

2nd Quarterly Delegate Report

December 27th 2021*



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

*With Letter and Executive Summary in Spanish

rossello@delegates.pr.gov

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A Recognition

I would like to recognize and thank the people that have made our delegation's work possible. Among them:

To my wife and member of the extended delegation 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 delegation. In particular, to Maver Rivas for outstanding administrative and HR support as well as Roxanna Soto Aguilu for her advice and direction. 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.

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.

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 for progress.

Reconocimientos

Quisiera reconocer y agradecer a todos aquellos que han hecho posible el trabajo de nuestra delegación. Entre ellos:

A mi esposa Beatriz, por su apoyo y dirección creativa sobre muchos de los aspectos que la delegación está encaminando.

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

A los miles de ciudadanos que se han hecho miembros de nuestra delegación. En particular a Maver Rivas por su apoyo administrativo y de recursos humanos y a la Licenciada Roxanna Soto Aguilu, por sus dirección y consejo. Los consideramos delegados en propiedad, tanto como los que hemos sido electos. Su compromiso y pasión son la fuerza motriz que impulsa nuestra agenda igualitaria.

Al gobernador Pierluisi y su equipo de trabajo. Aún enfrentado múltiples retos, es evidente que su prioridad continúa siendo el responder al mandato de nuestro pueblo y abrir para nuestros ciudadanos el camino hacia la Estadidad.

Al pueblo de Puerto Rico. Ustedes son el motivo de nuestros esfuerzos por lograr la igualdad ciudadana que merecemos, y proveer a futuras generaciones las mejores herramientas y opciones de progreso.

Letter from Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares



December 27th, 2021

Hon. Pedro Pierluisi Urrutia
Governor of Puerto Rico
La Fortaleza

Dear Governor Pierluisi:

As established by public law 167-2020, I am submitting the second iteration of our delegation's required 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 an effort 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 continue to drive our mission forward. Appendices at the end evidence and support the efforts undertaken.

In summary, our delegation has grown significantly to over 1,900 people in 39 states. We have also contacted 99% of the island's municipalities and engaged in over 300 individual constituent meetings. Our office has had meetings with 92 members of Congress (62 House, 20 Senate) from both sides of the isle, including 18 in the Natural Resources Committee. We concluded the first iteration of the 51x51 initiative and brought over 250 extended delegates to Washington DC for our "*Impacto Estadista*" in early November. Follow up has been given on the *Amicus-Brief* for the Vaello|Madero Case, and progress has been made on the Congressional front with the Build Back Better bill. We also made a consensus status bill proposal to Leader Hoyer's office, and submitted a complaint to the US Commission on Civil Rights, focusing on voting rights violations by the Puerto Rico House and Senate Presidents. The rest of the results are summarized in the report.

Having established a path for operation, 2022 will be a critical year. In the coming months, the destiny of the two current status projects will be determined – either directly by action or indirectly by inaction. Our actions in either event are important to identify and execute. In addition, midterm elections are about 10 months away. I believe that focus on identifying key districts should span beyond the delegation, to include all statehood supporters. Demonstrating political power as well as gaining champions for the cause are at stake in this critical juncture. These will be the guiding objectives for the next several quarters, for which I have developed a proposed roadmap.

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 helping to eliminate colonialism and asserting our citizens' will to become the 51st state of the Union.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ricardo Rosselló Nevares".

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

rossello@delegates.pr.gov

Carta del Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares



OFICINA DEL EX GOBERNADOR
DE PUERTO RICO
RICARDO ROSSELLÓ NEVARES

27 de diciembre de 2021

Hon. Pedro Pierluisi Urrutia
Gobernador of Puerto Rico
La Fortaleza

Estimado Gobernador:

Conforme a los requisitos de la Ley Pública 167-2020, someto para su consideración el segundo 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 ha crecido significativamente a unas 1,900 personas en 39 estados. También hemos impactado el 99% de los municipios en la Isla y hemos conducido más de 300 reuniones con constituyentes individuales. Nuestra oficina se ha reunido con 92 miembros del Congreso (62 Cámara, 20 Senado) de ambos partidos, incluidos los 18 miembros de Comité de Recursos Naturales. Concluimos la primera ronda de la iniciativa *51x51* y, a principios de noviembre, llevamos a más de 250 delegados extendidos a Washington D.C. para la actividad *Impacto Estadista*. Igualmente, presentamos una propuesta de proyecto de ley ante el líder de mayoría Steny Hoyer, y radicamos una querrela ante la Comisión de Derechos Civiles de E.E. U.U. para denunciar violaciones al derecho al voto por parte de los presidentes de la Cámara y el Senado de Puerto Rico. El resto de los resultados se resumen y detallan a lo largo del informe.

Tras haber establecido nuestra ruta operacional, el año 2022 será uno crítico. En los próximos meses, se determinará el destino de los dos proyectos sobre estatus, bien sea por acción directa o indirectamente por inacción. Nuestras acciones y preparación para ambos casos son importantes de identificar y ejecutar. Además, las elecciones de mitad de cuatrienio serán dentro de unos 10 meses. Entiendo que el esfuerzo de identificar distritos puntuales debe expandir a otros sectores pro-igualdad. El demostrar poder político y a su vez adquirir campeones para nuestra causa esta en juego. Éstos serán nuestros objetivos principales durante los próximos trimestres, para el que he desarrollado un hoja de ruta y acción.

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.

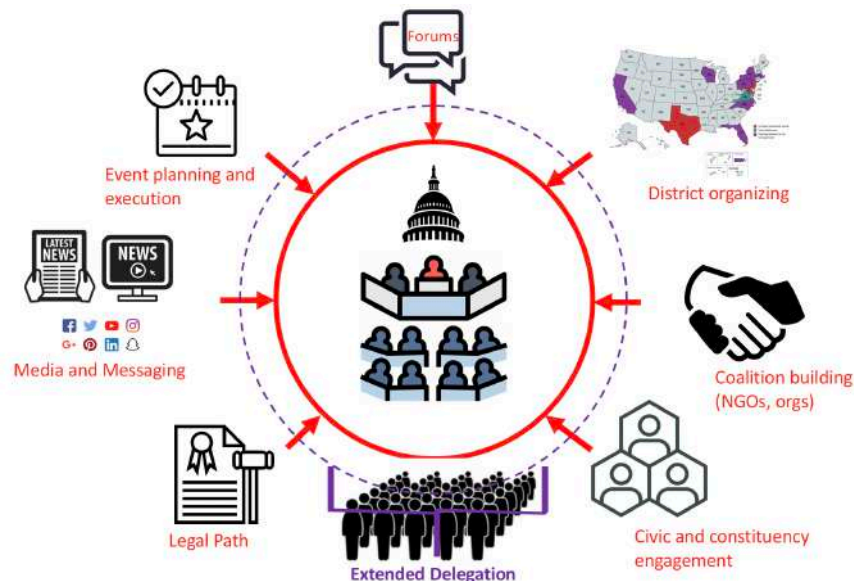
Con mis mejores deseos,

Ricardo Rosselló Nevares
Exgobernador de Puerto Rico, Representante (*Shadow*) por Puerto Rico en la Cámara Federal
CC: Al Pueblo de Puerto Rico

rossello@delegates.pr.gov

Executive Summary

Synopsis: The following is 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. A visual representation of those objectives is outlined in the image below.



Operations: Contrary to other elected officials, delegates are responsible for all administrative and clerical duties in addition to official duties. Guidelines on these duties were provided by PRFAA. I dedicate 60-80 hrs./week to my role as a delegate. Operations are greatly enhanced with the participation of the Extended Delegation.

Extended Delegation: A key initiative spearheaded by 4 members of the delegation (Melinda Romero, Roberto Lefranc Fortuño, Mayita Melendez and myself) is to expand the network of collaborators. We currently have 1898 extended delegates, 29% being from the mainland, spanning 39 states. I designed, wrote content, programmed, and executed the website: delegates.us. In addition, IDs have been sent to the first 600 delegates. The extended delegation has already started doing independent and individual work, such as letter writing to congress, visits to congressional offices, impact activities in their districts, canvassing, and hunger strikes. There are several states embarking on their own activities. We had the first in-person delegates work-shop meeting (November 8th, 2021) and have had online workshops with over 650 new extended delegates.

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 **10 in-person district** grassroots events (Texas, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania DC, Virginia, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Florida, and New York), plus virtual interactions with 8 other states. Three 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 **82** congressional meetings held and **314** individual letters sent (including to all the Natural Resources Committee members). Some have been followed up from previous meetings. In addition, I have made a public proposal to Congress for a consensus bill between H.R. 1522 and H.R. 2070 supporters. The crux of the idea is to amass both supporting factions (co-sponsors) to achieve a critical number of votes to pass the bill to the House floor. This proposal is discussed in detail in the body of the report. I am submitting a second alternative proposal in this report. Extended delegates on their own have accounted for **over 20** congressional meetings and over 100 letters sent to their district congress member.

Constituency and Civic Engagement: We have held town-hall meetings (>**40** Equality Gatherings) covering **99%** of the municipalities in Puerto Rico. We have also held **323** individual meetings with constituents. We have had civic engagement in various states as well. Extended delegates organized events in 10 towns in Puerto Rico to recruit new delegates and participate in the 51x51 effort. In addition, it is important to note that our office was committed to participating in a public hearing requested by the House of Representatives in Puerto Rico. Regrettably, after members of the PR House committee required me and other delegates to participate, even threatening us with contempt if we did not participated, once I confirmed my in-person participation, they cowered and canceled the hearing. This is consistent with the shameful behavior of the House Leadership, which has spent money without any accountability to lobby against the will of the People of Puerto Rico.

Communications, Media and Messaging: We participated in several media outlets and some of the actions pertaining to our efforts were highlighted. There were 20 interventions in all. In addition, the extended delegation started issuing a newsletter to showcase actions from the delegation (appendix). Published one article on voting rights and Puerto Rico (Appendix).

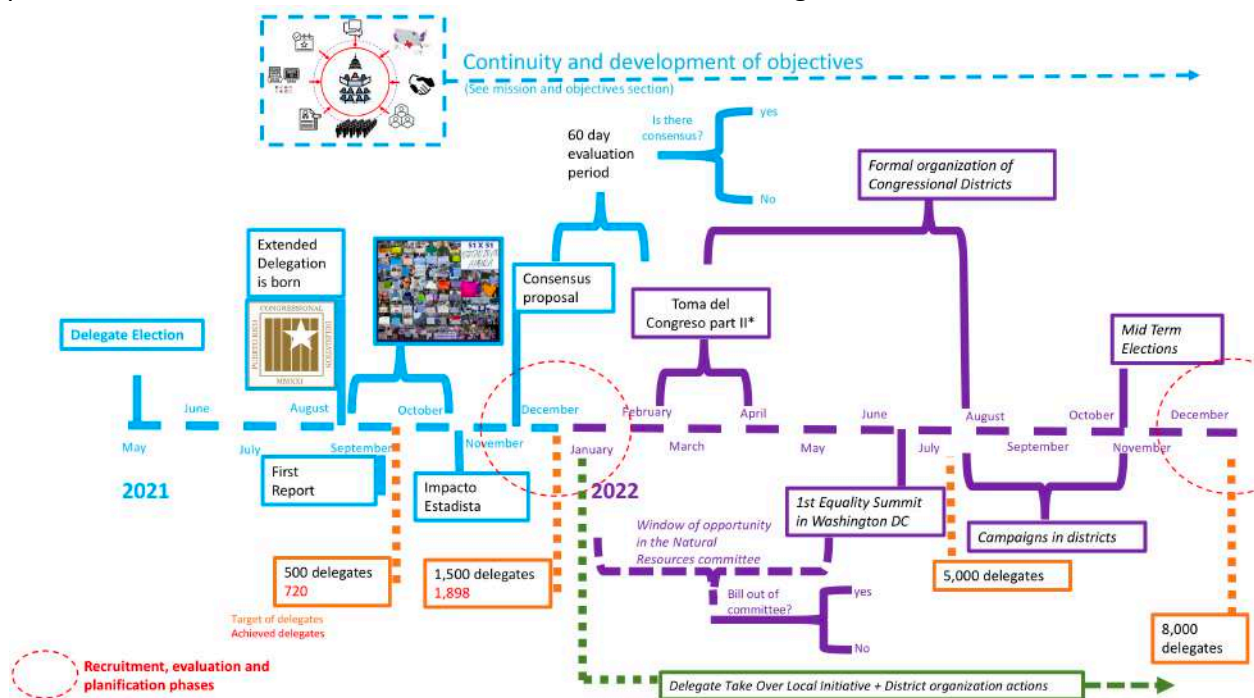
Event Planning and Execution: We finalized the 51x51 day demonstration in Washington DC. Voters from 12 neighboring states participated in the event. *Impacto Estadista* was a success, mobilizing over **250 delegates** to the Nation's Capital for several activities. Events were designed at a central level for 10 states and many others were done independently. Two hunger-strikes were carried out, with the leadership of Nixon Rosado. Also, a demonstration was held outside of SCOTUS for the Vaello Madero case. A public town hall was celebrated in Bayamón, in lieu of the hearing canceled by the President of the Puerto Rico House of Representatives.

Legal Path: Several meetings were held for 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 against the People of Puerto Rico by the presidents of the Puerto Rico House and Senate.

Coalition Building: Have engaged with 14 organizations whose objectives align with our effort. Admittedly, there is 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 several forums. These ranged from the academic front, special interest groups, and national party political structures.

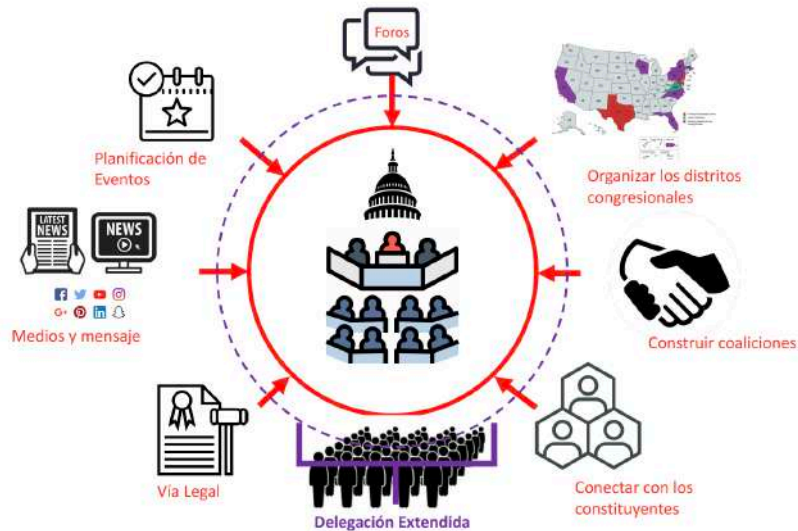
Path Forward and Roadmap: In the previous report, I outlined a path forward with short, mid and long term goals. While the longer term objectives remain the same, we have designed a one year road map, establishing specific milestones and a decision tree for action based on the response from Congress. The roadmap is below these lines. A larger version of it can be obtained in the appendix. Briefly, there are a few critical events we want to embark on this year in addition to the continuous development of the objectives outlined above. Namely, (1) the organized takeover of delegates in their towns and districts, (2) a *“Toma del Congreso”* part II event (pandemic and security measures willing), (3) the 1st *Equality Summit* in Washington DC (proposed by delegate Beatriz Areizaga) and (4) the organized campaigning in selected districts for the mid-term elections. There are two critical decisions and actions that will be taken by congressional leadership. First, is there a path to a *“broader consensus”* bill. Secondly, is the Natural Resources Committee going to put the measure (1522, 2070 or consensus bill) to a vote, and what that outcome is. The actions we take based on the answers to these questions will be paramount to the success of our cause. We discuss these in greater detail.



Expenses: Ricardo Rosselló does not receive a salary nor does he ask for expense reimbursement. 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

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 provea una opción vinculante de Estadidad para Puerto Rico. A continuación, una representación gráfica 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. Personalmente, dedico 60-80 horas semanales a mis gestiones como delegado. Las operaciones han mejorado dramáticamente con la incursión de la Delegación Extendida.

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 **1898** delegados extendidos, el **31%** de ellos provenientes de 39 estados de la Nación. Yo diseñé, programé, elaboré el contenido y ejecuté el portal de internet delegates.us. Además, se han expedido tarjetas de identificación a los primeros **600 delegados**. Esta delegación extendida ya ha comenzado a hacer trabajo independiente e individualmente, escribiendo cartas a congresistas, visitando oficinas en el Congreso, haciendo actividades de impacto en sus distritos, haciendo campaña y huelgas de hambre. Hay varios estados llevando a cabo sus propias actividades. Tuvimos el primer taller de trabajo presencial con delegados (8 de noviembre de 2021), como también hemos hecho talleres en línea con más de 650 nuevos delegados extendidos.

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 10 eventos presenciales de votantes en distritos (Texas, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania DC, Virginia, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Florida y New York), además de interacciones virtuales con otros 8 estados. Tres 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 **82** reuniones en el Congreso, y se han enviado **314** cartas individuales (incluyendo a todos los miembros del Comité de Recursos Naturales). Algunas de estas reuniones han tenido otra de seguimiento. Además, yo he sometido ante el Congreso una propuesta pública para lograr un proyecto de ley de consenso entre los que apoyan el H.R. 1522 y el H.R. 2070. La esencia de esta idea es lograr el apoyo de ambas facciones (coauspiciadores), con el fin de alcanzar la cantidad crítica de votos para que el proyecto pase al pleno de la Cámara. Esta propuesta se discute en detalle dentro del informe. Los delegados extendidos, por cuenta propia, han logrado 20 reuniones con congresistas y han enviado más de 100 cartas a sus representantes de distrito.

Envolvimiento Cívico y de Constituyentes: Hemos efectuado reuniones de pueblo (más de 40 *Encuentros de Igualdad*) en el 99% de los municipios de Puerto Rico. Asimismo, hemos tenido **323** reuniones individuales con constituyentes. También hemos llevado a cabo encuentros en varios estados. Los delegados extendidos organizaron eventos en 10 pueblos de la Isla para reclutar nuevos delegados y participar en el esfuerzo *51x51*. Además, es importante señalar que nuestra oficina estaba comprometida con participar en las vistas públicas convocadas por la Cámara de Representantes de Puerto Rico. Lamentablemente, luego de que el Comité de la Cámara de Puerto Rico obligara mi participación y la de otros delegados (bajo pena de desacato), una vez confirmé mi participación en persona, se acobardaron y cancelaron las vistas. Esto es consistente con el bochornoso comportamiento del liderato de la Cámara, que ha gastado dinero público, sin rendir cuentas, para cabildar en contra de la voluntad del Pueblo de Puerto Rico.

Comunicaciones, Medios y Mensajes: Hemos participado en varios medios de comunicaciones, donde se han presentado nuestras acciones y esfuerzos. Fueron unas 20 intervenciones en total. Asimismo, la delegación extendida comenzó una carta circular exaltando el trabajo de la delegación (Anejo). También publiqué un artículo sobre el derecho al voto y Puerto Rico (Anejo).

Planificación de Eventos y Ejecución: Finalizamos la iniciativa *51x51* tras 51 días de demostraciones en Washington D.C. Votantes de 12 estados vecinos participaron en el evento. Igualmente, *Impacto Estadista* fue un éxito rotundo, con la movilización de **250** delegados que se dieron cita en la Capital Federal para varias actividades. Estos eventos se organizaron a nivel central en 10 estados, y muchos más de manera independiente. Bajo el liderato de Nixon Rosado, se efectuaron dos huelgas de hambre. Igualmente, se llevó a cabo una demostración en las afueras del Tribunal Supremo federal mientras se veía en ese foro el caso Vaello Madero. Se celebró en Bayamón una reunión de pueblo, que reemplazó las vistas públicas canceladas por el presidente de la Cámara de Representantes de Puerto Rico.

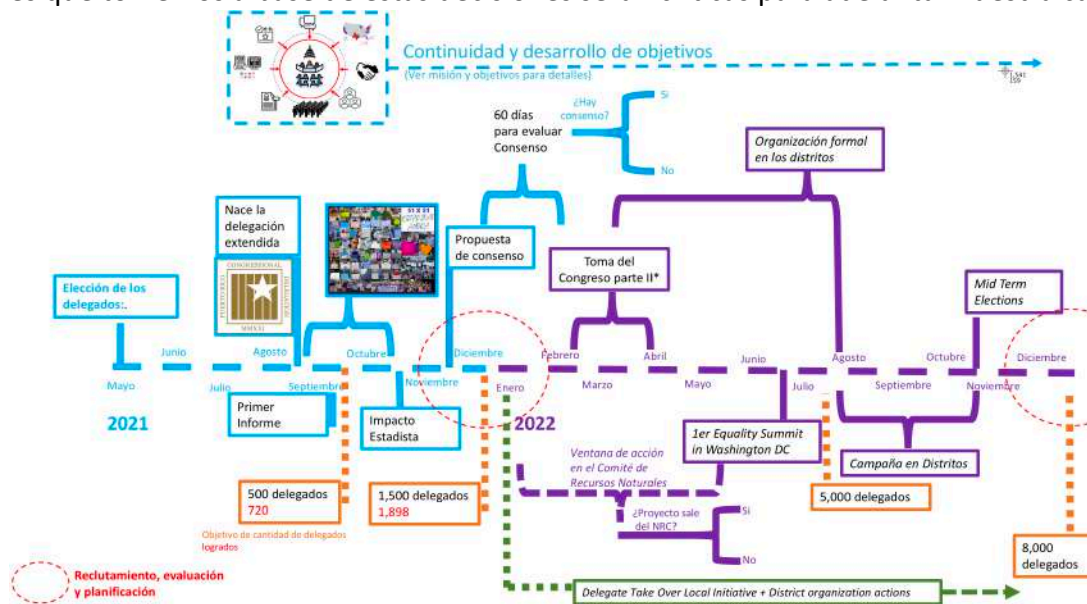
Ruta Legal: Se efectuaron varias reuniones de seguimiento relativas al *amicus-brief* radicado por la delegación. Además, como parte del taller de trabajo de la delegación extendida, se radicó una

querrela ante la Comisión de Derechos Civiles de los E.E. U.U. por violaciones al derecho al voto y a derechos civiles por parte de los presidentes de la Cámara y el Senado de Puerto Rico.

Formación de Coaliciones: Hemos entablado relaciones con 14 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 varios foros. Éstos iban desde foros académicos, a grupos de intereses especiales y hasta estructuras políticas de partidos nacionales.

Ruta Adelante – Metas a Corto, Medio y Largo Plazo: En el informe anterior, detallamos la ruta adelante. Aunque los objetivos se sostienen, hemos diseñado una hoja de ruta de un año, estableciendo hitos específicos y acciones a tomar a base de ciertas decisiones que tome el Congreso. La hoja de ruta está en la imagen abajo; una versión más grande la encontrarán en los anejos. Brevemente, hay varios eventos que llevaremos a cabo, además de los establecidos en los objetivos (arriba): (1) el evento de “Delegates Take Over” durante el año completo, (2) una segunda Toma del Congreso, (3) el 1er “Equality Summit” en Washington D.C. (propuesta de la delegada Beatriz Areizaga), (4) la campaña organizada en distritos estratégicos para las elecciones de mitad de cuatrienio. Hay al menos dos decisiones críticas por parte del liderato congresional. En primer lugar, determinar si se hará un proyecto de “mayor consenso”. En segundo lugar, ver si el comité de Recursos Naturales tomará acción sobre los proyectos. Las acciones que tomemos a base de estas decisiones serán críticas para adelantar nuestra causa.



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 (gastos compartidos con Roberto Lefranc), “pins” para delegados, envío de correspondencia, etc.). **El costo total para el pueblo de Puerto Rico: \$0.00**

Actions and KPIs

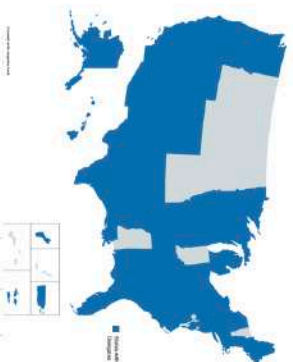
Congressional effort

	NRC	House	Senate
Letters	43	250	64
Contacts	30	109	23
Meetings	18	62	20



Extended delegation

delegates.us



1898 extended delegates
601 state side
39 states with delegates
11 work meetings with the extended delegation

Meetings from extended delegates

+16

+5

Constituency engagement

Dr. RICARDO ROSSELLO NEGRAES
 ESPEJO SEÑALAS, RUMOROSAMENTE
 PUNTERO, RICO (SHAWROW)



- 99% of island municipalities covered (equality gatherings)
- 50-60 people per townhall
- **323** individual constituent meetings



Actions and KPIs

District organization



- **10** states with in person grassroots district organization meetings
- **12** states virtual meetings



- ### Events
- 51x51
 - State Gatherings
 - Impacto
 - Estradista (DC)
 - Online Workshops
 - Canvassing SCOTUS
 - Demonstration

Legal Path: US Commission on Civil Rights + Amicus Brief SCOTUS
Organizations engagement: 14 orgs and NGOs
Forums participated: 12
Media and messaging: 8 interventions and 10 workshops
Expense to Puerto Rico: \$0.00

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 and 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 16th, 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 11th, 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 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.

Notwithstanding, both bills are under the consideration of the Natural Resources Committee. Although a markup for these bills is expected in the following months, no date has been set.

Evidenced by the stagnant nature of the discussion in the Natural Resources Committee, media reports (Delgado, 2021) declared House Majority Leader, Steny Hoyer's position to look for a consensus bill. As part of this effort, Ricardo Rossello submitted a proposal that would include the major components of both bills, allow the people to choose, and enable a path forward (Noticel,2021)

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 when 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. No excuses. 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 have absorbed and will continue to do so..

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

Aside from salary and expenses, it is important to note that delegates don't have access to much (if any) administrative assistance. Therefore, these **administrative and clerical roles are part of the Delegate's responsibility**. Some of these include, planning, mailing, engaging, travel arrangements, calendaring, follow up engagements, brief preparation, research, writing, connecting with Congress, and other clerical duties. Here, I would like to thank and recognize the support that so many extended delegates have given to us.

The official website presence is hosted by the Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service (PRITS). There is still work to be done on this front. Maintenance, updates, and responses to the delegates.us page is handled by Ricardo Rossello.

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.

Activity

A novel consensus proposal for a status 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** for letter).

Briefly, I propose taking HR.1522 and – in addition to making the YES vote mean something – have the no vote have a binding result as well. Let me expand (Noticel, 2021).

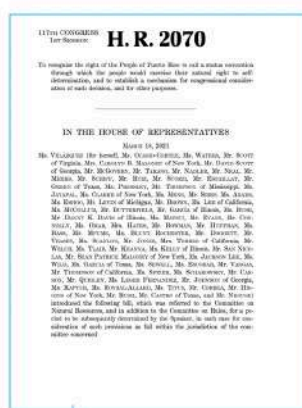
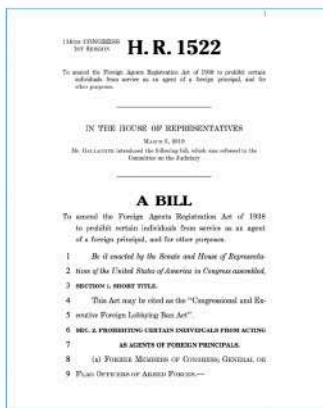
As it stands now, HR.1522 would grant the choice of statehood to the US Citizens that reside in the island if they vote in favor. However, nothing happens if there is a NO vote. To garner support from those that would desire another course of action, why don't we have the "NO" vote have an implication as well?

There are several ways to take this, but the simplest one would be to fix the unconstitutional elements of HR.2070 (indefinite terms, binding congress to alternatives beyond those accepted by international law, etc.), and have a version be the alternative.

It's bold. Everybody has skin on the game. It lets the people choose as opposed to a Congress that does not have voting representation on behalf of the US Citizens of Puerto Rico. And – importantly – it starts landing on a resolution to the 500 year-old colonial dilemma for the Island.

Given this option, in theory, everybody should be supportive who has already supported one for the two bills. If you block this path, it showcases the fact that you are either afraid of the results or you want to block the voting will of the people at all costs.

The figure below denotes the general structure of the proposal.



- (1) Use base set up of HR.1522.
- (2) Let the "yes" vote sustain as a binding ratification vote for statehood.
- (3) Convert the "no" vote into the base proposal of HR.2070 (eliminating unconstitutional components).
- (4) Let the voters decide between the alternatives. Avoids congressional stagnation. Gives both sides skin on the game.
- (5) Pragmatically, it adds the 76 co-sponsors of HR.2070 to the 77 co-sponsors of HR.1522.
- (6) It would also have 16 votes in the Natural Resources Committee.

Schematic of proposed consensus bill

It is our view that this proposal has the potential to amass support from both projects, and approximate the milestone votes necessary for action.

An alternative proposal could be the following: use the base proposal for HR.1522 and add the following caveat: Should the Congress not act within a certain period of time after an affirmative vote on statehood (Say, 3-5 years), then Puerto Rico would become an independent country. The idea behind this proposal is to accelerate action. It is widely regarded that the colonial situation needs to end in the Island. The problem is the comfort zone of inaction. This is an alternative that provokes change, one way or the other.

The House citation farce that never was

A few weeks after our 1st 90 day report was submitted, the Puerto Rico House Committee on Federal, international and State relations sent me a letter to request my participation in a hearing, based on the House Resolution Number 535 (See Appendix). In this letter, dated

October 15th, I was asked to participate with the end being “a broad investigation” over the work done by the Congressional Delegation of Puerto Rico in Washington DC. It specifically targeted the meetings sustained in DC as well as the reimbursement on expenses undertaken. The letter goes on to say that “**You are advised that failure to appear will be understood as an obstruction without just cause to our legislative power and we will be going to the Court to determine if you incurred the crime of obstruction of the legislative function” (underlined emphasis added). The public hearing was set for October 21st, 6 days after receipt of the initial notice.**

Committed to engaging, I responded on October 18th, soliciting participation through an online vehicle (e.g. Zoom). This had been consistent with the norms regarding the Pandemic, and understood that this should not be a problem. I also had a medical appointment that had been previously scheduled (months in advanced) for my youngest son (See letter in Appendix XXXX).

Notwithstanding this reasonable petition, on that same day Mr. Kebin Maldonado insisted on the in-person participation stating that “your in-person participation is obligatory”. They offered alternative dates. The leadership doubled down on the importance of the participation and threatened “ **You are advised that failure to appear will be construed as obstruction without just cause to our legislative faculty and we will be going to the Court for it to determine if you committed the crime of obstruction of the legislative function.**” (see full response on Appendix)

In response to this, I confirmed my participation on the 21st of October (see letter in Appendix). I also requested audio visual instruments to convey my presentation. I made arrangements to get a flight to Puerto Rico at my own expense, so that I could travel on the 20th and be ready to present our work on the 21st.

As I was getting on the plane, House President Tatito Hernandez canceled the hearings and “permanently relieve you of your appearance before this Commission.” (see letter in Appendix).

Under those circumstances, I arrived to Puerto Rico and had a Public Townhall to talk about our work and our report in Bayamon (more in Events). In addition, we had several meetings with local leadership and participated in an activity in La Perla, to see the actions undertaken by the former First Lady, Beatriz Rossello, with the community members.

This shameful, cowardly and incoherent action by the House of Representatives, the Committee President Kebin Maldonado, and specifically the House President, Tatito Hernandez stands to be reevaluated.

In the span of 5 days, these gentlemen went from threatening to take me and others to court, in order to participate in a hearing. From the onset, I gave the commission the clear sign that I was willing to participate. They doubled down, that I had to come in person or they would pursue “criminal intent.” Finally, when I confirmed the original date, they cowered under shameful and incoherent rationale to avoid my participation in the hearing.

Ironically, this is the sort of wasteful spending they so claim to stop, yet they dragged on a process that required time and resources from all parties for absolutely nothing. This is a seemingly consistent behavior by the President of The House, and one of our actions in this quarter was to highlight this hypocrisy with a political circus he created (and backfired), compared to his spending spree for “consultants” to stop the will of the People in Puerto Rico (more in Legal Path section).

Extended Delegation

The Extended Delegation initiative is an effort subscribed by four of the members of the elected delegation to enhance outreach, create a national structure, and become more effective with the Congressional Delegation’s objectives (NotiUno, 2021). 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.

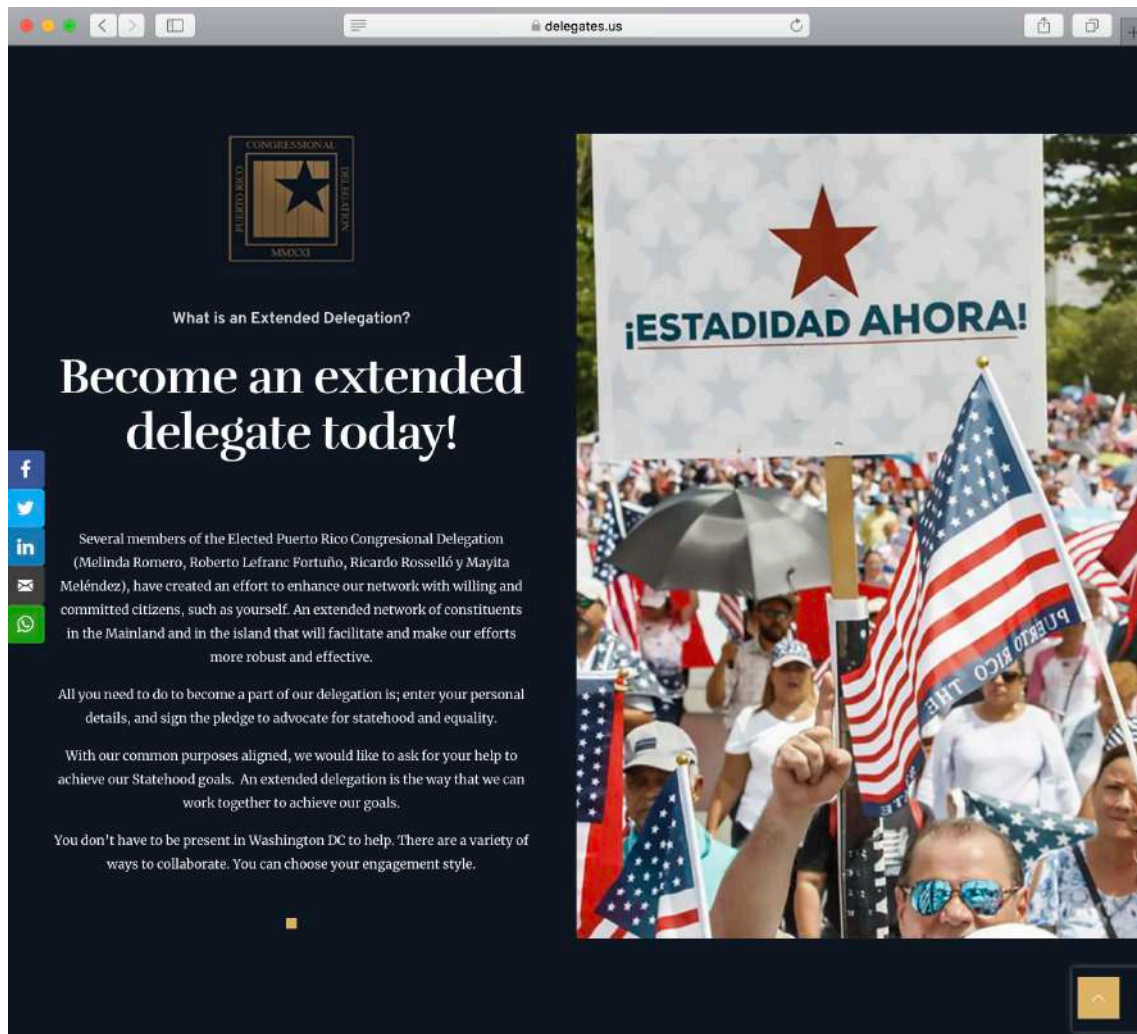


Figure 1: A snapshot of the extended delegate website (www.delegates.us).

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

As of December 26th, 2021, there were [1898](#) extended delegates, 31% of whom reside in the mainland. This represents almost a 160% increase from the first quarter numbers. There are 39 states represented by extended delegates.

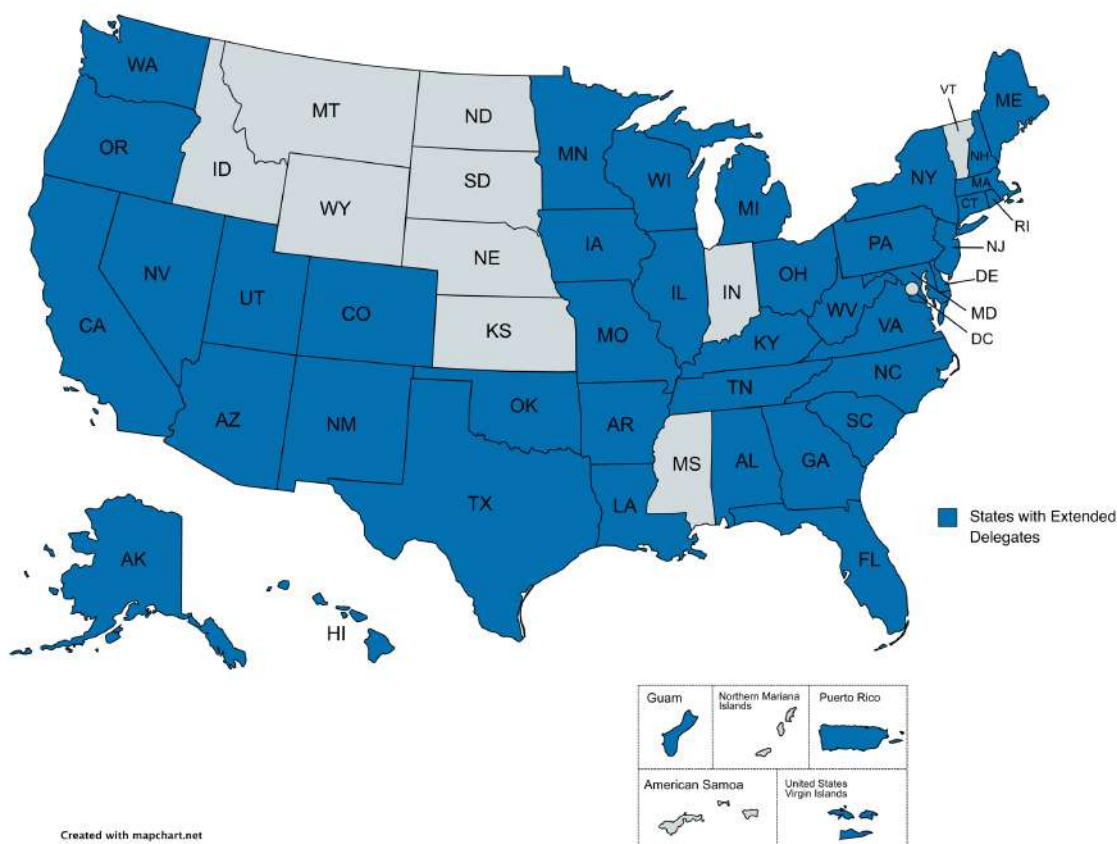


Figure 2: Updated map showcases the coverage of extended delegates across 39 states.

Local organization milestones: The extended delegates have shown steady progress. At this time, we have hit a critical number of delegates in 7 states that have allowed us to embark on local autonomy efforts. This means, that the local delegate groups in Florida, Virginia, Georgia, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas have their own chapters or are in the process of

creating those chapters. The independence provided to these chapters, coupled with a critical mass of delegates allows for lean management and execution of local activities.

Local events: events have been organized and executed at the local level. Puerto Rico delegates have created both recruitment events (photo) or events for the 51x51 initiative. Current plans for further canvassing in the Island and in the States are in progress.



Local event in Mayaguez

Letters to Congress Members: One of the most impactful efforts that have been generated by the delegation is the drafting and sending of letters to the delegates direct representative. Some of those letters have been made public and have received response (**Appendix** for a sample response). These letters carry particular weight, since it is the Congressman's own constituency addressing them.

Connecting delegates with elected delegates: As part of an effort to amplify each delegates' bandwidth, some extended delegates have volunteered to help in administrative capacities. These efforts are in the early stages, but have already yielded positive results for our office and others.

Training sessions and active engagement with delegates: In addition to event participation and grassroots organization, we have engaged in weekly sessions to train new delegates in various aspects of our goals. Each session details the objectives that are desired as part of our mission, as well as an interactive dialogue to answer questions or evaluate new proposals.

Pins and ID cards: Our goal is to have each delegate have their congressional delegation ID and lapel pin (photo). So far, we have been able to program, print and deliver 600 IDS and 200 pins. This process takes some time as it is primarily the work of my office in collaboration with Roberto Lefranc. As bandwidth and resources continue to increase, so will the speed and effectiveness of delivery.



District Organization

My office's priority is district and community organization in the states. The mid-term goal is to become a player in the mid-term elections; the long-term view is to create a national network for Puerto Ricans (in the island and the states) with political power to address key issues to the community.

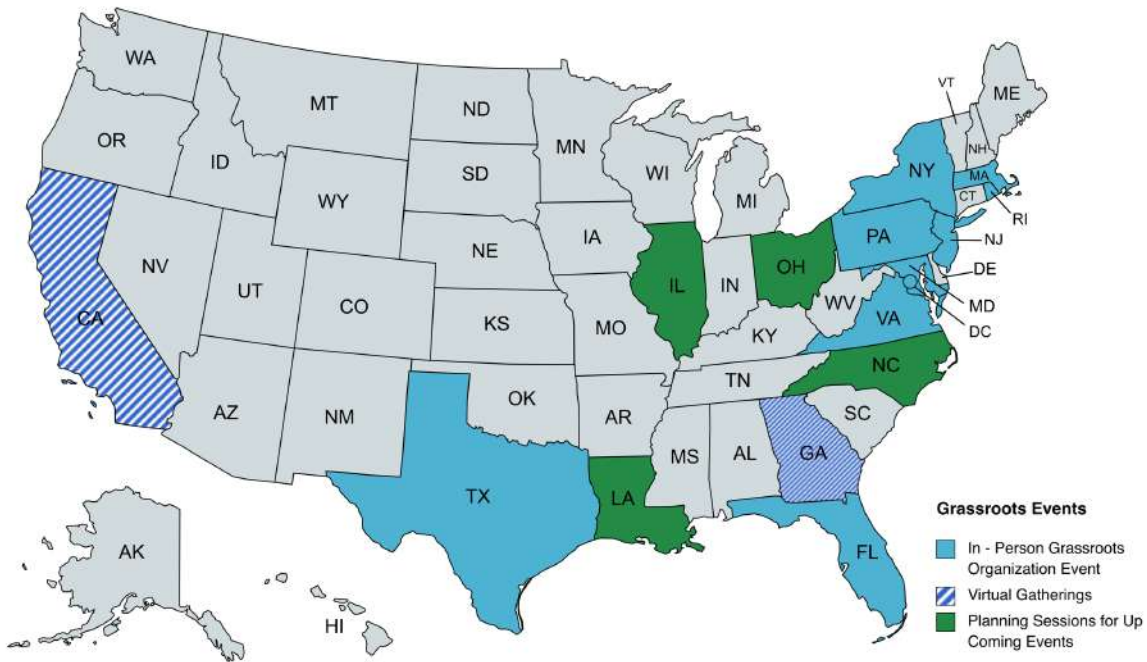


Figure 3: Four of the 11 in-person Grassroots District Organization meetings. Top to bottom: Philadelphia, Virginia, Florida, Rhode Island.

We have embarked on an effort to achieve a critical mass of delegates in several states, in order to empower autonomy of action. We have been able to make events in New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, DC, Florida, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Texas, and virtually with Georgia and California.

Each of these meetings sets the foundation for the shared views and goals, sets objectives and milestones to achieve, and empowers the delegates to create activities.

Meetings have lasted several hours, establishing a strategic path for growth, and task execution on all levels of the objectives of our office. The map below showcases the progress.



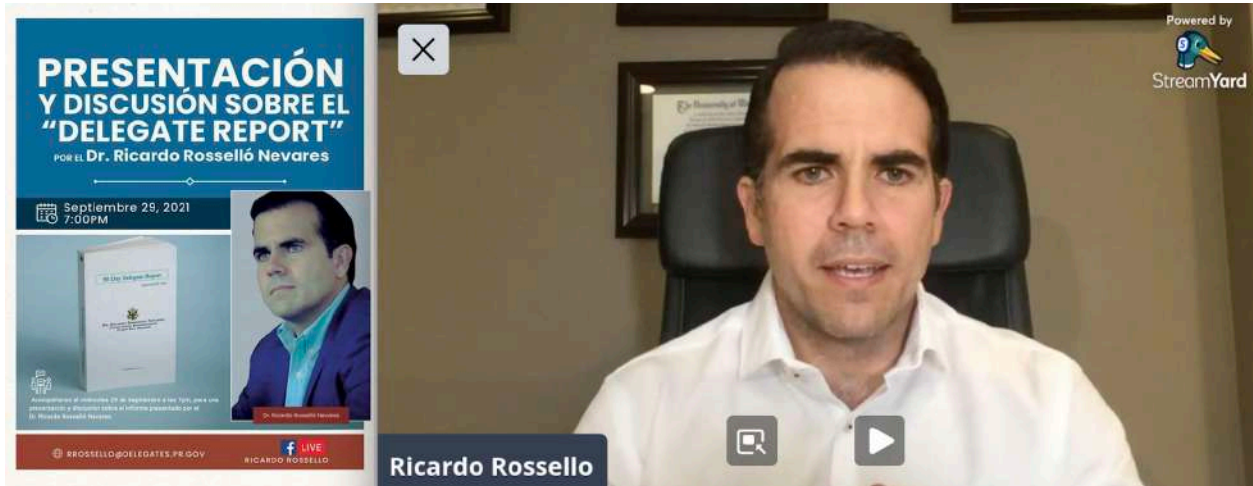
Created with mapchart.net

Figure 4: This map showcases the in-person grassroots gatherings my office (blue), and virtual.. There are have been other planning sessions with leadership on several other states other sites (green).

Citizen Engagement (gatherings and in person engagements)

Constituent and citizen engagement is a critical function of a Congressional Shadow Delegation.

This is why immediately after the submission of the first 90 day report, we created an online townhall to walk people through the key takeaways. It also proved to be a beneficial outlet to answer constituent questions and listen to their proposals and advice. It is our intention to do the same with all subsequent quarterly reports.



As part of our on-going mission, we have impacted 99% of the towns in Puerto Rico with our Equality Gatherings. In addition to this, we had two in-person events in October, where we were able to engage with delegates and community members. As part of the constituency contact effort, we have set aside time on a weekly basis to establish individual meetings. This quarter, we performed 324 individual constituent meetings.

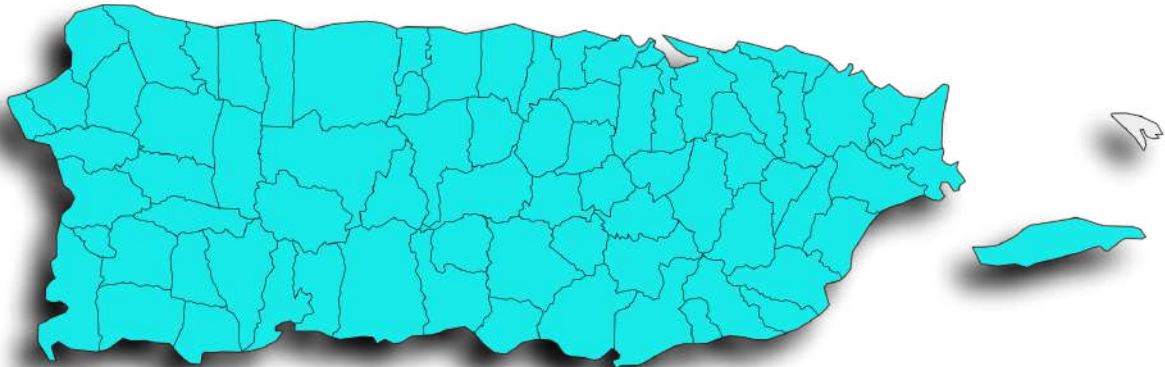


Figure 5: Map denotes overall coverage of constituency engagement with 99% of municipalities engaged in Equality Gatherings. Map generated by paintmaps.





Figure 6 : Sample Gathering event. Events ranged between 50-70 people.

Citizen engagement has been taken to another level by members of the extended delegation. They have promptly created canvassing events in different parts of the Island to recruit and communicate the results that the delegation is having.

Efforts in Congress

As discussed in our September 21st meeting, 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. 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.

		NRC	House	Senate
Letters		43	250	64
Contacts		30	109	23
Meetings		18	62	20
			+16	+5

Meetings from extended delegates

Table 3: brief summary of congressional efforts. Overall, 82 meetings, 132 contacts and 314 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 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. In general, folks don't have a clear objection to HR. 1522, but they do have some lingering questions and expectations that should be addressed. Some of those are stated below.

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 its 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. 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.

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

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 Rico¹ 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. In addition, opinion or editorials are a unique place to establish a coherent position so that people can discuss the substance behind it. As an example, we recently published an op-ed in Vidya on Voting Rights for Puerto Rico and DC. The article made the point that by rejecting the will of the people of Puerto Rico, you are opposing voting rights. It concludes by saying “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.” The full article can be seen in Appendix.

Direct engagement with local media: our efforts have produced several media stories (Noticel, 2021; , Notiuno, 2021(2), Pr,Telemundo, 2021, Noticel, 2021(2), Redaccion Vocero, 2021; Marrero, 2021; Cybernews, 2021; , Telemundo Utah, 2021; Marrero, 2021 (2)). In addition, we have participated in several media programs to outline the efforts of the delegation. These include:

- 11/3 Notiuno “Sin Ataduras” with Zulma Rosario, Esq: detailing the efforts that were to be executed in Washington DC for Impacto Estadista.
- 11/23 Guitarreno: Brief description of consensus proposal.

¹ https://elecciones2020.ceepur.org/Escrutinio_General_93/index.html#es/default/PLEBISCITO_Resumen.xml

- 11/24 Al Día (Mega TV) with Leo Diaz, 2 hour program detailing the pro-statehood efforts of the delegation
- 11/26 Notiuno “Sin Ataduras” with Zulma Rosario, Esq: Detailed discussion of novel consensus proposal.

Of note, we expect to announce other novel media initiatives by the next quarter.

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 Aguilu
- 10/29 Punto de Vista (<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 and Maver Rivas whom spearheaded this effort and made it a reality.

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.

Event Planning

Event planning allows citizen engagement and continuous deployment of actions to further our cause. It is important to note that many of these activities and events would have been impossible without the overwhelming support of Delegate Maver Rivas (PA).

51x51 initiative: On September 15, we announced that during the next 51 days there would be an ongoing manifestation in front of the White House for 51 minutes, supporting equality and statehood for Puerto Rico. The effort was completed and successful. Delegates and citizens from over 12 states came to Washington DC to participate. The image below shows a collage of most of the participants. To all who participated, our gratitude for your passion and commitment.



Collage of the daily participants in the 51x51 effort (credit: Delegate L. Ramos)

The initiative garnered media attention as well (Telemundo, 2021; Marrero, 2021(2); , Noticentro.TV,2021). The event also was leveraged by the women’s visit to DC (September), the youth effort (November), and Impacto Estadista (final day). Elected delegates Melinda Romero, Mayita Melendez and Roberto Lefranc were part of the initiative.



The objective of the public effort was to draw attention to the lack of equal rights, voting rights, the fact that Puerto Rico already voted for statehood, and a call for action. While the first iteration of the activity concluded on November 7th, there are plans to continue the effort metatextually in other formats. Interestingly enough, many groups that opposed the efforts and even ridiculed them, ended up imitating and following (side image).

Hunger for 51: Thanks to the leadership and commitment of Delegate and Veteran Nixon Rosado, two hunger strikes were performed for 51 hours. The first one was done starting October 9th followed by one that culminated on Veteran’s Day (November 11th). Nixon notified his efforts through an online video, traveled to Washington DC, and was outside the White House, requesting action. Specifically, this effort has been geared towards getting project HR.1522 through the Natural Resources Committee. Nixon spoke with several Congressmembers from both sides of the isle.



Nixon Rosado on his first “Take it to the Floor” hunger strike.

Nixon and his brethren are committed to continue on with this effort, as other delegates join in for future initiatives.

Supporting Roberto Lefranc in his Youth Initiative: Spearheaded by Roberto Lefranc, a group of 51 young citizens advocating for equal rights and statehood came to Washington DC (November 1st - 5th, 2021). The activity was very successful (Notiuno, 2021(3)) Our office collaborated by coordinating a pre congressional visit event, where the elected delegates spoke and addressed various issues regarding statehood and public policy in general.



Group of participants from the youth impact effort, outside the White House.

Impacto Estadista: Impacto estadista was a 3 day event that included several activities and work sessions. 250 delegates from 12 states came to Washington DC to participate on the event. The first stop was the closing of the 51x51 event in front of the Whitehouse. Later that day, numerous members of the Delegation met in front of the World War II and Lincoln Memorial, to pay tribute to our Veterans. There are over 100,000 veterans in the Island that currently don't have the same benefits as those in the mainland. Delegates Dr. Eugenio Matias, Evelyn Ashbrook and "Capacete" offered remarks.

That afternoon we had the first in-person workshop meeting for the extended delegates. Here we discussed the vision, mission, objectives and actions. Together, we developed a tentative timeline for the next year. Our appreciation to House Representative and *Misión Estadista* Director Jose Aponte for participating in these events. In addition, we would like to thank the Executive Director from PRFAA and her staff for support in setting up the workshop. Lastly, thanks to Delegates Mayita Melendez, Roberto Lefranc and Melinda Romero for their hard work and commitment to making this event happen.

Demonstration outside of SCOTUS: On November 9th, SCOTUS listened to the arguments for the Vaello Madero case. In an effort to support Vaello Madero and his cause, a group of delegates went outside the Supreme Court and made a demonstration. Permits were solicited (Appendix) and granted to our extended delegation. Special thanks to Samuel Rodriguez, Veteran and member of the extended delegation for his help setting up this event.

Submission of the complaint to the United States Commission on Civil Rights: After working on several changes to the complaint, our delegation signed and submitted a copy of the complaint to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. This was a symbolic presentation, as the official complaint was submitted online earlier that morning.

District Visits: In order to execute district visits, proper logistics have to be employed. As such, several members of our delegation were critical in the design and execution of these important Grassroot events in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, Florida, Texas, Virginia, DC and Maryland. Special thanks to delegates Vivian Rivera Moreno (RI) Gabriel Lopez (PA), Janice Negrón (FL), Evelyn Ashbrook (VA), Dr. Eugenio Matias (MD), Dr. Carlos Padilla (DC), Miguel Ortiz (TX) and Zoraida Velez (FL).

Canvassing Events: Canvassing events named “Delegates takeover” were performed in several municipalities in the island: Bayamon (organized by delegates Abnerys Soto and William Velez), Guaynabo (organized by delegates Gladys Romero and Margarita Vives), Guayama/Cayey (organized by delegates Erwin Ferri and Rosita Benitez), Salinas (organized by delegates Rafael Leon, Lesbia Luna and Ramon Perez), San Juan (organized by Irma Rodriguez) and Mayaguez organized by (delegate Claribel Casiano and municipal president Tania Lugo). These canvassing events served as recruiting hotspots for delegates and as an information hub to distribute the actions taken by the delegation.



Presence in Statehood Convention: Members of the extended delegation participated in the statehood convention (November 17th,2021) in order to recruit and divulge the actions taken by the delegation. Special thanks to Delegates Oscar Pagan, Maver Rivas, Mari Cross, Astrid Green, Dania Carpena Ruth Torres y Luis Ramos amongst others for their time and dedication to this event (side image).

Townhall in Bayamon: After the President of the House reversed his own petition and covered from having a hearing, we proceeded to make the presentation publicly in Bayamon (Rivera, 2021) . The presentation is in Appendix and the video can be seen here: <https://www.facebook.com/noticentrowapa/videos/554330295654055/>



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. Last quarter, we focused on the *United States of America v. Jose Luis Vaello-Madero* case. As previously mentioned, we submitted an amicus brief (as a delegation) and collaborated with other groups in creating traction for this effort. We had stipulated that this was an important injunction point and if enough pressure was created, there would be a desired response. **The resulting pressure by all groups provoked congressional leadership to include SSI for Puerto Rico in their Build Back Better bill** (Balmaceda, 2021). 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, as an extended delegation effort, 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. Below you will find a brief introduction to the complaint and two of the main claims:

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 biding 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 by our federal government deprived 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.

Excerpts from Claims:

*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). This is a clear form of voter suppression, that undermines the civil rights of the People of Puerto Rico.*

And,

*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). 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. **Interestingly enough, most 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** (emphasis supplied). 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.***

We have followed up on several occasions with the Commission on this matter and await their response.

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 December 26th, our office has engaged with 14 organizations. There have been follow up discussions with most of them.

Participation in forums

In addition to participating in the public town-hall in Puerto Rico, we engaged in various forums.



Watching Ricky Rosselló's talk on Puerto Rico's fight for voting rights

In addition, we have had conversations with Academia to participate in forums. We have engaged four institutions in conversations to establish colloquiums around the status issue. Recently, I was invited to give a colloquium presentation at a local university in the DC-Metro area.

In addition, we the delegates that identify as members of the Democratic party recently had an interaction with the executive committee to discuss current work and future objectives. We also participated in the VGG999 event in October under the colloquium talk “Puerto Rico, a geopolitical blackhole”



Forum discussion with the Puerto Rico Democratic Executive Committee.

Forum participation is an area of future growth. Opportunities area being aligned and designed for the next year.

Path forward and Road Map

In the previous report, we laid down the foundation for a vision and a path forward (Figure 8). Here we reiterate those goals, but make a specific road map for the next year. Figure 7 shows this road map, which is depicted as a time-line for clarity, with previous events embedded into the visual. It is important to note that a critical aspect of this design is the continuity and development of the 8 established objectives along with the growth of the Extended Delegation (top of image). In addition, we have placed Extended Delegation growth expectations as well. However, here we emphasize on 4 key milestone actions and two critical congressional decision tree elements and our response to them. It is our view that the proper execution and response to these actions will determine how effective we can be moving forward the agenda for the cause of equality.

Four critical milestone events and actions:

1. **Delegates take over events and structural state/district organization:** As mentioned in the events section, delegates have already executed a pilot effort on this initiative. The idea behind it is simple: empower delegates to canvas, communicate, recruit and create events, while also establishing a structure for local execution.
2. **Toma del Congreso part 2:** In 2013, we embarked on an effort to impact the whole of Congress in a single event. This event requires significant planification and proper execution. As an added challenge, the pandemic still looms and there are security challenges in the Capitol Campus due to the events of January 6, 2021 (ref). However, this type of initiative is powerful. A novel element will be the participation of constituents (voters) from the districts the Congressmembers represent. Although we do not have a set date as of yet, our goal will be to have this event performed between the first and second quarter of 2022.
3. **1st Equality Summit in Washington DC:** A proposal by member of the Extended Delegation, Beatriz Areizaga—the idea is to have a multi-day event where we can

highlight the inequality that is experienced by US citizens that reside in Puerto Rico. The event will include workshops, action items, keynote speakers and other activities. The goal will be to shed light into our current colonial predicament, propose a path forward, and align on actions prior to the mid-term elections. This would likely be the largest endeavor executed by our office and Extended Delegation. Our targeted date is the summer of 2022.

4. **Deploy district campaigns:** Based on the evidence accumulated by the summer of 2022, we will deploy an effective action initiative into several US Congressional Districts to provide support for champions of the equality and statehood causes.

Two critical decisions and actions made by Congressional Leadership:

1. **Is there a path towards a consensus bill?** The answer to this question may provide a catalytical effect on the decolonization effort. Media outlets have discussed Leader Hoyer's desire to have a so-called consensus bill. In reality, it looks more like an effort to see if the main authors of both projects can agree on a single bill. Mr. Hoyer has established a 60 day timeline to arrive at a consensus. Although it might seem as a long-shot to get the two opposing factions to arrive at accords, it is certainly worth the effort. We have proposed an alternative solution that combines both HR.1522 and HR.2070. Alternatively, we have also posed the stressor proposal of Statehood vs. Independence with a Caveat. If Statehood wins, and Congress does not act in a prescribed period of time, the Island is granted independence. These proposals are elaborated in the Novel Consensus Proposal for A Status Bill section. Regardless of the choice, one thing is clear: If there is a consensus bill, a unique opportunity presents itself to not only get the bill out of Committee, but also have it passed in Congress. This means that all efforts should be directed to the concentrated time-line of action prior to the mid-term elections, to garner support and to have chambers vote on the matter. If not, the course of action continues as is, since our efforts have been focused on getting HR.1522 passed.

2. Will the bill make it out of the Natural Resources Committee? The Natural Resources Committee has been a bottleneck for Status Bills. In the past, the reasoning was that Puerto Ricans had yet to decide. Now, the reasoning is that there are two projects that divide the support. If the committee evaluates the bills (HR.1522 vs. HR.2070), it is incumbent that the efforts focus on amassing the sufficient number of supporters for HR.1522. As of December 26th, there are eight co-sponsors of the bill in the Natural Resources Committee (four for HR.2070, and four sponsoring both). Comprehensive lists of Congressional Support for both bills can be found in the Appendix. If there is a consensus bill, there would already (presumably) be sixteen co-sponsors, which would focus the effort on achieving the remainder of the support. This task would be easier, as some members have decided to stand pat in order to avoid altercations and disputes between the two factions. But what if the NRC decides not to take action? What then? Here is where local action needs to be taken and the mid-term elections achieve a stronger sense of successful execution. We propose that at this juncture, behind the leadership of Governor Pedro Pierluisi, an effort is made between independence supporters and statehooders, similar to what was achieved with Boricua Ahora Es². Although the majority in the house is controlled by the Colonialist Party, it stands to reason that there are a few members of the PPD that would like an independence-based association. This could provide an opportunity to rally anti-colonialist factions and perhaps have the local legislature provide a resolution that serves the Congress on their petition to take action on the matter of eradicating colonialism. A secondary action would be to appeal to the international bodies on the single narrative that the US is being stagnant resolving the colonial status of Puerto Rico. Generating an external pressure effort that combines (1) electoral considerations, (2) international shaming and (3) local rallying, can provide a strong basis to respond to the inadequate actions of Congress, should they choose this path.

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boricua_¡Ahora_Es!

These actions will mark the path forward in the status debate and the social justice movement for equality for the People of Puerto Rico.

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

Farther 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.

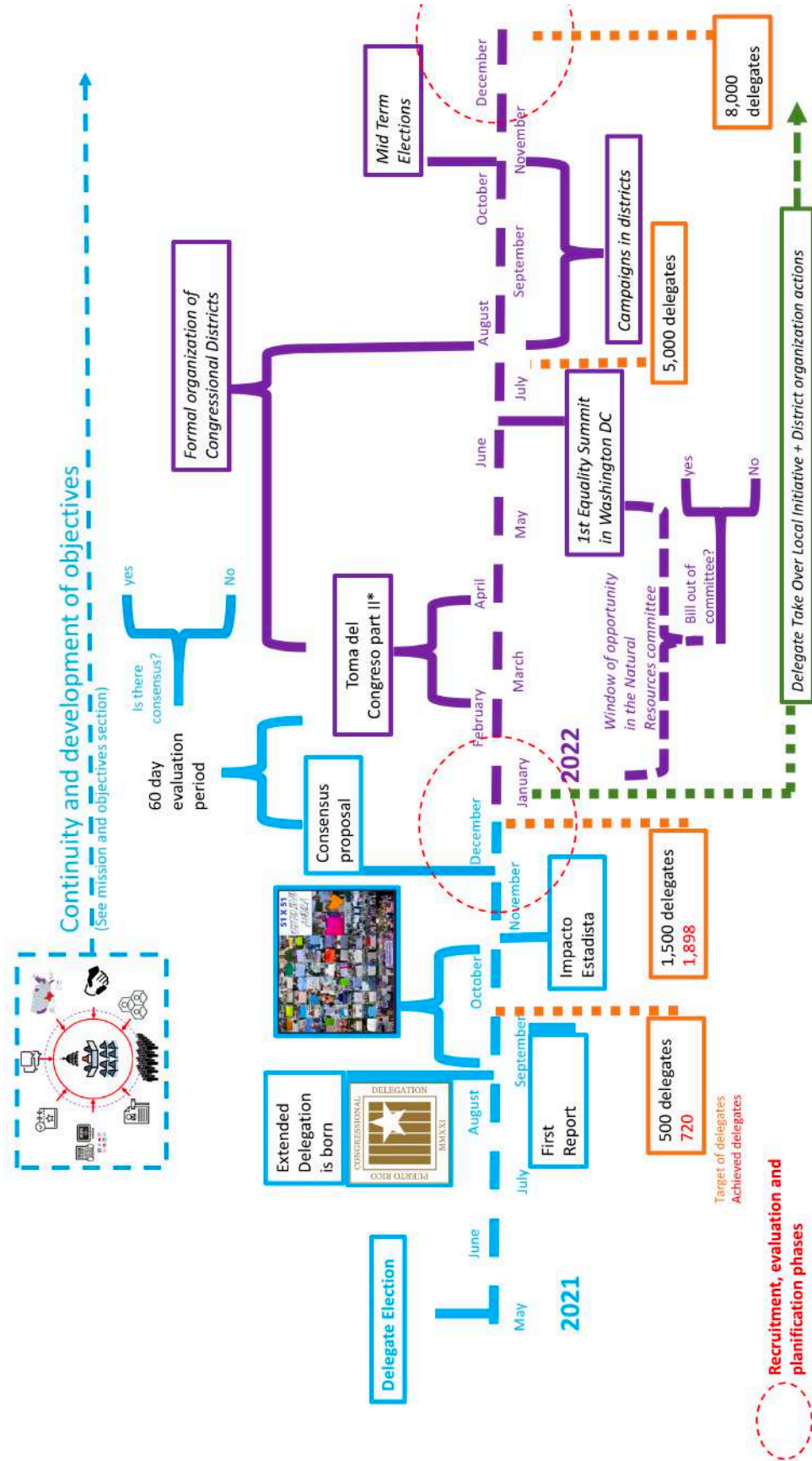


Figure 7: A proposed time-line and roadmap for the coming year. It contains actions already taken in the previous year, 4 key milestones beyond the established objectives, and 2 critical decision tree scenarios based on the actions taken by Congress

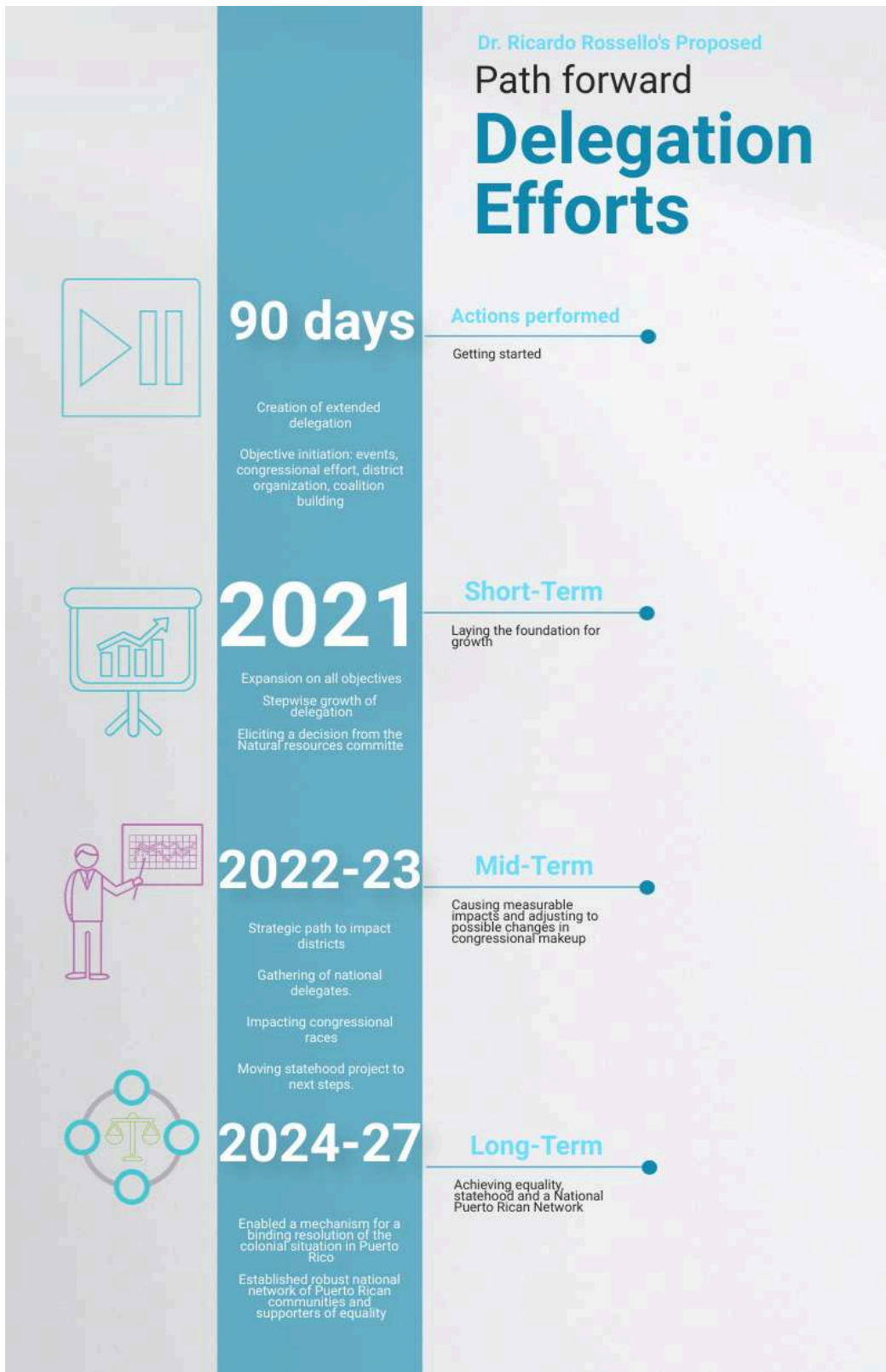


Figure 8 :Timeline representation of short, mid and long-term objectives.

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

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Javier Balmaceda, More from the Authors Javier Balmaceda Areas of Expertise , Javier Balmaceda Areas of Expertise Federal Budget Federal Tax Recent Work: Build Back Better Permanently Extends Ec, Recent Work: Build Back Better Permanently Extends Economic Security to Puerto Rico and Other Territories Build Back Better Legislation Would Cut Poverty, & Build Back Better Permanently Extends Economic Security to Puerto Rico and Other Territories Build Back Better Legislation Would Cut Poverty. (2021, December 14). *Build back better permanently extends economic security to Puerto Rico and other territories*. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Retrieved December 27, 2021, from <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-budget/build-back-better-permanently-extends-economic-security-to-puerto-rico-and>

Appendix

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



OFICINA DEL EX GOBERNADOR
DE PUERTO RICO
RICARDO ROSSELLÓ NEVARES

November 1st ,2021

Senator
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator ,

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.

As you know, there are over 3 million US Citizens in Puerto Rico - including 100,000 Veterans - that have been disenfranchised and cannot vote for their Commander-in-Chief. Moreover, they do not have the same access to resources, help, and benefits that their brothers and sisters in arms do in the Mainland. 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. This CHOICE is a step towards supporting democracy and liberty, particularly for those that have given so much for our freedoms. Puerto Rico wants and is ready to add value to our Great Nation.

rrossello@delegates.pr.gov

(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.

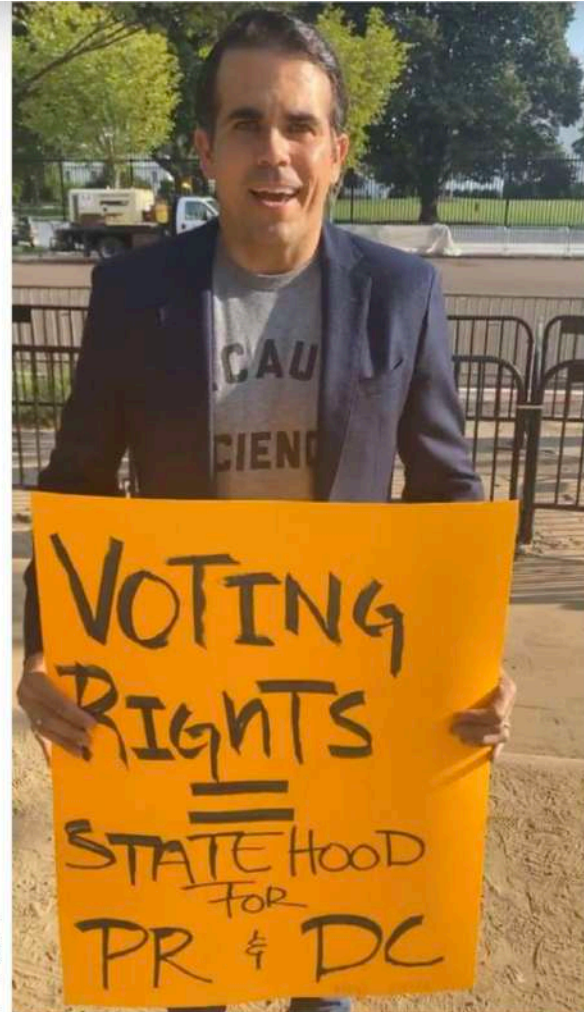
Impacto Estadista

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.



Roberto Lefranc Fortuño convoca a jóvenes Estadistas para Washington, DC.

Impacto Estadista

Para integrarse a la simbólica iniciativa de **51x51** iniciada en septiembre, 51 jóvenes puertorriqueños viajaron a Washington el 1 de noviembre para participar en una veintena de reuniones en la Capital Federal, demostrando así que la juventud es parte activa de la mayoría de los puertorriqueños viviendo en la isla que votamos **SÍ** a la **ESTADIDAD** en noviembre de 2020.



52.5% VOTÓ SÍ A LA ESTADIDAD EN NOVIEMBRE 2020

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 congresional en Puerto Rico a la que fue citado en su carácter de Delegado Congresional 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 congresional 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 congresional. 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 10th, 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 HR1522. 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 rules. 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 vote, 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>

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.

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

Extended Delegation Complaint to the United States Commission on Civil Rights

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

MEMBERS OF THE EXTENDED PUERTO RICO *
CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION. * NO.

RICARDO ROSSELLÓ NEVARES
BEATRIZ ROSSELLÓ
WILLIAM VÉLEZ
LUIS RAMOS
ROXANNA SOTO AGUILU
AMNERYS SOTO
ÁNGEL MORALES
RUTH TORRES
ERWIN FERRI
JANICE NEGRÓN
JOSÉ LÓPEZ
MANUEL GONZÁLEZ
EVERLIZ DÍAZ
IRIS GÓMEZ
OLGA FUENTES
HUMBERTO PAGÁN
ROSA VÉLEZ
IVELISSE GARCÍA
WALTER VÉLEZ
ANA DEL MORAL
ADIL ROSAS
ARGIE DÍAZ
BRENDA SOTO
CARLOS CAMINERO
CECILLE PÉREZ
DESIRÉ DEL MORÁN
GLADYS ROMERO
DORALICE MATTA
EVELYN ASHBROOK
GABRIEL LÓPEZ
HÉCTOR RAMOS
IVETTE CHARDÓN
JOSÉ DEL VALLE
JOSÉ RIVERA
JUAN NIEVES
LEILANI VARGAS
LUZ RIVERA
MÁVER RIVAS

MARÍA CABRERA
MABEL VARGAS
MYRNA AGUILU DIAZ
ANGEL SOTO RIVERA
JOHANNA SOTO AGUILU
RAMON HERNANDEZ GUILLERMET
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
ROCIÓ FERMÍN
IRIS MIRANDA

LUIS VEGA
OSCAR BIAGGI
DORIS VAUGHAN
CASTOR BAYRON
ELSIE CONTRERAS
CHRISTOPHER VOLMAR
ANA TORRES
ANASAZI VARGAS
LUZ N. VELÁZQUEZ
EDDIE LÓPEZ
GLADYS CASTELEIRO
NANCY ACEVEDO
ROSALINDA RIVERA
MARÍA DEL C. GONZÁLEZ
ROBERTO BITHORN
JORGE L. VÁZQUEZ
JOSÉ MARTÍNEZ
EDUADO REYES
JAY RODRÍGUEZ
FREDESLINDA ROLDÁN
BENNY DE LEÓN
YEMARY ARROYO
LEANNETTE GONZÁLEZ
ROSALINDA PANET
JOSÉ ARROYO
ORLANDO REYES
WINDY VEGA
ESTEBAN CÁTALA
IVÁN RIVERA
FELIX MORALES
TANIA FERNÁNDEZ
NELLY VÁZQUEZ
ELOISA CID
LILA DE LEÓN
JOSÉ A ORTÍZ
ARCADIA DE LEÓN
MARÍA FERNÁNDEZ
ADALIGIA HERNÁNDEZ
EDGARDO HERNÁNDEZ
JESÚS NAVARRO
ANGEL GUADALUPE
HÉCTOR TIRADO
CARMEN RAMOS
JAYSON ESPINAL

LUZ RIVERA
LOAIJOEL ORSINI
YARILIS TORRES
NILSA CARABALLO
EUGENIO MATÍAS
OSCAR CRISPÍN
SONIA RIVERA
ANAMARÍA BURGOS
JOSEPHINE CORTÉS
GERARDO MORALES
CARMEN L. CLAUDIO
MARILYN COLÓN

Complainants

vs.

HON. JOSÉ LUIS DALMAU SANTIAGO,
President of the Senate of Puerto Rico
HON. RAFAEL "TATITO" HERNÁNDEZ
MONTAÑEZ
President of the House of Representatives of
Puerto Rico
HON. JOSEPH BIDEN, JR.,
President of the United States of America

Respondents

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COMPLAINT

TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSION:

COMES NOW COMPLAINANT, the Extended Puerto Rico Congressional Delegation, comprised of the members named in this Complaint's heading, hereinafter ("Extended Delegation" or the "Complainant"), and very respectfully, alleges and requests as follows:

The Complainant sets forth the following claims jointly, since each one of them

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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MISCELLANEOUS

<i>Support to the Board continues to drop</i> , El Nuevo Dia (November 9, 2019), https://www.elnuevodia.com/english/news/story/su pport-to-the-board-continues-to-drop/	6
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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 VAELO-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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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

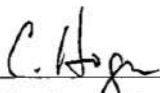
**BRIEF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
CONGRESSIONAL SHADOW DELEGATION OF
PUERTO RICO AS *AMICUS CURIAE*
IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENT**

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.

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Weekly Update (sample)



OFICINA DEL EX GOBERNADOR
DE PUERTO RICO

RICARDO ROSSELLÓ NEVARES

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ricardo Rossello Nevares".

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

Proposal letter to Leader Steny Hoyer



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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ricardo Rosselló', with a long horizontal flourish 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
 DE LA CÁMARA DE REPRESENTANTES DE PUERTO RICO

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.

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 refusare 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

October 17th response by Ricardo Rossello



OFICINA DEL EX GOBERNADOR
DE PUERTO RICO

RICARDO ROSSELLÓ NEVARES

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. aguardo 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 Martíz
 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 Nevares
 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:

Hon. Kebin Andrés Maldonado Martíz
 Presidente
 Comisión de Relaciones Federales, Internacionales,
 Estatus y Veterano



CÁMARA DE REPRESENTANTES
 SEGUNDA SECCIÓN ASAMBLEA LEGISLATIVA

Representante Distrito Núm. 20
 Cabo Rojo - San Germán - Hormigueros

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.

October 20th Cancellation letter from Kebin Maldonado and Tatito Hernandez

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,

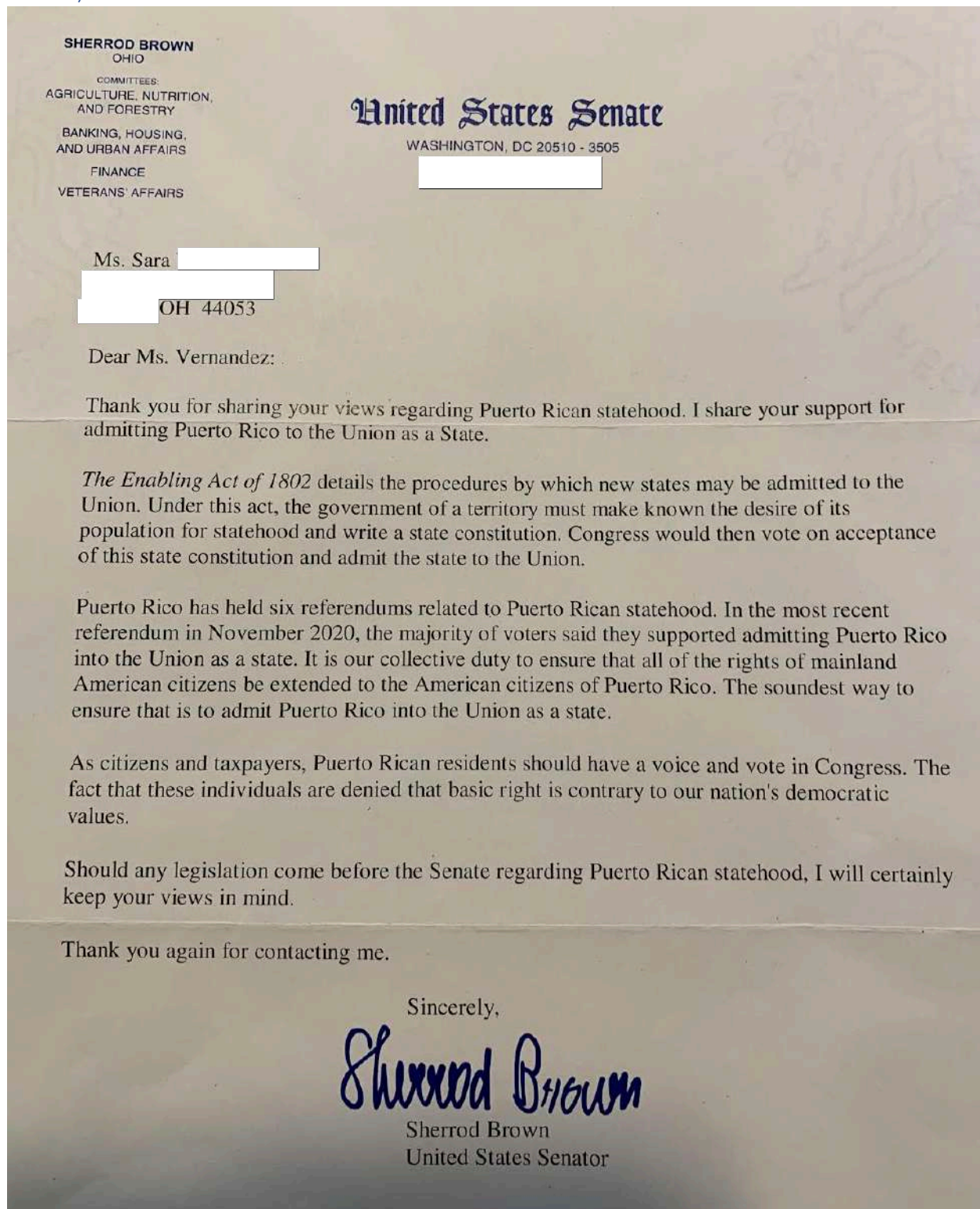


Rafael Hernández Montañez
Presidente



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)



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 rossello@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 rossello@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): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demonstration (Rally, Vigil, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Filming/Photography <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> March (Provide Route) <input type="checkbox"/> Road Race <input type="checkbox"/> 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 Vallejo Madero (respondent) case. We will bring signs and a mechanism to stream the hearings.						

Presentation for House Hearing and Bayamon Townhall

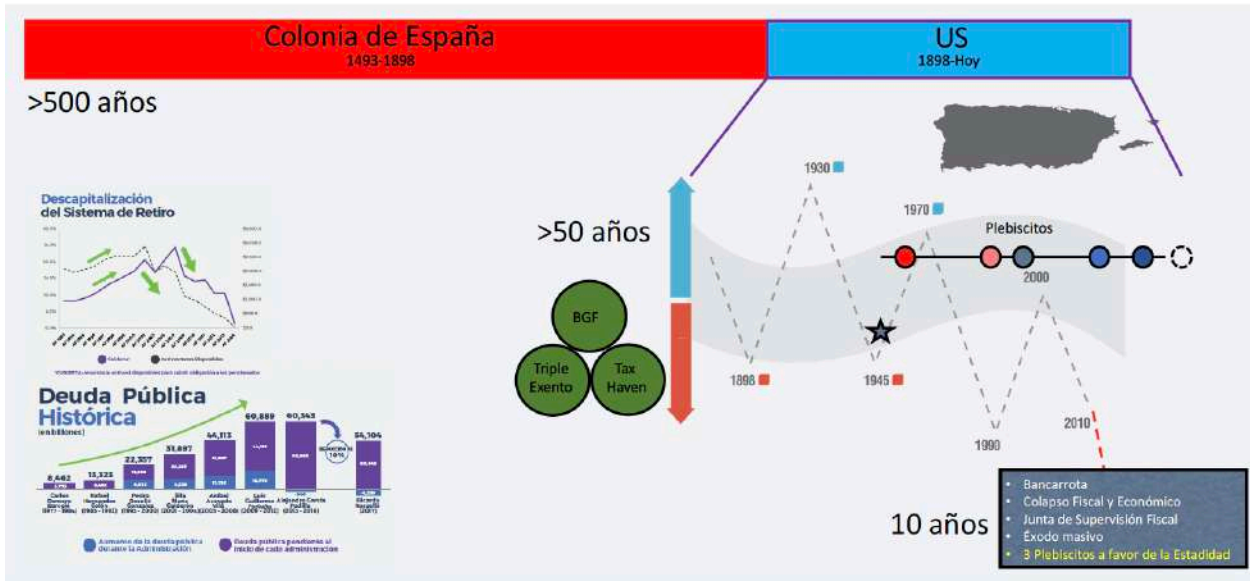
Informe de Delegado



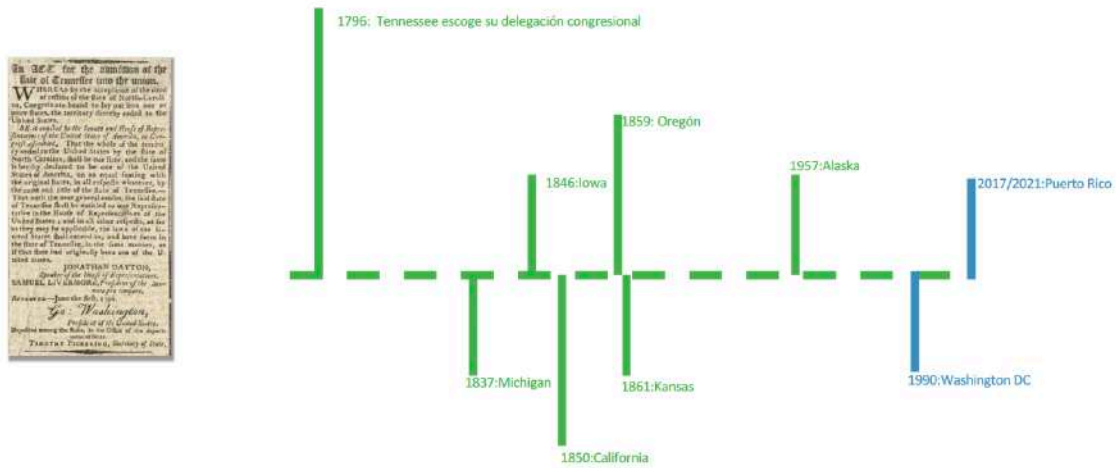
DR. RICARDO ROSSELLO NEVARES
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
PUERTO RICO (SHADOW)

rrossello@delegates.pr.gov

Breve historia del colonialismo en Puerto Rico

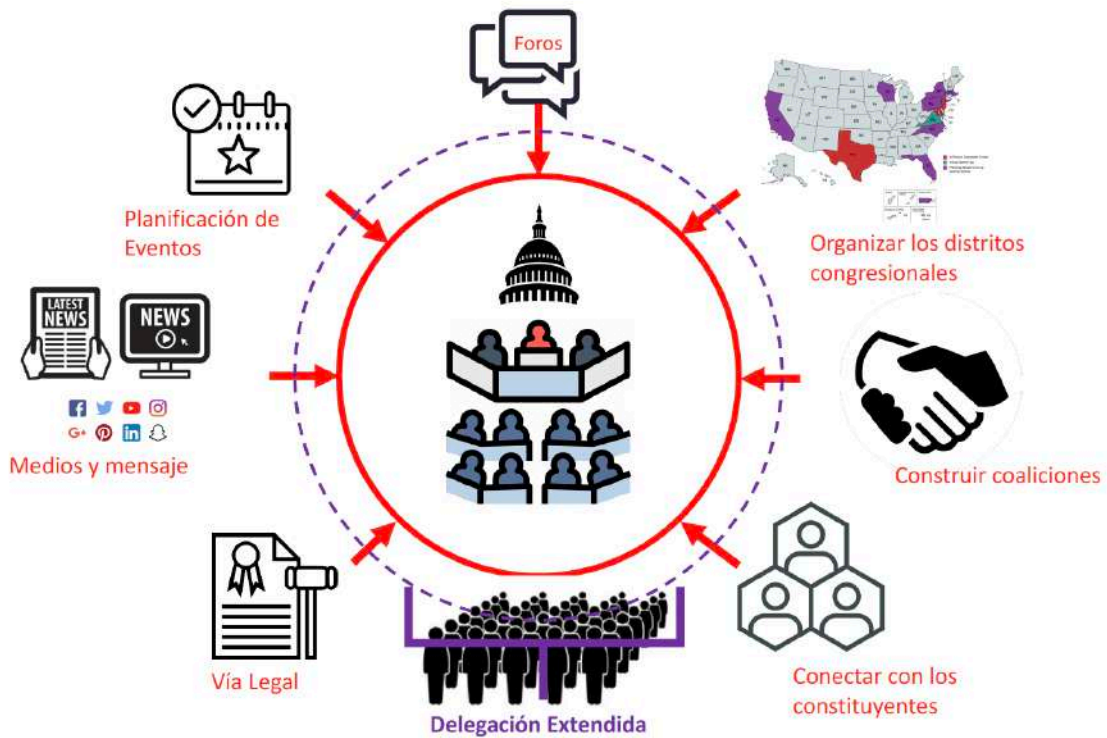


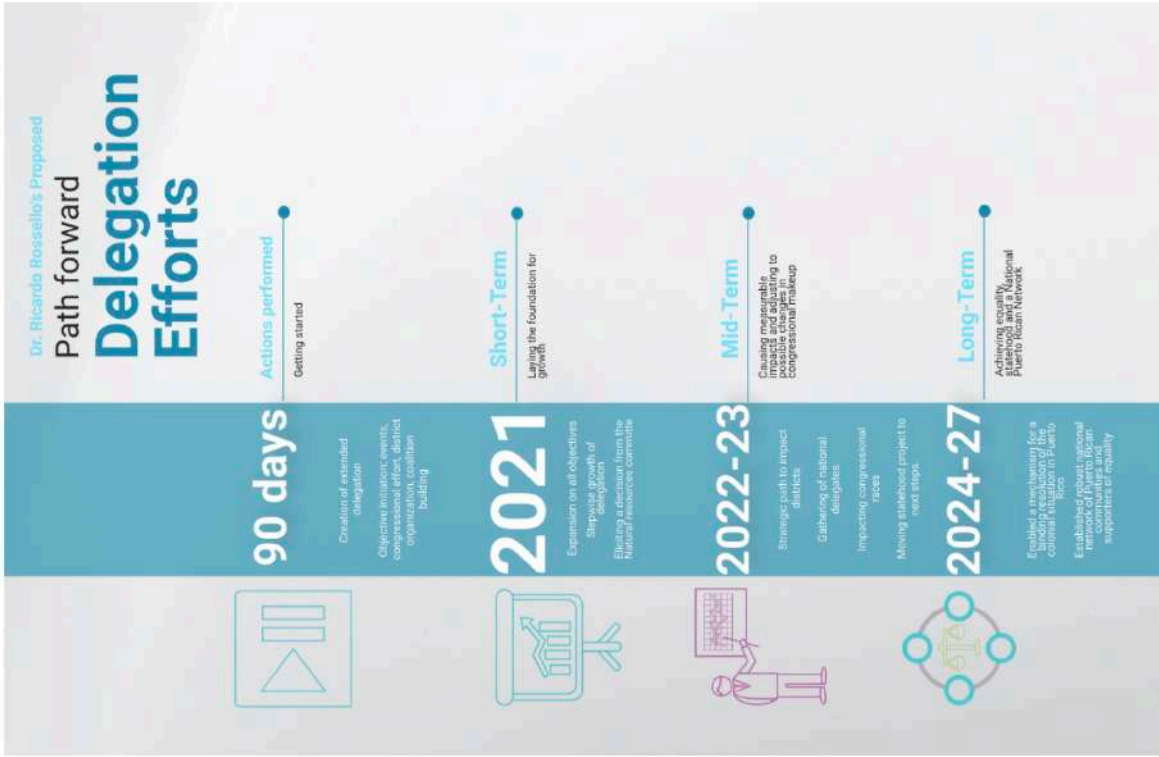
La Estadidad y el Plan Tennessee



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.





Comprehensive (updated) list of support for both status bills

H.R. 1522 – Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Act Sponsor: Darren Soto (D-Fla.)	H.R. 2070 Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2021 Sponsor: Nydia Velázquez (D-N.Y.)	Co-Sponsors of Both Bills
Nanette Barragán (D-Calif.)	Alma Adams (D-N.C.)	Anthony G. Brown (D-Md.)
Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio)	Karen Bass (D-Calif.)	André Carson (D-Ind.)
Ami Bera (D-Calif.)	Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.)	Lou Correa (D-Calif.)
Donald S. Beyer Jr. (D-Va.)	Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.)	Dwight Evans (D-Pa.)
Sanford D. Bishop Jr. (D-Ga.)	Anthony G. Brown (D-Md.)	Jared Huffman (D-Calif.)
Brendan F. Boyle (D-Pa.)	Cori Bush (D-Mo.)	Hank Johnson (D-Ga.)
Anthony G. Brown (D-Md.)	G.K. Butterfield (D-N.C.)	Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-N.M.)
Salud Carbajal (D-Calif.)	André Carson (D-Ind.)	Michael F.Q. San Nicolas (D-Guam)
Tony Cárdenas (D-Calif.)	Joaquin Castro (D-Texas)	Albio Sires (D-N.J.)
André Carson (D-Ind.)	Yvette D. Clarke (D-N.Y.)	Juan C. Vargas (D-Calif.)
Kathy Castor (D-Fla.)	Gerald E. Connolly (D-Va.)	Susan Wild (D-Pa.)
David Cicilline (D-R.I.)	Lou Correa (D-Calif.)	Katie Porter (D-Calif.)
Emanuel Cleaver II (D-Mo.)	Danny K. Davis (D-Ill.)	Robin Kelly (D-Ill.)
Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.)	Lloyd Doggett (D-Texas)	
Lou Correa (D-Calif.)	Veronica Escobar (D-Texas)	
Charlie Crist (D-Fla.)	Anna G. Eshoo (D-Calif.)	
Madeleine Dean (D-Pa.)	Adriano Espaillat (D-N.Y.)	
Val B. Demings (D-Fla.)	Dwight Evans (D-Pa.)	

Ted Deutch (D-Fla.)	Jesús "Chuy" García (D-Ill.)	
Mike Doyle (D-Pa.)	Sylvia R.Garcia (D-Texas)	
Dwight Evans (D-Pa.)	Al Green (D-Texas)	
Bill Foster (D-Ill.)	Jahana Hayes (D-Conn.)	
Lois Frankel (D-Fla.)	Brian Higgins (D-N.Y.)	
Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.)	Jared Huffman (D-Calif.)	
Jimmy Gomez (D-Calif.)	Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas)	
Alcee L. Hastings (D-Fla.)	Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.)	
Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.)	Hank Johnson (D-Ga.)	
Jared Huffman (D-Calif.)	Mondaire Jones (D-N.Y.)	
Hank Johnson (D-Ga.)	Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio)	
Robin Kelly (D-Ill.)	Robin Kelly (D-Ill.)	
Derek Kilmer (D-Wash.)	Ro Khanna (D-Calif.)	
Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill.)	Barbara Lee (D-Calif.)	
Jim Langevin (D-R.I.)	Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-N.M.)	
Al Lawson (D-Fla.)	Andy Levin (D-Mich.)	
Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-N.M.)	Coralyn B. Maloney (D-N.Y.)	
Alan Lowenthal (D-Calif.)	Sean Patrick Maloney (D-N.Y.)	
A.Donald MeEachin (D-Va.)	Doris Matsui (D-Calif.)	
Jerry McNerney (D-Calif.)	Betty McCollum (D-Minn.)	
Seth Moulton (D-Mass.)	Jim McGovern (D-Mass.)	
Stephanie Murphy (D-Fla.)	Gregory W. Meeks (D-N.Y.)	
Donald Norcross (D-N.J.)	Grace Meng (D-N.Y.)	
Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-N.J.)	Kweisi Mfume (D-N.Y.)	
Donald M. Payne Jr. (D-N.J.)	Joseph D. Morelle (D-N.Y.)	
Stacey Plaskett (D-V.I.)	Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.)	
Katie Porter (D-Calif.)	Richard E. Neal (D-Mass.)	

Jamie Raskin (D-Md.)	Joe Neguse (D-Colo.)	
Michael F.Q. San Nicholas (D-Guam)	Marie Newman (D-Ill.)	
Mikie Sherrill (D-N.J.)	Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.)	
Albio Sires (D-N.J.)	Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.)	
Haley Stevens (D-Mich.)	Katie Porter (D-Calif.)	
Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.)	Ayanna S. Pressley (D-Mass.)	
Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y.)	Mike Quigley (D-Ill.)	
David Trone (D-Md.)	Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.)	
Juan C. Vargas (D-Calif.)	Raul Ruiz (D-Calif.)	
Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.)	Bobby L. Rush (D-Ill.)	
Susan Wild (D-Pa.)	Michael F.Q. San Nicolas (D-Guam)	
Frederica S. Wilson (D-Fla.)	Mary Gay Scanlon (D-Pa.)	
Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-De)	Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.)	
Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX)	Adam B. Schiff(D-Calif.)	
Ted Lieu (D-Calif.)	David Scott (D-Ga.)	
Don Bacon (R-Neb.)	Robert C. Scott (D-Va.)	
Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.)	Terri A. Sewell (D-Ala.)	
Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.)	Albio Sires (D-N.J.)	
Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.)	Jackie Speier (D-Calif.)	
Andrew Garbino (R-N.Y.)	Tom Suozzi (D-N.Y.)	
Carlos Gimenez (R-Fla.)	Mark Takano (D-Calif.)	
Jennifer González-Colón (R-P.R.)	Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.)	
John Katko (R-N.Y.)	Mike Thompson (D-Calif.)	
Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.)	Dina Titus (D-Nev.)	
Bill Posey (R-Fla.)	Rashida Tlaib (D-Micg.)	
Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-A.S.)	Norma J. Torres (D-Calif.)	
Maria Elvira Salzar (R-Fla.)	Juan C. Vargas (D-Calif.)	

Pete Sessions (R-Texas)	Marc Veasey (D-Texas)	
Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.)	Maxine Waters (D-Calif.)	
Michael Waltz (R-Fla.)	Peter Welch (D-Vt.)	
Joe Wilson (R-S.C.)	Susan Wild (D-Pa.)	
Don Young (R-Alaska)		
TOTAL		
H.R. 1522 – Statehood Total: 77 co-sponsors 60 – Democrats 17 – Republicans		H.R. 2070 – Self-Determination Total: 76 co-sponsors 76 – Democrats 0 – Republicans

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 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.

EXPOSICIÓN DE MOTIVOS

El pasado 30 de diciembre de 2020, la entonces gobernadora, Wanda Vázquez Garced, firmó la Ley 167-2020, creando la Delegación Congresional 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 Washington 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.