of non-binding bureaucracy in the admission process, perpetuating the current colonial regime. A comparative between the bill in 4 critical categories is depicted below.

Current state of affairs: There are two projects: HR.1522/s.780 and HR2070/s.865. Breakdown at a glance

| | HR. 1522 / S. 780 | HR. 2070/ S. 865 |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Basis | The will of the people of Puerto Rico: Three plebiscites in the last 10 years choosing statehood over all other alternatives. | Ignores the past will of the people, therefore rejects the notion of its namesake: self-determination. |
| Finality | Binding solution of statehood, should the voters support it. Does not impose statehood, it offers it. | No clear finality, extends the life of the rejected and unequal territory. |
| Constitutionality | Constitutionally robust and simple; follows framework of Hawaii. | Severe constitutional limitations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires congress to ratify “any other option” chosen. • Establishes an indefinite timetable for the assembly to constitute (indefinite terms) |
| Process | Upholds democracy: Direct vote of the people of Puerto Rico. | Sidesteps the will of the people. Indirect vote, through an indefinite constitutional assembly process. |

A leading group of constitutional scholars wrote to Congress in support of the statehood bill put forth by Soto and Gonzalez, as it abides by the will of the Puerto Rican people. They rejected the Velazquez/Ocasio-Cortez proposal as unconstitutional.

On February 2nd, a Senate hearing was held (Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources Full Committee Hearing To Examine The State Of The U.S. Territories). Rossello Nevares submitted a consensus proposal bill for the record (Appendix)

Recently, the Extended Delegation went to Washington DC to advocate for HR.1522. Over 100 delegates from 14 states participated in a two day event with over 60 meetings. Afterwards, Congresswoman Velazquez sent a letter to her colleagues, stating that this initiative was perpetrated by “special interests.”



Recent meeting between 5 of the 6 elected delegates and the Governor of Puerto Rico in PRFAA

A few weeks later, members from the Extended Delegation in New York approached Chairman Grijalva. Specifically, Edwin Díaz, Awilda Cordero, Diana Díaz, Aisha Hernández and Ramón Díaz. In their interaction, the Chairman expressed his intent to go to Puerto Rico in the next couple of weeks. In addition, he said that he was waiting for a consensus bill, but if none was provided, he would hold a vote on HR. 1522 and HR. 2070. He has since substituted his visit for a portal where

people can send input to the Natural Resources Commission (<https://naturalresources.house.gov/listen-to-puerto-rico>).



NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE
CHAIR **RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

☰ MENU 🔍  newsletter sign-up

Listen to Puerto Rico

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) is leading a congressional delegation to Puerto Rico to understand the needs and concerns of Americans on the island. This Congressional Community Listening Session event will feature residents of the island speaking directly with federal lawmakers about their experiences and how Congress can address their needs. If you are unable to provide comments at the listening session please submit your message below.

Your Information

First Name*

Last Name*

Your Contact Information

There has been no date scheduled for a mark up on HR.1522 and HR.2070. There is also no known consensus, although Leader Hoyer pointed to a potential bill that would allow the People to choose between statehood and the modalities of independence.

Mission, Vision and Objectives

Problem: Over 3 million US citizens that live in Puerto Rico are treated unequally, are disenfranchised, and have no voting representation in Congress. Even as islanders have supported statehood in three consecutive plebiscites, action in Congress is slow to evolve.

Opportunity: The United States is living through a divisive phase that has sprouted several movements for social justice, voting, civil and human rights, racial equality, and democracy. Puerto Rico's situation is intimately linked to all these issues. Adding to this the fact that the Capital of the United States is also seeking statehood, all the elements of social empathy, support, and visibility are materializing. What's more, Democrats –most of whom have been aligned with the aforementioned movements– control both chambers of Congress and the Executive Branch. It's time to execute.

Vision: To help achieve equality and a better quality of life for the U.S. citizens that live in Puerto Rico by providing a path towards statehood.

Mission: To exert external pressure on Congress to move a bill that will offer the choice of Statehood for Puerto Rico (to this date, it is H.R. 1522/S. 780), and that the decision of Puerto Ricans needs to be binding. We will do this by amassing a national network of support for equality and voting rights for the U.S. citizens that reside in Puerto Rico.

Objectives:

To exert pressure, my office will focus on the following critical objectives:

- (1) **Organize the Districts:** This is my office's top priority. Community organization is a paramount effort. There are 5.3 million Puerto Ricans in the Mainland. If organized appropriately, we can yield significant power and determine congressional election outcomes. This effort will have short, mid, and long-term outlooks and objectives.

- (2) **Efforts in Congress:** Plan to meet and discuss with House and Senate members (and their staffs) the need to act on the status issue for Puerto Rico; and more specifically, on moving H.R. 1522 out of committee. In addition, work with extended delegates that are constituents to strike a direct cord with their representatives.
- (3) **Communications, messaging and media:** Our message needs to have enough amplitude to get support. To achieve this, we must create a network that can deliver the appropriate messaging to be replicated and discussed. Social media support is critical, but so is connecting every media outlet or program that is available and at our disposal.
- (4) **NGOs, SIGs, and other organizations:** Capturing the support of Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Rights coalitions, and other Special Interest Groups will give us leverage and visibility with congresspersons that depend on those constituencies. Identifying, communicating with, and garnering their support is essential.
- (5) **Event planning and execution:** As with all social movements, events need to be coordinated to garner national attention for our cause. These take time, as well as a large and committed support cast.
- (6) **Legal path:** Support, create, participate in efforts to address the current undemocratic and unjust system in Puerto Rico through the courts.
- (7) **Forum participation:** Impact and participate in all local, national, and international forums regarding the status issue, or adjacent issues regarding voting rights, democracy, racial, and citizen equality. These include academic, institutional, and otherwise.
- (8) **Constituency outreach and engagement:** Engage with citizens in the island and in the mainland in individual meetings and town halls.

These objectives and the short-term work that has been done are the subject of most of the remaining report.

Operations

PRFAA has established a set of guidelines for the Congressional Delegation. Please see **Appendix** for these guidelines. These are guidelines are effective since the 1st of July, 2021.

Delegates have the right to a salary of \$90,000, plus \$30,000 for expenses. As is public knowledge, I sent you and PRFAA's Executive Director a letter notifying that **I chose to decline the salary and the reimbursement of expenses** associated with my position (see Letter to Governor, **Appendix**). In addition, I communicated to PRFAA that I will not require other items, such as printing, office space, office supplies, or stationary. Those are all expenses I will absorb.

Other requirements, such as submitting economic and financial statements to the pertinent authorities, have been complied with.

PRFAA Executive Director and staff were extremely helpful in guidance, administrative support and organization for La Toma de Acción en el Congreso, and other events that include the Extended Delegation. They participated in the event and helped greatly with the logistics. This also applies to the Resident Commissioner's Office.

The Extended Delegation is working to circumvent some of the operational and administrative shortcoming inherent in the position. A team has been assembled to organize and communicate events. Delegates are establishing cohorts of accountability in phone banking. Furthermore, they are organizing on a geographical basis to develop events and activities at the local level.

On August 10th, the Executive Director of PRFAA asked us to send a 1-page summary of weekly updates. I have submitted them every week since then (Sample update, **Appendix**).

Meetings as a delegation have become on-demand, as opposed to weekly engagements. Typically 2-3 delegates participate in these.

As part of our efforts with the extended delegation, the design, printing and mailing of IDs and letters has become part of our daily operation. The delegation also sets up workshops, introductory sessions and other forum, which require administrative follow up.



Part of the team of collaborators that have empowered the Extended Delegation to move forward

Activity

Overall summary of results

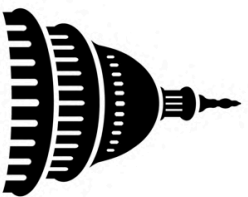
The overall summary of reports can be observed in three diagrams. The first one is a results at a glance updated from the previous two reports (Figure in next page). It showcases several key performance indexes, such as letters sent to congress, contacts with offices, and the amount of meetings our office has had with Congressional leadership in this quarter. It denotes 100% constituency reach in the island and over 400 one-on-one meetings. This figure also contains pertinent numbers regarding district organization, the Extended Delegation, events and other objectives. To supplement these, we also have a Toma de Acción KPI visual and a three quarter growth comparative.

Actions and KPIs

DR. RICARDO ROSSELLÓ NEVARES
 UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
 PIERRO RICO (SHADOW)

Congressional effort

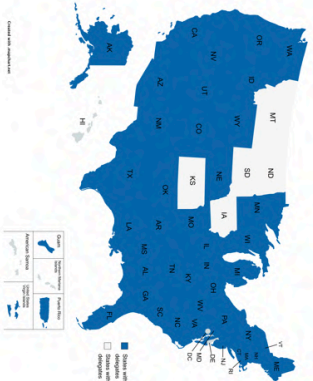
| | NRC | House | Senate |
|----------|-----|-------|--------|
| Letters | 46 | 414 | 64 |
| Contacts | 46 | 202 | 89 |
| Meetings | 25 | 92 | 28 |



+79 **+12**

Extended delegation
delegates.us

Documented meetings from
 extended delegates



2813 extended delegates
1261 state side
44 states with delegates
17 work meetings with the
 extended delegation

Constituency engagement



- 100% of island municipalities covered (equality gatherings)
- 50-60 people per townhall
- **414** individual constituent meetings
- In-person work shop

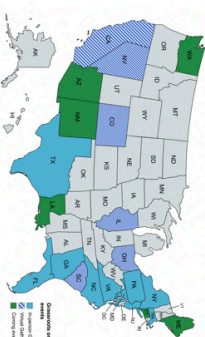


Events

- Toma de Acción en el Congreso II
- Delegate Takeover events
- Grassroots Events



District organization



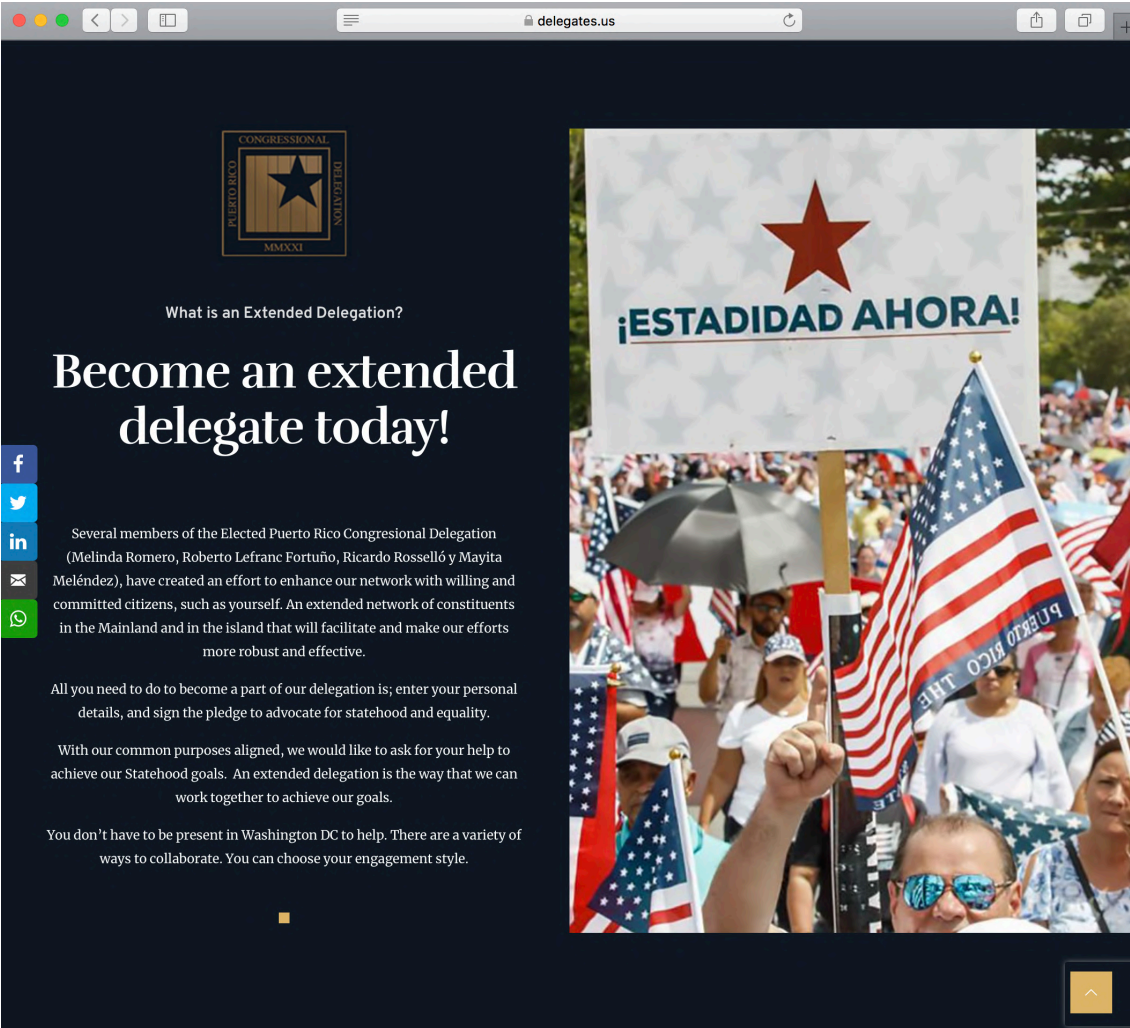
- **13** states with in person grassroots district organization meetings
- **19** states virtual meetings

- Legal Path: US Commission on Civil Rights + Amicus Brief SCOTUS
- Organizations engagement: 21 orgs and NGOs
- Forums participated: 12
- Media and messaging: 27 interventions and 30 workshops
- Expense to Puerto Rico: **\$0.00**

Extended Delegation

The Extended Delegation initiative is an effort subscribed by four of the members of the delegation to enhance outreach, create a national structure, and become more effective with the Congressional Delegation’s objectives. Those members are Melinda Romero, Roberto Lefranc Fortuño, Maria Meléndez, and Ricardo Rosselló. I proposed the idea on our first meeting post-election, weeks before swearing in, and we started working from that moment on.

Extended delegates are integrated into the delegation’s efforts by filling out a form with the relevant demographical data and making a sworn statement committing to the same requirements as the elected delegates, except for the “full time work” clause.



CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
PUERTO RICO
MMXXI

What is an Extended Delegation?

Become an extended delegate today!

Several members of the Elected Puerto Rico Congressional Delegation (Melinda Romero, Roberto Lefranc Fortuño, Ricardo Rosselló y Mayita Meléndez), have created an effort to enhance our network with willing and committed citizens, such as yourself. An extended network of constituents in the Mainland and in the island that will facilitate and make our efforts more robust and effective.

All you need to do to become a part of our delegation is; enter your personal details, and sign the pledge to advocate for statehood and equality.

With our common purposes aligned, we would like to ask for your help to achieve our Statehood goals. An extended delegation is the way that we can work together to achieve our goals.

You don't have to be present in Washington DC to help. There are a variety of ways to collaborate. You can choose your engagement style.

¡ESTADIDAD AHORA!

PUERTO RICO THE

Figure 1: A snapshot of the extended delegate website (www.delegates.us).

Within a reasonable timetable, the elected delegates and some volunteers try to reach out to all those who subscribed as extended delegates.

As of March 26th, 2022, there were [2813](#) extended delegates, 41% of whom reside in the mainland. This represents almost a 160% increase from the first quarter numbers. There are 44 states represented by extended delegates.

Several initiatives have been worked upon to improve the Website. Extended Delegate from Virginia, Roberto Delgado has given us support, creating important feedback databases, contact pages for Congressional leaders and other repositories.

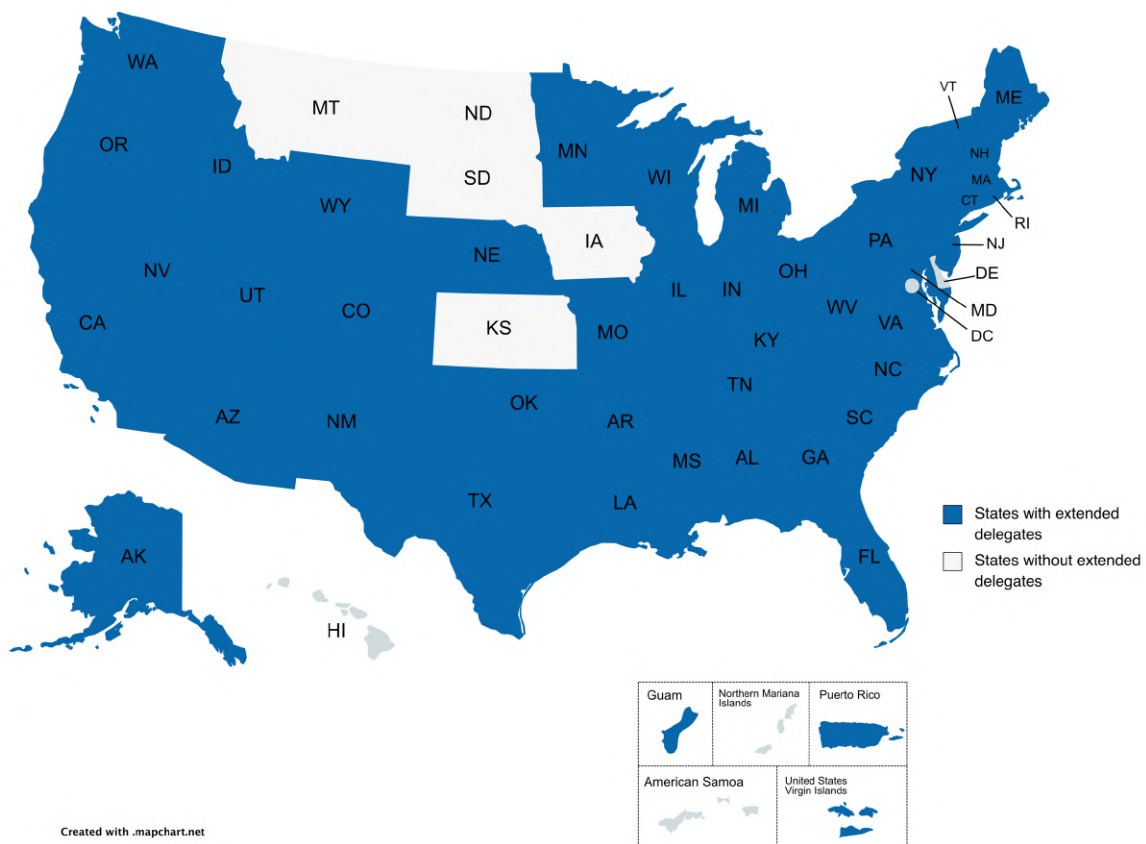


Figure: Updated map showcases the coverage of extended delegates across 44 states.

Monthly accountability townhalls

In addition to this report, I made a commitment to provide our constituents visibility on the issues and initiatives that we are working on. As such, we embarked on a monthly update to constituents through virtual means. We did so in January, February, and will do so again in March.



The objective of these townhalls was to update and to answer questions. They also served as a platform to connecting with constituents on a one-to-one basis and recruiting new members of the Extended Delegation.

Consensus bill

In light of the recent news that there is an effort to look for a consensus status bill between the authors of HR.1522, HR.2070 and the House Majority Leader, I sent Leader Hoyer a letter outlining a proposed course of action (See appendix AAAA for letter).

I formalized this request by submitting a written statement to the Senate on February 2nd, 2022. The content of the written statement is below, and the bill I wrote and crafted as a suggestion is in the Appendix.

Written Statement

Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares

US Congressional Delegate (Shadow) for Puerto Rico
Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
Full Committee Hearing To Examine The State Of The U.S. Territories
February 2nd, 2022

Dear Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso, and members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a written statement on the state of the U.S. territories. As a former governor of Puerto Rico and current member of the Congressional Delegation (shadow), I would like to focus my statement on one issue: The path to solving Puerto Rico's political status.

It is long overdue.

Today, Puerto Rico is the oldest and most populated colonial territory in the world. In the past decade, our People have chosen statehood in three locally legislated plebiscites. It therefore stands to reason that the standard bearer of democracy – the United States of America – needs to respond to these petitions from 3.2 million of its citizens.

As you are aware, there are two projects that have been submitted to address the status issue: H.R.1522/S.780 and H.R.2070/S.865. Both are still under consideration by the Natural Resources Committee.

These two bills are vastly different. H.R.1522/S.780 proposes a binding choice to the people of Puerto Rico. As with Hawaii, this would be a Yes or No vote on statehood for the island.

The other bill, H.R.2070/S.865, however, is plagued with inconsistencies that include some unconstitutional provisions. For one, it does not provide a binding resolution to the problem, but rather prolongs the colonial territory that has been thoroughly rejected by the people of Puerto Rico and by the three branches of the U.S. government. The bill also rejects the basic principle of

“one person one vote” that is so fundamental to voting rights. Plus, it substitutes the direct will of the people for that of an assembly that is confusing and inconclusive in nature. The fact that there are two bills with a similar caliber of co-sponsors on the House Natural Resources Committee generally, and unfortunately, means that any consideration of the measures will lead to a standstill. In such case, democracy will lose and colonialism will prevail. Recently, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, indicated that he is looking for a consensus bill. I am typically skeptical of this type of endeavor. Yet, in this case, I believe there is a rare opportunity for a consensus bill.

As it stands now, H.R.1522/S.780 would grant the choice of statehood to the U.S. citizens who reside on the island if they vote in its favor. However, nothing happens if there is a “No” vote. To garner consensus, I therefore propose amending H.R.1522/S.780 to have the “No” vote be a binding result as well.

Regarding H.R.2070/S.865, I propose fixing its unconstitutional elements, eliminate its indefinite and inconclusive language regarding the status of the island, and have it bind Congress only to those status alternatives accepted by international law.

For the benefit of the Committee, **I have prepared a draft of a proposed consensus bill, based on the criterion laid out above.** It merges the main considerations of the aforementioned bills, and designs a mechanism that allows the U.S. Citizens of Puerto Rico to decide between them. Recognizing that additional changes can be made by the authors (I have made a few, including the elimination of the Oversight Board in the case of admission as a State), it showcases that if there is a true desire to solve the status issue, there exists at least one consensus path to get there. The document is attached to this written statement.

I understand that this is a bold proposal because everybody will have skin on the game. But it is a fair and democratic option since it allows the People to freely choose their political future and,

more importantly, it starts the process of crafting a final resolution to the more than 500-year old colonial dilemma for the island.

Everybody who has already backed one of the two bills should be supportive of this consensus bill. If anyone blocks its path, it would showcase the fact that they are either afraid of the results, or they want to impede the voting will of the People at all costs.

It is therefore my petition that this committee address with priority the status issue of Puerto Rico. Democracy cannot continue to wait. Colonialism cannot continue to prevail. The power is in your hands by either moving forward with H.R.1522, or collaborating with the House to produce a solid consensus bill that (1) gives the people of Puerto Rico the choice, (2) establishes a federally mandated process, and (3) eradicates the problem of colonialism.

Voting rights have been a cornerstone of our democracy and a topic of high debate. Regardless of your position on a particular bill, denying the US Citizens of Puerto Rico the right to a CHOICE is denying them their basic democratic rights, their civil freedom, and the basic tenants of our Nation.

The power is in your hands to change this for good and be on the right side of history.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricardo Rossello, PhD

##

Although there has not been a clear date set, Congressman Soto anticipates a that a vote will come down by April or May (<https://www.elnuevodia.com/english/news/story/darren-soto-anticipates-a-vote-on-status-bills-in-april-or-may/>).

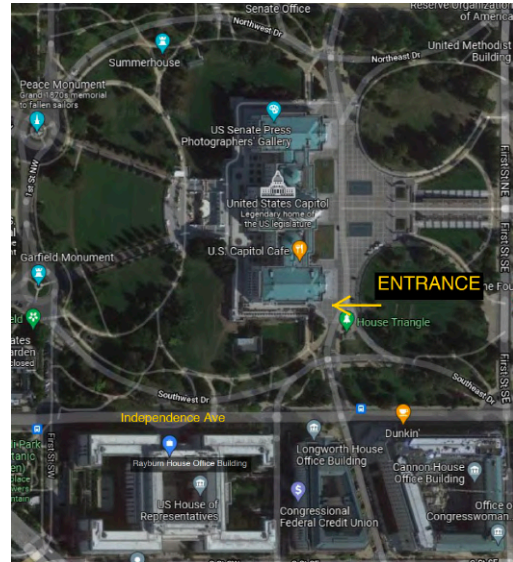
[Toma de Acción en el Congreso](#)

This event was designed to mobilize constituents throughout the United States, to connect with their Congress members, so they could advocate for HR.1522 and Statehood. The date was selected at a point that we felt you would kickstart the conversation and the pressure to move the bill forward.

It is important to state that this effort was a collaborative endeavor. First, we are grateful for the help and support given by the Governor, PRFAA's Executive Director, and Staff. Lorraine Carrasco and Joshua Bonet were entrusted to secure meetings and schedule. Secondly, it is noteworthy to state that the Resident Commissioner and her Chief of Staff were paramount to the logistics and planning of the meetings. Extended members of the delegation Maver Rivas, Ricardo Marrero Passapera, and Roberto Delgado worked extremely diligently those days to ensure proper execution of interventions. Lastly, members of the Sociedad Civil Estadista were very supportive on all fronts and participated on advocacy events.

The task was challenging, taking into account the following. First, the pandemic protocols are still in place. This complicated in-person meetings for some congressmembers. Secondly, security measures were on high alert. After the January 6th insurrection, the standard operating procedures for security were heightened. As such, people needed to be with staff for entry, exit and re-entry into the congressional buildings. To add complexity, this was done during the first days of the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Lastly, the date preceded the State of the Union Address of the President of the United States. Therefore, planning, coalescing and collaboration was a must.

We envisioned a dual meeting design effort. Understanding some meetings would be in person, while others virtual, we needed a central base of operations for the two days. The office of the Resident Commissioner was able to provide access to the Congressional Visitor Center, where we could have all of the delegates prepare, enter their exit notes, and if necessary, have space for virtual meetings.

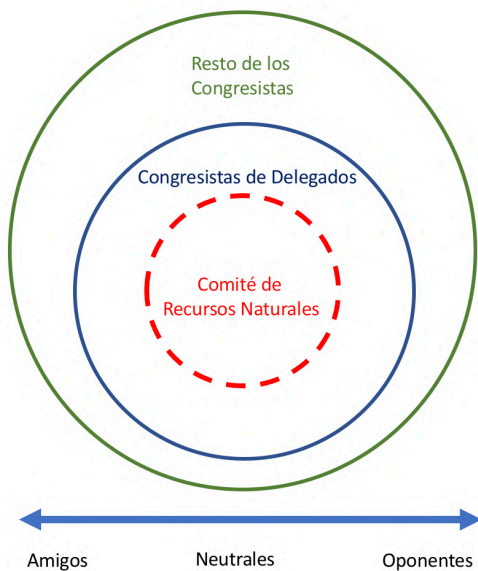


The month prior to the event we sustained several meetings with PRFAA and with the Office of the Resident Commissioner. A total of 11 meetings or conference calls were held. In those we were able to delegate key roles to all parties, and establish a mechanism for information flow.

A week before the event, we embarked on two virtual workshop sessions to discuss the flow of the event, the specific objectives, and the desired outcomes.



Snapshot of one of the pre Toma de Acción workshop sessions. Congresswoman Gonzalez and PRFAA Executive Director, Carmen Feliciano participated in these events.



The details of these meetings are the subject of the interaction between the elected delegates (Mayita Melendez, Melinda Romero, Roberto Lefranc Fortuño, and Ricardo Rossello), and the members of the extended delegations. However, we can share the overlaying strategic objective of the event. The figure on the side is a schematic representation of our goals. Namely, to target the with priority the Natural Resources Committee, followed by a focus on Congress member-to-constituent meetings, and lastly on the rest of congress.

The results of the collaborative effort were nothing short of outstanding. Primarily, because over 100 delegates from 14 states came to Washington DC to partake in the event. We were able to schedule over 60 meetings, including impacting over 60% of the Natural Resources Committee

Offices. The rest of the results can be seen on the KPI figure for La Toma de Acción en el Congreso.

The workflow was established to provide realtime feedback that would help our Extended Delegation and other advocates to have a better picture of Congress. In addition, our design was to grow post-event, and keep the momentum going. Figure X below is a visual depiction of the workflow that was implemented and executed. As of today, we have been able to get information inserted into the feedback backend on **22%** of Congress. I designed a questionnaire that would allow us to accrue relevant information, and Roberto Delgado made it into an online platform.

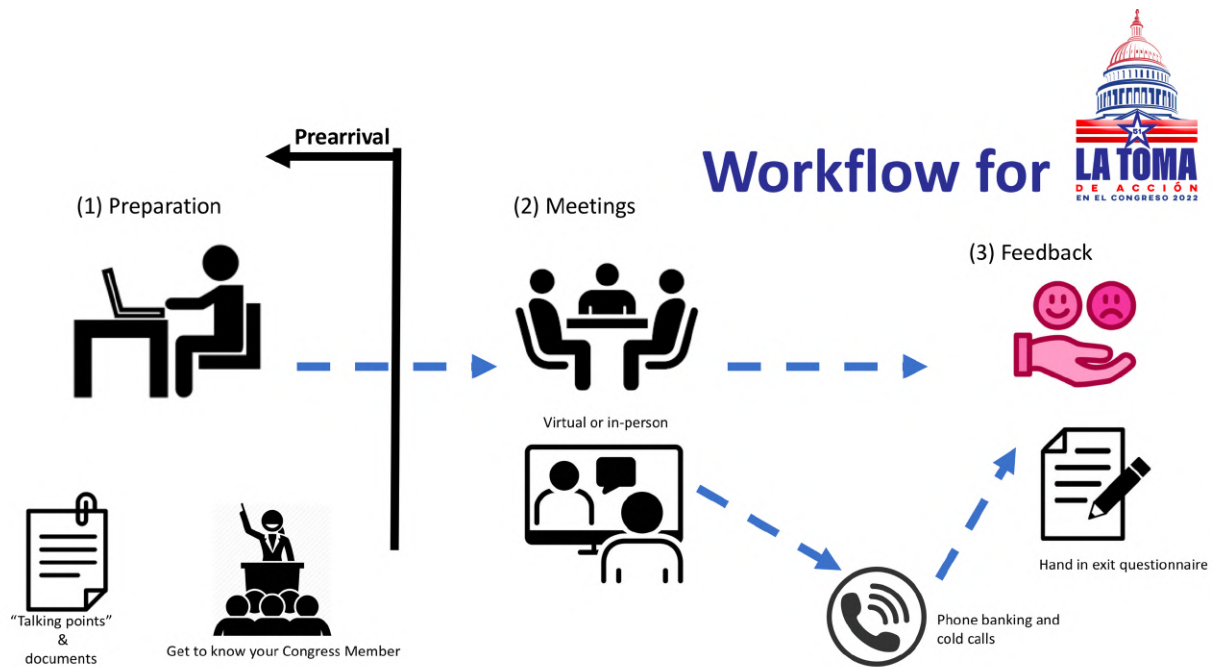


Figure: Depicts the workflow for La Toma de Acción en el Congreso. Briefly, a preparation, feedback and post event mechanisms were put in place to maximize on the event.

During the two days, there was an introductory event hosted by PRFAA on Monday, February 28th. They provided food and reserved the room where the event was held. Roberto Lefranc moderated the event, in which about 60 of the Extended Delegates participated in. We were able to share our experiences with the constituents, answer questions, and establish agenda items for the next day.



On that day, we also had 25 meetings. Teams were assembled throughout the day to allow for logistics and to maximize constituent-to-Congress member connections. One of our meetings that day was with the late Don Young. We had our operation center in the Cannon Congressional Building. Meetings and prep lasted from 10am-4pm.



Photos show meeting with Congressman Young and part of the New York delegation going to see their congress members.

The first day of March we began operations at the CVC. Efforts started at 8:30 am and lasted all the way to 5pm. There was lunch provided by the Office of the Resident Commissioner. In all, there were 37 meetings that day. We also held a press conference in PRFAA that day. After the work was done, two other initiatives took place. La Sociedad Civil Estadista hosted a demonstration outside of The Whitehouse and a small group of the remaining delegates (about 40) had a closing event and a watch party for the SOTU.



The image on the left shows a meeting with Congressman Alex Kim (NJ) with PRFAA and Extended Delegate Dr. Eugenio Matias. On the right, an image of the watch party closing event for SOTU.

The results of this event can't be overstated. To this day, we are still having follow up meetings and new constituent-to-Congress member events. Post event, we have had 40 new meetings. The rest of the results can be seen in ([KPI Toma de Acción del Congreso](#)).

Delegates Takeover events

One of the 4 key initiatives highlighted in the short term, 1 year roadmap, is the growth and effectiveness of Delegate Takeover events. Briefly, these are events designed by the Delegate or Group of Delegates in a state or district, and supported at the national level. A partial list of these events include:

- 1) Delegates Takeover Orlando, FL (1/15/2022): Delegates participated in the Calle de SanSe event. We would like to thank the Florida GOP for inviting the delegates to participate. Special thanks to Delegates JJ Rodriguez, Cecilia Perez and Maria Cabrera.
- 2) Delegates Takeover Guaynabo (1/15/2022): A group of members from de delegation in Guaynabo went to recruit new delegates amidst the special election in Guaynabo. Special thanks to Delegates Amneris Soto, Luis Ramos and Wiliam Velez.
- 3) Delegates Takeover Lancaster, Pennsylvania (1/16/2022): Delegates worked on a canvassing and recruiting effort, identifying several supporters. Special thanks to Delegates Sara Torres and Maver Rivas.
- 4) Delegates Takeover Tampa, Florida(2/20/2022): Delegates Zoriada Velez and Doralice Matta established a canvassing and recruiting activity. Telemundo Tampa covered the event: <https://www.telemundo49.com/noticias/puertorriquenos-en-tampa-se-unen-para-buscar-apoyo-por-la-estadidad-para-la-isla/2104856/>
- 5) Delegates Takeover Bayamon (3/1/2022): A large group of Delegates convened at Plaza del Sol to support the efforts of the Extended Delegation in Washington DC and recruit new members. Once again, this event was organized by Delegates Luis Ramos, William Velez and Amneris Soto.
- 6) Delegates Takeover, New York (3/11/2022): A group of delegates from New York organized themselves and went to visit Chairman Grijalva in an event. They were able to solicit relevant information that was later disseminated by the media. Specifically, they were able to identify his intent to come visit the Island, and his commitment to go to a vote, regardless if there is a consensus bill or not. Special thanks to Aisha Hernandez, Edwin Diaz, Diana Diaz, Awilda Carder and Ramon Diaz. https://www.instagram.com/tv/Ca-S3TIpA1X/?utm_medium=copy_link
- 7) Delegates Takeover, Manati (3/20/2022): Delegates participated in a recruiting initiative. Special thanks to Maver Rivas and Nilsa Caraballo.



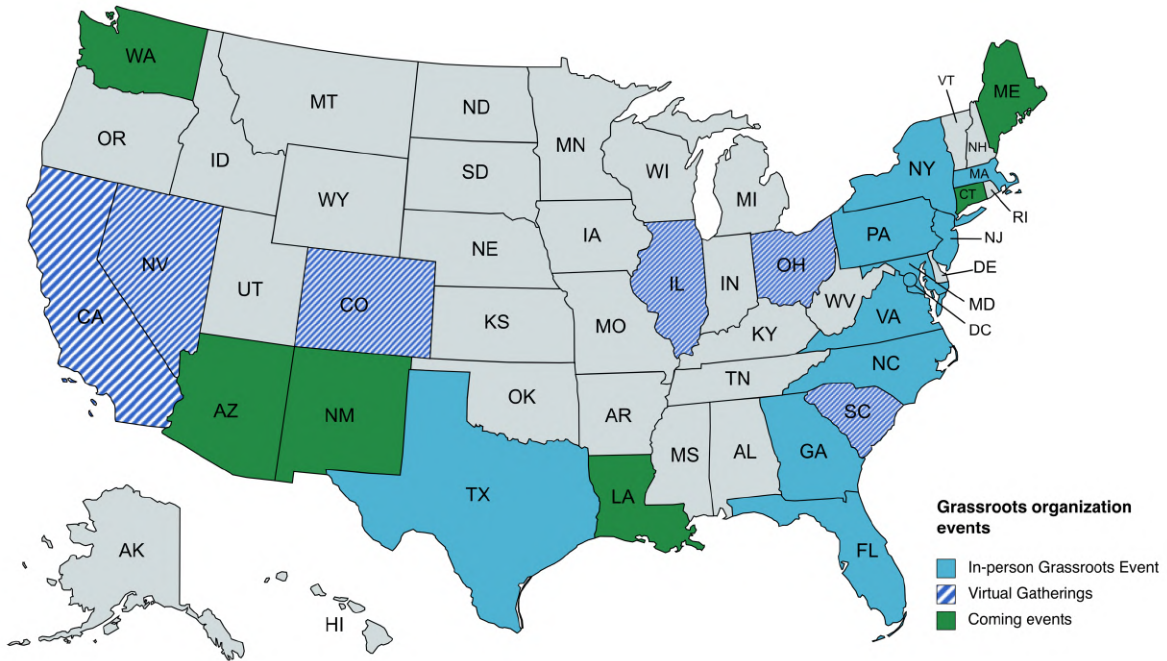
A few images from the Delegate Takeover events in Bayamon, Guaynabo, New York, Pennsylvania, and Florida.



Grass roots events

In district grassroots events are an important part of our effort. This quarter we participated in grassroots events in Virginia, Pennsylvania, DC, Maryland, New York, Rhode Island, Florida, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, California, New Jersey and Puerto Rico. The purpose of

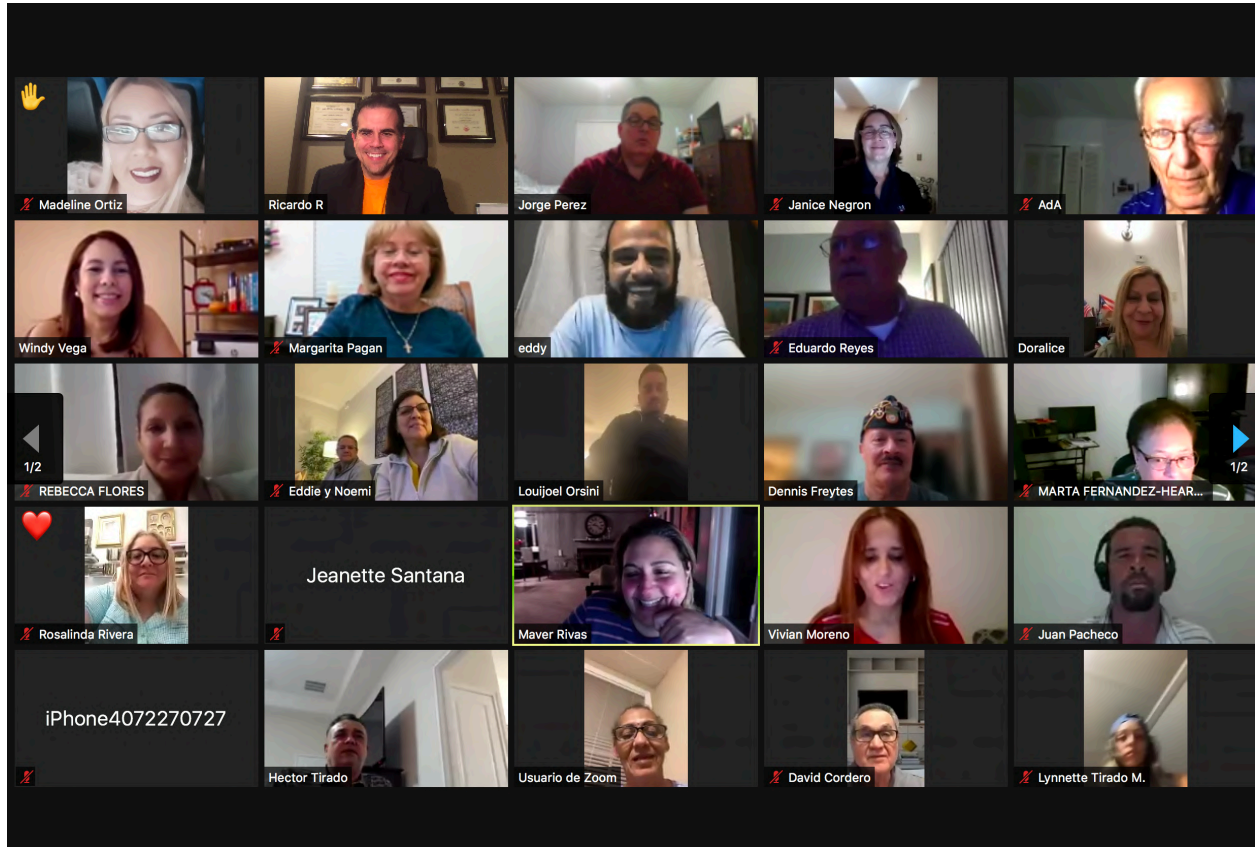
these events is to establish recruiting practices and organize the districts to participate in advocacy events.



There are several events in the pipeline for next quarter, including New York, Florida, California, Nevada, and Colorado.

Workshops

Workshops are specific meetings with a detailed objective in mind. Workshops have been geared towards organization, activity creation, congressional intervention, coalition building, social media, and other topics. Below is a snapshot of a sample workshop.



Workshop event between members from Rhode Island, Florida and Puerto Rico. The objective in this one was recruiting and event organization.

We had an in person workshop in Puerto Rico on March 19th, 2022. We were able to amass over 350 delegates to discuss a variety of topics and items. Amongst the many topics discussed where the high-level recruiting efforts, the different initiatives Delegates in the Island can do, phone banking initiatives, letter writing, chapter formation, etc.



Workshop session in Puerto Rico on March 19th, 2022



[Efforts in Congress](#)

In this section, we will layout the general breakdown of our efforts in congress. Furthermore, we will give globalized feedback and observations from those meetings that might be helpful to the statehood movement as a whole. Of noteworthiness, now the Extended Delegation’s reach into Congress is significant. Last quarter, they had accumulated 21 meetings. This quarter, that number has more than quadrupled that to 91.

Since many of the meetings are on-going efforts, the names of the congresspersons will not be divulged in this report. We briefly summarize here the output of individual letters addressed to Congress members, contact established with their respective offices, and meetings held.

Congressional effort



| | NRC | House | Senate |
|---|-----|------------|------------|
| Letters  | 46 | 414 | 64 |
| Contacts | 46 | 202 | 89 |
| Meetings  | 25 | 92 | 28 |
| | | +79 | +12 |

Documented meetings from extended delegates*

Table 3: brief summary of congressional efforts. Overall, 120 meetings, 291 contacts and 478 letters.

In addition, it is important to state that various members of the extended delegation have submitted letters and sat down for meetings with Congressmembers. These have mostly been constituents of the Congressman’s district.

While all meetings are different, there are several general trends that are important to highlight in order to better comprehend the overall situation with members.

1. An overwhelming majority reject HR.2070. One of the consistent trends from the meetings I have had is the overwhelming rejection of HR.2070 as an alternative. While some held back decision or position on HR.1522, roughly 80% of the undecided members

that we meet are in strong opposition to the project and see no chance of it ever passing congress.

2. The search for a consensus bill. Mostly members of the Democratic caucus expressed their desire to find a bill that would unite both factions. Many of them recognize the need to take action, but are having problems deciding against Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez.
3. The taxing situation is unclear. Particularly in the Senate, a prevailing question was “how do you envision the tax arrangement if Puerto Rico becomes a state?” It is an important consideration to establish from the onset as many members have yet to make up their mind, but are paying close attention to these types of questions.
4. The SSI provision as a conversation starter. Because of the attention garnered by the United States of America v. Jose Luis Vaello-Madero case, congressional leadership moved to include Puerto Rico as a recipient of the SSI program in it’s Build Back Better Bill. A wide number of Congressmembers are very attentive to this matter and brought the issue up for discussion. In our view, it is a unique opportunity to outline the inequality of the US Citizens in Puerto Rico, and demonstrate that this unequal treatment also happens with a vast array of federal programs.
5. Puerto Rico’s geopolitical positioning: Because of the Ukraine-Russian conflict, many congressional members started addressing Puerto Rico’s strategic importance both geographically and militarily.
6. Delegates are canvassing effectively. It is important to note that some of the congressional offices we visited had received or had scheduled a visit by other members of the delegation. This includes Melinda Romero, Roberto Lefranc, Zoraida Buxo and Mayita Melendez, in addition to other extended members of the delegation.

Phone banking

After La Toma de Acción en el Congreso, we started creating phone banking cores to solicit interaction between our delegates and Members of Congress. These have been successful, yielding **40** new meetings in the last month.



Ignacion Ross and Yadira O’Ferrill spearheaded a post-event meeting, following up on questions and petitions for their Congress member in Georgia.

We have created teams that will follow up on their assigned Congressional group to facilitate meetings, information and other forms of interaction with their offices. So far, over **300** calls have been made, and the response has been tabulated in the feedback database.

Letters to Congress

Letters were sent to over 70% of Congress during this quarter, this includes 89% of the Senate. Members of the extended delegate alone have sent over 200 letters, the broad majority of these

as constituents to their Congress member. We have targeted virtually 100% of the members from the Natural Resource Committee from various angles.

As part of the effort for *La Toma de Acción en el Congreso*, we surveyed over 300 Congressional Offices. Lastly, we also commenced a beta version effort to digitize talking points and sample letters for constituents. Sample letters can be seen in the Appendix.

Communications, Media and Messaging (Social Media, Other Media, Newsletter)

Effective communications, media and messaging are the cornerstone to enhancing the bandwidth of the effort. It is clear that there is plenty of obstacles present in local media in order to amplify the actions that are being taken. With that in mind, there are several ways to leverage our situation based on the understanding that the majority of the People in Puerto Rico and the majority of those in the states want equality and statehood for the Island.

Messaging and Op-Eds: The constant efforts with our extended delegation to discuss, distribute and polish messaging is an on-going effort. At this point, we have been able to isolate the critical messages for media, social media and engagement with leadership. A few one-pagers developed by the delegation and by PRFAA.

Direct engagement with local media: our efforts have produced several media stories. In addition, we have participated in several media programs to outline the efforts of the delegation. Some of these include:

- 1/13 Notiuno “Sin Ataduras”
- 2/28 Al Día (Mega TV) with Leo Diaz, 2 hour program detailing the pro-statehood efforts of the delegation
- 2/28 La Mirilla con Davila Colon
- 3/1 Por La Goma

- 3/2 Wapa Radio
- 3/2 Amor 90.9
- 3/4 Notiuno “Sin Ataduras”: Detailed discussion of novel consensus proposal.
- 3/7 Acción 97.9 con Alan McAbee
- 3/21 A Plena Vista

Social media: Social media becomes a powerful tool in lieu of local media availability and opportunities. First, there are several online forums that were employed to discuss our work as delegates.

- Lcda. Roxanna Soto Aguilu
- 3/20 Puerto Rico Voto: Si (<https://fb.watch/a9uynKQXqC/>)



We have also embarked on several workshop and training sessions for extended delegates that want to engage on social media.

Of important note, we have also enabled a Facebook page for the work performed by our office. This portal has over 120,000 followers (<https://www.facebook.com/RosselloCongress>). Combining this effort with our other social media platforms, we have an audience of over 650,000 people. Special thanks to delegate Rosa Velez for her support with social media platforms.

Newsletter: In order to inform constituents of the progress done by the delegation, several members of our team produced the first newsletter that was distributed extensively in November 2021. Our gratitude to Maria Rivadulla, Beatriz Areizaga and Maver Rivas whom spearheaded

this effort and made it a reality. In this quarter, we were able to produce two newsletters for our constituents. They can be found in the Appendix of this report.

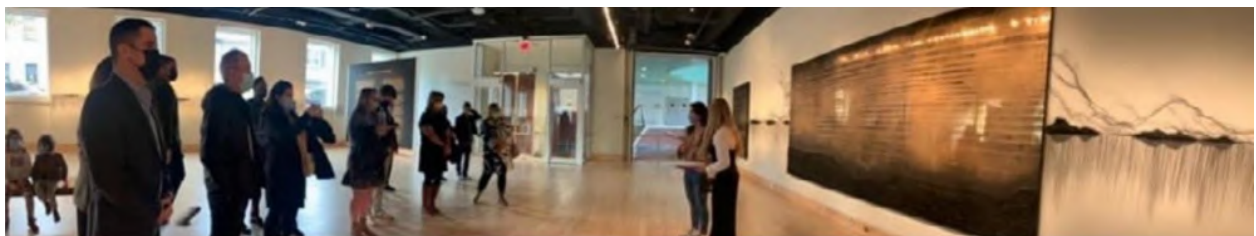
National media efforts: One important area being worked on by the extended delegation is the penetration and participation on regional, state and national media outlets. This is still a work in progress.

Constituents one-on-ones

Although we have had plenty of group interactions with constituents, one-on-one conversations are available. We have had **414** one-on-one meetings with constituents. The vast majority of these have been virtual. Solicitations were made directly through the delegates.us portal, my email or in person.

Preparations for Equality Summit

As with “La Toma de Acción”, planification and preparation for the Equality Summit is a several month endeavor. We have commenced identification of hotels, arena and participants. In our meeting with the Governor and PRFAA, we discussed the possibility of collaborating for this event. We expect to announce details in April 2022.



Forum presentation on Colonialism in Art by Delegate Beatriz Areizaga

Coalition building: Rallying Support from Organizations

As part of our mission and objectives, we seek to reach out to a variety of organizations that have influence in Congress, and have them champion the cause of equality and statehood for Puerto Rico. As with the congressional meetings several of these are currently open-ended discussions.

As of March 26th, our office has engaged with 21 organizations. There have been follow up discussions with most of them.

Legal Path

In addition to the political and policy path, the legal avenue presents an opportunity to highlight the inherent limitations and inequalities present in the colonial territory. Previously, we focused on the United States of America v. Jose Luis Vaello-Madero case. In here, we submitted an amicus brief (as a delegation) and collaborated with other groups in creating traction for this effort. The resulting pressure by all groups provoked congressional leadership to include SSI for Puerto Rico in their Build Back Better bill (Ref: <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-budget/build-back-better-permanently-extends-economic-security-to-puerto-rico-and>). We continue to await the Supreme Court of the United States decision on the matter, and follow up diligently on the matter in Congress (see Congressional Effort sections). Additionally, last quarter, we submitted a complaint to the United States Commission on Civil Rights (see Appendix for the Complaint). Although it was a group effort by delegates from 12 states, we want to express our gratitude to Delegate Roxana Soto Aguilu for her comments and insights on this issue.

Path forward

So far, our office has laid the foundation for the objectives that will drive our mission and vision. It is important to have a high-level sense of the expectations moving forward. We have divided this into short, mid and long-term goals.

Short-term: Bracing for the mid-terms (3-6 months)

The short-term goals are centered around enhancing the probability that the Natural Resources Committee votes on the two bills and/or a consensus bill. In the former case, we have to showcase what is evidently the common view in Congress, namely that HR.2070 is an unconstitutional and incongruent bill that attempts to sidestep the will of the People. Follow up meetings between constituents and members of the NRC will be critical to this objective. In addition, making Chairman Grijalva uphold his word and take this to a vote.

We expect a marked increase in Delegate Takeover events over the next few months, leading up to the design and execution of the Equality Summit in the Summer of 2022. In addition, we are expanding our in-person workshops and events, with events positioned for New York, New Jersey, Florida, California, Nevada, Arizona amongst others.

By the end of this quarter we expect to have all 50 states with Delegate representation and at least 15 states with functioning and organized local structures. These will spearhead the efforts for the mid term elections. In addition, we will be observing the possible primary races to examine and support champions of equality.

Mid-term: Causing a measurable impact (1-2 years)

Congressional elections will be a critical event as well as progress of HR.1522. Therefore, mid-term objectives will focus on establishing tangible results. On the first front, it is important to be an active player in the congressional mid-term elections. Supporting statehood champions needs to be a focus. The growth of the extended delegation and its networks will allow us to determine

where we can play a significant role in sustaining or changing congressional seats for the benefit of equality. A summer 2023 assessment and symposium is warranted to be as effective as possible.

Although we don't know what the fate of HR.1522 will be at this juncture, we need to assume that it is still a relevant topic of discussion and make sure it is an advocacy cause worth congressional consideration. As more people participate in support, it will become increasingly harder for Congress to side step or ignore efforts to give Puerto Rico a democratic, constitutional and binding choice for statehood.

Long-term: Equality and National Puerto Rican Network (3-6 years)

Further away in time, specifics are less clear. However, following suite with the short and mid-term objectives, it is critical that we have lofty aspirations. First, the having a self-sustaining national network that supports equality and statehood for Puerto Rico. This is a critical effort that is primed by the delegation, but whose legacy should prevail thereafter. Secondly, at this juncture, if we have not done so yet, we must have embarked on a path to statehood, supported by congress and The President of the United States.

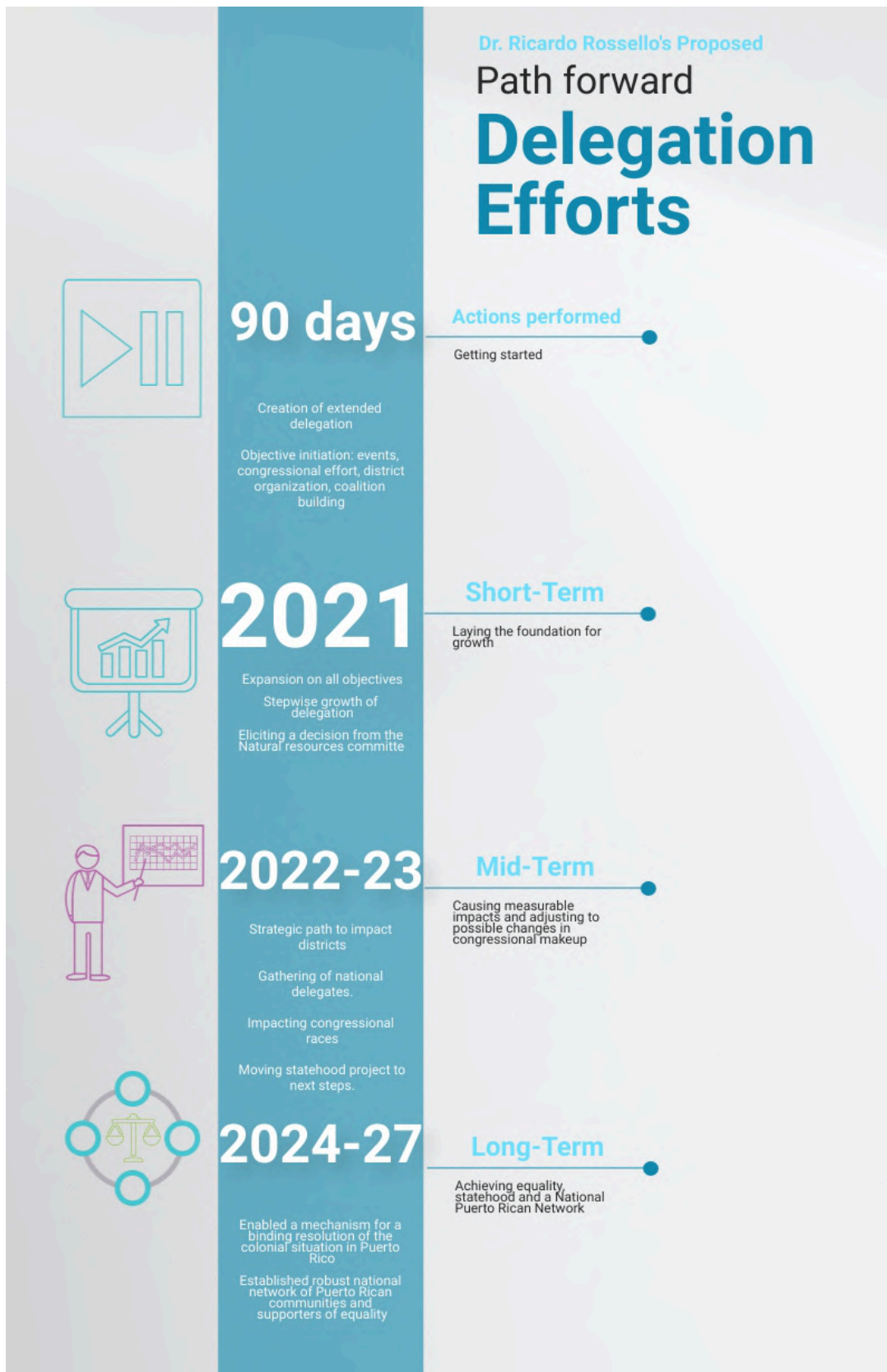


Figure 8 :Timeline representation of short, mid and long-term objectives.

Expenses

Our office has declined salary and reimbursement of expenses. We have also shouldered the costs of administrative, clerical, travel and programming efforts. Below is a summary.

Income/ Salary: \$ 0.00

Reimbursements: \$0.00

Website costs: The delegate shoulders the cost

Stationary and business cards: The delegate shoulders the cost

Office: The delegate shoulders the cost

Travel: The delegate shoulders the cost

Pins: The delegate shoulders the cost

Identification Cards: The delegate shoulders the cost

Mailing costs: The delegate shoulders the cost

Room reservations for events: The delegate shoulders the cost

Administrative and clerical costs: Performed by the delegate; the delegate shoulders the cost

Council for Amicus Brief and complaint: Pro-bono

TOTAL COST TO THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO: \$0.00

Appendix

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To provide for _____ the admission of the _____ State of Puerto Rico into the Union, and in the event that such action is not endorsed by a majority vote, to call a status convention through which the people would exercise their natural right to self-determination, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January _____, 2022

[sponsors]

_____, introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

A BILL

To provide for the admission of the State of Puerto Rico into the Union, and in the event that such action is not endorsed by a majority vote, to call a status convention through which the people would exercise their natural right to self-determination, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the United States of America in Congress*
3 *assembled,*

4 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

5 *This Act may be cited as the “Puerto Rico Statehood and*
1 *Self-Determination Act of 2022”.*

2 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

3 The Congress finds the following:

4 (1) In 1898, the United States defeated the
5 Spanish Kingdom in the Spanish-American War
6 and acquired by conquest Puerto Rico, Guam, and
7 the Philippines pursuant to the Treaty of Paris (30
8 Stat. 1754), signed on December 10, 1898.

9 (2) Puerto Rico is governed by the United
10 States under laws enacted by Congress in the
11 exercise of its power to make rules and regulations
12 governing territory belonging to the United States,
13 pursuant to article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the
14 Constitution.

15 (3) In 1900, Congress established a civilian
16 government on the island through the Foraker Act.
17 Among other points, that Act established an “execu-
18 tive council” consisting of various department heads
19 and a presidentially appointed civilian governor.

20 (4) The Foraker Act also established the Resi-
21 dent Commissioner position to represent island in-
22 terests in Congress. These duties came to include
23 nonvoting service in the House of Representatives.

24 (5) For reasons of precedent primarily related
25 to the Philippines also ceded by Spain after the
1 Spanish-American War, substantially the same ma-
2 jority in the United States Supreme Court that es-
3 tablished the “separate but equal” doctrine in *Plessy*
4 *v. Ferguson* determined in the 1901 *Downes v. Bid-*
5 *well* decision that Puerto Rico was an unincorpo-
6 rated territory of the United States, a colonial rela-
7 tionship and status of possession that continues today.
8 Justice White, in concurrence, opined that Congress has
9 discretion to decide whether and when to incorporate a
10 territory into the United States.

11 (6) After agreeing to independence for the Phil-
12 ippines, also acquired through the Spanish-American
13 War, on March 2, 1917, Congress granted statutory
14 United States citizenship to the residents of Puerto
15 Rico. Such action has historically led to incorpora-
16 tion and eventual statehood but was denied to Puer-
17 to Rico due to anomalies emanating from the 1901
18 *Downes* ruling and its progeny, even as fellow Amer-

19 icans in Hawaii and Alaska attained statehood.

20 (7) Congress recognized Puerto Rico's authority
21 over matters of internal governance in 1950 with the
22 passage of the Puerto Rico Federal Relations Act of
23 1950 (Public Law 81-600), providing for a constitu-
24 tional government for the island which was adopted
25 by Congress as a compact for the people of Puerto
1 Rico and the subsequent ratification of the island's
2 constitution in July 1952.

3 (8) Puerto Rico has a territorial constitution
4 that is republican in form and compatible with the
5 United States Constitution as well as the principles
6 of the Declaration of Independence, and that is
7 equivalent to a State constitution, having been demo-
8 cratically ratified by the United States citizens of the
9 territory on November 4, 1952, and subsequently
10 approved by the Congress of the United States
11 through Public Law 82-447.

12 (9) On November 18, 1953, the United Nations
13 recognized Puerto Rico as a self-governing political
14 entity under the United Nations General Assembly
15 Resolution 748.

16 (10) The political status of Puerto Rico is of sig-
17 nificant interest to communities both on and off the

18 island, including diaspora groups that continue hav-
19 ing strong cultural ties and socioeconomic ties to
20 Puerto Rico.

21 (11) Thirty-two territories previously have pe-
22 titioned Congress for statehood based on democrat-
23 ically expressed consent of the governed, and each
24 was duly admitted as a State of the Union pursuant
25 to article IV, section 3, clause 1 of the United States
1 Constitution, with equal rights and responsibilities
2 of national and State citizenship under the United
3 States Constitution.

4 (12) Puerto Ricans have contributed greatly to
5 the nation and its culture and distinguished them-
6 selves in every field of endeavor. However, the denial
7 of equal voting representation and equal treatment
8 by the Federal Government stands in stark contrast
9 to their contributions.

10 (13) Since becoming a United States territory,
11 more than 235,000 American citizens of Puerto
12 Rican heritage have served in the United States
13 military.

14 (14) Thousands of United States military service
15 members of Puerto Rican heritage have received nu-
16 merous medals, distinctions, and commendations of

17 every degree, including for valorous military service
18 in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

19 (15) Nine United States military service mem-
20 bers from Puerto Rico have been awarded the Medal
21 of Honor, and many have been awarded the Distin-
22 guished Service Cross or the Navy Cross.

23 (16) The 65th Infantry Regiment in Puerto
24 Rico (known as the “Borinqueneers”) was awarded
25 the Congressional Gold Medal (Public Law 113–
1 120) for its contributions and sacrifice in the armed
2 conflicts of the United States, including World War I,
3 World War II, and the Korean War.

4 (17) To further recognize and pay tribute to
5 the bravery of the Puerto Rican soldiers of the 65th
6 Infantry Regiment, Congress expressed support for
7 the designation of April 13 as National Borinqueneers
8 Day in the National Defense Authorization Act for
9 Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283).

10 (18) Unincorporated territory status means
11 that Federal laws can be applied to Puerto Rico and
12 its American citizens differently, on unequal and, at
13 times inequitable terms, compared not only to the
14 States and their residents, but also unlike territories
15 that are parts of the United States. This has limited

16 the development of Puerto Rico and hindered its
17 economy.

18 (19) Unincorporated territory status has re-
19 sulted in millions of residents leaving Puerto Rico to
20 secure equal rights of citizenship attainable only in
21 a State, and that enable Americans to seek greater
22 opportunities and a better quality of life in the
23 States. Approximately 65 percent of all people of
24 Puerto Rican origin now live in the States, with the
25 increasing rate of population loss in the territory
1 creating a severe strain on the local tax base and
2 workforce participation.

3 (20) Other than its unincorporated territory
4 status and its unequal treatment under some Fed-
5 eral laws, Puerto Rico is socially, economically, po-
6 litically, and legally integrated into the nation. Nu-
7 merous territories admitted as States did not have
8 as strong a record of self-determination favoring
9 statehood as the majority votes by American citizens
10 in Puerto Rico favoring admission to the Union.

11 (21) In November 2012, a majority of voters
12 rejected continuation of the current territory status,
13 and 61.2 percent of those expressing a choice on sta-
14 tus alternatives chose statehood.

15 (22) In June 2017, a vote was held to confirm
16 the aspirations of the people of Puerto Rico. As ad-
17 vised by the United States Department of Justice,
18 all available status options were included in the bal-
19 lot. Amid an opposition boycott, statehood received
20 97 percent of the votes casted, while independence
21 and the current status received less than 3 percent
22 of the vote.

23 (23) In November 2020, following Alaska and
24 Hawaii precedent, Puerto Rico voters were presented
25 with the question: “Should Puerto Rico be admitted
1 immediately into the Union as a State? Yes or No”.
2 A clear majority of 52.52 percent voted in the af-
3 firmative.

4 (24) In December 2020, the Puerto Rico legis-
5 lature, following the absolute majority victory ob-
6 tained by statehood in the plebiscite, approved a
7 Joint Resolution petitioning, on behalf of the People
8 of Puerto Rico, that Congress and the President of
9 the United States admit Puerto Rico into the Union
10 as a State and appointed official representatives to
11 manage the transition to statehood.

12 (25) No large and populous United States terri-
13 tory inhabited by American citizens that has peti-

14 tioned for statehood has been denied admission into
15 the Union.

16 (26) The United States has a legal duty to com-
17 ply with Article 1 of the International Covenant on
18 Civil and Political Rights, which establishes that all
19 peoples have the right to self-determination and “by
20 virtue of that right they freely determine their polit-
21 ical status and freely pursue their economic, social
22 and cultural development”.

23 **SEC. 3. ADMISSION.**

24 Subject to the provisions of this Act, and upon
25 issuance of the proclamation required by section 7(c),
1 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is hereby declared
2 to be a State of the United States of America, and as
3 such shall be declared admitted into the Union on an
4 equal footing with the other States in all respects.

5 **SEC. 4. PHYSICAL TERRITORY.**

6 The State of Puerto Rico shall consist of all the
7 islands, together with their appurtenant reefs, sea-
8 floor, and territorial waters in the seaward bound-
9 ary, presently under the jurisdiction of the territory of
10 Puerto Rico.

11 **SEC. 5. CONSTITUTION.**

12 The constitution of the State of Puerto Rico shall

13 always be republican in form and shall not be re-
14 pugniant to the Constitution of the United States and
15 the principles of the Declaration of Independence.
16 The constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto
17 Rico, as approved by Public Law 82-447 and subse-
18 quently amended, is hereby found to be republican in
19 form and in conformity with the Constitution of the
20 United States and the principles of the Declaration
21 of Independence, and is hereby accepted, ratified, and
22 confirmed as the constitution of said State.

23 **SEC. 6. CERTIFICATION BY PRESIDENT.**

24 Upon enactment of this Act, the President of
25 the United States shall certify such fact to the Gov-
1 ernor of Puerto Rico. Thereupon the Governor
2 shall, within 30 days after receipt of the official
3 notification of such approval, issue a proclamation
4 for the election of Senators and Representatives in
5 Congress.

6 **SEC. 7. RATIFICATION VOTE.**

7 (a) RATIFICATION OF PROPOSITION.—At an elec-
8 tion designated by proclamation of the Governor
9 of Puerto Rico, which may be either the primary or the
10 general election held pursuant to section 8, or a te-
11 rritorial general election, or a special election, there

12 shall be submitted to voters, for adoption or rejection,
13 a ballot with the following ratification question: “Shall
14 Puerto Rico immediately be admitted into the Union
15 as a State, in accordance with terms prescribed in
16 the Act of Congress approved (date of approval of
17 this Act): Yes _____ No _____.”.

18 (b) CERTIFIED RESULTS.—If the foregoing
19 proposition is adopted by a majority of the votes
20 cast in the election conducted under subsection (a),
21 the President of the State Elections Commission of
22 Puerto Rico shall certify the results of the election
23 and shall transmit the certified results of the elec-
24 tion to the Governor. Not later than 10 days after
25 the date of certification, the Governor shall declare
1 the results of the election and transmit the certified
2 results of the submission to the President of the
3 United States, the President pro tempore of the
4 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Represent-
5 atives.

6 (c) PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION.—Upon receipt of
7 the Governor’s declaration pursuant to subsection (b),
8 the President of the United States shall issue a proc-
9 lamation declaring certified the results of the sub-
10 mission and the date Puerto Rico is admitted as a

11 State of the Union on an equal footing with all other
12 States, which date must follow the certification of
13 results of the general elections required by section 6
14 of this Act, but not later than 12 months from the
15 date on which the aforementioned submission results
16 were certified in order to facilitate a transition pro-
17 cess. Upon issuance of the proclamation by the
18 President, Puerto Rico shall be deemed admitted into
19 the Union as a State.

20 (d) ELIMINATION OF THE OVERSIGHT BOARD.— Followi
21 ng admission as a State, the Oversight Board established
22 under PROMESA shall be immediately dissolved and all
23 powers formerly exercised by such entity under Titles
24 III and VI of PROMESA shall be exercised by the Gover
25 nor of Puerto Rico.

26 (e) PUERTO RICO STATUS CONVENTION IF PROPOSI-
27 TION IS NOT ADOPTED.—If the foregoing proposition is
28 not adopted by a majority of votes cast in the election
29 conducted under subsection (a), the provisions of
30 sections 11 through 15 will take effect.

1 **SEC. 8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

2 The proclamation by the Governor in section 6 shall
3 designate and announce the dates and other require-

4 ments for primary and general elections under applica-
5 ble Federal and local law for representation in the
6 Senate and the House of Representatives in accord-
7 ance with the following:

8 (1) In the first election of Senators, the two
9 senatorial offices shall be separately identified and
10 designated, and no person may be a candidate for
11 both offices. Nothing in this section shall impair the
12 privilege of the Senate to determine the class and
13 term to which each of the Senators-elect shall be
14 assigned.

15 (2) In the first election of Representatives
16 following admission, and subsequent elections until
17 the next Census-based reapportionment cycle,
18 Puerto Rico shall be entitled to the same number of
19 Representatives as the State whose most recent Cen-
20 sus population was closest to, but less than, that
21 of Puerto Rico, and such Representatives shall be
22 in addition to the membership of the House
23 of Representatives as now prescribed by law: *Pro-*
24 *vided*, that any such increase in the membership shall
25 not operate to either increase or decrease the per-
1 manent membership of the House of Representatives
2 as prescribed in the Act of August 8, 1911 (37 Stat.

3 13), nor shall such temporary increase affect the basis
4 of apportionment established by the Act of November
5 15, 1941 (55 Stat. 761; 2 U.S.C. 2a), for the Eighty-
6 third Congress and each Congress thereafter, unless
7 Congress acts to increase the total number of mem-
8 bers of the House of Representatives. Thereafter,
9 the State of Puerto Rico shall be entitled to such
10 number of Representatives as provided for by appli-
11 cable law based on the next reapportionment. The
12 apportionment of congressional districts for the first
13 election and subsequent election of Representatives
14 shall be conducted as provided for by the Constitu-
15 tion and laws of Puerto Rico.

16 (3) The President of the State Elections Co-
17 mission of Puerto Rico shall certify the results of
18 such primary and general elections to the Governor.
19 Within 10 days of the date of each certification, the
20 Governor shall declare the results of the primary
21 and general elections, and transmit the results of
22 each election to the President of the United States,
23 the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

1 **SEC. 9. CONTINUITY OF LAWS, GOVERNMENT, AND**

2 **OBLIGATIONS.**

3 Upon the admission of the State of Puerto Rico
4 into the Union, the following shall apply:

5 (1) CONTINUITY OF LAWS. —All laws of the United
6 States and laws of Puerto Rico not in conflict with
7 this Act shall continue in full force and effect follow-
8 ing the date of admission of Puerto Rico as a State
9 of the Union.

10 (2) CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT. —The individ-
11 uals holding legislative, executive, and judicial offices
12 of Puerto Rico shall continue to discharge the duties
13 of their respective offices when Puerto Rico becomes
14 a State of the Union.

15 (3) CONTINUITY OF OBLIGATIONS. —All contracts,
16 obligations, liabilities, debts, and claims of the Com-
17 monwealth of Puerto Rico and its instrumentalities
18 shall continue in full force and effect as the con-
19 tracts, obligations, liabilities, debts, and claims of the
20 State of Puerto Rico and its instrumentalities.

21 (4) TITLE TO PROPERTY. —The State of Puerto
22 Rico and its political subdivisions, as the case may
23 be, shall have and retain title to all lands and other
24 properties, real and personal, over which the terri-
25 tory and its subdivisions presently hold title. The

1 United States shall retain title to all property, real
2 and personal, to which it presently has title, including
3 public lands.

4 **SEC. 10. REPEALS.**

5 All Federal and territorial laws, rules, and regula-
6 tions, or parts of Federal and territorial laws, rules,
7 and regulations, applicable to Puerto Rico that are
8 incompatible with the political and legal status of
9 statehood under the Constitution and the provisions
10 of this Act are repealed and terminated as of the
date

11 of statehood admission proclaimed by the President
12 under section 7(c) of this Act. Except for those parts
13 that are not in conflict with this Act and the condition
14 of statehood, the following shall be deemed repealed
15 upon the effective date of the admission of Puerto
16 Rico as a State:

17 (1) The Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act of
18 1950 (Public Law 81–600).

19 (2) The Act of July 3, 1950 (48 U.S.C. 731b–
20 731e).

21 (3) The Act of March 2, 1917 (Public Law 64–
22 368).

23 (4) The Act of April 12, 1900 (Public Law 56–

24 191).

1 **SEC. 11. PUERTO RICO STATUS CONVENTION.**

2 If the proposition that Puerto Rico immediately be
3 admitted into the Union as a State is not adopted by a
4 majority of the votes cast in the election conducted under
5 section 7(a), then the provisions of this section through
6 Section 15 will take effect.

7 (a) IN GENERAL. — The legislature of Puerto Rico
8 has the inherent authority to call a status convention
9 through an Act or Concurrent Resolution, constituted
10 by a number of delegates to be determined in accord-
11 ance with legislation approved by the Government of
12 Puerto Rico, for the purpose of proposing to the peo-
13 ple of Puerto Rico self-determination options. A sta-
14 tus convention called by the legislature of Puerto Rico
15 shall—

16 (1) be a semipermanent body that is dissolved
17 only when the United States ratifies the self-deter-
18 mination option presented to Congress by the status
19 convention as selected by the people of Puerto Rico
20 in the referendum under section 13; and

21 (2) consist of delegates elected by the voters of
22 Puerto Rico in an election conducted according to

23 the enabling legislation for the status convention as
24 approved by the legislature of Puerto Rico.

1 (b) PUBLIC FINANCING OF DELEGATE ELECTIONS. —

2 (1) FUND ESTABLISHED. — There is hereby es-
3 tablished in the Treasury of the United States a
4 fund to be known as the “Puerto Rico Status Con-
5 vention Public Matching Fund” which shall be ad-
6 ministered by the Puerto Rico State Commission on
7 Elections and subject to oversight by the Federal
8 Election Commission. To the extent amounts are
9 made available in the fund for this purpose, the
10 Puerto Rico State Commission on Elections shall
11 distribute amounts in the fund such that \$4 is dis-
12 tributed to each candidate for delegate for every \$1
13 that the candidate receives as a campaign contribu-
14 tion that is—

15 (A) less than \$100; and

16 (B) donated by a resident of Puerto Rico.

17 (2) REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING. —To be eligible
18 to receive funds under this subsection, a candidate
19 for delegate shall—

20 (A) agree to increased financial oversight
21 from the Federal Election Commission;

22 (B) limit campaign spending to not more
23 than \$25,000; and

24 (C) demonstrate a basic level of support
25 from residents of Puerto Rico by receiving from resi-
1 dents of Puerto Rico not fewer than 50 donations
2 from 50 individuals of not more than \$50.

3 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE AMOUNTS. — Not more than
4 10 percent of amounts made available under para-
5 graph (4) may be used for administrative costs of the
6 Federal Election Commission.

7 (4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. —
8 There is authorized to be appropriated and deposited
9 into the Puerto Rico Status Convention Public Match-
10 ing Fund to carry out this section \$5,500,000.

11 (c) DELEGATES.—Delegates elected under subsec-
12 tion (a)(2), in consultation with the Commission,
13 shall—

14 (1) debate and draft definitions on self-deter-
15 mination options for Puerto Rico, which shall be
16 outside the Territorial Clause of the United States
17 Constitution;

18 (2) draft a least one accompanying transition
19 plan for each self-determination option; and

20 (3) select and present to the people of Puerto

21 Rico the self-determination options that will be in-
22 cluded in the referendum under section 13.

23 **SEC. 12. CONGRESSIONAL BILATERAL NEGOTIATING**

24 **COMMISSION.**

25 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Con-
1 gressional Bilateral Negotiating Commission (herein-
2 after referred to as the “Commission”) to provide
3 advice and consultation to delegates elected under sec-
4 tion 11(a)(2).

5 (b) COMPOSITION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Com-
7 mission shall include—

8 (A) the chairs of the Committee on Nat-
9 ural Resources of the House of Representatives and
10 the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of
11 the Senate;

12 (B) the ranking members of the Com-
13 mittee on Natural Resources of the House of
14 Representatives and the Committee on Energy and
15 Natural Resources of the Senate;

16 (C) one member selected by the majority
17 leader of the House of Representatives;

18 (D) one member selected by the minority
19 leader of the House of Representatives;

20 (E) one member selected by the majority
21 leader of the Senate;

22 (F) one member selected by the minority
23 leader of the Senate;

24 (G) the Resident Commissioner of Puerto
25 Rico;

1 (H) with the consent of the Speaker of the
2 House of Representatives and majority leader
3 of the Senate, a member from the Department
4 of Justice; and

5 (I) with the consent of the Speaker of the
6 House of Representatives and majority leader
7 of the Senate, a member from the Department
8 of the Interior.

9 (2) REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS. —
10 Members selected under subparagraphs (C) through
11 (F) of paragraph (1) shall represent a State or dis-
12 trict in a State that, as determined by the most re-
13 cently publicly available data from the Bureau of the
14 Census, represents one of the 10 States with the
15 largest population of people who identified on the
16 most recent Census as Puerto Rican.

17 (c) DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS.—The Commission—

18 (1) shall meet periodically with the delegates in

19 Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, at the re-
20 quest of a majority of the delegates, with each meet-
21 ing required to include at least one delegate from
22 each of the self-determination options;

23 (2) shall have the authority to—

24 (A) study;

25 (B) make findings;

1 (C) develop recommendations regarding self-
2 determination options on constitutional issues and
3 policies related to—

4 (i) culture;

5 (ii) language;

6 (iii) judicial and public education sys-
7 tems;

8 (iv) taxes; and

9 (v) United States citizenship; and

10 (D) provide technical assistance and con-
11 stitutional advice to the delegates during the
12 Puerto Rico status convention;

13 (3) may hold public hearings in connection with
14 any aspects of the convention at the request of the
15 delegates or on its own; and

16 (4) may receive testimony.

17 (d) REPORTS.—The Commission shall—

18 (1) not less than quarterly, provide status re-
19 ports, findings, and studies to the House of Rep-
20 resentatives and the Senate;

21 (2) not less than once every 12 months, submit a
22 status report to the House of Representatives and
23 the Senate; and

24 (3) make reports submitted under paragraph
25 (2) available to the general public in widely acces-

1 sible formats in English and Spanish on the same
2 day that such reports are submitted under para-
3 graph (2).

4

5 **SEC. 13. PUERTO RICO STATUS REFERENDUM; EDUCATION CAMP-**
6 **AIGN.**

7 (a) STRUCTURE AND PROCESS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL. — A referendum vote by the people
9 of Puerto Rico—

10 (A) may be conducted in a ranked-choice voting
11 format in which voters rank choices by preference on
12 their ballots without a limit on the number of choices
13 ranked;

14 (B) may consist of choices each composed
15 of a self-determination definition and accom-
16 panying transition plan as presented by the del-

17 delegates under section 11; and

18 (C) may include more than one choice with
19 the same self-determination definition, but a
20 distinct accompanying transition plan as pre-
21 sented by the delegates under section 11.

22 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. —

23 There is authorized to be appropriated the Puerto
24 Rico State Commission on Elections, \$2,500,000 to
25 carry out a referendum vote under this subsection.

1 (b) EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Delegates shall carry out an
3 educational campaign through traditional paid media
4 related to the referendum under subsection (a).

5 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

6 There is authorized to be appropriated the Puerto
7 Rico State Commission on Elections, \$5,000,000 to
8 carry out an educational campaign under this sub-
9 section. The Federal Election Commission shall en-
10 sure that funds made available under this paragraph
11 are divided equally among each self-determination
12 option represented on the referendum held under
13 this Act.

14 (3) QUARTERLY CAMPAIGN REPORTS.—Each

15 delegates shall submit quarterly campaign reports of
16 the educational campaigns to the Federal Election
17 Commission.

18 **SEC. 14. CONGRESSIONAL DELIBERATION AND ENACTING**
19 **RESOLUTION.**

20 If the referendum under Section 13 of this Act is approved
21 by the people of Puerto Rico, Congress shall approve a joint
22 resolution to ratify the preferred self-determination option
23 approved in that referendum vote. If the Congress ad-
24 journs sine die before acting on the self-determination op-
25 tion, the Puerto Rico status convention created under this
1 Act may meet again and send or resend a self-determina-
2 tion option to the following Congress.

3 **SEC. 15. JOINT RESOLUTION FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 14**

4 (a) DEFINITION.— For purposes of Section 14, the term
5 “joint resolution” means a joint resolution that is intro-
6 duced within the 10-day period beginning on the date
7 when the results of the referendum are certified by
8 Puerto Rico’s Commission on Elections.

9 (b) REFERRAL.—A resolution described in subsection
10 (a) that is introduced in the House of Representatives
11 shall be referred to the Committee on Natural Resources
12 and in the Senate shall be referred to the Committee on
13 Energy and Natural Resources.

14 (c) DISCHARGE.—If the committee to which a resolu-
15 tion described in subsection (a) is referred has not re-
16 ported such resolution (or an identical resolution) by the
17 end of the day period beginning on the day of certification
18 of referendum results shall be, at the end of such period,
19 discharged from further consideration of such resolution,
20 and such resolution shall be placed on the appropriate
21 calendar of the Body involved.

22 (d) CONSIDERATION.—(1) On or after the third day
23 after the date on which the committee to which such a
24 resolution is referred has reported, or has been discharged

25

1 after the date on which the committee to which such a
2 resolution is referred has reported, or has been discharged
3 (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of, such
4 a resolution, it is in order (even though a previous motion
5 to the same effect has been disagreed to) for any Member
6 of the respective body to move to proceed to the consider-
7 ation of the resolution. A Member may make the motion
8 only on the day after the calendar day on which the Mem-
9 ber announces to the body concerned the Member's inten-
10 tion to make the motion, except that, in the case of the
11 House of Representatives, the motion may be made with-
12 out such prior announcement if the motion is made by

13 direction of the committee to which the resolution was re-
14 ferred. All points of order against the resolution (and
15 against consideration of the resolution) are waived. The
16 motion is highly privileged in the House of Representatives
17 and is privileged in the Senate and is not debatable. The
18 motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to
19 postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration
20 of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by
21 which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not
22 be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration
23 of the resolution is agreed to, the respective body shall
24 immediately proceed to consideration of the joint resolu-
25 tion without intervening motion, order, or other business,
1 and the resolution shall remain the unfinished business of
2 the respective body until disposed of.

3 (2) Debate on the resolution, and on all debatable
4 motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be lim-
5 ited to not more than 2 hours, which shall be divided
6 equally between those favoring and those opposing the
7 resolution. An amendment to the resolution is not in order.
8 A motion further to limit debate is in order and not debat-
9 able. A motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the
10 consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit
11 the resolution is not in order. A motion to reconsider the

12 vote by which the resolution is agreed to or disagreed to
13 is not in order.

14 (3) Immediately following the conclusion of the de-
15 bate on a resolution described in subsection (a) and a sin-
16 gles quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if re-
17 quested in accordance with the rules of the appropriate
18 body, the vote on final passage of the resolution shall
19 occur.

20 (4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating
21 to the application of the rules of the Senate or the House
22 of Representatives, as the case may be, to the procedure
23 relating to a resolution described in subsection (a) shall
24 be decided without debate.

1 (e) CONSIDERATION BY OTHER BODY.—If, before
2 the passage by one body of a resolution of that body de-
3 scribed in subsection (a), that body receives from the other
4 body a resolution described in subsection (a), then the fol-
5 lowing procedures shall apply:

6 (1) The resolution of the other body shall not
7 be referred to a committee and may not be consid-
8 ered in the body receiving it except in the case of
9 final passage as provided in subparagraph (B).

10 (2) With respect to a resolution described in

11 subsection (a) of the body receiving the resolution—

12 (A) the procedure in that body shall be the
13 same as if no resolution had been received from the
14 other body; but

15 (B) the vote on final passage shall be on
16 the resolution of the other body.

17 **SEC. 16. SEVERABILITY.**

18 If any provision of this Act, or any section, sub-
19 section, sentence, clause, phrase, or individual word, or the
20 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held
21 invalid by a court of jurisdiction, the validity of the re-
22 mainder of the Act and of the application of any such pro-
23 vision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or in-
24 dividual word to other persons and circumstances shall not
25 be affected thereby.

Sample letter to Congress members for La Toma de Acción en el Congreso



February 21, 2022

Senator Bennet
Via Email

Dear Senator Bennet:

A group of residents from 12 states and Puerto Rico will be participating in the Statehood Advocacy Drive (*Toma de Acción en el Congreso*), on February 28th and March 1st. This advocacy team is being led by elected members of the Congressional Delegation (Shadow) for Puerto Rico and are part of a national grassroots network of extended delegates who work voluntarily from their home states to bring about a binding resolution to the political status issue of Puerto Rico.

Because this matter is paramount to the future of our people and to America's standing as the world's beacon of liberty and democracy, our delegation is raising awareness about statehood for Puerto Rico by visiting elected officials and recruiting additional advocacy delegates in districts throughout the nation. We will also be registering citizens in those districts throughout our visits. Our end goal is to achieve a binding mechanism that offers the American citizens of our island the freedom to choose their political future.

We kindly request that you or your staff give audience to these individuals on either of the dates previously stated, meeting with them virtually or in-person. Our meetings are attended by only three persons and should take no more than 30 minutes. Please respond to this request via email at delegates.us@gmail.com, or by calling 717-990-1437.

On behalf of the People of Puerto Rico – the 3.2 million American citizens on the island and the 5.3 million residing stateside in districts like yours – we thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Dr. Maria Melendez Altieri
U.S. House of Representatives (shadow)

Roberto Lefranc Fortuño
U.S. House of Representatives (shadow)

Melinda Romero Donnelly
U.S. Senate (shadow)

Dr. Ricardo Rossello Nevares
U.S. House of Representatives (shadow)

Email sent by the office of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, in response to La Toma de Acción en el Congreso

From: Martinez, Jonathan
<Jonathan.Martinez@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 11:55 AM
To: Democratic LDs <DemocraticLD's@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Beca-Barragan, Renata <Renata.Beca-Barragan@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Setting the Record Straight on Puerto Rico

Hi LDs:

Several offices have reached out to us after receiving a number of special interest emails noting the Jones Act's extension of U.S. Citizenship to Puerto Ricans in 1917. **Unfortunately, the same documents provide misleading claims of "representative" majority support for statehood in previous plebiscites.** Given these developments, Ms. Velázquez has asked that we provide resources to your bosses to address such claims arguing "unyielding" support for statehood in Puerto Rico.

H.R. 2070 is the only legitimate vehicle that allows Puerto Rican voters to freely decide their future. Ms. Velazquez is thankful that this **bipartisan and bicameral bill** considers the diverse viewpoints, including statehood, held by Puerto Rican voters. Ms. Velázquez reminds your boss to respect the autonomy of the Puerto Rican people notwithstanding the influence of special interests.

Our team is always available to you and your bosses to serve as a resource in navigating this century-old colonial injustice.

If you would like to add your boss to the bill that provides full and fair consideration of available status options, please reach out to myself or Renata.Beca-Barragan@mail.house.gov

Very respectfully,

Jon

Jonathan E. Martínez

Legislative Director

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez (NY-07)

2302 Rayburn House Office Building

Letter to the Executive Director and Governor, salary decline

Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares
Exgobernador de Puerto Rico

29 de junio de 2021

Lcda. Carmen Feliciano Márquez
Directora Ejecutiva
Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration
1100 17th St NW #701
Washington, DC 20036

Estimada licenciada Feliciano Márquez:

Notifico por este medio que, una vez sea certificado como Delegado Congresional, estaré declinando el salario asignado a dicha posición. Asimismo, me amparo en el Artículo III del reglamento, a fin de cumplir con las especificaciones de ley y con la opinión que emitió la Oficina de Ética Gubernamental de Puerto Rico en este respecto. Le adelanto mi decisión, a fin de que pueda hacer los arreglos presupuestarios pertinentes.

Como he expresado desde el momento que acepté la voluntad del pueblo que me eligió por nominación directa para esta posición, servir a Puerto Rico es un gran honor y privilegio. Mi remuneración por llevar acabo esta encomienda será cumplir a cabalidad con el mandato de luchar sin tregua por la igualdad de derechos ciudadanos y civiles que bien merecen todos los ciudadanos americanos puertorriqueños.

Agradezco su atención y espero pronto seguir trabajando mano a mano por un mejor futuro para nuestra Isla.

Atentamente,



Ricardo Rosselló

C: Hon. Pedro Pierluisi, Gobernador de Puerto Rico
Sra. Noelia García, Secretaria de la Gobernación

Colleague letters (sample)

I. Sample letter to supporter



September 2nd, 2021

Congresswoman [REDACTED]
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Leger,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you as the former Governor of Puerto Rico and current congressional delegate.

The first purpose of this letter is to introduce you to the notion that Puerto Rico recently elected a Congressional Delegation (shadow), much like Tennessee, Alaska, and 5 other territories did before they became states. Our delegation's mission will be to help shepherd the will of the People of Puerto Rico and have our territory be admitted as a state of our Great Nation. We will do so by organizing communities in congressional districts, as well as garnering support from other key stakeholders.

Secondly, I would like to thank you on behalf of the People of Puerto Rico for supporting equality and statehood. Co-sponsoring HR 1522 is a significant step forward in the true battle favoring democratic rights. I would appreciate meeting with your staff to discuss a strategic path to achieve the goals of this statehood bill. I will make myself available at your convenience, in person or virtually.

Resolving this unfinished business of American Democracy is central to the values of the Hispanic Caucus. The issue of Puerto Rican Statehood is at the core of the current social justice movements and the efforts against voting suppression. As you know, there are over 3 million US Citizens in Puerto Rico -mostly Latinos- that have been disenfranchised at the federal level. In the past decade, Puerto Ricans have gone to the ballot box at the local level in three occasions. In all three instances, statehood and equality have prevailed. However, little action has been taken by Congress. The time is now. Puerto Rico wants and is ready to add value to our Great Nation.

As member of the Puerto Rico delegation, I would love to engage and support Congresswoman Leger with this and other relevant initiatives. I am sure that the other members of our delegation would love to lend their support as well.

rossello@delegates.pr.gov



Sincerely,

Ricardo Rosselló Nevares
Former Governor of Puerto Rico
United States House Representative for Puerto Rico (Shadow)

Cc: [REDACTED]
Legislative Director

II. Letter to undecided



September 22, 2021

Senator [redacted]
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you as the former Governor of Puerto Rico and current congressional delegate.

The first purpose of this letter is to introduce you to the notion that Puerto Rico recently elected a Congressional Delegation (shadow), much like Tennessee, Alaska, and 5 other territories did before they became states. Our delegation's mission will be to help shepherd the will of the People of Puerto Rico and have our territory be admitted as a state of our Great Nation. We will do so by organizing communities in congressional districts, as well as garnering support from other key stakeholders.

Secondly, I would like to encourage you to co-sponsor and/or support S.780, a bill that would give the People of Puerto Rico the CHOICE of becoming a state. The bill -similar to the one presented for Hawaii- provides for a yes or no vote on statehood, with a binding resolution. The alternative to this project, S.865, has severe constitutional problems, has no final binding resolution, and sidesteps the direct vote of the people of Puerto Rico. By supporting S.780 you don't have to be a statehood supporter, but rather a supporter of the CHOICE made by the American Citizens that live in Puerto Rico.

The issue of Puerto Rican Statehood is at the core of the current social justice movements and the efforts against voting suppression. As you know, there are over 3 million US Citizens in Puerto Rico -mostly Latinos- that have been disenfranchised at the federal level. In the past decade, Puerto Ricans have gone to the ballot box at the local level in three occasions. In all three instances, statehood and equality have prevailed. However, little action has been taken by Congress. The time is now. Puerto Rico wants and is ready to add value to our Great Nation.

As member of the Puerto Rico delegation, I would love to engage and support Senator Cantwell with this and other relevant initiatives. I am sure that the other members of our delegation would love to lend their support as well.

rossello@delegates.pr.gov



Sincerely,

Ricardo Rosselló Nevares
Former Governor of Puerto Rico
United States House Representative for Puerto Rico (Shadow)

Cc: [redacted]
Legislative Director

(P. de la C. 2605); 2020, ley 167

**Ley para crear la Delegación Congressional de Puerto Rico.
Ley Núm. 167 de 30 de diciembre de 2020**

Para establecer la “Ley para crear la Delegación Congressional de Puerto Rico”; a los fines de disponer las reglas para la celebración de una elección especial en la que se elegirá dos (2) delegados especiales al Senado de Estados Unidos y cuatro (4) delegados especiales a la Cámara de Representantes de Estados Unidos que representarán a Puerto Rico ante el Congreso para exigir que se respete el mandato electoral a favor de la Estadidad y que se proceda a admitir a Puerto Rico como un Estado de Estados Unidos de América; disponer las facultades y deberes de dichos delegados especiales; facultar a la Comisión Estatal de Elecciones, conforme a derecho; y para otros fines relacionados.

EXPOSICIÓN DE MOTIVOS

I. Tránsito Histórico

El pasado 3 de noviembre de 2020, el Pueblo de Puerto Rico mayoritariamente votó para que Puerto Rico sea admitido como un Estado de Estados Unidos de América. La voluntad del Pueblo debe respetarse y el Gobierno debe enfocar sus esfuerzos en hacer cumplir su mandato. Este mandato, ratifica lo que el Pueblo de Puerto Rico expresó en las urnas en los años 2012 y 2017. No hay excusas para oponerse a dicho mandato que fue avalado por una mayoría absoluta de los electores que ejercieron su derecho al voto. La mayoría del Pueblo avaló claramente la Estadidad en el plebiscito del 2020, por lo que no se puede argumentar el ataque infundado que algunos sectores le hicieron a la consulta del año 2012. Además, la participación en este plebiscito fue abrumadora, por lo que no se puede argumentar el ataque infundado de algunos sectores a la consulta del año 2017.

La historia moderna de Puerto Rico, particularmente durante los pasados 122 años, ha tenido una constante: la desigualdad de sus residentes en comparación con los ciudadanos que residen en los demás estados. La causa de esa desigualdad es el estatus territorial de la Isla. No debemos perpetuar la desigualdad. El pueblo en las pasadas consultas del 2012, 2017 y 2020 ha apoyado la visión de igualdad de derechos que

promueve el Partido Nuevo Progresista y nuestra administración tiene como política pública conseguir la igualdad para los 3.2 millones de ciudadanos americanos que residen en Puerto Rico.

La lucha por la igualdad no debe tener pausa. Las grandes luchas de derechos civiles, especialmente durante los pasados 100 años, no han tomado un descanso independientemente de las circunstancias históricas. Aunque la lucha de muchos grupos continúa en los estados y en muchos países, Puerto Rico tiene que cruzar el umbral de esa lucha y exigir el derecho al voto y la igualdad que solo garantiza la Estadidad. Ello, como reconocimiento de que queremos y exigimos gozar de todos los derechos y responsabilidades como ciudadanos americanos. De hecho, mientras más se tarde la lucha por la igualdad, mayor será la brecha política, social y económica entre los que viven en el territorio y los que están en el continente. Atrasar la igualdad equivale a alejarla.

II. El significado político de la Estadidad para Puerto Rico

En el aspecto político, como estado tendremos voz y voto en el Congreso con al menos cuatro representantes y dos senadores que defiendan con poder real, producto del sufragio universal de los electores puertorriqueños, los intereses de sus constituyentes ante el Gobierno Federal. Podremos votar por el presidente de Estados Unidos, lo que representa un gran atractivo político a nivel nacional: al tratarse del primer estado de mayoría poblacional hispana con amplia participación en ambos partidos nacionales. Con el poder del voto presidencial, podremos exigirles al presidente y a los candidatos a la presidencia de ambos partidos –como lo hacen todos los estados- que nos traten en igualdad de condiciones y que nos rindan cuentas. Con la Estadidad, aseguraremos la única fórmula de unión permanente con Estados Unidos. Así lo reconoce la Constitución pues le autoriza al Congreso disponer y hasta deshacerse de sus territorios al amparo de la cláusula territorial. En fin, el único estatus permanente e indisoluble dentro de Estados Unidos, según lo ha reconocido el Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos, es la Estadidad.

III. El significado de la Estadidad para nuestra ciudadanía americana

Con la Estadidad, tendremos una ciudadanía permanente e irrevocable. La ciudadanía americana para las futuras generaciones de puertorriqueños en nuestro archipiélago no está garantizada bajo el estatus actual colonial. Un Congreso no puede obligar a un Congreso futuro y un territorio puede ser separado de la Unión. Bajo nuestro estatus actual, nuestra ciudadanía es el resultado de la ley Jones de 1917, la cual puede ser derogada por el Congreso. Pero al convertirnos en un Estado, los ciudadanos americanos en Puerto Rico tendrán la protección de ser ciudadanos bajo la Enmienda

XIV de la constitución y, por lo tanto, participarán de todos los derechos, beneficios y obligaciones que la misma concede.

IV. El impacto social de la Estadidad

Con la Estadidad, Puerto Rico recibirá ayudas federales bien garantizada por la Constitución de Estados Unidos cuando Puerto Rico se convierta en un Estado y la ciudadanía de nuestros residentes estaría en igualdad de condiciones con los estados. Nuestros sectores más necesitados serán tratados en igualdad de condiciones en programas y servicios gubernamentales críticos como: la salud (en *Medicaid* y *Medicare*), la nutrición, las ayudas sociales, la vivienda, la infraestructura, beneficios para nuestros veteranos, retirados, y la seguridad pública. La estabilidad que alcanzaremos como estado incentivará la inversión y la creación de empleos en la Puerto Rico al eliminar la inestabilidad e incertidumbre que representa el estatus actual.

V. El impacto económico de la Estadidad

La estabilidad política que conlleva la unión permanente representa un ambiente de estabilidad de inversión. Así quedó demostrado por el súbito crecimiento económico que experimentaron Alaska y Hawái después de sus respectivas admisiones como estados. La distancia entre Hawái y la costa Oeste de Estados Unidos continentales es 2.5 veces más lejana (2,760 millas) que la que separa a Puerto Rico de la costa Este de Estados Unidos continentales (1,150 millas).

Aun así, por su belleza natural, clima y atractivos turísticos –características que comparte con Puerto Rico- y por la estabilidad que trajo consigo la Estadidad, el promedio de ingreso por hogar en Hawái ronda por los \$70,000 por año, el séptimo más alto en la Nación, mientras que en Puerto Rico es mucho menor que el del estado más pobre, Mississippi. Estudios recientes reflejan que aun cuando la economía nacional tiene proyecciones positivas de crecimiento, especialmente en su producto nacional bruto, la economía local tiene un pronóstico negativo. Aun luego de la pandemia del COVID-19, se ha proyectado un crecimiento económico a nivel nacional sin precedentes y la Isla –como territorio– tiene una proyección de continua contracción.

VI. Protegiendo Nuestra Cultura e Idioma

La Estadidad, lejos de relegar nuestro patrimonio cultural a un segundo plano, lo fortalecerá. Estados Unidos es el segundo país de mayor habla hispana en el mundo. Hay 50 millones de americanos que hablan español y que residen en Estados Unidos. En ningún país sudamericano, centro americano, ni en España, hay tantos

hispanoparlantes como en Estados Unidos. Sólo México tiene una población mayor. Aun así, a ningún estado se le ha requerido que establezca el inglés como su único idioma oficial. De hecho, la Décima Enmienda a la Constitución de Estados Unidos prohíbe tal acción. En la actualidad, varias jurisdicciones en Estados Unidos continentales reconocen otros idiomas como idiomas oficiales. Sin embargo, la referida enmienda protege el poder de los estados, no de los territorios. De hecho, ya como territorio, el Congreso requirió que el idioma de enseñanza en nuestro sistema de instrucción pública fuese el inglés y ello porque la cláusula territorial –la misma que impera hoy– se lo permite. Hoy, más puertorriqueños viven en los estados que en el archipiélago y ello no ha sido impedimento para que conserven nuestra cultura y costumbres.

De igual forma, nada detendrá nuestro folklore y nuestra puertorriqueñidad. Nuestras costumbres y tradiciones se mantendrán inalteradas con la admisión de Puerto Rico como un estado de la Unión. Dos ejemplos de lo anterior son Hawái y Alaska, estados muy particulares y que llevan muy a fondo sus tradiciones y costumbres milenarias: adquiridas en distintas identidades nacionales que van mucho más lejanas que las nuestras, por haber sido formadas antes del encuentro con las culturas europeas.

VII. Estadidad: Derribando Mitos

Por años, los detractores de la Estadidad han creado un mito sobre el proceso de la Estadidad para Puerto Rico. Por ello, con la aprobación de esta Ley, lucharemos con éstos para que el pueblo, tanto en el continente como en Puerto Rico, se sienta confiado que con su voto a favor del sí, alcanzaremos la Estadidad. Es decir, lucharemos por defender el voto mayoritario del Pueblo. Distinto a lo que proyectan los detractores de la Estadidad, la mayoría de los habitantes del continente y en los estados favorecen la Estadidad para Puerto Rico. Recientemente, una encuesta nacional reflejó que sobre el 60% de los estadounidenses dijeron que favorecen la Estadidad para Puerto Rico.

De los 5 partidos que se postularon en la anterior elección general, sólo el Partido Nuevo Progresista solicitó un voto por la Estadidad en las elecciones generales y propuso una serie de medidas para asegurar que se cumpla el mandato del Pueblo.

La propuesta que defendió la votación por Sí a la Estadidad incluye:

- Que el Gobernador y la Comisionada Residente lleven a la capital federal los resultados de la consulta.

- Realizar una campaña en medios nacionales a favor de la igualdad y sobre el respeto a la voluntad mayoritaria de los puertorriqueños.
- Presentar los resultados en los foros nacionales e internacionales como la Organización de Naciones Unidas y la Organización de Estados Americanos, entre otros.
- Junto a la Comisionada Residente, se creará una Comisión para identificar y presentar al Congreso aquellas leyes federales necesarias para incluir a Puerto Rico como Estado.
- Se establecerá una Delegación Congressional de Puerto Rico desde el año 2021 para fortalecer nuestros representantes con el mandato electoral. Según fue propuesto en el Programa de Gobierno, se realizará una elección especial para que el Pueblo directamente escoja la delegación que representará a Puerto Rico para exigir al Congreso que proceda a admitir a Puerto Rico como un Estado de Estados Unidos.

La Delegación Congressional de Puerto Rico 2021-2024 será escogida en una votación especial administrada por la Comisión Estatal de Elecciones el 16 de mayo del 2021 y comenzará sus labores en Washington, DC, a partir del 1 de julio del 2021. La papeleta contendrá dos columnas y estará destinada a que los electores escojan dos (2) delegados especiales al Senado de Estados Unidos y cuatro (4) delegados especiales a la Cámara de Representantes de Estados Unidos.

Los delegados deberán ser mayores de edad; dominar los idiomas español e inglés; cumplir con las disposiciones del Artículo 7.2 de la Ley 58-2020; ser residentes de Puerto Rico o de Washington, DC. Asimismo, para participar de la elección, deberán comprometerse bajo juramento a defender el mandato del Pueblo expresado el pasado 3 de noviembre de exigir que Puerto Rico sea admitido como Estado de Estados Unidos; y deberán trabajar activamente a tiempo completo durante el término de su cargo para lograr ese fin. Cualquier persona que incumpla con alguno de estos requisitos podrá ser descalificado en el Tribunal de Primera Instancia de San Juan. Cualquier sustituto que sea necesario se seleccionará por elección especial administrada por la Comisión Estatal de Elecciones.

La Ley 58-2020 y su Capítulo XI será aplicable en aquello que no sea incompatible con esta Ley y sus propósitos. La Delegación tendrá el cometido y encomienda de exigir que el Congreso proceda a admitir a Puerto Rico como estado de Estados Unidos de América. Los gastos permitidos de la Delegación y los salarios de

los delegados serán sufragados por los fondos asignados a la Administración de Asuntos Federales de Puerto Rico (PRFAA, por sus siglas en inglés).

DECRÉTASE POR LA ASAMBLEA LEGISLATIVA DE PUERTO RICO:

Artículo 1.- Título.

Esta Ley se conocerá y podrá ser citada como la “Ley para crear la Delegación Congressional de Puerto Rico”.

Artículo 2.- Propósito y Declaración de Política Pública

Por tercera vez en la pasada década, el Pueblo de Puerto Rico acudió a las urnas y votó mayoritariamente a favor de la Estadidad. En el último plebiscito, el Pueblo respondió mayoritariamente “SÍ” a una pregunta muy sencilla y comprometedora: ¿Debe Puerto Rico ser admitido inmediatamente dentro de la Unión como un Estado? Ante esta situación, nuestro deber ministerial como Gobierno es respetar y defender que el mandato del electorado sea implementado.

De conformidad con estos resultados, el propósito de esta Ley es crear una Delegación Congressional de Puerto Rico que llevará a cabo sus funciones a partir del 1 de julio del 2021. Dicho mandato, se materializará mediante la celebración de una elección especial para que el Pueblo directamente escoja la delegación que representará a Puerto Rico para exigir al Congreso que proceda a admitir a Puerto Rico como Estado de Estados Unidos.

Esta Delegación, se compondrá de dos (2) senadores y cuatro (4) representantes, electos en una elección especial. La Delegación tendrá el cometido de exigir que el Congreso proceda a admitir a Puerto Rico como estado de Estados Unidos.

Artículo 3.- Disposiciones Supletorias

A los fines de instrumentar electoralmente el plebiscito aquí ordenado, se utilizarán como supletorias a la presente Ley las disposiciones de la Ley 58-2020, según enmendada, conocida como “Código Electoral de Puerto Rico de 2020” y de la “Ley para la Fiscalización del Financiamiento de Campañas Políticas en Puerto Rico”, incluyendo sus respectivos reglamentos, en todo aquello que no sea campo ocupado en esta Ley ni la contradiga. La Ley 58-2020 y su Capítulo XI será aplicable al procedimiento de elección de los delegados en aquello que no sea incompatible con esta Ley y sus propósitos.

Artículo 4.- Elección de la Delegación

La Delegación Congressional de Puerto Rico 2021-2024 será escogida en una elección especial administrada por la Comisión Estatal de Elecciones que será celebrada el domingo, 16 de mayo del 2021, y comenzará sus labores en Washington, DC, a partir del 1 de julio del 2021 hasta el 31 de diciembre del 2024.

La Comisión Estatal de Elecciones anunciará la elección especial mediante proclama que se publicará no más tarde del 28 de febrero de 2021 en dos (2) periódicos de circulación general en Puerto Rico: en los idiomas español e inglés. Además del emblema institucional y el nombre de la Comisión Estatal de Elecciones de Puerto Rico, en el encabezamiento de la proclama se incluirá la fecha y el título “Ley para crear la Delegación Congressional de Puerto Rico”.

Artículo 5.- Proclama

El texto de la Proclama será el siguiente:

Con la aprobación de la Ley ____ - _____, conocida como la “Ley para crear la Delegación Congressional de Puerto Rico”, se dispuso la celebración de una elección especial en la que aquellos electores elegibles podrán elegir dos (2) delegados especiales al Senado de Estados Unidos y cuatro (4) delegados especiales a la Cámara de Representantes de Estados Unidos, cuya función será exigir al Congreso de Estados Unidos que respete y haga valer el resultado del Plebiscito de 2020 y que proceda a admitir a Puerto Rico como un Estado de Estados Unidos de América. Todo ciudadano interesado que necesite realizar alguna transacción en el Registro General de Electores antes de su cierre, incluyendo nuevos electores, tiene hasta cincuenta (50) días antes de la realización de la elección especial para actualizar su condición electoral, reactivarse o inscribirse para poder votar. Además, de necesitarlo, el elector, tiene hasta esa fecha para solicitar una transferencia, o una reubicación y solicitar Voto Ausente, Voto Adelantado y Voto en el Colegio de Fácil Acceso. Las Juntas de Inscripción Permanentes (JIP) de la Comisión Estatal de Elecciones estarán abiertas al público en horario regular para realizar todas estas transacciones. La Comisión Estatal de Elecciones, en el ejercicio que le confiere la Ley, proclama lo siguiente:

PRIMERO: Fecha del Plebiscito

El domingo, 16 de mayo de 2021, se realizará una elección especial para elegir dos (2) delegados especiales al Senado de Estados Unidos y cuatro (4) delegados especiales a la Cámara de Representantes de Estados Unidos, cuya función será exigir al Congreso de Estados Unidos que respete y haga valer el resultado del Plebiscito de 2020 y que proceda a admitir a Puerto Rico como un Estado de Estados Unidos de América, en

todos los precintos electorales y, por la presente, se convoca a participar en el mismo a todos los electores calificados.

SEGUNDO: Horario de la Votación

El proceso de votación de elección especial será en “colegio abierto”, desde las nueve (9:00) de la mañana y hasta las cinco (5:00) de la tarde. La "Ley Seca" aplicará solamente durante el mencionado horario y con las excepciones dispuestas en el Código Electoral de Puerto Rico.

TERCERO: Papeleta de Votación

Habrà una sola papeleta que contendrà dos columnas y estarà destinada a que los electores escojan dos (2) delegados especiales al Senado de Estados Unidos y cuatro (4) delegados especiales a la Cámara de Representantes de Estados Unidos.

CUARTO: Certificación de los Resultados

La contabilización de los votos y la certificación de sus resultados por la Comisión Estatal de Elecciones solo se realizará conforme a la doctrina del Tribunal Supremo de Puerto Rico en el caso *Suárez Cáceres v. Com. Estatal Elecciones*, 176 DPR 31, (2009). El voto no emitido y el depositado en blanco sin expresión válida de intención del elector “de ninguna manera puede ser contado para efectos de influir o afectar el resultado de una elección, referéndum o plebiscito, entre otros eventos electorales”.

QUINTO: Sistema de Escrutinio

Para este plebiscito se utilizará el mismo sistema de escrutinio electrónico utilizado en las Elecciones Generales, conforme a lo dispuesto en la Resolución CEE-RS-1 5-21 aprobada el 30 de octubre de 2015, capaz de contar los votos de forma fácil, segura y confiable, con mecanismos de seguridad y auditorías que garanticen transparencia en el proceso de votación.

SEXTO: Identificación de los Electores

Para poder votar en los colegios será requisito la presentación de una tarjeta de identificación vigente autorizada por el Código Electoral de Puerto Rico de 2020. También se realizará el entintado del dedo a los electores, luego de votar.

SÉPTIMO: Voto Ausente y Adelantado

A tenor con el Código Electoral de Puerto Rico, la Comisión garantizará el derecho al Voto Ausente y al Voto Adelantado a todos los electores domiciliados en Puerto Rico calificados para esos tipos de votaciones y que lo hayan solicitado en o antes de los cincuenta (50) días previos a la realización del plebiscito, cuando se realiza el cierre del Registro.

OCTAVO: Garantía del Derecho al Voto

La Comisión Estatal de Elecciones proveerá medidas y remedios a los fines de garantizar el derecho al voto de cualquier elector que, por razones no atribuibles a este, sea indebidamente omitido del Registro General de Electores de Puerto Rico.

Conforme al Código Electoral, la Comisión también implementará mecanismos para la votación de electores con impedimentos físicos, los que convalecen en hospitales y viviendas, y aquellos reclusos en hogares de adultos mayores o en instituciones penales.

También conforme al Código Electoral, ningún patrono público o privado podrá impedir a sus empleados el derecho a votar. Si algún patrono violare la norma antes establecida, estará sujeto a las sanciones penales que dispone dicho Código Electoral.

NOVENO: Educación y Divulgación

Como parte de los esfuerzos continuos para educar y orientar a los ciudadanos y electores sobre todos los alcances de la Ley que instrumenta esta elección especial y de los procesos electorales relacionados con esta proclama, no más tarde de los cuarenta y cinco (45) días a partir de la aprobación de esta Ley, el Presidente de la Comisión Estatal de Elecciones publicará y actualizará de manera constante en el portal de Internet de esta Agencia un espacio prominente y titulado “Ley para crear la Delegación Congressional de Puerto Rico” con el contenido de esta Ley, de esta proclama y con todo material oficial e informativo sobre este evento electoral.

DÉCIMO: Leyes Supletorias

Para instrumentar electoralmente este plebiscito, se utilizarán como supletorias las disposiciones del Código Electoral de Puerto Rico y de la “Ley para la Fiscalización del Financiamiento de Campañas Políticas en Puerto Rico”, incluyendo sus respectivos reglamentos, en todo aquello que no sea campo ocupado por esta Ley ni afecte los propósitos y éxito de este evento electoral.

Artículo 6.- Alternativas y Diseño de la papeleta

Habr  una sola papeleta que contendr  dos columnas y estar  destinada a que los electores escojan dos (2) delegados especiales al Senado de Estados Unidos y cuatro (4) delegados especiales a la C mara de Representantes de Estados Unidos.

La Comisi n Estatal de Elecciones, siguiendo rigurosamente las disposiciones de este Art culo y sin sujeci n a ninguna otra ley o reglamento, dise nar  e imprimir  la papeleta a utilizarse que deber  ser en un color s lido que no sea utilizado como color distintivo por ning n partido pol tico en Puerto Rico; que tenga tama o uniforme; impresa en tinta negra con todos sus textos en los idiomas ingl s y espa ol; y en papel grueso de manera que lo impreso en esta no se trasluzca al dorso para que pueda ser contabilizada por el sistema de escrutinio electr nico.

No m s tarde del 15 de marzo de 2021, el Presidente de la Comisi n Estatal de Elecciones realizar  los sorteos p blicos para determinar el orden de los candidatos y candidatas en las columnas de la papeleta de votaci n la elecci n especial de 16 de mayo de 2021. El proceso deber  ser p blico y los resultados del sorteo deber n ser certificados por un abogado notario p blico.

La Comisi n Estatal de Elecciones dise nar  la papeleta de conformidad con esta Ley y la Ley 58-2020, seg n enmendada, conocida como “C digo Electoral de Puerto Rico de 2020” y establecer  aquellas instrucciones que procedan, de conformidad con ambos estatutos.

Art culo 7.- Campa a de Educaci n

La Comisi n Estatal de Elecciones deber  llevar a cabo una campa a de educaci n masiva a los electores sobre esta elecci n especial de manera objetiva y sin favorecer a candidato alguno. Esta campa a deber  comenzar en o antes del 1 de marzo de 2021.

Art culo 8.- Requisitos de los candidatos a ser delegados

Los candidatos a ser delegados especiales deber n ser mayores de edad; dominar los idiomas espa ol e ingl s; cumplir con las disposiciones del Art culo 7.2 de la Ley 58-2020; ser residentes de Puerto Rico o de Washington, DC; para participar de la elecci n, deber n comprometerse bajo juramento a defender el mandato del Pueblo expresado el pasado 3 de noviembre de exigir que Puerto Rico sea admitido como un Estado de Estados Unidos; y deber n comprometerse, bajo juramento, a trabajar activamente a tiempo completo durante el t rmino de su cargo para lograr ese fin. Cualquier persona que incumpla con alguno de estos requisitos podr  ser descalificado en el Tribunal de Primera Instancia de San Juan. Cualquier sustituto que sea necesario se seleccionar 

por elección especial de la Comisión Estatal de Elecciones, de conformidad con las disposiciones que para esto establezca dicho organismo gubernamental.

Artículo 9.- Fecha de radicación de candidaturas

Los aspirantes al cargo de delegados deberán presentar su candidatura en o antes del 28 de febrero del 2021. Para el 15 de marzo del 2020, los aspirantes al cargo de delegados deberán haber presentado ante la Comisión Estatal de Elecciones tres mil (3,000) peticiones de endosos.

La convocatoria a la elección se hará por la Comisión Estatal de Elecciones al menos treinta (30) días antes del evento electoral.

Artículo 10.- Votación

El domingo, 16 de mayo de 2021, se realizará una elección especial para elegir dos (2) delegados especiales al Senado de Estados Unidos y cuatro (4) delegados especiales a la Cámara de Representantes de Estados Unidos, cuya función será, de conformidad con esta Ley, exigir al Congreso de Estados Unidos que respete y haga valer el resultado del Plebiscito de 2020, y que proceda a admitir a Puerto Rico como un Estado de Estados Unidos en todos los precintos electorales y, por la presente, se convoca a participar en el mismo a todos los electores calificados.

La votación se llevará a cabo en colegio abierto desde las 9:00 am y hasta las 5:00 pm. La llamada “Ley Seca” aplicará solamente durante el mencionado horario y con las excepciones dispuestas en el Código Electoral de Puerto Rico

La votación se llevará a cabo de conformidad con las disposiciones de esta Ley, y de la Ley 58-2020, según enmendada, conocida como “Código Electoral de Puerto Rico de 2020”.

Para este evento, la Comisión Estatal de Elecciones podrá consolidar centros y colegios de votación según las necesidades. No obstante, asegurará que se habiliten al menos cinco (5) centros de votación por cada distrito representativo según divididos para efectos de los cargos de representantes a la Cámara de Representantes de Puerto Rico.

Artículo 11.- Facultades de la Comisión

Los términos aplicables al manejo de la elección podrán ser modificados por la Comisión Estatal de Elecciones de ser necesario y razonable para lograr que se realice el evento electoral de forma adecuada, tomando en consideración la salud y seguridad

pública, pero garantizando el derecho del elector al sufragio universal de conformidad con la Constitución de Puerto Rico y su jurisprudencia aplicable.

Artículo 12.- Deberes de los Delegados

Luego de que sean certificados por la Comisión Estatal de Elecciones, los delegados comenzarán sus funciones el 1 de julio de 2021. Una vez comiencen sus funciones, los delegados presentarán un informe cada noventa (90) días sobre sus gestiones al Gobernador de Puerto Rico. El incumplimiento de alguno de sus deberes dará paso a un proceso, que podrá ser incoado por el Secretario de Justicia ante el Tribunal de Primera Instancia para destituir al delegado si se demuestra su incumplimiento.

Artículo 13.- Gastos de los Delegados

Los gastos permitidos de la Delegación y los salarios de los delegados serán sufragados por los fondos asignados a la Administración de Asuntos Federales de Puerto Rico (PRFAA, por sus siglas en inglés).

Artículo 14.- Disposiciones Adicionales

Las funciones de los delegados no podrán ser paralizadas conforme al Artículo 678 del Código de Enjuiciamiento Civil de Puerto Rico de 1933.

Artículo 15.- Financiamiento de Campañas

Las disposiciones de la Ley 222-2011, según enmendada, conocida como “Ley para la Fiscalización del Financiamiento de Campañas Políticas en Puerto Rico”, serán de aplicación a la elección que será celebrada en esta Ley.

Artículo 16.- Reglamentación

La Comisión Estatal de Elecciones y la Oficina del Contralor Electoral diseñarán y adoptarán, respectivamente, aquellos reglamentos, documentos y formularios necesarios para implementar las disposiciones de esta Ley. Para ello, se faculta a la Comisión Estatal de Elecciones para que apruebe toda norma, regla, reglamento, manual de procedimientos y carta administrativa que entienda prudente y razonable para administrar los eventos que mandata esta Ley, pero en todas y cada una, de dichas normas administrativas se mantendrá el principio establecido por el Tribunal Supremo de Puerto Rico en cuanto al balance electoral; entendiéndose que cada partido tendrá derecho al balance electoral, pero, el partido que no tenga sus funcionarios presentes para las distintas etapas de los procedimientos ante la Comisión, estará renunciando a

su representación de balance. *Olvin Valentín v. CEE, CT-2020-24 y 25*, _____ D.P.R. _____ (2020), Opinión y Sentencia de 23 de noviembre de 2020.

Artículo 17.- Derogación.

Se deroga la Ley 30-2017, según enmendada, conocida como “Ley por la Igualdad y Representación Congressional de los Ciudadanos Americanos de Puerto Rico”, toda vez que sus disposiciones son incompatibles con las de esta Ley.

Artículo 18.- Supremacía.

Las disposiciones de esta Ley prevalecerán sobre cualquier otra disposición de ley que no estuviere en armonía con lo aquí establecido.

Artículo 19.- Salvedad.

Si cualquier parte de esta Ley fuese declarada nula o inconstitucional por un tribunal de jurisdicción y competencia, tal declaración no afectará ni invalidará el resto de la Ley y su efecto quedará limitado al aspecto objeto de dicho dictamen judicial.

Artículo 20.- Vigencia y traducción oficial.

Esta Ley entrará en vigor inmediatamente después de su aprobación. No más tarde de quince (15) días tras su aprobación, esta Ley será traducida por la Oficina de Servicios Legislativos y será remitida al Departamento de Estado de Puerto Rico, el cual emitirá copia fiel y exacta de dicha Ley, en ambos idiomas, español e inglés, al Presidente de Estados Unidos de América, y a los Presidentes de la Cámara de Representantes y el Senado de Estados Unidos.

Opinion Editorials and feature pieces

The fight for voting rights must include D.C. and Puerto Rico

Ricardo Rosselló, U.S. House of Representative Shadow Delegate from Puerto Rico

I had a great time spearheading one of the talks during vgg999 with fellow Triple Nine members. The discussion centered around Puerto Rico, and some of the unique geopolitical traits it possesses, due to the fact that it remains the oldest and most populated colonial territory in the world. The conversation, at one point, moved to the voting-rights issue, since the U.S. Citizens of Puerto Rico don't have a right to vote for their congress member or for the President. Recently, I saw a quote by former Texas House representative Beto O'Rourke stating that *we are trying to assure the right to vote for every person in Texas and every person in the U.S.* I wondered, does he include the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico in this statement? For that matter, can anyone really support a battle against voter suppression? Do you?

It is great to see the efforts in Washington, D.C., to make our democracy even greater. I applaud the many initiatives to do so. But, if we are going to ask for all Americans to be able to vote, shouldn't we really mean **all Americans**?

Did you know that over 3.8 million U.S. citizens don't have voting representation in Congress? That is 700,000 Americans in D.C. and over 3 million (including 100,000 American veterans) in Puerto Rico who are being denied their most basic democratic right. Did you know that these two jurisdictions are made up mostly of minorities? Washington, D.C.,'s population is mostly Black and Puerto Rico's is virtually 100% Latino.

Did you know that both jurisdictions have repeatedly asked for statehood, but have not been granted a path towards it, one that is binding especially to Congress, as well as the other two branches of the Federal government? The House already passed a bill that would grant Washington, D.C., statehood. It is a matter of taking the next step in the Senate.

Now is the time for Congress to give the people of Puerto Rico a similar path to statehood. The U.S. Citizens of Puerto Rico have had three plebiscites in the last 10 years, all favoring statehood. From the results of all those democratic exercises, it is evident that Puerto Rico: (1) rejects the current unequal territorial status; and (2) supports statehood.

But the current landscape in Congress is not that clear for Puerto Rico. There are two bills that have been submitted (HR1522 and HR2070). Both are still on the Natural Resources committee.

These two bills are vastly different. HR1522 proposes a binding choice to the people of Puerto Rico. As with Hawaii, this would be a yes or no vote on statehood for the island. In 2017, Puerto Rico had a yes or no vote, with statehood prevailing. The

difference now is that it would be federally mandated and with a binding resolution. This is the clearest path to give a choice to the U.S. citizens that live in Puerto Rico.

The other bill (HR2070), however, is plagued with inconsistencies that include some unconstitutional provisions. For one, it does not provide a binding end to the problem, but rather prolongs the colonial territory everyone has rejected. The bill itself rejects the larger notion of “one person one vote” that is so fundamental to the voting-rights campaign. It substitutes the direct will of the people for that of an assembly that is indefinite in nature.

Again, if we truly want to give the American citizens of Puerto Rico full access to their voting rights, the path is HR1522 or some variation of it. Along these lines, Puerto Rico recently elected its congressional (shadow) delegation, of which I am proud to be a member. Like Tennessee, Michigan, California, Alaska, and three others, this is an affirmative action taken by those territories that had not yet been given full admission as a state of the Union. It is a battle cry from U.S. citizens that long to be equal part of the nation they love and support. Along with my five colleagues, we aim to achieve the same results the previous territories did.

Once more, if we are talking about widespread voter suppression, it does not get more widespread than outright denying voting rights in Puerto Rico and D.C. In both cases, the disenfranchisement is absolute. You cannot ask for a national effort favoring voting rights and leave behind 3.8 million U.S citizens, most of them Black and Latino. If you are not battling this comprehensive voter suppression, you are not fighting for voting rights at all. For that matter, if you are for equal treatment and civil rights, you should be supportive of statehood for both jurisdictions.

If you are waging a fight for voting rights, do it for all Americans. No exceptions, no excuses. Otherwise it is just political rhetoric at best, and blatant hypocrisy at worst.



News Letter (November 2021)



DELEGATES *in Action*



DELEGADOS *en Acción*



MEDIO INFORMATIVO DE LOS DELEGADOS CONGRESIONALES Y LA DELEGACIÓN EXTENDIDA POR LA ESTADIDAD

Número 1 - Nov. 2021

DELEGATES *In Action*

“El poder que esto tiene es incalculable”

Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares

51x51 Iniciativa individual desemboca en clamor colectivo en pos de los derechos civiles.

Impacto Estadista

El pasado 15 de septiembre el delegado congressional electo, Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares, anunció que durante los siguientes 51 días estaría manifestándose frente a la Casa Blanca por 51 minutos promoviendo la estadidad para Puerto Rico.

“Hoy comenzamos esta gestión. Un pequeño experimento. Les pido a todos que sean parte de este esfuerzo”.

“La idea es que sean 51 días aquí al frente la Casa Blanca aunque sea una persona con una pancarta para poder interactuar con la gente que viene por aquí y establecer nuestro mensaje”.

Lo que comenzó con una pancarta hecha a mano, utilizando un recurso cívico de protesta reconocido internacionalmente, llegó a convertirse en 51 días de clamor colectivo de gran cantidad de puertorriqueños, residentes en los estados y en la isla, que se sumaron a la iniciativa de manera voluntaria para demostrar al Congreso de Estados Unidos, al gobierno y a nuestros conciudadanos que la mayoría de los puertorriqueños, ciudadanos norteamericanos de nacimiento residentes en Puerto Rico queremos la estadidad para la isla, al



mismo tiempo que denunciarnos que no gozamos de los mismos derechos que cualquiera de nuestros compatriotas viviendo en los estados.

En “51 días-51 minutos” participaron, además de su iniciador Dr. Ricardo Rosselló, los también delegados congresionales electos Melinda Romero, María “Mayita” Meléndez y Roberto Lefranc Fortuño; veteranos puertorriqueños, grupo de mujeres que viajaron desde Puerto Rico; la ex Primera Dama Beatriz Rosselló y los hijos de la pareja, personas en su carácter individual tanto desde Puerto Rico como residentes en diferentes estados de la Unión, y hasta familias que quisieron ser parte también de este histórico y primer esfuerzo público en Washington, para demostrar la verdadera cara del Puerto Rico que en tres oportunidades ya ha votado en diferentes plebiscitos y consultas por la unión permanente con los Estados Unidos.

Cincuenta y un días de fuertes emociones, que culminaron el 8 de noviembre frente a la Casa Blanca.

Otro de los resultados positivos de este esfuerzo colectivo en pos de la estadidad y para denunciar el carácter colonial de Puerto Rico, fue la creación de la llamada **Delegación Extendida**, compuesta por toda persona interesada en aportar cualquier esfuerzo parti-

cular que contribuya a promover la estadidad, tanto en las redes sociales como con la participación activa en cuanta iniciativa sea posible. El grupo de la Delegación Extendida ya tiene más de 1,200 miembros.

Todos podemos dejarnos sentir. Interesados pueden visitar el webpage de la Delegación:

<https://delegates.us/>



Rindiendo tributo a los Veteranos.

Impacto Estadista

Como parte de las actividades de cierre de la iniciativa 51 x 51, numerosos miembros de la Delegación Extendida se dieron cita el pasado día 8 de noviembre frente al World War II Memorial, para rendir un merecido tributo a nuestros Veteranos.

Muchos puertorriqueños han derramado su sangre y han ofrendado lo mejor de sí honrando su ciudadanía norteamericana en las guerras que se han librado bajo la bandera de las cincuenta estrellas: Corea y nuestro reconocido "Regimiento 65 de Infantería", Vietnam, Afganistán, Irak.

Nuestros veteranos en Puerto Rico no reciben los mismos beneficios que amparan al resto de los veteranos de la nación. Son discriminados por el único motivo de vivir en la isla.

Y por ellos y para ellos es también el esfuerzo de los delegados puertorriqueños electos al Senado y la Cámara de Estados Unidos y de los miembros de la delegación extendida para abogar por la estadidad para Puerto Rico.



IMPACTO ESTADISTA

Delegación Extendida se manifiesta frente al Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos.

Impacto Estadista

El 1 de marzo del 2021, la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos acogió un recurso de certiorari para revisar el caso de *United States v. Vaello-Madero*.

Este caso tuvo su origen en la Corte Federal del Distrito de Puerto Rico cuando el Gobierno federal demandó al Sr. José Luis Vaello-Madero, nacido en Puerto Rico en 1954. Se mudó a Nueva York en 1985. El Sr. Vaello-Madero sufrió problemas de salud que lo llevaron a solicitar al programa de ayudas federales llamado Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario (SSI, por sus siglas en inglés), programa que ofrece beneficios económicos a personas de escasos recursos que cumplen con ciertos requisitos de edad o condiciones de salud. El beneficio le fue concedido en 2012 y el señor Vaello comenzó a recibir beneficios mensuales del mencionado programa.



En julio del 2013, el Sr. Vaello-Madero se muda a Puerto Rico con el propósito de cuidar a su esposa, quien también sufría de problemas de salud. Ya residiendo en la isla, continuó recibiendo los beneficios económicos de SSI hasta junio del 2016.

Durante el proceso de solicitud para otras ayudas federales, le informó al Gobierno federal que ya no residía en Nueva York y se había mudado a Puerto Rico. Como consecuencia, el Gobierno le envió un Notice of Planned Action en el cual le informaron que estarían descontinuoando su recibo de ayudas de SSI de manera retroactiva al primero de agosto del 2014. Esta decisión se fundamentó en que la ley que establece los requisitos para participar del programa de SSI especifica que el individuo debe ser un residente de los Estados Unidos y que esto se circunscribe a residentes de los cincuenta estados, el Distrito de Columbia y las Islas Marianas del Norte.

La defensa del señor Vaello Madero ha basado el caso en la igual protección de derechos.

El caso fue moviéndose en la cadena judicial hasta llegar al Tribunal Supremo que tuvo la vista el 9 de noviembre, para la cual un nutrido grupo de miembros de la delegación extendida, se manifestaron frente al Tribunal Supremo en solidaridad con el caso, contra la exclusión categórica de personas que residen en Puerto Rico del programa de SSI como una violación crasa a la igual protección de leyes.

El caso Vaello Madero sobre los beneficios del Seguro Suplementario (SSI), es otro más de los claros ejemplos de discriminación y segregación hacia los ciudadanos norteamericanos que vivimos en la isla.

Ricardo Rosselló realiza “Town Hall” en Bayamón, Puerto Rico.

Impacto Estadista

El doctor Ricardo Rosselló Nevares pisó nuevamente la isla que lo vio nacer para asistir a una vista congressional en Puerto Rico a la que fue citado en su carácter de Delegado Congressional Electo a celebrarse el pasado 21 de octubre, y que fue cancelada el día anterior luego de su llegada sin previo aviso.

La oportunidad fue aprovechada para comenzar el proceso de reorganización de los estadistas puertorriqueños residentes en el archipiélago.

De manera espontánea y rápida se organizó un encuentro que se celebró en Bayamón, en las afueras de la casa Museo José Celso Barbosa, al cual asistieron alrededor de doscientas personas, pese al escaso tiempo que hubo para convocarlo.

Desde lo alto de una guagua manifestó a los estadistas que se dieron cita, que en los últimos diez años Puerto Rico había sufrido un “colapso fiscal y económico” fundamentalmente porque somos considerados ciudadanos de segunda clase, no disfrutamos de los mismos derechos por nuestra condición colonial.

Explicó la importancia del trabajo que están realizando los delegados congresionales y que la lucha por la estadidad no puede quedar solo en manos de ellos, sino que parte de su plan es sumar a muchos miles de estadistas para ser parte de este esfuerzo, cada quien aportando desde sus posibilidades, que establezcan cuanta iniciativa sea posible y participar en las redes sociales, transmitir para expandir cualquier información referente al trabajo que realizan los delegados electos en Washington.

Una de las estrategias del doctor Rosselló Nevares es celebrar encuentros en cada estado donde haya comuni-

“¡Qué bueno estar de regreso a casa... aquí con ustedes!”

Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares



dades puertorriqueñas, para que todas ejerzan presión a sus congresistas en Senado y Cámara que apoyen el proyecto de ley HR-1522 —que propone un proceso vinculante y autoejecutable para que Puerto Rico sea estado, sometido por el representante por la Florida Darren Soto y nuestra comisionada residente Jennifer González.

Delegación Congressional Extendida radica querrela ante Comisión de Derechos Civiles de EU.

Nota de Prensa - Extracto



(14 de noviembre de 2021- St, Cloud, Florida)- El delegado congressional Ricardo Rosselló Nevares, y miembros de la Delegación Congressional Extendida radicaron una querrela ante la Comisión de Derechos Civiles de Estados Unidos contra el presidente del Senado puertorriqueño, José Luis Dalmau Santiago; el presidente de la Cámara de Representante, Rafael “Tatito” Hernández Montañez y el presidente de Estados Unidos, Joe Biden para evitar la obstaculización de las funciones de los miembros de dicho grupo para lograr la estadidad para Puerto Rico.

“Nuestra responsabilidad como delegación es, no solo realizar esfuerzos para lograr la estadidad para Puerto Rico, sino denunciar a todo aquel que quiera obstaculizar dichos trabajos y ponga en riesgo el derecho de los puertorriqueños a tener la igualdad que todos queremos. El recurso sometido tiene el propósito de hacer valer la voluntad del pueblo, que está siendo suprimida por las acciones de funcionarios que no tienen como norte el bienestar de Puerto Rico”, aseguró Rosselló Nevares.

La querrela tiene dos partes, la primera denuncia la obstaculización de los derechos civiles por parte de los presidentes legislativos. El documento detalla el historial plebiscitario a favor de la estadidad y cómo ambos funcionarios han realizado acciones en detrimento del mandato del pueblo. En el caso de Hernández Montañez, se especifica que ha socavado los derechos de los electores al participar de acciones encaminadas a anular el voto mayoritario proestadidad. Del mismo modo, denuncia que el presidente senatorial viola los derechos de los electores al establecer que el plebiscito del 2020 no tienen validez para ser encaminado en el Congreso de los Estados Unidos debido a que caducó el tiempo para tomar acción con respecto al mismo.

“Ambos funcionarios, quienes apoyan el Estado Libre Asociado, o el estatus quo de Puerto Rico, están en clara violación de los derechos civiles, al no acatar una decisión que se validó a través de las urnas en los plebiscitos del 2012, 2017 y 2020. Esta última consulta tuvo el aval del 52% del electorado. El pueblo votó a favor de la estadidad confiado en que su decisión sería respetada y diligenciada; sin embargo, estos funcionarios han expresado abiertamente que no validarán la decisión de los puertorriqueños y que solo agendarán las acciones que beneficien a su colectividad, aunque no tenga el aval de la mayoría”, así lo expreso Evelyn Ashbrook, delegada de Virginia.

Como parte de la evidencia se expone que Dalmau Santiago realizó una conferencia de prensa el pasado 4 de noviembre en la cual anunció la creación de una mesa de diálogo y acción con el objetivo de crear medidas legislativas para atender el tema del estatus, debido a que el mandato a favor de la estadidad había caducado sin aval congressional. Además, se desprende que la asamblea legislativa derrocha dinero público en la paga de cabilderos para detener el mandato del electorado puertorriqueño a favor de la estadidad.

La querrela también presenta un reclamo al presidente de los Estados Unidos, Joe Biden, por no tomar acción ante el reclamo de los puertorriqueños. Según se expone, dicha acción violenta los derechos civiles, al no reconocer la decisión que se tomó en las urnas, lo que suprime el derecho de los electores.

...

Durante más de sesenta años, el congreso ha encargado a la Comisión de Derechos Civiles de los Estados Unidos que informe el desarrollo de la política nacional de derechos civiles y mejore la aplicación de las

leyes federales en ese aspecto. La comisión bipartidista e independiente tiene jurisdicción sobre los derechos de voto, así como la discriminación basada en raza, color, religión, sexo, edad, discapacidad, origen nacional

o en la administración de justicia. Dicho ente supervisa la aplicación federal de las leyes de derechos civiles, además de evaluar la necesidad de mejorar o modificar las leyes o políticas federales de derechos civiles.

REORGANIZACIÓN ESTADISTA

Ricardo Rosselló organiza a los Estadistas en Orlando, Florida.



Impacto Estadista

El domingo, 14 de noviembre el doctor Ricardo Rosselló llegó al área de Florida Central con el propósito de organizar y levantar un ejército electoral de hispanos que apoyan la estadidad para Puerto Rico en en distritos de gran volumen poblacional latino como lo son Orlando, Kissimmee y Tampa.

El esfuerzo va dirigido a organizar a los puertorriqueños viviendo en los estados, ya que tienen el poder del voto para elegir representantes y senadores federales, y que comiencen a ejercer presión política en sus legisladores para que éstos se sientan comprometidos con sus electores y apoyen el proyecto de estadidad para Puerto Rico.

Reuniones de trabajo como ésta crean un efecto multiplicador. Se van formando grupos y liderato político en toda la nación. Se amplifica el mensaje y se aúnan esfuerzos estadistas.

El objetivo es tener organizaciones con sus líderes grupales en todos los estados que vayan ejerciendo su poder político y nos acerquen cada vez más a la dinámica congresional en Washington, para contrarrestar la distorsionada opinión que durante años han ido creando los enemigos de la estadidad y lograr introducir en las



discusiones políticas la realidad de una mayoría puertorriqueña que vota en mayoría por la asimilación de Puerto Rico a los Estados Unidos como un estado más.

PRÓXIMAS ACTIVIDADES EN AGENDA

Organización de estadistas en:

- Rhode Island
- North Carolina
- New Jersey
- New York

“Hunger Strike”

Impacto Estadista

Nixon Rosado Velez, veterano puertorriqueño retirado del US Army y residente en Puerto Rico, se declaró en huelga de hambre por 51 horas, solidarizándose con la iniciativa 51 x 51.



Dear Congressman Raul M. Grijalva

I am Nixon Rosado Velez, retired U.S. Army CW4, a resident of Puerto Rico and a Veteran. I write to you for the second time. I first informed you that I was on a hunger strike for 51 hours. On October 15th, 2021, I traveled from Puerto Rico to Philadelphia and drove to Washington D.C. I protested in front of the White House and Congress, this in support of HR.1522. As of today, I am on a second hunger strike this time for 51 hours and 51 minutes. On Veterans Day I will end my hunger strike. However, I will conduct a third hunger strike with no end date to it. As previously stated, I only ask that the Natural Resource Committee take a vote on HR1522. I served my country and I took an oath to defend the constitution of the United States. I pay federal taxes yet I cannot vote for the President nor have proper representation in the House or the Senate. We have always been told in Puerto Rico that they don't want us as a state. Whoever they are is yet to be known. So please bring HR1522 to a vote. I am not asking you Congressman to vote yes. I am asking you as the ranking member in the committee to bring it to a vote and if a majority votes on HR1522 in the committee then take it to the floor for a vote. This is the only way we in Puerto Rico will know who they are. It would be unconstitutional and unpatriotic not to vote on HR1522. In a democracy the majority rule. The US Citizens of Puerto Rico have had 3 plebiscites in the last 10 years and in November 2020 53% of Puerto Rican voted for statehood. Please do not suppress our votes, just vote on HR1522. All we ask for is Equal Footing in a Statehood process.

Thank you and I hope to receive a response from you or your office

Best regards,
Nixon Rosado Velez
Member of the Extended Congressional Delegation for Puerto Rico

“Grassroots”

VIRGINIA - Octubre 15, 2021



PENSILVANIA - Octubre 17, 2021





¿Qué es una delegación ampliada?

¡Conviértase en un delegado extendido hoy!

Varios miembros de la Delegación Elegida del Congreso de Puerto Rico (Melinda Romero, Roberto Lefranc Fortuño, Ricardo Rosselló y Mayita Meléndez) han creado un esfuerzo para mejorar nuestra red con ciudadanos dispuestos y comprometidos, como usted. Una red ampliada de mandantes en el continente y en la isla que facilitará y hará que nuestros esfuerzos sean más sólidos y efectivos.

Todo lo que necesita hacer para formar parte de nuestra delegación es; ingrese sus datos personales y firme el compromiso de abogar por la estadidad y la igualdad.

Con nuestros propósitos comunes alineados, nos gustaría pedir su ayuda para lograr nuestras metas de Estadidad. Una delegación ampliada es la forma en que podemos trabajar juntos para lograr nuestros objetivos.

No es necesario que esté presente en Washington DC para ayudar. Hay varias formas de colaborar. Puedes elegir tu estilo de compromiso.

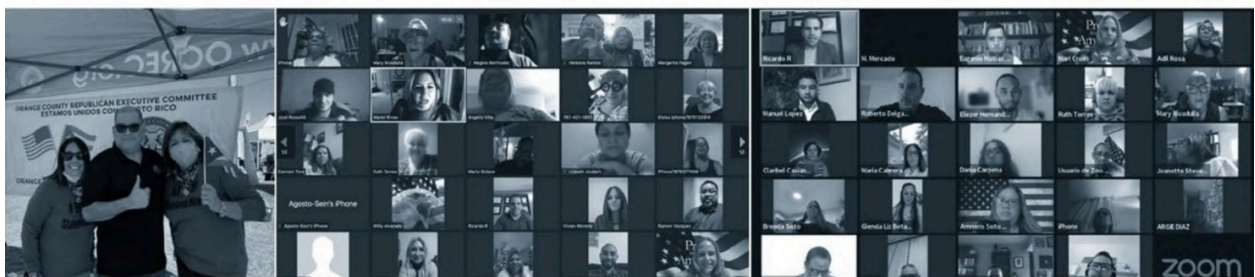
<https://delegates.us/conviertete-en-delegado-home/?lang=es>



DELEGATES *in Action*



DELEGADOS *en Acción*



DELEGATES IN ACTION

Festival : "La Salse"

January, 15
Orlando, Florida
10 AM

| Congressional effort | Continuity engagement | Actions and 911 |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 43 | 210 | 64 |
| 30 | 309 | 23 |
| 18 | 62 | 20 |
| 156 | 156 | 156 |

2021 associated savings: \$55.5 million
275 miles with delegates
1248 meetings conducted

MEDIO INFORMATIVO DE LOS DELEGADOS CONGRESIONALES Y LA DELEGACIÓN EXTENDIDA POR LA ESTADIDAD Número 2 - Ene. 2022

“Delegates Takes Over”

en la convención
del Partido Nuevo
Progresista.

Impacto Estadista

Los pasados días 19 a 21 del pasado mes de noviembre de 2021 fue celebrada en Río Grande la convención cuyo tema principal fue PNP = Futuro.

En el evento del partido que representa el ideal de la estadidad en Puerto Rico, que ha ganado los últimos plebiscitos y consultas populares, el más reciente de ellos celebrado en las pasadas elecciones de noviembre 2020 participó nuestra Delegación Extendida.

Con una excelente acogida debutaron los “*Delegates Takes Over*” en la Convención del Partido Nuevo Progresista realizada en el hotel Hyatt Regency Gran Reserve. Allí se dieron cita un grupo de Delegados de diferentes lugares de la Isla para reclutar estadistas con el fin de que sumen a la “Delegación Extendida”, entidad grupal creada por el Delegado Congressional electo Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares, para extender la batalla por la estadidad en todos los estados de la Unión y en Puerto Rico.



Delegado Luis Flores y Maria Cross orientando y registrando a los nuevos delegados Nov 19 y 20 del 2021.

“Delegates Takes Over” en Orlando, Florida.

Impacto Estadista

Sobrepasando la meta impuesta se llevaron con éxito las actividades de “Delegates Takes Over” en la primaria de alcalde en Guaynabo y en El Festival de la calle SanSe en Orlando Florida. La iniciativa de acción y empoderamiento se realizará a través de toda la Isla y distritos específicos de USA. En esta ocasión impactamos la primaria para alcalde de Guaynabo, y en La fiestas de La SanSe en Orlando, Florida. Logramos reclutar una gran cantidad de delegados, orientar sobre el trabajo de la delegación y explicar la ayuda que necesitamos de todos los estadistas para levantar una fuerza política desde USA.



Delegados María Cabrera, Ceci Pérez y JJ Rodríguez.

DELEGATES *In Action*

“Delegates Takes Over”

en Primarias por
la Alcaldía de
GUAYNABO.

Impacto Estadista



Delegados William Vélez, Amnerys Soto y Luis Ramos.



“Colonización y Arte” fue el tema seleccionado por la delegada Beatriz Rosselló en presentación realizada en el Museo de Arte de Georgetown.

Impacto Estadista

El pasado 5 de diciembre de 2021, la delegada Beatriz Rossello realizó una presentación en el museo de Arte Georgetown.

Beatriz Arrezaga dirigió un tour en español sobre la reconocida artista Teresita Fernandez: “Dark Earth”. La de-

legada exploró el significado de la importancia de los materiales de las obras, el significado de los títulos y las formas de los paisajes en como se relacionan a la historia del colonialismo.



**Delegado
Congresional
Dr. Ricardo Rosselló
propone solución
de consenso al líder
de la mayoría en
Cámara Steny Hoyer.**

Impacto Estadista

El delegado Ricardo Rossello envió una carta al líder de la mayoría Steny Hoyer en la que le propuso una solución para el proyecto de consenso. La propuesta incluye todos los elementos viables:

- Permite que sea el Pueblo de Puerto Rico quien escoja
- Alumbra a los que se opongan a esta propuesta – que hayan apoyado alguna de los dos proyectos—como personas que solo quieren obstaculizar el proceso y/o que tienen miedo de los resultados.
- Ambos lados tienen que ganar y que perder – y eso lo definiría el Pueblo de Puerto Rico

<https://www.facebook.com/100044205617620/posts/448270543323129/?d=n>



OFICINA DEL EX GOBERNADOR
DE PUERTO RICO

RICARDO ROSSELLÓ NEVARES

November 21, 2021
Hon. Steny Hoyer Majority Leader
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Hoyer:

I want to start by thanking you for your leadership in the House and the support you have always demonstrated for the US Citizens of Puerto Rico. It is that kind of Congressional support that we want to continue receiving from our top legislative officials.

This past week, your colleague and co-author of H.R.1522, Darren Soto, stated that you were working on a new consensus bill regarding the status of Puerto Rico. Achieving consensus on any legislation is a difficult task in general, but on this important issue about the fundamentals of our American democracy, consensus can be a daunting aspiration.

I strongly believe that the objective of a consensus bill is to ensure that all sides are provided with viable and binding alternatives, while allowing the People of Puerto Rico to be the ultimate decision maker. In that spirit, I wanted to propose a plausible path to reach that desired consensus.

First, let's maintain the framework from H.R.1522 with a YES or NO vote for statehood, while retaining the binding nature of the YES vote, should the people of Puerto Rico decide to become a state. Then, introduce the notion that the NO vote means something. In this case, I propose that the NO vote would kick start the elements of the constitutional assembly proposed in H.R. 2070 that are constitutionally valid.

By doing this, you would have the constitutional alternatives from both proponents included in the bill. You also allow the people of Puerto Rico –not a congressional committee– to decide their path and have them choose that path in a binding manner.

Please note that the key element of my proposal is that the NO vote has a binding consequence as well. I've proposed the elements of the constitutional assembly established H.R. 2070, in order to assure that all parties are considered. However, the eventual definition of the NO vote is something that could be further discussed.

With this approach, all the alternatives are on the table and everyone has skin in the game. The action taken by Congress will yield a concrete and actionable result. Anyone that respects the will of the people of Puerto Rico should support a bill in this format. Anyone that has supported any of the two bills, should be on board, unless they have alternative motives.

I believe we can make this framework a reality to finally push forward the agenda in Congress, and avoid more unnecessary stalemates, that only end up affecting the US Citizens of Puerto Rico.

I am available to you and your team to discuss this matter in more detail. I am convinced that with your leadership, we'll be able to uphold American democracy by give Puerto Rico the binding choice of equality.

Respectfully,
Ricardo Rosselló
Former Governor of Puerto Rico
U.S. Congressional Delegate

Cc: Gov. Pedro Pierluisi
Cc: Alexis Covey-Brandt, Chief of Staff Cc: Congressman Darren Soto

Ricardo Rosselló somete SEGUNDO INFORME de labor realizada.

Impacto Estadista



https://delegates.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Rossello-Report-2.pdf?fbclid=IwAR-3aEyPxpAsXwcUxFk0QVpvHb5TGF1s_hlbQKnOCvLz2y8wwE_smAbtHJmM

En el informe, el delegado Congressional destaca un trabajo claro, visionario, con colaboración de líderes y ciudadanos, y detalla la hoja de ruta de trabajo.

En el informe, el delegado describe el enfoque de la **Delegación Extendida** y lo efectiva que ha sido esta iniciativa que se expande rápidamente. El doctor Ricardo Rosselló detalló la ruta a seguir para el año 2022.

- *Equality Summit* en Washington DC 2020, ideada por la delegada Beatriz Rossello
- Propone hacer una segunda “Toma del Congreso”.
- Detalla las iniciativas para las elecciones congresionales de medio término.

Revista “Vidya” publica columna dedicada a Puerto Rico y Washington en pro de la justicia social.

Impacto Estadista

The fight for voting rights must include D.C. and Puerto Rico

Ricardo Rosselló, U.S. House of Representative Shadow Delegate from Puerto Rico

I had a great time spearheading one of the talks during vgg999 with fellow Triple Nine members. The discussion centered around Puerto Rico, and some of the unique geopolitical traits it possesses, due to the fact that it remains the oldest and most populated colonial territory in the world. The conversation, at one point, moved to the voting-rights issue, since the U.S. Citizens of Puerto Rico don't have a right to vote for their congress member or for the President. Recently, I saw a quote by former Texas House representative Beto O'Rourke stating that *we are trying to assure the right to vote for every person in Texas and every person in the U.S.* I wondered, does he include the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico in this statement? For that matter, can anyone really support a battle against voter suppression? Do you?

It is great to see the efforts in Washington, D.C., to make our democracy even greater. I applaud the many initiatives to do so. But, if we are going to ask for all Americans to be able to vote, shouldn't we really mean **all Americans**?

Did you know that over 3.8 million U.S. citizens don't have voting representation in Congress? That is 700,000 Americans in D.C. and over 3 million (including 100,000 American veterans) in Puerto Rico who are being denied their most basic democratic right. Did you know that these two jurisdictions are made up mostly of minorities? Washington, D.C.,'s population is mostly Black and Puerto Rico's is virtually 100% Latino.

Did you know that both jurisdictions have repeatedly asked for statehood, but have not been granted a path towards it, one that is binding especially to Congress, as well as the other two branches of the Federal government? The House already passed a bill that would grant Washington, D.C., statehood. It is a matter of taking the next step in the Senate.

Now is the time for Congress to give the people of Puerto Rico a similar path to statehood. The U.S. Citizens of Puerto Rico have had three plebiscites in the last 10 years, all favoring statehood. From the results of all those democratic exercises, it is evident that Puerto Rico: (1) rejects the current unequal territorial status; and (2) supports statehood.

But the current landscape in Congress is not that clear for Puerto Rico. There are two bills that have been submitted (HR1522 and HR2070). Both are still on the Natural Resources committee.

These two bills are vastly different. HR1522 proposes a binding choice to the people of Puerto Rico. As with Hawaii, this would be a yes or no vote on statehood for the



difference now is that it would be federally mandated and with a binding resolution. This is the clearest path to give a choice to the U.S. citizens that live in Puerto Rico.

The other bill (HR2070), however, is plagued with inconsistencies that include some unconstitutional provisions. For one, it does not provide a binding end to the problem, but rather prolongs the colonial territory everyone has rejected. The bill itself rejects the larger notion of “one person one vote” that is so fundamental to the voting-rights campaign. It substitutes the direct will of the people for that of an assembly that is indefinite in nature.

Again, if we truly want to give the American citizens of Puerto Rico full access to their voting rights, the path is HR1522 or some variation of it. Along these lines, Puerto Rico recently elected its congressional (shadow) delegation, of which I am proud to be a member. Like Tennessee, Michigan, California, Alaska, and three others, this is an affirmative action taken by those territories that had not yet been given full admission as a state of the Union. It is a battle cry from U.S. citizens that long to be equal part of the nation they love and support. Along with my five colleagues, we aim to achieve the same results the previous territories did.

Once more, if we are talking about widespread voter suppression, it does not get more widespread than outright denying voting rights in Puerto Rico and D.C. In both cases, the disenfranchisement is absolute. You cannot ask for a national effort favoring voting rights and leave behind 3.8 million U.S citizens, most of them Black and Latino. If you are not battling this comprehensive voter suppression, you are not fighting for voting rights at all. For that matter, if you are for equal treatment and civil rights, you should be supportive of statehood for both jurisdictions.

If you are waging a fight for voting rights, do it for all Americans. No exceptions, no excuses. Otherwise it is just political rhetoric at best, and blatant hypocrisy at worst.

December 27, 2021



52.5% VOTÓ SÍ A LA ESTADIDAD EN NOVIEMBRE 2020

Delegado realiza su Tercer Town Hall.

Impacto Estadista

El delegado Ricardo Rosselló, a través de la tecnología cibernética y las redes sociales, realizó el pasado 29 de diciembre su Tercer *Town Hall* a través de *Facebook Live*. Durante el *Town Hall* estuvo acompañado por un grupo de la delegación extendida de diferentes estados, habiendo entre ellos miembros de diversos estratos sociales, entre ellos veteranos, educadores, etc.

El doctor Rosselló, en un ambiente de cordialidad y calidez, expuso sus nuevas ideas para el próximo trimestre y discutió el *timeline* para el año 2022, contestando en vivo las preguntas realizadas por el público, tanto en *Facebook Live* como también por parte de los delegados asistentes.



https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?extid=NS-UNK-UNK-UNK-IOS_GK0T-GK1C&ref=watch_permalink&v=483521359870015

REORGANIZACIÓN ESTADISTA

“Grassroots”

Reuniones en estados de la Nación para organizar y levantar una estructura política empoderada.

Impacto Estadista

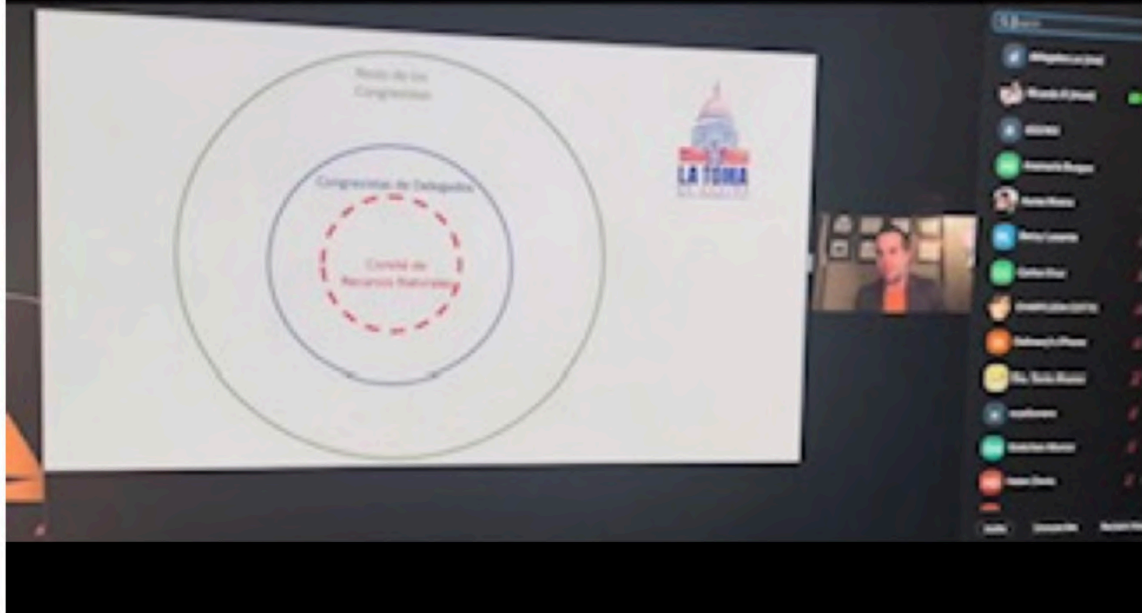
Como parte del abarcador plan de trabajo del delegado congresional Ricardo Rosselló, se están celebrando reuniones en diversos estados para organizar y ampliar la **Delegación Extendida**, creando así una estructura política de efectivo impacto que permita incidir en los centros de poder de Washington y de esta manera conseguir avanzar el camino hacia la estadidad en Puerto Rico.

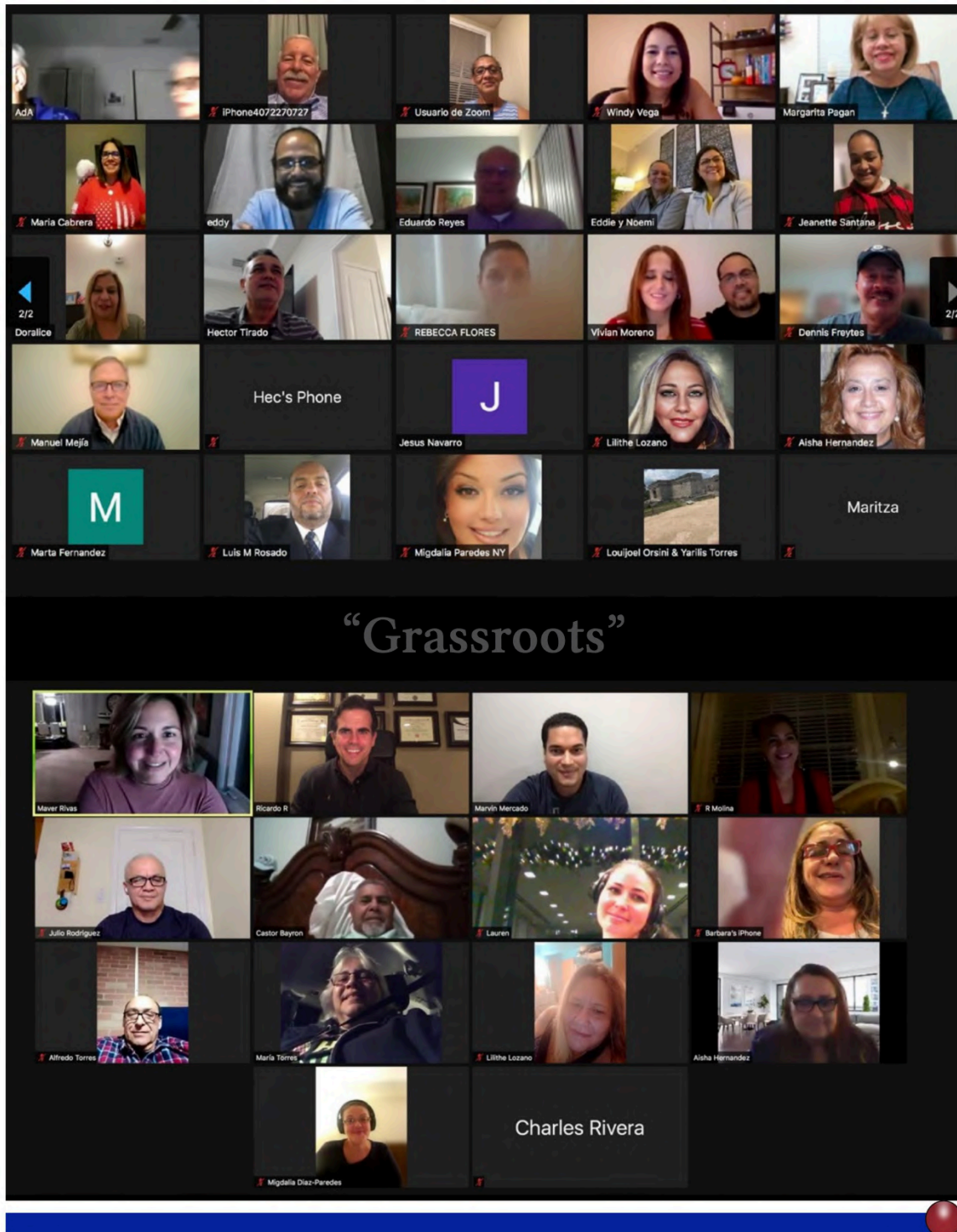
Entre los temas que se tratan en estos encuentros están la lucha por defender el derecho al voto o “*voting Rights*”, identificar distritos con contienas electorales cerradas, unirnos y ser parte de las estructuras políticas de nuestros distritos así como seguir identificando estadistas en nuestros estados para sumarlos a la **Delegación Extendida**.





“Grassroots”







PRÓXIMAS ACTIVIDADES EN AGENDA

- **TOMA DE ACCIÓN** en el Congreso.
Del 28 de febrero a 1 de marzo de 2022.
- **EQUALITY SUMMIT**
Verano de 2022.
- **DELEGATES TAKES OVER**
Todo el año.

Si aún no eres miembro de la Delegación Extendida, te invitamos a que te unas.

<https://delegates.us/conviertete-en-delegado-home/?lang=es>

Y si ya lo eres y estás interesado en participar en nuestras futuras actividades, escríbenos a:

DELEGATES.US@GMAIL.COM

O llámanos al teléfono 717-990-1437

Extendemos un cálido agradecimiento a todos los delegados por sus esfuerzos, apoyo y ayuda a esta gran causa que es la igualdad de derechos y responsabilidades de todos los ciudadanos americanos de Puerto Rico.



H. R. 1522

To provide for the admission of the State of Puerto Rico into the Union.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 2, 2021

Mr. Soto (for himself, Miss González-Colón, Mrs. Murphy of Florida, Mr. Young, Mr. Torres of New York, Mr. Diaz-Balart, Mr. Raskin, Mr. Bacon, Mr. Bera, Mr. Bilirakis, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Carbajal, Mr. Carson, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. Correa, Mr. Crist, Mrs. Demings, Mr. Deutch, Mr. Evans, Mr. Foster, Ms. Lois Frankel of Florida, Mr. Gallego, Mr. Garbarino, Mr. Gimenez, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Katko, Mr. Kilmer, Mr. Krishnamoorthi, Mr. McNerney, Mr. Norcross, Ms. Plaskett, Mr. Posey, Mrs. Radewagen, Ms. Salazar, Mr. San Nicolas, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Sires, Ms. Stefanik, Mr. Swalwell, Mr. Trone, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Waltz, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Ms. Wild, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Mr. Gomez, Mr. Brown, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mrs. Beatty, Mr. Beyer, Mr. Cohen, and Ms. Barragán) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To provide for the admission of the State of Puerto Rico into the Union.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) United States national sovereignty in Puerto Rico was established by the Treaty of Paris between the United States and the Kingdom of Spain (30 Stat. 1754), signed on December 10, 1898.

(2) Puerto Rico is governed by the United States under laws enacted by Congress in the exercise of its power to make rules and regulations governing territory belonging to the United States, pursuant to article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the Constitution.

(3) For reasons of precedent primarily related to the Philippines also ceded by Spain after the Spanish-American War, substantially the same majority in the United States Supreme Court that established the “separate but equal” doctrine in *Plessy v. Ferguson* determined in the 1901 *Downes v. Bidwell* decision that Puerto Rico was an unincorporated territory of the United States, a status of possession that continues today.

(4) After agreeing to independence for the Philippines, also acquired through the Spanish-American War, on March 2, 1917, Congress granted statutory United States citizenship to the residents of Puerto Rico. Such action has historically led to incorporation and eventual statehood but was denied to Puerto Rico due to anomalies emanating from the 1901 *Downes* ruling and its progeny, even as fellow Americans in Hawaii and Alaska attained statehood.

(5) Puerto Rico has a territorial constitution that is republican in form and compatible with the United States Constitution as well as the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and that is equivalent to a State constitution, having been democratically ratified by the United States citizens of the territory on November 4, 1952, and subsequently approved by the Congress of the United States through Public Law 82-447.

(6) Thirty-two territories previously have petitioned Congress for statehood based on democratically expressed consent of the governed, and each was duly admitted as a State of the Union pursuant to article IV, section 3, clause 1 of the United States Constitution, with equal rights and responsibilities of national and State citizenship under the United States Constitution.

(7) Puerto Ricans have contributed greatly to the nation and its culture and distinguished themselves in every field of endeavor. However, the denial of equal voting representation and equal treatment by the Federal Government stands in stark contrast to their contributions.

(8) Since becoming a United States territory, more than 235,000 American citizens of Puerto Rican heritage have served in the United States military.

(9) Thousands of United States military service members of Puerto Rican heritage have received numerous medals, distinctions, and commendations of every degree, including for valorous military service in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

(10) Nine United States military service members from Puerto Rico have been awarded the Medal of Honor, and many have been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross or the Navy Cross.

(11) The 65th Infantry Regiment in Puerto Rico (known as the “Borinqueneers”) was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal ([Public Law 113–120](#)) for its contributions and sacrifices in the armed conflicts of the United States, including World War I, World War II, and the Korean War.

(12) To further recognize and pay tribute to the bravery of the Puerto Rican soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment, Congress expressed support for the designation of April 13 as National Borinqueneers Day in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 ([Public Law 116–283](#)).

(13) Unincorporated territory status means that Federal laws can be applied to Puerto Rico and its American citizens differently, on unequal and, at times inequitable terms, compared not only to the States and their residents, but also unlike territories that are parts of the United States. This has limited the development of Puerto Rico and hindered its economy.

(14) Unincorporated territory status has resulted in millions of residents leaving Puerto Rico to secure equal rights of citizenship attainable only in a State, and that enable Americans to seek greater opportunities and a better quality of life in the States. Approximately 65 percent of all people of Puerto Rican origin now live in the States, with the increasing rate of population loss in the territory creating a severe strain on the local tax base and workforce participation.

(15) Other than its unincorporated territory status and its unequal treatment under some Federal laws, Puerto Rico is socially, economically, politically, and legally integrated into the nation. Numerous territories admitted as States did not have as strong a record of self-determination favoring statehood as the majority votes by American citizens in Puerto Rico favoring admission to the Union.

(16) In November 2012, a majority of voters rejected continuation of the current territory status, and 61.2 percent of those expressing a choice on status alternatives chose statehood.

(17) In June 2017, a vote was held to confirm the aspirations of the people of Puerto Rico. As advised by the United States Department of Justice, all available status options were included in the ballot. Amid an opposition boycott, statehood received 97 percent of the votes casted, while independence and the current status received less than 3 percent of the vote.

(18) In November 2020, following Alaska and Hawaii precedent, Puerto Rico voters were presented with the question: “Should Puerto Rico be admitted immediately into the Union as a State? Yes or No”. A clear majority of 52.52 percent voted in the affirmative.

(19) In December 2020, the Puerto Rico legislature, following the absolute majority victory obtained by statehood in the plebiscite, approved a Joint Resolution petitioning, on behalf of the People of Puerto Rico, that Congress and the President of the United States admit Puerto Rico into the Union as a State and appointed official representatives to manage the transition to statehood.

(20) No large and populous United States territory inhabited by American citizens that has petitioned for statehood has been denied admission into the Union.

SEC. 3. ADMISSION.

Subject to the provisions of this Act, and upon issuance of the proclamation required by section 7(c), the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is hereby declared to be a State of the United States of America, and as such shall be declared admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the other States in all respects.

SEC. 4. PHYSICAL TERRITORY.

The State of Puerto Rico shall consist of all the islands, together with their appurtenant reefs, seafloor, and territorial waters in the seaward boundary, presently under the jurisdiction of the territory of Puerto Rico.

SEC. 5. CONSTITUTION.

The constitution of the State of Puerto Rico shall always be republican in form and shall not be repugnant to the Constitution of the United States and the principles of the Declaration of Independence. The constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as approved by Public Law 82-447 and subsequently amended, is hereby found to be republican in form and in conformity with the Constitution of the United States and the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and is hereby accepted, ratified, and confirmed as the constitution of said State.

SEC. 6. CERTIFICATION BY PRESIDENT.

Upon enactment of this Act, the President of the United States shall certify such fact to the Governor of Puerto Rico. Thereupon the Governor shall, within 30 days after receipt of the official notification of such approval, issue a proclamation for the election of Senators and Representatives in Congress.

SEC. 7. RATIFICATION VOTE.

(a) Ratification Of Proposition.—At an election designated by proclamation of the Governor of Puerto Rico, which may be either the primary or the general election held pursuant to section 8, or a territorial general election, or a special election, there shall be submitted to voters, for adoption or rejection, a ballot with the following ratification question: “Shall Puerto Rico immediately be admitted into the Union as a State, in accordance with terms prescribed in the Act of Congress approved (date of approval of this Act)?: Yes ____ No ____.”.

(b) Certified Results.—If the foregoing proposition is adopted by a majority of the votes cast in the election conducted under subsection (a), the President of the State Elections Commission of Puerto Rico shall certify the results of the election and shall transmit the certified results of the election to the Governor. Not later than 10 days after the date of certification, the Governor shall declare the results of the election and transmit the certified results of the

submission to the President of the United States, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(c) **Presidential Proclamation.**—Upon receipt of the Governor’s declaration pursuant to subsection (b), the President of the United States shall issue a proclamation declaring certified the results of the submission and the date Puerto Rico is admitted as a State of the Union on an equal footing with all other States, which date must follow the certification of results of the general elections required by section 6 of this Act, but not later than 12 months from the date on which the aforementioned submission results were certified in order to facilitate a transition process. Upon issuance of the proclamation by the President, Puerto Rico shall be deemed admitted into the Union as a State.

(d) **Termination Of Act If Proposition Not Adopted.**—If the foregoing proposition is not adopted by a majority votes cast in the election conducted under subsection (a), the provisions of this Act shall cease to be effective.

SEC. 8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The proclamation by the Governor in section 6 shall designate and announce the dates and other requirements for primary and general elections under applicable Federal and local law for representation in the Senate and the House of Representatives in accordance with the following:

(1) In the first election of Senators, the two senatorial offices shall be separately identified and designated, and no person may be a candidate for both offices. Nothing in this section shall impair the privilege of the Senate to determine the class and term to which each of the Senators-elect shall be assigned.

(2) In the first election of Representatives following admission, and subsequent elections until the next Census-based reapportionment cycle, Puerto Rico shall be entitled to the same number of Representatives as the State whose most recent Census population was closest to, but less than, that of Puerto Rico, and such Representatives shall be in addition to the membership of the House of Representatives as now prescribed by law: *Provided*, that any such increase in the membership shall not operate to either increase or decrease the permanent membership of the House of Representatives as prescribed in the Act of August 8, 1911 (37 Stat. 13), nor shall such temporary increase affect the basis of apportionment established by the Act of November 15, 1941 (55 Stat. 761; [2 U.S.C. 2a](#)), for the Eighty-third Congress and each Congress thereafter, unless Congress acts to increase the total number of members of the House of Representatives. Thereafter, the State of Puerto Rico shall be entitled to such number of Representatives as provided for by applicable law based on the next reapportionment. The apportionment of congressional districts for the first election and subsequent election of Representatives shall be conducted as provided for by the Constitution and laws of Puerto Rico.

(3) The President of the State Elections Commission of Puerto Rico shall certify the results of such primary and general elections to the Governor. Within 10 days of the date of each certification, the Governor shall declare the results of the primary and general elections, and

transmit the results of each election to the President of the United States, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 9. CONTINUITY OF LAWS, GOVERNMENT, AND OBLIGATIONS.

Upon the admission of the State of Puerto Rico into the Union, the following shall apply:

(1) **CONTINUITY OF LAWS.**—All laws of the United States and laws of Puerto Rico not in conflict with this Act shall continue in full force and effect following the date of admission of Puerto Rico as a State of the Union.

(2) **CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT.**—The individuals holding legislative, executive, and judicial offices of Puerto Rico shall continue to discharge the duties of their respective offices when Puerto Rico becomes a State of the Union.

(3) **CONTINUITY OF OBLIGATIONS.**—All contracts, obligations, liabilities, debts, and claims of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and its instrumentalities shall continue in full force and effect as the contracts, obligations, liabilities, debts, and claims of the State of Puerto Rico and its instrumentalities.

(4) **TITLE TO PROPERTY.**—The State of Puerto Rico and its political subdivisions, as the case may be, shall have and retain title to all lands and other properties, real and personal, over which the territory and its subdivisions presently hold title. The United States shall retain title to all property, real and personal, to which it presently has title, including public lands.

SEC. 10. REPEALS.

All Federal and territorial laws, rules, and regulations, or parts of Federal and territorial laws, rules, and regulations, applicable to Puerto Rico that are incompatible with the political and legal status of statehood under the Constitution and the provisions of this Act are repealed and terminated as of the date of statehood admission proclaimed by the President under section 7(c) of this Act. Except for those parts that are not in conflict with this Act and the condition of statehood, the following shall be deemed repealed upon the effective date of the admission of Puerto Rico as a State:

- (1) The Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act of 1950 (Public Law 81–600).
- (2) The Act of July 3, 1950 ([48 U.S.C. 731b–731e](#)).
- (3) The Act of March 2, 1917 (Public Law 64–368).
- (4) The Act of April 12, 1900 (Public Law 56–191).

SEC. 11. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, or any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or individual word, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid by a court of jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of the Act and of the application of any such provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or individual word to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Permits

Assembly Plan Notification/ Application for Approval of Assembly Plan Metropolitan Police Department Washington, DC

Assembly
 Picket

Mail to: Metropolitan Police Department
Special Operations Division
2850 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Email to: sod.events@dc.gov



Date Application Submitted: Date of Event:

Purpose:

Simple protest with signs denoting the lack of voting rights for the US citizens of Puerto Rico and Washington DC. The protest will run for 52 days (November 10th).

Location:

Principal Officer/Person in Charge (If there is a different person in charge of activities at different locations, each person must be listed):

Contact Information (include area codes with phone numbers)

Day Phone Number: Evening Phone Number:
Cell Phone Number: Fax Number:
Email Address(es):

Event Information

Name of Group:
Estimated Number of Participants:
Assembly Time: Disbanding Time:

List any special equipment (props, stages, sound equipment, other structures) that will be used in assembly or rally areas (If additional space is needed, please list on a separate sheet):

Any planned civil disobedience: Yes No
(If yes, please indicate the individual/group, number of participants & locations)

Signature

Date



MPDC Assembly/Picket Plan Notification

Rev October 2014

Extended Delegation Complaint to the United States Commission on Civil Rights

MARÍA CABRERA
MABEL VARGAS
MYRNA AGUILU DIAZ
ANGEL SOTO RIVERA
JOHANNA SOTO AGUILU
RAMON HERNANDEZ GUILLERMETY
DAMARIS COLON DIAZ
MARGARITA VIVES
MARYBELL RIVERA
NILSA CARABALLO
NORMA SANTIAGO
ELIZABETH ORTÍZ
RAMÓN VÁZQUEZ
REGINA BERMÚDEZ
SAMUEL RIVERA
EMMANUEL FONTANILLA
AIDA ESTRADA
GLADYS DÍAZ
NERIS Y. FRED
KEYSHA TORRES
JORGE AGUILAR
LINDA SÁNCHEZ
ABRAHAM GARCÍA
DALLY DÍAZ
MARGARITA PAGÁN
MIGUEL CORDERO
MILAGROS GONZÁLEZ
ZORAYELI GUADALUPE
IVELISSE RIVERA
ÁNGEL GUADALUPE
MARÍA GUARDARRAMA
NÉSTOR MARTÍNEZ
NILSA ORTIZ
HÉCTOR RIVERA
SAIRA ROSA
PURA FRANSECI
BETZAIDA GONZÁLEZ
YVONNE SOTO
JOSÉ L. SOTO
MARGARITA RODRÍGUEZ
GENNET GARCÍA
JACKELINE HENRÍQUEZ
ROCÍO FERMÍN
IRIS MIRANDA

arises from the same set of events, and thus has common elements of fact and law.

I. **Introduction**

1. The **U.S. Commission on Civil Rights** has, for over sixty years, been charged by Congress to inform development of national civil rights policy and enhance enforcement of federal civil rights laws. **The bipartisan, independent Commission has jurisdiction over voting rights** as well as discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin, or in the administration of justice. The Commission monitors federal enforcement of civil rights laws in addition to evaluating the need for improved or changed federal civil rights law or policy. The Commission, including its 56 Advisory Committees for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories, publishes reports following investigations; **the Commission's reports include findings and recommendations to inform the President, Congress, and the public on important civil rights issues.**
2. On **April 2, 1900**, U.S. President McKinley signed a civil law that established a civilian government in Puerto Rico. This law was known as the **Foraker Act** for its sponsor, Joseph Benson Foraker (an Ohio statesman), and also as the Organic Act of 1900. The new government had a governor and an executive council appointed by the President, a House of Representatives with 35 elected members, a judicial system with a Supreme Court, and a non-voting Resident Commissioner in Congress. **In addition, all federal laws of the United States were to be in effect on the island.** The first civil governor of the island under the Foraker Act

was Charles H. Allen, inaugurated on May 1, 1900 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

3. On **March 2, 1917**, President Woodrow Wilson signed the **Jones-Shafroth Act**. **This law gave Puerto Ricans U.S. citizenship.** The Jones Act separated the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches of Puerto Rican government, provided civil rights to the individual, and created a locally elected bicameral legislature.
4. With the approval of the Jones -Shafroth Act, and the ratification of the Puerto Rico's Constitution, the Government develop and exercise their responsibility to call the people of Puerto Rico for elections and plebiscites in all the political matters that are important and bidding with the will of the people Puerto Rico, until today.
5. On March 23, 1971, Congress passed the **XXVI Amendment** (**THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR U.S. CITIZENS**) and ratified on July 1, 1971. It recognizes and order:
SECTION 1. *"The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.*
SECTION 2. *"The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation".*
6. **For 104 years, until the present day the people of Puerto Rico have been consistently deprived by our federal government and suppressed as U.S. Citizens to exercise our civil and constitutional right to vote for any federal election in the United States.** It is time that this Commission recognize the intentionally voting suppression as U.S. Citizens by the federal government of the United States of America as the daily and systematically violation of the people of

Puerto Rico will proved in the last plebiscite of 2020 by the Puerto Rico's Legislature.

Facts

7. The Complainant is a group of volunteer advocates that live all throughout the U.S who participate in activities and events to further the goal of obtaining statehood for Puerto Rico. The Complainant is concerned with defending the will of the majority of the people who voted in the plebiscites held in Puerto Rico in 2012, 2017, and 2020 in favor of Statehood. As of November 8th, 2021, the Extended Delegation had 1,368 members.
8. The first of the most recent plebiscites which resulted in favor of statehood for the territory was held on November 6, 2012. The ballot for the plebiscite contained two questions.
9. The first question asked the people of Puerto Rico if they agreed with maintaining the current territorial status of Puerto Rico. This question had two possible answers: (i) Yes or (ii) No.
10. The second question asked the Puerto Rican voters which permanent and non-territorial political status they preferred, allowing them to choose from the following options: (i) Statehood; (ii) Free association with the United States of America; and (iii) Independence.
11. The participation rate of the election was tremendously high; 1,798,987 votes were cast, which equals 78.19% of the registered voters.
12. Fifty three point ninety seven percent (53.97%) or 970,910 of the 1,798,987 voters

rejected the current colonial and territorial status. This status allows the United States Congress plenary authority under the Territorial Clause of the United States Constitution.

13. The turnout for the aforementioned electoral event was a clear indication of the will of the people of Puerto Rico, who unequivocally rejected and opposed to remain a territory under the plenary authority of the U.S. Congress.
14. In the second question, Statehood won with 834,191 votes, representing 61.16% of the total votes that were cast. The island wide support for Statehood was undisputable as it won in each and every senatorial and representative districts of Puerto Rico. (See Exhibit 1).
15. Notwithstanding the clear results and will of the people of Puerto Rico in the 2012 plebiscite, the general election was won by the Popular Democratic Party, a pro *status quo* party that chose to ignore the results, doing absolutely nothing to implement statehood, as the clear status option selected by the voters.
16. The second of the most recent status referendums which resulted in favor of Statehood for the territory was held on June 11, 2017. The ballot asked for voters to choose one of three political status alternatives: (1) Statehood; (2) Free Association/Independence; or (3) Current territorial status.
17. On that occasion, 525,138 votes were cast, which equaled 23.23% of the registered voters. Statehood again turned out to be the winning formula with 97.13% of the votes cast, or 508,862 of the 525,138 voting in favor of Puerto Rico becoming a state. (See Exhibit 2).
18. The latest status referendum was held just one year ago on November 3, 2020.

19. The citizens responded overwhelmingly with a "Yes" to the following question:
Should Puerto Rico be immediately admitted into the Union as a State?
20. The participation rate of the election was 1,229,125 votes, which equals 52.14% of the registered voters.
21. For the third time in a row, Statehood turned out to be the winning formula; with 52.34% of the voters, or 623,053 of the ballots cast, choosing for Puerto Rico to be immediately admitted into the Union as a State. (See Exhibit 3).
22. The results of these plebiscites are clear and unequivocal. The people overwhelmingly chose Statehood as the permanent political status for Puerto Rico on three distinct occasions.
23. The will of the people must be respected, and the local Government must focus its efforts on enforcing the mandate of the citizens. The 2020 mandate ratifies what the people of Puerto Rico expressed at the polls in 2012 and 2017. The voters of the 2012, 2017 and 2020 status plebiscites have supported the vision of equal rights for American citizens residing in Puerto Rico.
24. Certain members of the Puerto Rico Legislature have not acted in accordance with that mandate. For example, respondent and Senate President José Luis Dalmau Santiago, and his Popular Democratic Party affiliates, have sustained that the validity of the plebiscite held in 2020 should not be recognized, and propose to initiate yet another process to determine the desired political status of Puerto Rico because the mandate in favor of statehood has allegedly "expired". (See Exhibit 4). Nothing further from the truth. Not only has the mandate not expired, but it has been consistent since the 2012 plebiscite, as has been evidenced in this

Complaint. By neglecting this mandate an alleging it has been expired, we consider this to be a form of voter suppression, where the expressed will of the people of Puerto Rico is being obstructed and erased by officials that were chosen by that same electorate.

25. Regardless of this unfortunate and undemocratic response by certain state legislators, there are ongoing efforts to achieve the admittance of Puerto Rico as a State of the Union. The Shadow Delegation created pursuant Puerto Rico Act 167-2020, the Extended Delegation, and the Resident Commissioner for Puerto Rico are some examples of those who continue to fight for the equal civil rights of the American citizens residing in Puerto Rico before Congress and other local, national and international forums.
26. The inhabitants of Puerto Rico were granted American citizenship in 1917. See *Jones Act*, 39 Stat. 951 (1917) (codified as amended in scattered sections of 48 U.S.C.).
27. The United States Supreme Court held in a series of decisions known as the *Insular Cases* that only fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution applied to the territory of Puerto Rico because of its nature as a temporary possession with wholly dissimilar traditions and institutions to those of the United States. See: *Downes v. Bidwell*, 182 US 244 (1901). A few years later, after the ratification of the *Jones Act*, and regardless of the fact that the inhabitants of Puerto Rico were granted American citizenship by Congress, the Supreme Court still held that only fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution applied to Puerto Rico because, in its opinion, Puerto Rico was populated by "distant ocean communities of a

different origin [...] from those of our continental people" which lived in "compact and ancient communities, with definitely formed customs and political conceptions." *Balzac v. Porto Rico*, 258 U.S. 298, 310-311 (1922).

28. It is undisputed that Puerto Rico is subject to congressional jurisdiction under the Territorial Clause of the U.S. Constitution. *Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for Puerto Rico v. Aurelius Inv., LLC*, 140 S. Ct. 1649 (2020). Although Congress has authorized Puerto Rico to exercise governance over local affairs, it has not ceded its sovereignty over Puerto Rico by admitting it as a State or granting it independence; Congress has ceded none of its own plenary authority over the Island. *Puerto Rico v. Sanchez Valle*, 579 U.S. 59 (2016).

29. Despite this intimate relationship, the citizens that reside in Puerto Rico are denied their basic civil rights as American citizens, as is the right to vote for the President of the United States, which is a right vested in the States of the Union, and not the citizens. By not being considered "People of the several States", the American citizens that reside in Puerto Rico are also denied of their right to choose Representatives to the House of Representative pursuant to Article I §2 of the United States Constitution and are not included in the apportionment report for purposes of assigning full voting representation in the House of Representatives. Moreover, the people of Puerto Rico do not have any representation in the United States Senate.

30. Voting is among the most fundamental of civil rights. The persistent denial of full voting rights to the citizens of Puerto Rico, most of whom are Hispanic and minorities, is an egregious example of voter discrimination.

31. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has authority to study and collect information relating to discrimination or denials of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution of the U.S. and to investigate allegations relating to deprivations of the right of citizens of the U.S. to vote and have votes counted because of color, race, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice. 42 USC § 1975a.
32. Recently, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights established new Advisory Committee in Puerto Rico to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Commission about civil rights matters within the Advisory Committee's particular geographical jurisdiction.
33. The people of Puerto Rico have experienced a history of purposeful discrimination on account of their mixed race and Hispanic ancestry. The disparate treatment of the citizens of Puerto Rico is founded on the then acting Congress' belief that "the United States could not and would not 'incorporate the alien races, and civilized, semi-civilized, barbarous, and savage peoples of these islands into our body politic as States of our Union'." J. A. Cabranes, *Citizenship and the American Empire*, 127 U. Pa. L. Rev. 391, 432 (1978).
34. The actions taken by Senate President José Luis Dalmau Santiago and House Speaker are blatant form of voter suppression, as they are intending to obstruct the will of the People of Puerto Rico.
35. Those who hinder the efforts of the Complainant in furtherance of the express will of the citizens of Puerto Rico in favor of Statehood incur in a violation of the civil rights of American citizens residing on the Island.

36. Section 704.2 of 67 FR 70482 provides that any person may bring to the attention of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights a grievance that he or she believes falls within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

37. For the reasons previously stated, the Complainant brings to the attention of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and its Puerto Rico Advisory Committee the following claims:

First Claim

38. The Puerto Rico Senate President, Hon. José Luis Dalmau Santiago, has stated that he does not recognize the validity of the plebiscite held on November 3, 2020. He has also taken affirmative actions to obstruct the efforts made by, among others, the Extended Delegation, for the recognition of the aforementioned electoral result. Hon. José Luis Dalmau Santiago is the President of the Popular Democratic Party which advocates for the "Commonwealth" or the *status quo*. (See Exhibit 5). This is a clear form of voter suppression, that undermines the civil rights of the People of Puerto Rico.

39. On November 4, 2021, Hon. José Luis Dalmau Santiago stated in a press conference that he was creating a dialogue and action table that will have the objective of producing a local or federal legislative measure that is "binding" on Congress. In so doing, he has affirmed that the previous plebiscites were invalid and not binding on Congress. (See Exhibit 4). These statements clearly disregard the will of the people of Puerto Rico, who already cast their votes in the 2012, 2017, and 2020 plebiscites, believing it would be respected and executed.

40. The will of the people has not "expired", as is claimed by Hon. José Luis Dalmau

Santiago. As recently as last year, the citizens of Puerto Rico have asserted that they want to become a State of the Union. This assertion is but a ratification of the previous two plebiscites which have resulted in the same conclusion: the majority of Puerto Rican voters want the Island to become a State of the Union.

41. The Speaker of the Puerto Rico House of Representatives, Hon. Rafael "Tatito" Hernández Montañez, has also undermined the rights of his constituents by participating in these affirmative actions directed towards annulling the pro-Statehood majority vote: "Previous, non-binding exclusionary electoral events managed by partisan fanaticism have wasted both our time and limited resources". (See Exhibit 6). Hon. Rafael "Tatito" Hernández Montañez is an active member of the Popular Democratic Party, which supports the "Commonwealth" or *status quo*. (See Exhibit 7).
42. These individuals are lobbying against the democratically exercised vote of the people of Puerto Rico and undermining it, and, in turn, all the benefits that accompany Statehood, including the right to vote (Exhibits 8-14).
43. Interestingly enough, all of the Complainants are paid no money for defending the democratic determination of the citizens of Puerto Rico, but the state legislators opposing said democratic determination use the money paid to them as public officials to undermine the majority decision and waste public funds by obstructing the will of the people and restricting their civil rights. The legislators of the Popular Democratic Party, using public resources and their political power, are violating rights established in the Puerto Rico and United States Constitutions by disobeying and treating as void the democratic order of the people. These actions constitute

a self-coup that also violates the principle of government by consent.

44. The law and the electoral process are the instrument and legal means to express the sovereign will of the electorate and enforce that right. The electoral rights of citizens are superior to the rights and prerogatives of political parties and groups.

Second Claim

45. The President of the United States of America, Hon. Joe Biden, and the members of the Congress of the United States of America are violating the civil rights of Puerto Ricans by not actively recognizing the results of the plebiscite held on November 3, 2020.

46. Section III, Article 4 of the *Constitution of the United States of America* indicates that:

"New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress."

47. On three occasions Puerto Rico has consented to being admitted as a State and Congress has not acted.

48. The Supreme Court of the United States of America has held that the right to vote is a fundamental right. In *Wesberry v. Sanders*, 376 U.S. 1, 17 (1964), the Honorable Court established that: "*The right to vote, as the citizen's link to his laws and government, is protective of all fundamental rights and privileges.*"

49. In that same case, the High Court stated that:

"No right is more precious in a free country than that of having a choice in the election of those who make the laws under which, as good citizens, they must live. Other rights, even the

most basic, are illusory if the right to vote is undermined." *Id.*

50. The right to vote is the essence and the bedrock of the government of the United States, which, because of its republican form, is "emphatically, and truly, a government of the people." "In form and in substance it emanates from them, its powers are granted by them, and are to be exercised directly on them, and for their benefit." *U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton*, 514 U.S. 779, 821 (1995) (quoting *McCulloch v. Maryland*, 17 U.S. 316, 404-405 (1819)).
51. The passive/limited actions of the President and Congress in admitting Puerto Rico as a State of the Union continue to undermine the voting rights of the American citizens residing in Puerto Rico.
52. The last Report issued by the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status, published on March 2011, stated that the present territorial status cannot be a permanent option. The Report advised that Puerto Ricans should continue to hold referendums until they choose one of the three options recognized as permanent under international law and under the Constitution of the United States of America, namely Statehood, independence and free association with another country.
53. The current colonial status is also in violation of the *Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples*, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, *Resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960*.
54. As stated by then-candidate, now President, Joe Biden, "I happen to believe Statehood would be the most effective means of ensuring that residents of Puerto Rico are treated equally, with equal representation at the federal level. But **the people of Puerto Rico must decide; and the United States federal**

Government must respect and act on that decision". (See Exhibit 6).

55. Statehood was clearly victorious in the plebiscites held in 2012, 2017, and 2020.

Statehood is an option recognized as permanent, under both, international law and the Constitution of the United States of America. There is no legal requirement to hold yet another plebiscite on this issue when the three plebiscites held in the last decade all confirm that Statehood is the prevalent option among Puerto Rican voters.

56. For over sixty five (65) years, the executive and legislative branches of the United

States of America have constantly stated that the people of Puerto Rico needed to come to an agreement about a permanent political status for the island and that the United States Government would respect the status formula the constituents supported. Nevertheless, the people of Puerto Rico have overwhelmingly voted for Statehood and the United States Government has disregarded the mandate of the vast majority of the voters.

57. The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America recognizes that

the acquiescence of the people is a requirement to validate any form of government:

"That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness."

58. The People of Puerto Rico removed any purported consent to maintain Puerto Rico

under the plenary powers of the Congress of the United States of America when

they rejected the current colonial relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States of America in the 2012, 2017, and 2020 referendums.

59. The decision of the majority of the voters to request the admission of Puerto Rico as the fifty first (51st) state of the United States of America must be respected by the officials of the Governments of Puerto Rico and of the United States of America, who are compelled to defend the Constitution of the United States of America.

Requests

Wherefore, Complainant respectfully requests that the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights instructs its Puerto Rico Advisory Committee to conduct an investigation regarding the aforementioned violations to the civil rights of Puerto Ricans and the recommend the appropriate measures to remedy them and provide recommendations to the Commission. Furthermore, Complainant also requests that the will of the people of Puerto Rico, as expressed in the aforementioned plebiscite ballots, be respected, and that the Commission instructs respondents to desist from ignoring the will of the people, with any other and further relief as this Commission deems just and proper.

Respectfully signed and affirmed, in Washington, District of Columbia, on November 9, 2021.

No. 20-303

**In The
Supreme Court of the United States**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Petitioner,

v.

JOSÉ LUIS VAELLO-MADERO,
Respondent.

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES
COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT

**BRIEF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
CONGRESSIONAL SHADOW DELEGATION OF
PUERTO RICO AS *AMICUS CURIAE*
IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENT**

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i.

QUESTION PRESENTED

Whether Congress violated the equal-protection component of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment by establishing Supplemental Security Income — a program that provides benefits to needy, aged, blind, and disabled individuals — and excluding from this national program otherwise qualified citizens solely because they reside in Puerto Rico, a politically powerless U.S. territory that has been subject to Congressional control for over 120 years.

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**STATEMENT OF INTEREST OF *AMICUS
CURIAE*¹**

For over 120 years, Puerto Rico has been subject to U.S. control. During that time, Puerto Ricans, all U.S. citizens, have had no vote in Congress or in presidential elections. Congress has never enacted a law providing for constitutionally available status options to Puerto Rico, provided a constitutionally sanctioned process of self-determination, or agreed to be bound by the will of the people of Puerto Rico as expressed by their democratically elected leaders or as the result of democratically conducted local Puerto Rico referenda. The U.S. has held Puerto Rico in a state of political powerlessness, both excluding the island from voting participation at the federal level and denying it the opportunity for meaningful self-determination. At its sole discretion and acting unilaterally, Congress mandates the application of federal law to Puerto Rico or excludes Puerto Rico from federal legislation. In short, when it comes to Puerto Rico, Congress giveth and Congress taketh away, at will.

Congress' power over Puerto Rico is not accidental. Rather, it is invidiously discriminatory -- the end result and application of a series of early 20th Century Supreme Court cases commonly referred as the

¹ Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 37.3, the Puerto Rico congressional shadow delegation informs that all parties have consented to the filing of this Brief. This Brief was not authored in whole or in part by counsel for a party, and no one other than *amici curiae* or its counsel has made a monetary contribution to the preparation or submission of this Brief. The congressional shadow delegation includes the following members: Ricardo Rosselló, Melinda Romero Donnelly, Roberto Lefranc Fortuño, Maria Meléndez Altieri, Elizabeth Torres and Zoraida Buxó.

Insular Cases. Starting with *Downes v. Bidwell*, 182 U.S. 244 (1901) and ending with *Balzac v. Porto Rico*, 258 U.S. 298 (1922), the Supreme Court extended to Puerto Rico a doctrine similar to the “separate but equal” doctrine of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 163 U.S. 537 (1896), under the innocuous-sounding doctrine of “incorporation,” a doctrine that ignores the plain text of the Constitution, its original interpretation, and the foundational principles of our democracy. And so, for 120 years almost to the day, the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico remain constitutionally separate and unequal from their fellow stateside citizens, fully subject to the whims of Congress, with no voting representation at the federal level, and treated in a manner reminiscent of the manner that African-Americans were and are treated and for similar reasons: race, color, place of residence, and/or origin.

The Puerto Rico congressional shadow delegation (“Shadow Delegation” or “Delegation”) advocates for the empowerment of the People of Puerto Rico by admission to the Union. The Delegation was established by Act No. 167-202 of the Puerto Rico Legislative Assembly on December 30, 2020 and consists of two shadow delegates to the U.S. Senate and four delegates to the U.S. House of Representatives. Puerto Rico democratically elected the current, and first, Shadow Delegation in a special election held on May 16, 2021. The Shadow Delegation commenced its current term on July 1, 2021.

As duly and democratically elected representatives of the people of Puerto Rico, the Shadow Delegation has a compelling interest in securing for Puerto Ricans the rights enjoyed by all fellow American citizens. The Shadow Delegation therefore submits this

Amicus Curiae Brief in support of its position that excluding citizens, such as Vaello-Madero, from receiving SSI simply based on their residency in Puerto Rico is but an egregious example of Congressional discrimination against identifiable and politically powerless insular minorities in violation of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

Residents of Puerto Rico are the embodiment of politically powerless identifiable minorities subject to discrimination by a Congress in which they have no voting representation and a President for whom they cannot vote. Examples of Puerto Rico's political powerlessness are myriad; indeed, they are the norm. But three examples, two of them recent and one endemic, exemplify the rule. As further discussed below, Congress unilaterally imposed on Puerto Rico a fiscal oversight Board, commonly referred to as the PROMESA Board ("Fiscal Board" or "Board"), thereby handing over to unelected federally appointed officials, powers previously exercised by local government-elected officials. Second, in 2017, Congress imposed an excise tax on goods and services from Puerto Rico right on the heels of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Maria. Third, Congress continues its historic underfunding for Medicaid recipients in Puerto Rico.

Here, the Court has before it yet another insidious example of Puerto Rico's powerlessness: exclusion of eligible U.S. citizens residing in Puerto Rico from Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The U.S. seeks to revoke Respondent's, José L. Vaello-Madero's, SSI benefits since he moved from New York to Puerto Rico

because, as determined by the Insular Cases, Congress can unilaterally decide that Puerto Rico is “outside of the United States.” Pet.App.4a; J.A. 39, 45. And it does so in the most pernicious of ways, suing Vaello-Madero -- a disabled SSI recipient who moved to one of the poorest municipalities in Puerto Rico to take care of his ailing wife -- in federal court for alleged misappropriation of funds under both civil and criminal statutes and then presenting him with a stipulation for his signature without the presence of an attorney. J.A. 19, 25, and 37. Vaello-Madero is the personification of political powerlessness: an indigent U.S. citizen of mixed race and Hispanic heritage residing in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico.

ARGUMENT

I. PUERTO RICO RESIDENTS ARE THE QUINTESSENTIAL EXAMPLE OF POLITICAL POWERLESSNESS

Political powerlessness of a readily undefinable minority is the byword for U.S. citizens residing in Puerto Rico. The U.S. citizens who reside in Puerto Rico do not vote in Presidential elections. Because Puerto Rico has no senators and only a non-voting resident commissioner, residents of Puerto Rico are not able to meaningfully participate in the process of negotiation, revision, and voting in favor or against federal legislation, including legislation that has a direct and distinct impact on the island. The Shadow Delegation is but the projection of Puerto Rico’s inherent powerlessness.

Among many, three examples exemplify Puerto Rico’s powerlessness. The first example is the unilateral and undemocratic imposition of a seven-member oversight Fiscal Board on the people of Puerto Rico.

snomic Stability Act (PROMESA), 48 U.S.C. § 2101 *et seq.* The Board, composed of unelected officials appointed by the President, has and routinely exercises the authority to supervise and modify Puerto Rico's laws and budget and, in its sole discretion may and indeed has, rejected proposed budgets it has deemed not in compliance with the Board's fiscal plan for Puerto Rico. 48 U.S.C. § 2142. The only locally elected official on the Board is the Governor of Puerto Rico who ironically, like the resident commissioner in Congress, has no vote on the Board. The Board has imposed draconian cuts to Puerto Rico's budget, modified and stopped some laws from going into effect laws, and even threatened the continued viability of the healthcare system. See *Financial Oversight & Management Board. v. Aurelius, Inv., LLC*, 140 S. Ct 1649, 1655 (2020) (Sotomayor, J.).

The imposition of a Fiscal Board on Puerto Rico is only possible because Congress has unilaterally rescinded the state-like local self-rule enjoyed by Puerto Rico since 1952; appointed federal unelected officials to the Board; and made patent that Congress is the "ultimate source" of Puerto Rico's power. *Puerto Rico v. Sánchez Valle*, 136 S. Ct. 1863, 1876 (2016). The Board has in effect supplanted many of the powers of the local democratically elected government of Puerto Rico and its ability to determine, enact, and carry out local fiscal policy. The undemocratically accrued power of the Board makes the residents of Puerto Rico the very definition of the politically powerless.

The PROMESA Act was condemned by the vast majority of the people of Puerto Rico.² An undemocratic imposition of Congressional will on the people of Puerto Rico, the Board's extensive powers reach and effectively control or challenge most decisions made by the local government. The Board routinely intrudes in the local policy development processes, creates operational delays on budget reapportionments, frequently reformulates fiscal plans that hinder the proper execution of government initiatives, is not accountable to the public for its actions, and makes many decisions that are not subject to judicial review.³ Given its myopic goal in reducing the territory's expenditures through undemocratic means, the Board has, in effect, eradicated the "fiscal autonomy" of Puerto Rico, namely, the ability of Puerto Rico, like any other state in the Union, to make its own local fiscal decisions, so long as they are not contrary to the U.S. Constitution and federal laws, rules, and regulations. Rather, it is a painful reminder of the political powerlessness of the residents of Puerto Rico.

A second example is the imposition in 2017 of excise (GILTI)⁴ taxes on goods and services produced by U.S. corporations doing business in foreign jurisdictions. *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017*, Pub. L. No. 115–97, 26 U.S.C. § 951A. Because Congress treats Puerto Rico as a foreign jurisdiction, companies from the

² *Support to the Board continues to drop*, El Nuevo Día (November 9, 2019), <https://www.elnuevodia.com/english/news/story/support-to-the-board-continues-to-drop/>.

³ See *In re Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico*, 916 F.3d 98, 112–113 (1st Cir. 2019).

⁴ Global intangible low-taxed income.

mainland U.S. doing business in Puerto Rico were hit with the tax, which had the effect of reducing Puerto Rico's attractiveness as a business jurisdiction. And this happened during one of the most vulnerable moments in the history of Puerto Rico, not long after hurricane Maria's devastating impact on the island.

Despite reiterated requests by the then Governor of Puerto Rico, and current Shadow Delegate Ricardo Rosselló, and the island's resident commissioner, Congress rejected Puerto Rico's request to insert a provision in the Act providing that Puerto Rico would be treated as part of the United States for purposes of the Act. The GILTI tax does nothing to further local "autonomy," and most certainly not in any positive respect. Rather, it is a painful reminder of the politically powerless residents of Puerto Rico.

A third example is the recurring and agonizing inequality and upcoming funding cliff for Medicaid recipients in Puerto Rico. Unlike the states, where Medicaid funding is open-ended, Puerto Rico's access to funds is subject to an annual ceiling established by Section 1108(g) of the Social Security Act. 42 U.S.C. § 1308. This method of funding results in less than equal treatment for the residents of Puerto Rico. While Medicaid in the states is funded based on a federal formula, Medicaid allocation to Puerto Rico is a block grant that provides the island with substantially less funds than what the formula provides to the states. As a result, Medicaid recipients in the island receive limited benefit packages and lower eligibility levels than states, lower provider payment levels, and slow adoption of key administrative systems and processes.

But most troublesome is that the Medicaid block grant to Puerto Rico must be renewed. Currently, and

as is routinely the case, Puerto Rico's Medicaid funding is facing a funding cliff that threatens access to quality care for hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico. The cliff also threatens the local government's ability to support a strong, reliable, and resilient healthcare system, as well as its ability to comply with PROMESA fiscal plans. In fact, the Board has assumed in the past that Medicaid will not be extended to the island, requiring additional draconian cuts to the proposed budgets in order to account for unfunded Medicare coverage. If current law is left unaltered, Puerto Rico will have no choice but to raise eligibility requirements and drop hundreds of thousands of Medicaid beneficiaries from the program and/or make significant cuts in benefits that could negatively impact all areas of medical coverage, including dental, vision, and possibly even prescription drug coverage. Indeed, it will likely cause a collapse in the provider population of physicians, nurses, and other skilled healthcare professionals in Puerto Rico, all in the midst of a pandemic.

Congressional systematic underfunding of Medicaid for Puerto Rico, and the constant threat of a funding cliff, is perhaps the single most egregious example of how the politically powerless residents of Puerto Rico are subjected to discrimination not visited citizens residing in the states. Medicaid allocation to Puerto Rico does not further local autonomy; it is constitutionally sanctioned discrimination against U.S. citizens.

II. EXCLUDING CITIZENS WHO MEET SSI ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA DOES NOT FUTHER LOCAL “SELF-RULE” OR REFLECT PUERTO RICO’S “UNIQUE” OR “UMPARALLED” RELATIONSHIP TO THE UNITED STATES

In its brief, Petitioner argues that denying SSI benefits is essentially a proxy for Congress’s promotion of “local self-rule.” Petitioner’s Br. 10, 23. Nothing of the sort. Denial of SSI benefits to residents of Puerto Rico is a quintessential example of the use of Congressional power to deny a politically powerless identifiable insular minority -- mixed race citizens of Hispanic heritage in Puerto Rico -- access to a national program by recourse to a line of cases, and reasoning, that dates back to the Insular Cases and, before that to *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Certainly, Petitioner is aware that Congress has not exactly been a big proponent of Puerto Rico’s so-called “local self-rule,” having created and imposed a Fiscal Board on Puerto Rico that has in effect eviscerated one of the most important indicia of meaningful “local self-rule,” namely, control of fiscal policy and empowered a Fiscal Board that has veto power over certain statutes, rules, and regulations that have an effect on, or are affected by, local fiscal policy.

Not surprisingly, Petitioner does not mention PROMESA in its brief; glosses over the fact that the Board was imposed on the politically powerless residents of Puerto Rico; and seems to overlook the obvious: that the Board was widely opposed by residents of Puerto Rico who had no vote in the very Congress that created the Board and who could not vote for the President who appointed the members to the Board. The residents of Puerto Rico do not even have a local

democratically elected official with a vote on the Board. So much for the promotion of “local self-rule.”

However, Petitioner leaves no stone unturned and makes repeated references to the so-called “unique” and/or “unparalleled” relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States. For Petitioner, these terms seem to have the talismanic effect of rendering constitutional the egregious exclusion of the poorest of the poor of a politically powerless insular minority from SSI coverage. But Petitioner is playing loose with terminology without placing it in proper context.

Puerto Rico is essentially a U.S. territory that has been, over time, organized in the nature of a state by Congress. *Examining Bd. of Engr’s, Architects, & Surveyors v. Flores de Otero*, 426 U.S. 572, 597 (1976) (in 1952, Puerto Rico was granted “a measure of autonomy comparable to that possessed by the States.”); see also *U.S. v. Laboy-Torres*, 553 F.3d 715, 721 (2009) (O’Connor, Associate Justice, (retired) (“Puerto Rico possesses a measure of autonomy comparable to that possessed by the states” and “... although Puerto Rico is not a state in the federal Union it seems[s] to have become a State within a common and accepted meaning of the word.”). Like every state, Puerto Rico now has a local constitution; local laws and regulations; local and popularly elected officials; a local judiciary; and an Article III Court – all fully subject to the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. Supreme Court, federal laws, and regulations. But unlike the states, Puerto Rico is subject to the plenary powers of Congress when Congress legislates for Puerto Rico in its capacity as the local government for the territory under Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution, as it did when it enacted the PROMESA law and

basically destroyed Puerto Rico's local fiscal "autonomy," but not when it legislates under its national authority under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, as it did when it created SSI.

Puerto Rico is not an independent country; its constitution was unilaterally amended by Congress and was presented to Puerto Rico as a take it or leave it proposition; Congress, not Puerto Rico, is the ultimate source of Puerto Rico's power, *Puerto Rico v. Sánchez Valle*, 136 S. Ct 1863 (2016). Puerto Rico is barred from entering into treaties, establishing foreign relations, or trading with foreign countries; has no local currency; effects no monetary policy, and does not hold a seat and is not recognized as a country by the United Nations. It does not even have its own postal service. Puerto Rico is home to 3.2 million U.S. citizens and, as noted above, cannot vote for the President and has no voting representatives or senators in a Congress that recently imposed on it the Board that, to a significant extent, runs the fiscal policy of the island without the vote of a single locally elected official.

Yes, Puerto Rico's relation to the United States is "unique" and "unparalleled," but only in the sense that as of its last organization by federal statute in 1952, no other U.S. territory had been organized with a government structure (executive, legislative and judicial) and fiscal autonomy so closely similar to that enjoyed by the states. But that is where Puerto Rico's "unique" and "unparalleled" relationship to the U.S. begins and ends.

To be sure, Puerto Rico's relationship with the rest of the U.S. can, in a different sense, be said to be "unique;" but only in that Congress has often singled out Puerto Rico's U.S. citizens and deprived them of

equal treatment afforded to U.S. citizens in the 50 states. In short, Puerto Rico — and by extension Vaello-Madero — are treated by Congress in uniquely unequal ways, separate and unequal, all in violation of the Fifth Amendment.

As amply established by Vaello-Madero and other *amici*, Petitioner has not shown a compelling interest in discriminating against the powerless and readily identifiable U.S. citizens residing in the territory of Puerto Rico, nor has it shown that exclusion of residents of Puerto Rico from SSI is narrowly tailored and is the least restrictive means to achieve a desired purpose. Indeed, as shown by Vaello-Madero and others, the Petitioner's arguments do not even show that the exclusion is rationally related to a legitimate government interest, as was correctly held by the courts below.

The powerlessness of the People of Puerto Rico is precisely the reason why the Puerto Rico Legislature created the Shadow Delegation. It is our duty to responsibly advocate for our people's inalienable rights as U.S. citizens. We therefore respectfully submit that excluding citizens who meet the criteria for SSI simply because they reside in Puerto Rico and are therefore politically powerless and readily identifiable as citizens of mixed race and Hispanic heritage, violates the Fifth Amendment.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the judgment of the First Circuit should be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

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No. 20-303

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Petitioner,

v.

JOSÉ LUIS VAELLO-MADERO,
Respondent.

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on September 7, 2021, three (3) copies of the BRIEF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL SHADOW DELEGATION OF PUERTO RICO AS *AMICUS CURIAE* IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENT in the above-captioned case were served, as required by U.S. Supreme Court Rule 29.5(c), on the following:

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Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of September 2021.



COLIN CASEY HOGAN
NOTARY PUBLIC
District of Columbia

My commission expires April 14, 2022.

No. 20-303

IN THE
Supreme Court of the United States

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Petitioner,
v.
JOSÉ LUIS VAELLO-MADERO,
Respondent.

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES
COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT

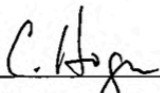
**BRIEF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
CONGRESSIONAL SHADOW DELEGATION OF
PUERTO RICO AS *AMICUS CURIAE*
IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENT**

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

As required by Supreme Court Rule 33.1(h), I certify that the document contains 3,448 words, excluding the parts of the document that are exempted by Supreme Court Rule 33.1(d).

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on September 7, 2021.



Colin Casey Hogan
Wilson-Epes Printing Co., Inc.

Weekly Update (sample)



Date: November December 3rd

To: Carmen Feliciano,

From: Ricardo Rossello

Topic: High-level overview of actions for the week of November 27th-December 3rd

Dear Executive Director –

In addition to time and effort dedicated to calls and documentation preparation, below is a list of some items performed during the past week.

- Prepared and sent the first accountability newsletter “Delegates in Action” where we highlight some of the work that has been done.
- 5 meetings with congressional leadership (in -person).
- 5 extended delegation meetings (online).
- 2 media interventions.
- Meeting with _____ members.
- Initial accrual of information for 2nd report
- Made and sent 200 more IDs for extended delegation.
- Responded to 5 members of the Natural Resources Committee on issues regarding Consensus Proposal.
- Organized three grassroots events.

Should you want to discuss in further detail, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ricardo Rossello Nevares
Former Governor of Puerto Rico
United States House Representative (Shadow)

Proposal letter to Leader Steny Hoyer



November 21, 2021

Hon. Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Hoyer:

I want to start by thanking you for your leadership in the House and the support you have always demonstrated for the US Citizens of Puerto Rico. It is that kind of Congressional support that we want to continue receiving from our top legislative officials.

This past week, your colleague and co-author of H.R.1522, Darren Soto, stated that you were working on a new consensus bill regarding the status of Puerto Rico. Achieving consensus on any legislation is a difficult task in general, but on this important issue about the fundamentals of our American democracy, consensus can be a daunting aspiration.

I strongly believe that the objective of a consensus bill is to ensure that all sides are provided with viable and binding alternatives, while allowing the People of Puerto Rico to be the ultimate decision maker. In that spirit, I wanted to propose a plausible path to reach that desired consensus.

First, let's maintain the framework from H.R.1522 with a YES or NO vote for statehood, while retaining the binding nature of the YES vote, should the people of Puerto Rico decide to become a state. Then, introduce the notion that the NO vote means something. In this case, I propose that the NO vote would kick start the elements of the constitutional assembly proposed in H.R. 2070 that are constitutionally valid.

By doing this, you would have the constitutional alternatives from both proponents included in the bill. You also allow the people of Puerto Rico—not a congressional committee—to decide their path and have them choose that path in a binding manner.

Please note that the key element of my proposal is that the NO vote has a binding consequence as well. I've proposed the elements of the constitutional assembly established H.R. 2070, in order to assure that all parties are considered. However, the eventual definition of the NO vote is something that could be further discussed.

With this approach, all the alternatives are on the table and everyone has skin in the game. The action taken by Congress will yield a concrete and actionable result. Anyone that respects the will of the people of Puerto Rico should support a bill in this format. Anyone that has supported any of the two bills, should be on board, unless they have alternative motives.

I believe we can make this framework a reality to finally push forward the agenda in Congress, and avoid more unnecessary stalemates, that only end up affecting the US Citizens of Puerto Rico.

I am available to you and your team to discuss this matter in more detail. I am convinced that with your leadership, we'll be able to uphold American democracy by give Puerto Rico the binding choice of equality.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ricardo Rosselló', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ricardo Rosselló
Former Governor of Puerto Rico
U.S. Congressional Delegate

Cc: Gov. Pedro Pierluisi
Cc: Alexis Covey-Brandt, Chief of Staff
Cc: Congressman Darren Soto

Guidelines to Define the Relationship Between the Puerto Rico Congressional Delegation
and the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration

Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration

Guidelines
To Define The Relationship
Between The Puerto Rico
Congresional Delegation And
The Puerto Rico Federal Affairs
Administration

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Article I. General Dispositions

Section 1.01 Title

The Delegation will be known as the Puerto Rico Congressional Delegation (the “Delegation”).

Section 1.02 Legal Authority

These Guidelines are adopted under the provisions of Article 5 (d) of Act Number 77 of June 19, 1979, as amended, 3 L.P.R.A. 1705 (d). The Delegation is constituted under the authority of Act. No. 167-2020, as may be amended from time to time (the “Enabling Act”).

It is based on good governance, fiscal & public administration principles for elected officials.

Section 1.03 Applicability

These Guidelines shall be applicable to the use of public funds by the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration to support the Congressional Delegation in accordance with the Enabling Act.

Section 1.04 Purpose

The purpose of the Delegation is to constitute a shadow congressional delegation to represent the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, to demand that the U.S. Congress and the Executive Branch act on the electoral mandates resulting from the political status plebiscites held in 2012, 2017, and 2020, and to implement the public policy of the Government of Puerto Rico as established in the Enabling Act.

Section 1.05 Languages

English and Spanish will be the official languages of the Delegation.

Section 1.06 Interpretation

The Executive Director of PRFAA may, through means of regulation or normative letters, clarify and interpret the dispositions of this document, if necessary.

Section 1.07 Definition

The Delegation is composed of members elected by the people of Puerto Rico, in accordance with the Enabling Act.

The terminology used in these Guidelines, not otherwise defined herein, shall have the meaning ascribed to such terms in the Enabling Act.

Article II. Members & Powers

Section 2.01 Composition

The activities of the Delegation shall be carried out by members elected by the people of Puerto Rico, in accordance with Article 2 of the Enabling Act. The time commitment of the Delegates shall be equal to that of full-time job in accordance with Article 8 of the Enabling Act.

Section 2.02 Duties

The duties of the Delegation include, but are not limited to: (a) appearing before Congress, the White House, federal agencies and courts to express themselves in relation to the admission of Puerto Rico as a state of the Union, (b) to educate, advocate and promote the admission of Puerto Rico as a state of the United States and the attainment of full equality of rights and duties for U.S. citizens residing in Puerto Rico, (c) to study, encourage and facilitate the development of initiatives to promote the admission of Puerto Rico as a state of the United States of America and the attainment of equal rights and duties for all American citizens residing in Puerto Rico.

Section 2.03 Code of Conduct

The Delegation shall abide by all laws and regulations applicable to public officers of the Government of Puerto Rico including, but not limited to, the Act 1 of 2012, as amended, and known as the Act of the Ethic Governmental Office of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico Political Code of 1902, as amended.

Article III. Salaries

The salaries of the Delegation shall be fixed at \$90,000.00 on annual basis. Each Delegate may use up to a capped amount of \$30,000.00 for official expenses.

If a delegate refuses the salary assigned under this Article, he or she may do so by informing said determination in writing to the Executive Director of PRFAA. In such case, any compensable work of that delegate must be in compliance with the Act of the Ethic Governmental Office of Puerto Rico (Articles 4.3 and 4.4 of Act 1 of 2012, as amended) and will not affect his duty of a full-time job with the Delegation.

Article IV. Travel Expenses
Section 4.01 In General

PRFAA shall cover the travel expenses of the Delegation in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Government of Puerto Rico and to internal regulations as set out by the Executive Director of PRFAA.

Section 4.02 Request for Travel Authorization

(a) Travel Authorization

The delegate shall complete a Request for Travel Authorization, using the form prepared for this purpose by PRFAA. The request for travel authorization, shall indicate the following:

1. Location or place of official travel
2. Duration of the trip
3. Purpose
4. Costs incurred during the course of official business
5. Additional information as required by the Executive Director of PRFAA or her representative.

(b) Use of Personal Funds

The delegate shall cover the expenses from personal funds and then request reimbursement, provided that he or she has obtained a travel authorization. To request such reimbursement, the delegate shall provide receipts and other reliable methods of proof to PRFAA .

Section 4.03 Trip Report

Delegates engaged in official travel shall submit a report to the Executive Director of PRFAA or her authorized representative of their official activities within fifteen (15) days. These reports shall include, but not limited to, the following information:

1. Date and time of departure
2. Purpose and activities
3. Outcome of the mission
4. Date and time of return

Section 4.04 Non-compliance

Any delegate who receives a reimbursement and fails to comply to report within fifteen (15) days as provided in these Guidelines, shall be required in writing to make the report by the Finance Division. If no response to such request is received within the next ten (10) days, and unless the Finance Division establishes otherwise in writing to the delegate, the

Executive Director of PRFAA or her authorized representative may take the following administrative actions:

1. Withhold any other outstanding payments from the delegate.
2. Not reimburse funds to the delegate.

3. To file a collection action.

Section 4.05 Reimbursable and Non-Reimbursable Expenses

(a) Lodging

Lodging shall be only construed as a temporary dwelling place such as a hotel, or short-term rentals.

The determination of the place of lodging shall be guided by the standards of austerity and modesty that should prevail in the use of public funds. When the delegate is required to select among several hotels, he/she shall choose the hotel that offers the most economical and convenient rate for the Government. The Executive Director of PRFAA reserves the right to verify and determine whether the hotel and rates are in accordance with standards of authority, economy and modesty.

(b) Non-Reimbursable Expenses

Expenses incurred in connection with personal matters, except as set forth in Article 9 of these Guidelines, shall be considered non-reimbursable.

As examples, personal expenses such as long-term rental, radio and television rentals, movies, loss of or damage to personal property and parties for the benefit of public officers during official travel are not reimbursable.

Article V. Support from Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration (PRFAA) and Other Government Entities

Section 5.01 Support

Support may include, but is not limited to, access to office equipment for the delegates including printers, computers and access to the PRFAA's broadband and information technology support services, preparation and distribution of briefing materials, handouts and other documents as well as support in the planning and execution of Delegation meetings, events and activities. The Executive Director of PRFAA may, at his or her own discretion and as the existing budget may allow, designate PRFAA staff members to support the Delegation either on specific tasks or an ongoing basis.

Section 5.02 Use of Facilities

The members of the Delegation may have access to and enjoy the usage of specially designated office space within PRFAA. The members of the Delegation may have physical access to the common areas of the office and its resources in coordination with PRFAA's Executive Director with respect to the provision of support to the Delegation.

Article VI. Meetings & Hearings

Section 6.01 Meetings

The Delegation will meet in person at least once per month in coordination with the Executive Director of PRFAA. If members are unable to attend in person they may join through teleconference or video conference.

Article VII. Records & Reports

Section 7.01 90-day Reports to the Governor of Puerto Rico

After July 1, 2021, the Delegation shall submit 90-day reports to the Governor of Puerto Rico, or his designee, as provided by Article 12 of the Enabling Act. The Delegation may issue additional reports, as it may deem necessary to advance the public policy defined its Enabling Act.

Article VIII. Public Communications

Section 8.01 Verbal or Written Statements

The Delegation has been entrusted with the responsibility of advancing the public policy defined by the Enabling Act. To that effect, all, individually and collectively have a duty to communicate periodically with stakeholders, the residents of Puerto Rico, and with its target audiences in Washington, D.C. and nationwide.

Article IX. Amendments

Section 9.01 Amendments

These Guidelines may be amended or revised from time to time by the Executive Director of PRFAA, at his or her discretion.

Article X. Parliamentary Process

Section 10.01 Rules of Order

In all matters of parliamentary procedure not specifically governed by these Guidelines or otherwise required by law, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised) shall apply.

Article XI. Effectiveness

Section 11.01 Effective Date

These Guidelines shall become effective on July 1, 2021.

October 15th: Original citation for hearing in Puerto Rico (Kebin Maldonado)

Hon. Kebin Andrés Maldonado Martiz
 Presidente
 Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales,
 Estatus y Veterano



CÁMARA DE REPRESENTANTES
 DECIMONOVENA ASAMBLEA LEGISLATIVA

Representante Distrito Núm. 20
 Cabo Rojo - San Germán - Hormigueros

15 de octubre de 2021

Sr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares
Delegado
 Delegación Congresional
 Puerto Rico en Washington DC

Estimado señor Delegado:

Reciba un cordial saludo. La Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales, Estatus y Veterano de la Cámara de Representante de Puerto Rico, tiene ante su consideración los **Resolución de la Cámara Núm. 535**, dicho proyecto adjunto a esta comunicación.

- *Resolución de la Cámara Núm. 535: para ordenar a la Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales, Estatus y Veteranos de la Cámara de Representantes realizar un estudio abarcador sobre los trabajos realizados por la Delegación Congresional de Puerto Rico en Washington DC, así como las reuniones sostenidas por estos Delegados con funcionarios federales, los gastos que ha incurrido la Administración de Asuntos Federales de Puerto Rico (PRFAA, por sus siglas en inglés) en reembolsos de alojamientos y viajes; y para otros fines.*

Con el fin de realizar una investigación abarcadora sobre esta medida, le solicitamos su comparecencia **presencial a la Vista Pública**. Su comparecencia presencial ante la Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales, Estatus y Veteranos de la Cámara de Representantes del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico es **compulsoria e indelegable**.

El Reglamento de la Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales, Estatus y Veteranos, en su Sección 3.18 establece lo siguiente:

Sección 3.18 - Citación y Comparecencia

La Presidencia de la Comisión tendrá la facultad de expedir órdenes de citación a fines de requerir a cualquier persona que comparezca ante la Comisión para declarar o entregar cualquier evidencia documental o física relevante a un proceso legislativo ante su consideración. Cuando sea indispensable para lograr el objetivo de la investigación o evaluación, la Comisión podrá por mayoría absoluta, autorizar que se expidan citaciones para que la comparecencia sea ante la Presidencia, un Agente Investigador o alguna Unidad Especial de la Cámara. Dichas citaciones serán firmadas por el Presidente o Presidenta de la Comisión y dirigidas al Sargento de Armas de la Cámara, quien las diligenciará sin demora.

La citación y comparecencia de deponentes y testigos y los requerimientos de entrega de información se ejercerán conforme a las disposiciones de los Artículos 31 a 34-A del Código Político de Puerto Rico de 1902, según enmendado.

La Presidencia de la Comisión podrá requerir al deponente o testigo a juramentar sus declaraciones. En el caso de declaraciones orales, el juramento será tomado por la Presidencia de la Comisión o el legislador designado por la Presidencia. Se harán las advertencias de rigor a los testigos o deponentes, incluyendo las de apercibimiento de perjurio u obstrucción a la legislación según sea el caso, así como aquellas otras que la Comisión acuerde. La forma de la advertencia será aprobada por acuerdo de la Comisión.

EL CAPITOLIO. APARTADO 9022228, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00902-2228 | T. (787)721-6040 Exts. 2021 / 2235
 E. KMALDONADO@CAMARADEREPRESENTANTES.ORG

Asimismo, el artículo 34-A del Código Político de Puerto Rico de 1902, según enmendado, dispone lo siguiente:

(1) Además de lo dispuesto en el Artículo 34 de esta ley, cuando un testigo citado de acuerdo con los Artículos 31 y 32 de esta ley no comparezca a testificar o no produzca los libros, papeles, récords o documentos u objetos, según haya sido requerido, o cuando cualquier testigo así citado rehusare contestar cualquier pregunta en relación a cualquier asunto o investigación que esté pendiente ante la Asamblea Legislativa, o ante la Cámara de Representantes o el Senado, o ante una comisión o subcomisión de cualquiera de dichos cuerpos o ante una comisión o subcomisión conjunta de ambos cuerpos, o ante un oficial investigador según lo dispuesto en el Artículo 31 de esta ley, el Presidente o Vicepresidente de cualquiera de dichos organismos legislativos podrá solicitar la ayuda de la Sala Superior de San Juan del Tribunal de Primera Instancia para requerir la asistencia y la declaración de testigos y la producción y entrega de documentos u objetos, solicitados en el asunto, pesquisa o investigación que dicha Asamblea Legislativa, Cámara, Senado, comisión, subcomisión o comisión conjunta u oficial investigador esté llevando a cabo.

Le esperamos a la **vista pública el jueves, 21 de octubre de 2021, a las 9:00 a.m. en el Salón de Audiencias 1**, Severo Colberg Ramírez de la Cámara de Representantes.

Se le advierte que la no comparecencia se entenderá como una obstrucción sin justa causa a nuestra facultad legislativa y estaremos acudiendo al Tribunal para que este determine si usted incurrió en el delito de obstrucción a la función legislativa.

A esos fines, le solicitamos que venga preparado para discutir entre otras cosas lo siguiente:

- Los trabajos realizados desde que ocupa la posición de Delegado Congresional.
- Las reuniones sostenidas con funcionarios federales, Congresistas o Senadores del Gobierno Federal y evidencia fehaciente que estas reuniones en efecto ocurrieron. Deberá someter nombres, fechas, teléfonos y correos electrónicos de estas personas.

Su ponencia, en original y 25 copias, debe estar dirigida al Presidente de la Comisión y ser entregada al personal técnico de la Comisión el día de la vista pública. De igual forma, debe hacer entrega de una copia **digital** al menos 24 horas antes de la vista a la Directora Ejecutiva de la Comisión vía correo electrónico: arfigueroa@camara.pr.gov y/o comisionkebin.a.maldonado@gmail.com.

De necesitar información adicional, puede comunicarse con la Directora de la Comisión, Srta. Arivel Figueroa al (787)721-6040 Ext. 2282.

Agradecemos su colaboración.

Cordialmente,

Hon. Kevin Maldonado Martiz
 Presidente
 Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales, Estatus y Veterano

R de la C. 535

(TEXTO DE APROBACION FINAL POR LA CAMARA)
(5 DE OCTUBRE DE 2021)

ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO

19na. Asamblea
Legislativa

2da. Sesión
Ordinaria

CÁMARA DE REPRESENTANTES

R. de la C. 535

21 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2021

Presentada por los representantes *Feliciano Sánchez, Ortiz Lugo, Maldonado Martiz y Rivera Madera* y suscrito por los representantes *Santiago Nieves y Ortiz González*

Referida a la Comisión de Asuntos Internos

RESOLUCIÓN

Para ordenar a la Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales, Estatus y Veteranos de la Cámara de Representantes del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, realizar un estudio abarcador sobre los trabajos realizados por la Delegación Congressional de Puerto Rico en Washington DC, así como las reuniones sostenidas por estos delegados con funcionarios federales, los gastos que ha incurrido la Administración de Asuntos Federales de Puerto Rico (PRFAA, por sus siglas en inglés) en reembolsos de alojamientos y viajes; y para otros fines.

EXPOSICIÓN DE MOTIVOS

El pasado 30 de diciembre de 2020, la entonces gobernadora, Wanda Vázquez Garced, firmó la Ley 167-2020, creando la Delegación Congressional de Puerto Rico. Este estatuto fue altamente criticado y cuestionado por todas las delegaciones que componían la decimoctava (18va.) Asamblea Legislativa, menos la del Partido Nuevo Progresista quienes fueron propulsores de este despilfarro de fondos públicos.

Con la oposición e indignación de la mayoría del País, el gobernador Pedro Pierluisi impulsó la elección de estos delegados. La misma se celebró el 16 de mayo de

2021 a un costo millonario. En dicha elección resultaron electos Elizabeth Torres, Roberto Lefranc Fortuño, María “Mayita” Melendez y, sin ser residente o domiciliado en Puerto Rico, el renunciante gobernador Ricardo Rosselló para fungir como los delegados en la Cámara Baja del Congreso de Estados Unidos. En el caso del Senado federal, un escaso 3.92% del electorado hábil para votar, escogió a Melinda Romero y a Zoraida Buxo.

Los Delegados Congresionales comenzaron a ejercer sus funciones el 1 de julio de 2021. A casi noventa días de su juramentación el pueblo de Puerto Rico no ha visto ningún adelanto en el tema del estatus. Fuera de fotos de estos delegados en actividades proselitistas del PNP, en estadios deportivos o cargando letreros frente a la Casa Blanca, los delegados no han podido justificar su salario de \$90,000 dólares al año con hasta un tope de \$30,000 en gastos reembolsables.

Asimismo, la Delegada que más votos obtuvo, Elizabeth Torres, en una entrevista radial de la emisora Nueva Vida indicó lo siguiente *“el que pensó que la Delegación iba a traer mágicamente la estadidad, y hablo para aquellos que creen en la estadidad porque respeto quien no cree en eso también. Este..., eso es falso, eso también es un espejismo que creó el estado para seguir avanzando la agenda del partido PNP al cual yo pertenezco y donde hay mucha gente que piensa como yo. No estoy sola en esto, este..., para decir mira estamos luchando por la estadidad y se perpetúan en el poder de manera, a mi juicio, corrupta...”*. Luego de estas declaraciones el Secretario General del Partido Nuevo Progresista y la Delegada Melinda Romero acusaron a Torres de no estar realizando su trabajo, entre otras cosas.

La Ley 167-2020, en su artículo 12 establece que, los delegados tienen que presentarle al Gobernador de Puerto Rico un informe cada noventa (90) días sobre sus gestiones. Asimismo, indica que el incumplimiento con los deberes del cargo de alguno de los delegados podría dar paso a destitución, proceso que se presenta ante el Tribunal de Primera Instancia. Dicho esto, y en aras de ser más transparentes y exigir la rendición de cuentas que el País requiere sobre sus funcionarios electos, esta Cámara de Representantes entiende que trimestralmente se deben realizar vistas públicas para discutir y escrutar el trabajo de cada uno de estos seis (6) servidores públicos.

Por las razones antes expuestas, esta Cámara de Representantes entiende que es prioritario e impostergable comenzar un proceso de evaluación de la Delegación Congresional de Puerto Rico en Washignton DC, así como evaluar los trabajos realizados por estos, las reuniones sostenidas por estos Delegados con funcionarios federales, los gastos que ha incurrido la Administración de Asuntos Federales en Puerto Rico (PRFAA, por sus siglas en inglés) en reembolsos de alojamientos y viajes entre otras asuntos.

RESUÉLVESE POR LA CÁMARA DE REPRESENTANTES DE PUERTO RICO:

Sección 1.-Se ordena a la Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales, Estatus y Veteranos de la Cámara de Representantes del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, realizar un estudio abarcador sobre los trabajos realizados por la Delegación Congresional de Puerto Rico en Washington DC, así como las reuniones sostenidas por estos delegados con funcionarios federales, los gastos que ha incurrido la Administración de Asuntos Federales de Puerto Rico (PRFAA, por sus siglas en inglés) en reembolsos de alojamientos y viajes.

Sección 2.-La Comisión queda autorizada a solicitar información, a la Administración de Asuntos Federales de Puerto Rico, al Congreso y Senado de Estados Unidos y a cualquier otra agencia, oficina, dependencia, corporación o municipio de Puerto Rico, que de alguna manera esté vinculada con las labores de los funcionarios electos como Cabilderos de la Estadidad o Delegación Congresional de Puerto Rico.

Sección 3.-La Comisión deberá rendir informes periódicamente, así como un informe final con sus hallazgos, recomendaciones y conclusiones, durante el transcurso de la Decimonovena Asamblea Legislativa.

Sección 4.-Vigencia

Esta Resolución entrará en vigor inmediatamente después de su aprobación.

October 17th response by Ricardo Rossello



17 de Octubre del 2021

Hon. Kebin A. Maldonado Martínez
Presidente
Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales, Estatus y Veteranos
Cámara de Representantes de Puerto Rico
kmaldonado@camaraderepresentantes.org

Estimado Señor Presidente:

Saludos cordiales. Como es de conocimiento público me encuentro trabajando “ad honorem” (sin costo alguno al erario público) en Washington D.C. como Delegado Congresional de Puerto Rico.

Tras el recibo de su Citación a Vista Pública presencial en Puerto Rico el próximo 21 de octubre de 2021, le solicito que mi participación se tramite mediante el sistema de video conferencia ante la Comisión que usted preside. Además, solicito que se me brinde el primer turno ya que tengo una cita medica de mi hijo por la tarde. La misma fue calendarizada hace 2 meses.

Entiendo que la Cámara de Representantes, ha tenido disponible el servicio de video conferencia incluso para la realización de trabajos remotos para empleados y funcionarios de la Cámara de Representantes ante la existencia de la Pandemia del Covid-19 para maximizar medidas de seguridad según la Orden Administrativa 2020-006 del 20 de marzo de 2020.

De igual forma, aun bajo la existencia de la Pandemia del Covid-19 y la variante Delta, la Cámara ha reforzado sus Protocolos de Seguridad ante la comparecencia física de personas y empleados a cualquiera de sus dependencias al amparo de la Orden Administrativa 2021-022, del 9 de agosto de 2021.

Por tanto, entiendo que no debe existir inconveniente alguno para que la Oficina de Tecnología de la Cámara de Representantes pueda habilitar la Sala de la Comisión, para pueda lograrse mi comparecencia ante el pleno para discutir el trabajo que he estado haciendo para validar la voluntad del Pueblo de Puerto Rico emitida en las urnas y lograr la igualdad ciudadana que solo provee la Estadidad.guardo su pronta respuesta.

Atentamente,



Ricardo Rossello Nevares
Ex Gobernador de Puerto Rico
Miembro de la Delegación Congresional de Puerto Rico

October 18th Response from Kebin Maldonado

Hon. Kebin Andrés Maldonado Martiz
Presidente
Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales,
Estatus y Veterano



Representante Distrito Núm. 20
Cabo Rojo - San Germán - Hormigueros

18 de octubre de 2021

Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevaes
Ex Gobernador de Puerto Rico
Miembro de la Delegación Congresional de Puerto Rico

Estimado doctor Rosselló,

El lunes, 18 de octubre de 2021, la Directora Ejecutiva de nuestra Comisión recibió una carta donde usted solicita que se le otorgue el primer turno para deponer mediante video conferencia en la vista pública del jueves, 21 de octubre de 2021. Esta solicitud se hace por tener un asunto médico familiar coordinado hace más de dos meses. Entendemos que la vista pública se extenderá por varias horas dado el alto interés público que tiene la Resolución de la Cámara 535.

Es por tal razón y reconociendo que la salud de nuestros familiares es primero que le estamos citando para una nueva fecha el **lunes, 1 de noviembre de 2021 a las 9:00 a.m. en el Salón de Audiencias 1, Severo Colberg Ramírez. Su comparecencia presencial es obligatoria.** La Cámara de Representantes tiene unos protocolos estrictos para garantizar y proteger la salud de todos los deponentes ante la pandemia del Covid-19.

La Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales, Estatus y Asuntos del Veterano que me honro en presidir no acostumbra permitir que deponentes residentes de Puerto Rico comparezcan ante la Comisión por video conferencia. En este caso no será la excepción y como funcionario electo del pueblo de Puerto Rico entendemos que el foro para deponer es en la isla que usted representa y en la cual reside.

Como le indicamos en la misiva original el Reglamento de la Comisión, en su Sección 3.18 establece lo siguiente:



Sección 3.18 - Citación y Comparecencia

La Presidencia de la Comisión tendrá la facultad de expedir órdenes de citación a fines de requerir a cualquier persona que comparezca ante la Comisión para declarar o entregar cualquier evidencia documental o física relevante a un proceso legislativo ante su consideración. Cuando sea indispensable para lograr el objetivo de la investigación o evaluación, la Comisión podrá por mayoría absoluta, autorizar que se expidan citaciones para que la comparecencia sea ante la Presidencia, un Agente Investigador o alguna Unidad Especial de la Cámara. Dichas citaciones serán firmadas por el Presidente o Presidenta de la Comisión y dirigidas al Sargento de Armas de la Cámara, quien las diligenciará sin demora.

La citación y comparecencia de deponentes y testigos y los requerimientos de entrega de información se ejercerán conforme a las disposiciones de los Artículos 31 a 34-A del Código Político de Puerto Rico de 1902, según enmendado.

La Presidencia de la Comisión podrá requerir al deponente o testigo a juramentar sus declaraciones. En el caso de declaraciones orales, el juramento será tomado por la Presidencia de la Comisión o el legislador designado por la Presidencia. Se harán las advertencias de rigor a los testigos o deponentes, incluyendo las de apercibimiento de perjurio u obstrucción a la legislación según sea el caso, así como aquellas otras que la Comisión acuerde. La forma de la advertencia será aprobada por acuerdo de la Comisión.

Asimismo, el artículo 34-A del Código Político de Puerto Rico de 1902, según enmendado, dispone lo siguiente:

(1) Además de lo dispuesto en el Artículo 34 de esta ley, cuando un testigo citado de acuerdo con los Artículos 31 y 32 de esta ley no comparezca a testificar o no produzca los libros, papeles, récords o documentos u objetos, según haya sido requerido, o cuando cualquier testigo así citado rehusare contestar cualquier pregunta en relación a cualquier asunto o investigación que esté pendiente ante la Asamblea Legislativa, o ante la Cámara de Representantes o el Senado, o ante una comisión o subcomisión de cualquiera de dichos cuerpos o ante una comisión o

Hon. Kebin Andrés Maldonado Martiz
Presidente
Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales,
Estatus y Veterano



Representante Distrito Núm. 20
Cabo Rojo - San Germán - Hormigueros

CÁMARA DE REPRESENTANTES
DECIMOQUINTA ASAMBLEA LEGISLATIVA

subcomisión conjunta de ambos cuerpos, o ante un oficial investigador según lo dispuesto en el Artículo 31 de esta ley, el Presidente o Vicepresidente de cualquiera de dichos organismos legislativos podrá solicitar la ayuda de la Sala Superior de San Juan del Tribunal de Primera Instancia para requerir la asistencia y la declaración de testigos y la producción y entrega de documentos u objetos, solicitados en el asunto, pesquisa o investigación que dicha Asamblea Legislativa, Cámara, Senado, comisión, subcomisión o comisión conjunta u oficial investigador esté llevando a cabo.

Le esperamos el **lunes, 1 de noviembre de 2021**, a la hora y lugar descrito en su citación. Se le advierte que la no comparecencia se entenderá como una obstrucción sin justa causa a nuestra facultad legislativa y estaremos acudiendo al Tribunal para que este determine si usted incurrió en el delito de obstrucción a la función legislativa.

Cualquier duda o pregunta pueda comunicarse con el equipo técnico de la Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales, Estatus y Veterano a los siguientes correos electrónicos arfigueroa@camara.pr.gov y/o comisionkebin.a.maldonado@gmail.com. Por favor confirmar recibo de esta comunicación.

Esperanzado que todo salga bien con la cita de su familiar, estará en mis oraciones y esperanzado en que el próximo lunes, 1 de noviembre, pueda acudir a la vista pública para atender este tema que como indiqué anteriormente es de alto interés público para nuestro país.

Agradecemos su colaboración.

Cordialmente,

Hon. Kebin A. Maldonado Martiz
Presidente
Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales, Estatus y Veteranos
Cámara de Representantes
Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico

October 19th Confirmation to participate in hearing and petition

Hon. **Kevin** A. Maldonado Martínez

Presidente

Comisión de Asuntos Federales, Internacionales, Estatus y Veteranos

Cámara de Representantes de Puerto Rico

Re: "Documentos solicitados y atención y resolución de varios asuntos:

1. Provisión de equipo de proyector y pantalla para presentación digital ante la Comisión.
2. Solicitud de cuantía específica de cupos de invitados que podrán acompañar al Deponente.
3. Notificación de comparecencia de la Lcda. Roxanna I. Soto Aguilú, al amparo de la Regla 3.20 "Asistencia Legal" del Reglamento de la Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales, Estatus y Veterano"

Estimado Señor Presidente:

Saludos cordiales. Por este medio le someto los documentos (3) que serán parte de mi ponencia, 24 horas antes, según solicitado. Es importante descargar el documento del informe en: <https://delegates.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/ReporteRossello.pdf>. Esto es parte instrumental de mi presentación. Los otros dos están en este correo. Además, para poder efectuar la misma, le solicito la provisión y previa instalación de un proyector y pantalla digital para poder hacer mi presentación ante la Comisión. De igual forma, le solicito la confirmación oficial de cuantos invitados pueden acompañarme a la citación ante la Comisión. Por último le informo que estaré acompañado de la Lcda. Roxanna I. Soto Aguilú a la Vista acorde con la Regla 3.20 "Asistencia Legal" del Reglamento los deponentes a su discreción pueden acudir asistidos de Abogado a sus citaciones. Así lo informo a los fines que se le garantice el cupo dentro de la aplicación del protocolo de salud y de seguridad ante la Pandemia dentro de la Comisión.

Agradeceré su pronta respuesta.

Atentamente,

Ricardo A. Rosselló Nevares, Ph.D.

Hon. Rafael Hernández Montañez
Presidente



Representante Distrito Núm. 11
Dorado - Vega Alta - Vega Baja

20 de octubre de 2021

Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares
Exgobernador

DILIGENCIAMIENTO POR CORREO ELECTRÓNICO

Estimado doctor Rosselló Nevares:

Reciba un cordial saludo de nuestra parte. El pasado 15 de octubre de 2021, la Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales, Estatus y Veteranos le convocó para participar de una vista pública donde se estará discutiendo la Resolución de la Cámara 535. Precisamente, esta medida está dirigida a indagar sobre el desembolso de fondos públicos realizado por la Administración de Asuntos Federales de Puerto Rico, para financiar la agenda ideológica del Partido Nuevo Progresista, basado en una Ley deficiente e indigna, que los informes iniciales sobre el denominado grupo de cabilderos de la estadidad demuestran que ha sido un fracaso.

Esta Cámara de Representantes lo advirtió desde un comienzo. Por esta razón, comparecimos ante el Tribunal para cuestionar la legitimidad de este estatuto y rechazar la asignación de fondos realizada. Además, en reconocimiento de nuestras amplias facultades investigativas, ordenamos una exhaustiva investigación para mantenernos vigilantes ante cada erogación de fondos realizada.

Sin embargo, en este proceso investigativo, su citación ha provocado una indignación colectiva con la cual nos solidarizamos. El país aún recuerda, con dolor y frustración, su gestión como Primer Mandatario y su vergonzosa renuncia durante el verano de 2019.

Peor aún, hemos sido notificados que otros deponentes han rechazado participar ante el temor de que su presencia pueda provocar incidentes violentos que comprometan la seguridad e integridad de los empleados, funcionarios y los ciudadanos que diariamente visitan las facilidades del Capitolio. Esta situación es insostenible. Además, se han recibido múltiples llamadas que representan un riesgo

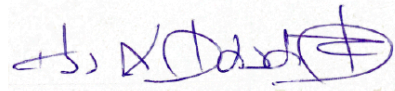
para su seguridad y la seguridad del público en general. Por esta razón, le notificamos que su comparecencia a la vista pública programada para el día de mañana ha sido cancelada.

La Cámara de Representantes continuará este proceso investigativo en protección del interés público. Sin embargo, ante el reconocimiento pleno e inequívoco sobre el poco valor probatorio de su testimonio, le relevamos permanentemente de su comparecencia ante esta Comisión.

Cordialmente,



Rafael Hernández Montañez
Presidente



Kebin A. Maldonado Martiz
Presidente de la Comisión de
Relaciones Federales,
Internacionales, Estatus y
Veteranos

Sample reply to a letter by a constituent member of the Extended Delegation (Sen. Brown)

SHERROD BROWN
OHIO
COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
FINANCE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505
[Redacted]

Ms. Sara [Redacted]
[Redacted]
OH 44053

Dear Ms. Vernandez:

Thank you for sharing your views regarding Puerto Rican statehood. I share your support for admitting Puerto Rico to the Union as a State.

The Enabling Act of 1802 details the procedures by which new states may be admitted to the Union. Under this act, the government of a territory must make known the desire of its population for statehood and write a state constitution. Congress would then vote on acceptance of this state constitution and admit the state to the Union.

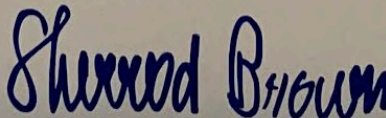
Puerto Rico has held six referendums related to Puerto Rican statehood. In the most recent referendum in November 2020, the majority of voters said they supported admitting Puerto Rico into the Union as a state. It is our collective duty to ensure that all of the rights of mainland American citizens be extended to the American citizens of Puerto Rico. The soundest way to ensure that is to admit Puerto Rico into the Union as a state.

As citizens and taxpayers, Puerto Rican residents should have a voice and vote in Congress. The fact that these individuals are denied that basic right is contrary to our nation's democratic values.

Should any legislation come before the Senate regarding Puerto Rican statehood, I will certainly keep your views in mind.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Permit for SCOTUS demonstration



PROTECTIVE INTELLIGENCE UNIT Special Event Notification

[The Puerto Rico Congressional Delegation]

Tuesday November 9th, 2021

Thank you for reaching out to the Supreme Court of the United States Police Department regarding your upcoming event.

Please take a moment to answer the below questions regarding your event. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 202-224-4795 M-F 0700-1500hrs.

What time will you set up?

9:00 am

What time will your event begin?

All 11:00 am

What time will your event end?

5:00 pm

What time will you break down equipment and depart the area?

5:00 pm

How many participants are you expecting to attend?

100

Do you or any members of your group plan on engaging in civil disobedience or risking arrest?

NOT AT ALL

Are you expecting any counter-protest groups to be present?

100 or less

Will there be Members of Congress, President/Vice President, or other VIPs present (or invited) to the event?

Dr. Ricardo Rossello (Shadow Delegate) and former Governor of Puerto Rico
rrossello@delegates.pr.gov
Active Members of Congress are unknown at this time. Arrangements are in consideration.

What equipment will you be using, if any? (Please be advised, a stage can be no larger than 4'x4'x1' and there is no power supply available, battery operated generators are acceptable)

One BATTERY operated speaker and one microphone.

Are there any website or social media links you would like to share related to your group or this event?

<http://www.delegates.us>

Any other information you would like to share regarding your event that wasn't previously covered?

N/A This is a First Amendment

Additionally, please review the Supreme Court of the United States Building Rules and Regulations by clicking the link below:

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/buildingregulations.aspx>

CP-40

U.S. CAPITOL POLICE BOARD
119 D Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

SEU#

**Application for Permit Under Article XIX Of The Traffic
And Motor Vehicle Regulations for United States Capitol Grounds**

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Organization and/or Spokesperson: The Puerto Rico Congressional Delegation (Shadow) | 2. Date of Application: Sept 22, 2021 |
|---|--|

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 3. Address: 3220 N St. NW | 4. Telephone: Business 2026152012 | 5. Mobile: same | 6. Email address rrossello@delegates.pr.gov |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| 7. Date(s) of Event: November 9th, 2021 | 8. Day(s) of Week: Tuesday | 9. Start Time (including set-up): 9am | 10. End Time (including clean-up): 5pm | 11. Total Duration: 8 hours |
|--|-------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|

12. Specific area of U.S. Capitol Grounds requested to be utilized: (i.e., West Front Grassy Area, Upper Senate Park, Taft Memorial Park, etc.)
In front of the United States Supreme Court

| | |
|--|--|
| 13. Estimated number of participants: 100 | 14. Additional Point of Contact / Spokesperson: Maver Rivas Telephone: 7179901437 Email address: delegates.us@gmail.com |
|--|--|

13a. Nature of Event (Check appropriate box best describing the nature of your activity):

Demonstration (Rally, Vigil, etc.) Filming/Photography Musical Presentation

March (Provide Route) Road Race Other (Describe below)

b. Describe event purpose / message / First Amendment platform and activity in detail:
We will be doing a peaceful demonstration outside of the supreme court, supporting the Valleo Madero (respondent) case. We will bring signs and a mechanism to stream the hearings.



Presentation for House Hearing and Bayamon Townhall

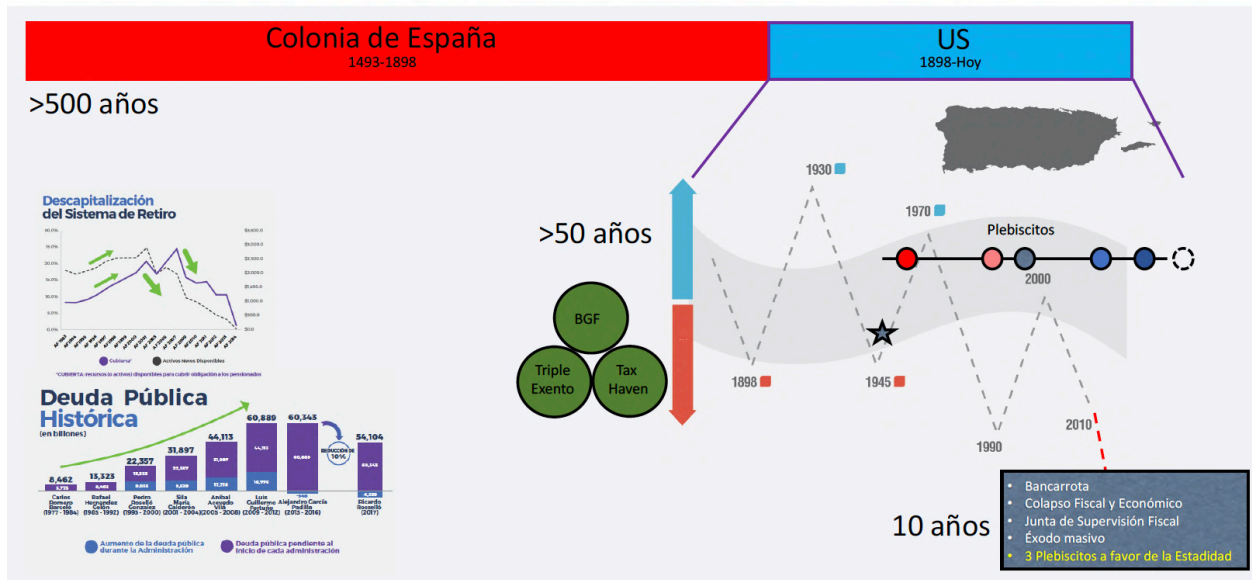
Informe de Delegado



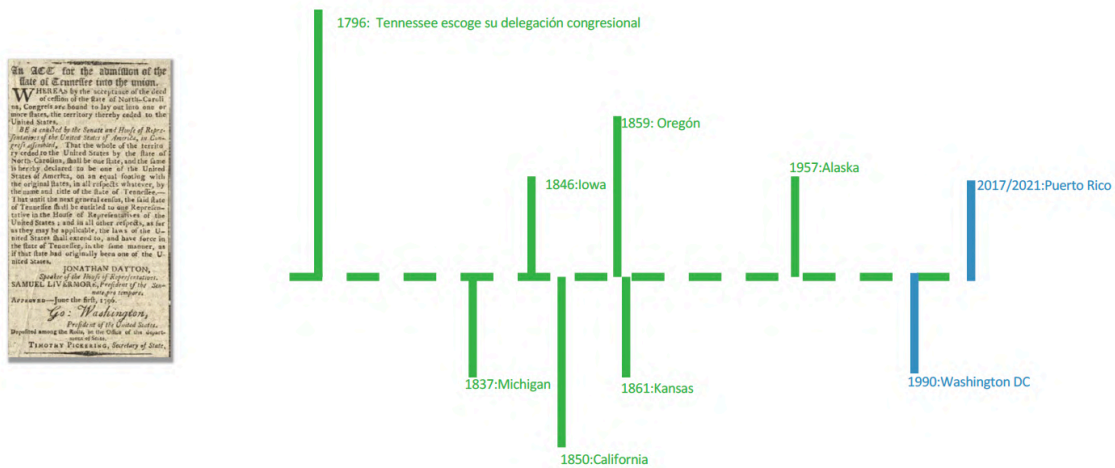
DR. RICARDO ROSSELLO NEVARES
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
PUERTO RICO (SHADOW)

rossello@delegates.pr.gov

Breve historia del colonialismo en Puerto Rico

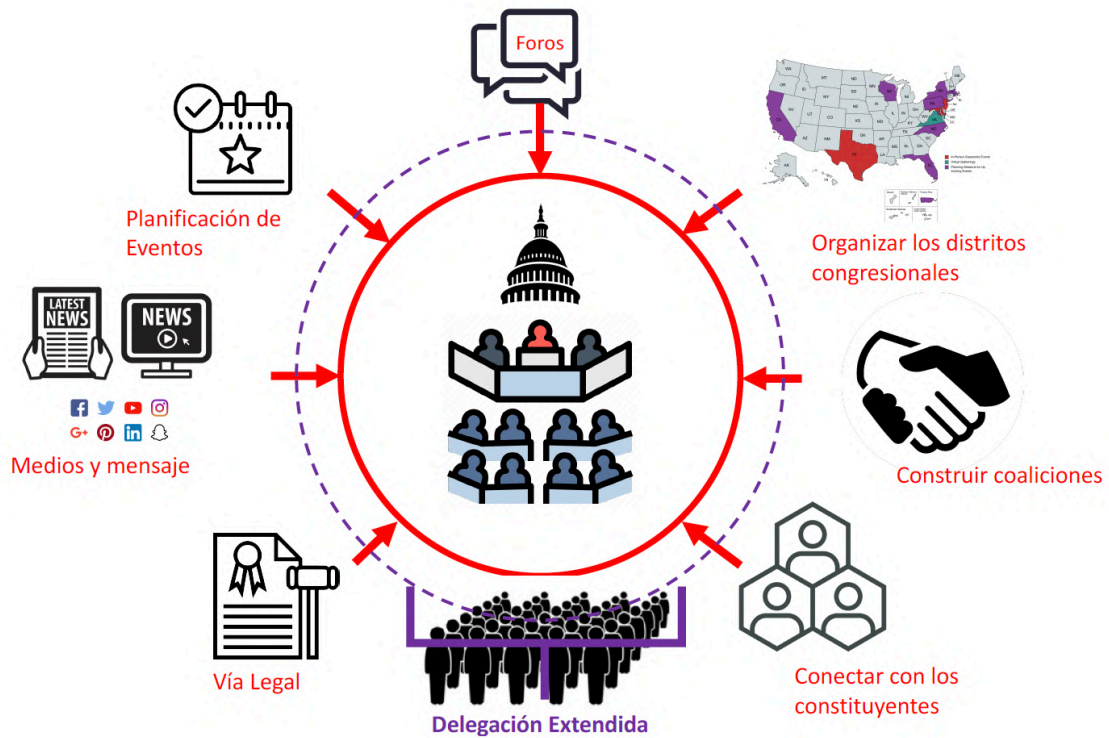


La Estadidad y el Plan Tennessee



Visión: Lograr la igualdad y una mejor calidad de vida para los Ciudadanos Americanos que residen en Puerto Rico mediante la estadidad.

Misión: Ejercer presión externa al Congreso de los Estados Unidos para provocar un mecanismo que le ofrecerá la opción de estadidad al Pueblo de Puerto Rico (A esta fecha, ese mecanismo es el H.R. 1522) de manera vinculante. Haremos esto creando una red a nivel nacional que que apoye (1) la estadidad y la igualdad para todos los Puertorriqueños y (2) sus derechos civiles y de elector.



Dr. Ricardo Rossello's Proposed

Path forward Delegation Efforts



90 days

Creation of extended delegation
Objective initiation: events, congressional effort, district organization, mobilization building

Actions performed

Getting started

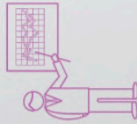


2021

Expansion on all objectives
Stepwise growth of objectives
Eliciting a decision from the Natural resources committee

Short-Term

Laying the foundation for growth



2022-23

Strategic path to impact districts
Gathering of national delegates.
Impacting congressional races
Moving statehood project to next steps.

Mid-Term

Charting measurable impacts and adjusting to possible changes in congressional makeup



2024-27

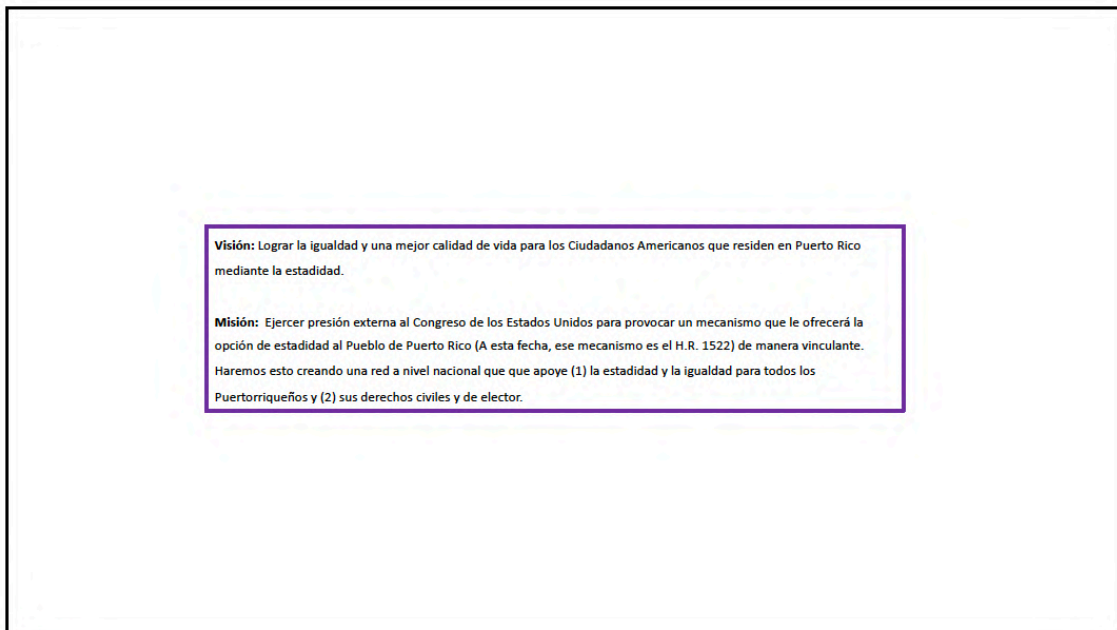
Enabled a mechanism for a binding resolution of the colonial status in Puerto Rico
Established robust national network of Puerto Rican supporters of equality

Long-Term

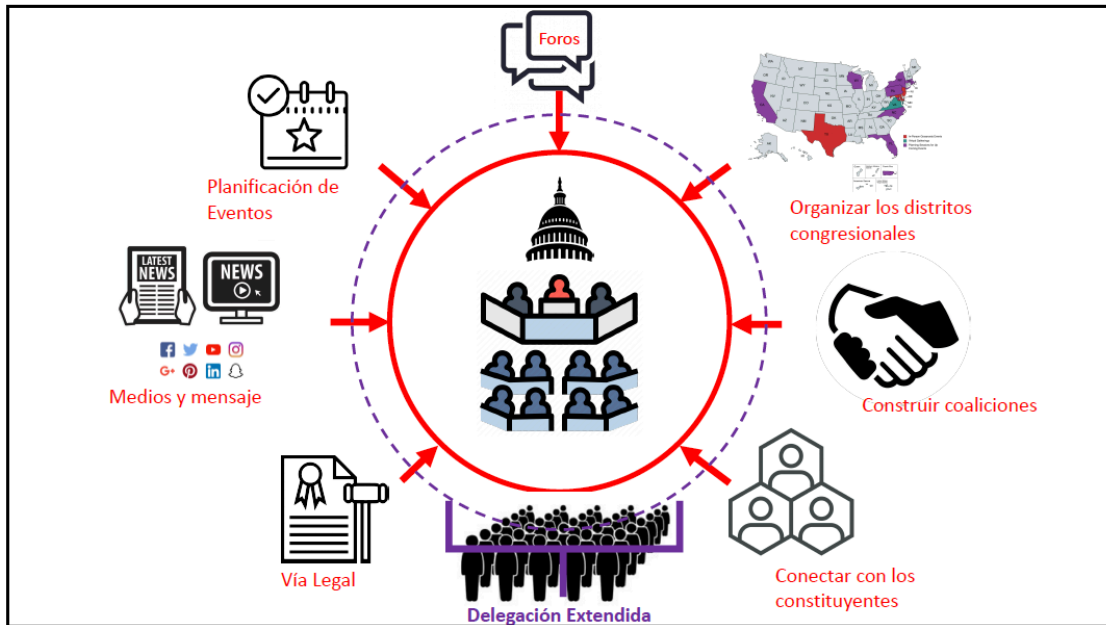
Achieving equality, statehood and a National Puerto Rican Network



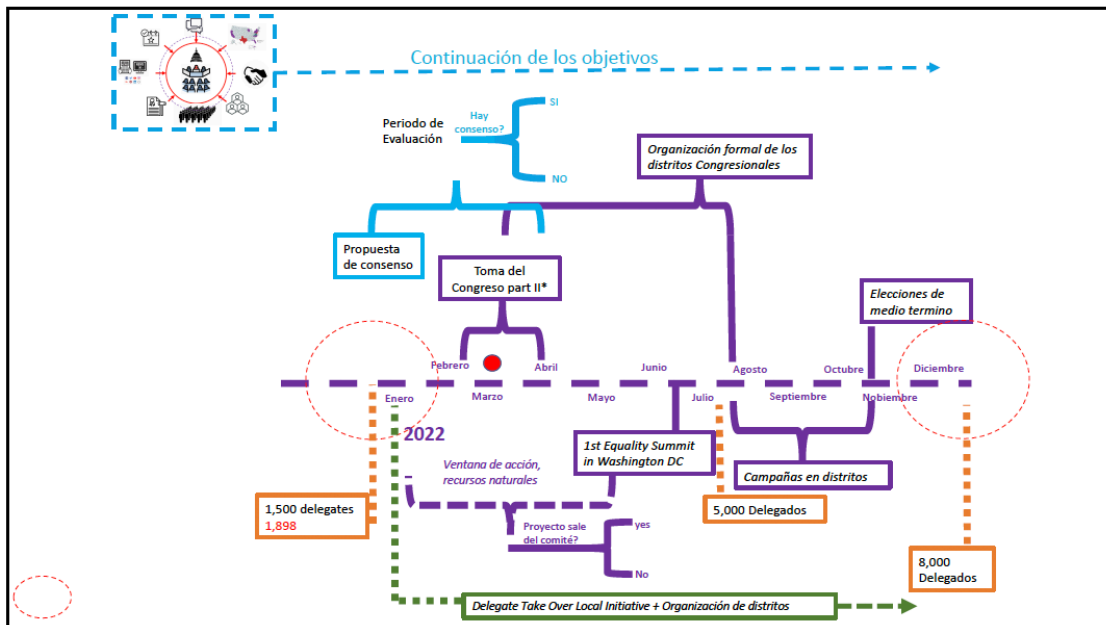
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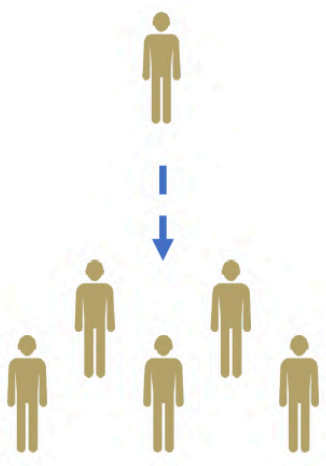


3




4

5x1



Familiares en EEUU



- 1-Oregon
- 2-Iowa
- 3-Kansas
- 4-South Dakota
- 5-Maine
- 6-Montana
- 7-North Dakota

5

Preparar su capítulo

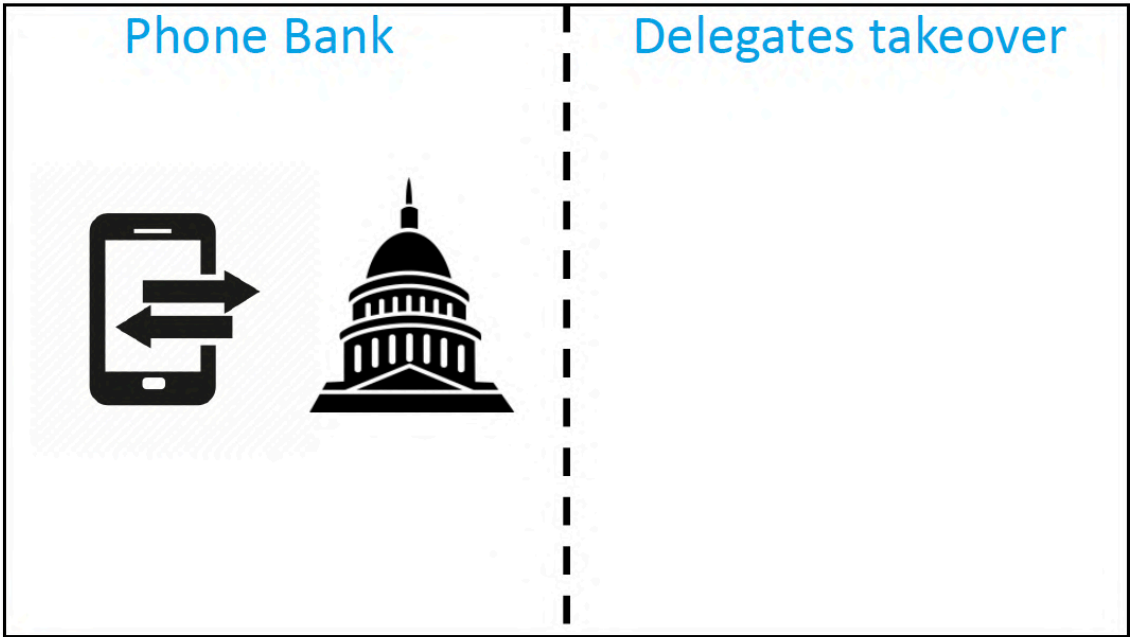


Contactar a Grijalva

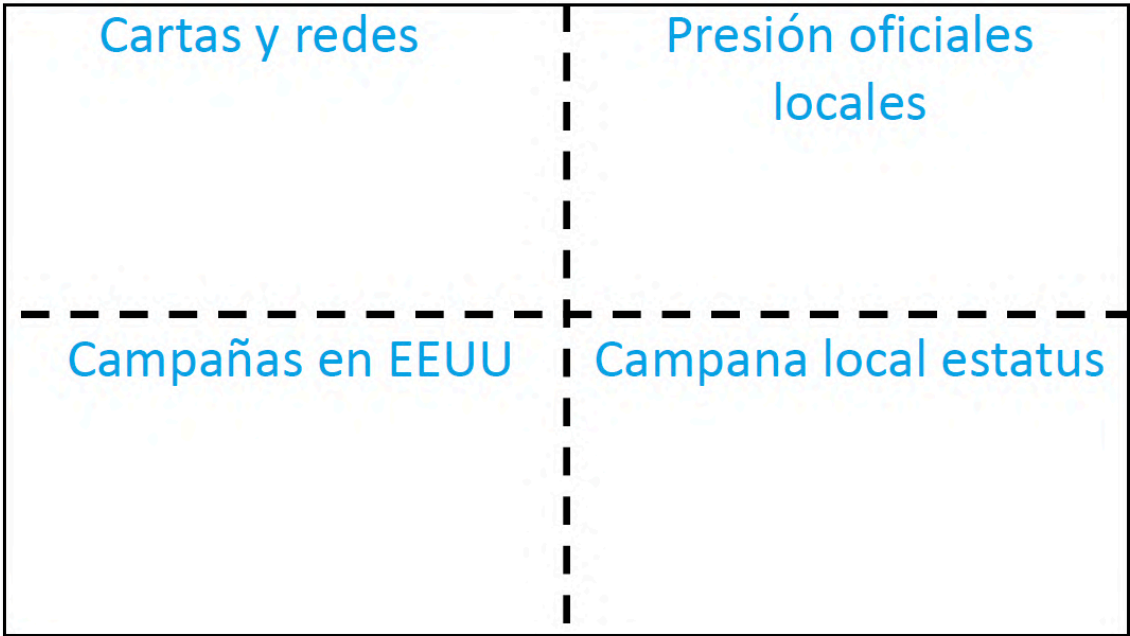
<https://naturalresources.house.gov/listen-to-puerto-rico>



6



7



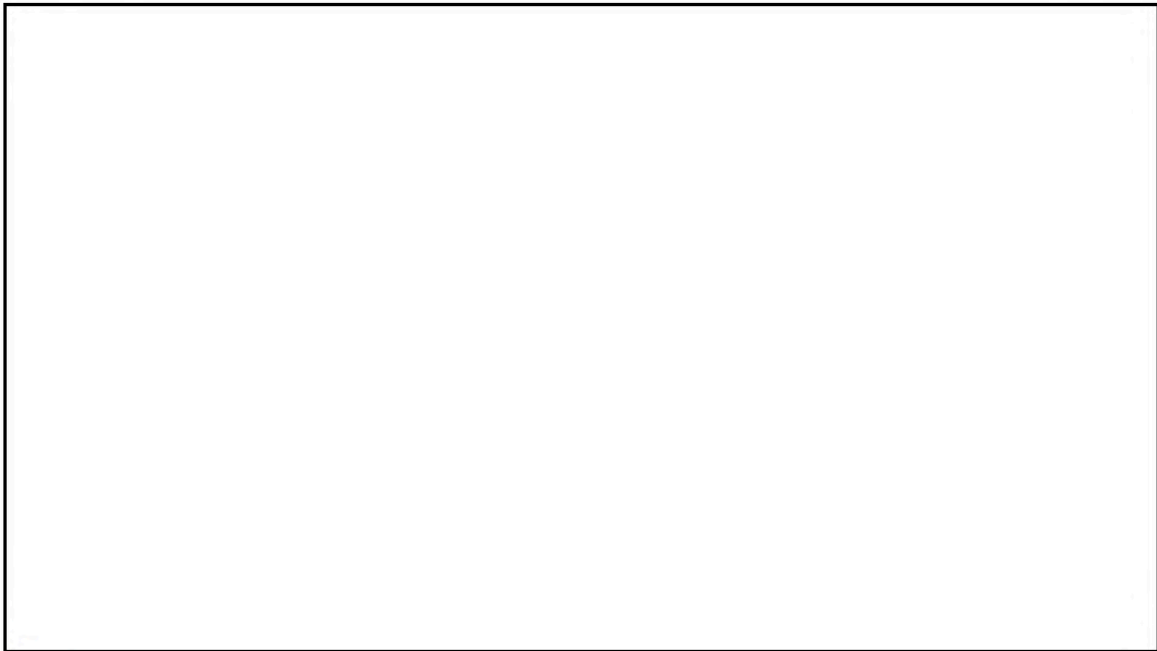
8

Delegación Extendida

Una Red

Delegates.us
Delegates.us@gmail.com
717-990-1437

9



10

