



PUERTO RICO STATE ELECTIONS COMMISSION
CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Hon. Juan Ernesto Dávila Rivera
Chairman

jedavila@cee.pr.gov

June 3, 2020

Honorable William P. Barr
US Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Attention: Bureau of Justice Assistance

Dear Attorney General Barr:

I hope that you and your loved ones are doing well during these trying times with the COVID-19 pandemic. In Puerto Rico we are doing fine and I can honestly say that I see a ray of hope in the near future and we will soon get our lives together and can resume our daily routines as close as possible to what we had before the pandemic.

The Government of Puerto Rico will hold a Plebiscite for the People of the Puerto Rico to vote on statehood yes or no, under Puerto Rico Act. No. 51 of May 16, 2020, Act to Define Puerto Rico Ultimate Political Status (PR Act 51-2020). This Plebiscite will be held under the applicable provisions of Public Law 113-76.

As the Chairman of the Puerto Rico State Election Commission (PR-SEC), I represent the Public Interest. I am the coordinator, before your office and any other federal agency or authority, in all matters and procedures required by PL-113-76.

In accordance with PR Act No. 51-2020, Article 3.2, as the state coordinator for the event and the representative of public interest, I am sending copies of the following documents:

Po Box 195552, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00919-5552
787-777-8682 ext. 2171



- a. Final draft of the Plebiscite's ballot.
- b. Puerto Rico Election Code; and the Puerto Rico Political Campaign Financing Oversight Act and copy of the Plebiscite Proclamation.
- c. Puerto Rico Act. No. 51 of May 16, 2020, Act to Define Puerto Rico Ultimate Political Status (PR Act 51-2020).
- d. Draft copy of the proposed plebiscite rules and regulations.
- e. Copy of the proposed PR-SEC's Plebiscite Educational Campaign outline and proposed budget.
- f. A budget plan for all other expenditures of the plebiscite, and any other expense related to the plebiscite. which will include costs of the ballot production and other costs not related to the educational campaign but that are related to hosting the Plebiscite.
- g. The text in Public Law 113-76 (2014) pertaining to the plebiscite and the requirements set forth in the reports of the Committee on Appropriations (2016), House Report 113-171.
- h. The following quote on the plebiscite and the Political State of Puerto Rico from House Report 116-101:

Puerto Rico plebiscite. --In the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76), the Committee provided funding for the Department of Justice to help oversee and administer a plebiscite to `resolve Puerto Rico's future political status.' The Committee believes that to accomplish this goal, the current territorial/Commonwealth status should be excluded from any future plebiscite, since it fails to address key inequities. Despite previous requests to use this funding to help administer such a plebiscite, the Department did not certify yet a plebiscite ballot to obligate this funding. The Committee believes that the Department has a responsibility to address issues of democratic representation and equality in Puerto Rico and the other territories of the United States, including addressing questions of political status. Therefore, the Committee instructs the Department to expeditiously act upon any request for this funding



from the Puerto Rico State Elections Commission, and to notify the Committee of any requests for this funding. The Committee instructs the Department, within 45 days of enactment of this Act, to provide the Committee, as well as the Puerto Rico State Elections Commission, with a report regarding the acceptable versions of voter education materials, plebiscite ballot formats, and related materials that would allow the Department to obligate this funding for a future plebiscite.

- i. Section 402 of Public Law 114-187 (known as PROMESA – Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA)).

Base of the above, I respectfully request the disbursement of the \$2,500,000 that the Congress approved in Public Law 113-76.

The documents listed before, and enclosed to this communication, are sent in compliance with the requirements of Article 3.3 of PR Act 51-2020 which states that:

“These documents are submitted to the U. S. Attorney General as required by the “Act to Define Puerto Rico’s Ultimate Political Status”; Public Law 113-76 (2014), and related congressional reports, namely House Report 113-171 and House Report 116-101. Moreover, they are submitted sufficiently in advance of the date of the plebiscite to safeguard the right to vote; the right protected under the First Amendment; and Puerto Rico’s legal and constitutional terms, which guarantee the accuracy and purity of the process and safeguard the voters’ rights. If any process, certification and disbursement related to Public Law 113-76 (2014) is not completed on or before June 30, 2020, the mechanisms to guarantee the aforementioned periods are provided in this Act provides to protect the rights of voters”.

I’m looking forward to work with you and your office to accomplish all the required procedures on this matter.

Sincerely,

JUAN ERNESTO DÁVILA RIVERA



CC:

The Honorable Donald Trump – President of the United States

The Honorable Mike Pence – Vice-Presidente & President of the Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell – US Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer – US Senate Minority Leader

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi – US Speaker of the House

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy – US House Minority Leader

The Honorable Jennifer Gonzalez – Puerto Rico’s Resident Commissioner in
Washington DC

The Honorable Wanda Vazquez – Governor of Puerto Rico

The Honorable Thomas Rivera Schatz – President of the Senate of Puerto Rico

The Honorable Johnny Mendez – Speaker of the House of Representatives of Puerto
Rico