



Plebiscite november 3rd, 2020

The State Elections Commission, under the authorities granted by the "Political Status of Puerto Rico – Final Definition Act", proclaims:

FIRST: Date of the Plebiscite - On Tuesday, November 3, 2020, a plebiscite to define Puerto Rico's Ultimate Political Status shall be held in every election precinct, and all qualified voters are hereby called to participate therein.

SECOND: Voting Hours- The voting process shall be conducted simultaneously with the General Elections in the "open voting places" from nine o' clock in the morning (9:00AM) to five o' clock in the afternoon (5:00 PM). The "Dry Law" shall only apply during the aforementioned hours and with the exceptions provided in the Puerto Rico Election Code.

THIRD: Ballot- Just as the plebiscites held in Alaska and Hawaii, the last two territories annexed as States of the Union, in this Puerto Rico plebiscite, there shall be a single ballot with the options Statehood: Yes or No. The following ballot question shall be submitted to voters: "Should Puerto Rico be admitted immediately in to the Union as a State?" Voters may only vote for one (1) of the two (2) options printed on the ballot: "Yes" or "No". Once the results of this Plebiscite are certified by the State Election Commission: Should the Statehood "Yes" option be favored by a majority vote, a transition process shall begin forthwith to admit Puerto Rico into the Union, as described in the Act.

FOURTH: Certification of Results- The counting of ballots and certification of the results by the State Election Commission shall only be carried out pursuant to the doctrine of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico in Suárez- Cáceres v. Com. Estatal Elecciones, 176 DPR 31, 73-74 (2009). A vote not cast and any blank ballot cast and lacking a clear expression of the voter's intent "in no way may be counted for purposes of influencing or affecting the result of an election, referendum or Plebiscite, among other voting events". Therefore, any interpretation of the results of this plebiscite shall be subject to a valid vote for one of the options printed on the ballot. The absence of voters in the election or void or blank ballots cast shall never be used to suppress the intent of voters who democratically, voluntarily and validly exercised their right.

FIFTH: Vote Counting System- The same electronic counting system used in the General Election as provided in Resolution CEE-RS-1521 approved on October, 30, 2015, shall be used in this Plebiscite. Said system shall be capable of tallying votes easily, securely, and reliably with security and auditing mechanisms that ensure the transparency in the voting process.

SIXTH: Identification of Voters- In order to vote at the polling places, voters shall be required to provide their Voter Identification Card issued by the State Election Commission, regardless of the expiration date thereof, or any other valid identification card authorized by the Puerto Rico Election Code. In addition, one of the voter's finger shall be inked after casting his vote.

SEVENTH: Absentee and Early Voting- In accordance with the Election Code, the Commission shall guarantee the right to apply for an Absentee Ballot and Early Voting of all voters domiciled in Puerto Rico who qualify therefor and have made such request on or before fifty (50) days prior to holding of the plebiscite, that is, the registration deadline.

EIGHT: Right to Vote Guaranteed- The State Election Commission shall prescribe measures and remedies in order to guarantee the right to vote of any voter who, by reasons beyond his control, was unduly omitted from the General Voter Registry of Puerto Rico. Pursuant to the Election Code, the Commission shall also implement mechanisms to allow bedridden voters whether at hospitals and at home, as well as voters with disabilities, residing in nursing homes, or confined in correctional institutions to vote. Moreover, pursuant to the Election Code, no public or private employer shall prevent employees from exercising their right to vote.

NINTH: Education and Disclosure- As part of the continuous efforts to educate and inform citizens and voters on the scope of the Act enabling this plebiscite and the electoral processes related to this proclamation, not later than forty-five (45) days from the approval of this Act, the Chair of the State Election Commission shall publish and continually update in the Agency's website, a prominent space entitled "Act to Define Puerto Rico's Ultimate Political Status" with the contents of this Act, this proclamation, and all of the official and information material pertaining to this plebiscite.

TENTH: Supplemental Laws- In order to electorally enable this plebiscite, the provisions of the Puerto Rico Election Code and the "Puerto Rico Political Campaign Financing Oversight Act," including the regulations adopted thereunder, shall be supplemental to this Act, in those matters that are not preempted by, or inconsistent with this Act.

ISSUED in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on May 19, 2020.

Juan E. Dávila Rivera
President

Ángel L. Rosa Berrios
Secretary

I CERTIFY: That the honorable State Election Commission agreed this PROCLAM on May 19, 2020 and for the record, I issue this certification under the seal of the State Election Commission today May 19, 2020.