FORTALECEMOS LAS DEMOCRACIAS DE AMÉRICA LATINA | STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACIES IN LATIN AMERICA

November 2024

General Elections in Puerto Rico

Post-electoral Report



Election day Summary

FORTALECEMOS LAS DEMOCRACIAS DE AMÉRICA LATINA | STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACIES IN LATIN AMERICA

1. Jenniffer González of the incumbent Partido Nuevo Progresista (PNP) won the governorship with 39.45% of the vote, ensuring the PNP's continued hold on power since 2016

2. Juan Dalmau from the Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño (PIP) placed second with 32.78%, marking the first time the historic two-party dominance of the PNP and Partido Popular Democrático (PPD) has been broken.

3. The position of Resident Commissioner was won by Pablo José Hernández Rivera of the PPD, who secured 44.55% of the vote, defeating the PNP candidate, William Villafañe, who received 35.04%.

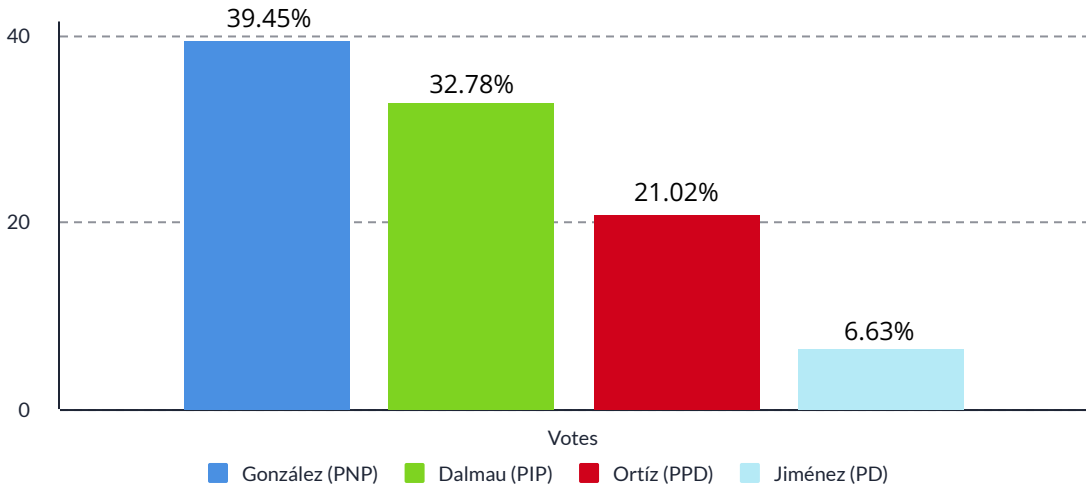
4. In the plebiscite on Puerto Rico's status, Statehood received the highest share of votes at 56.82%. Independence was the second-most supported option, with 30.85%, followed by Sovereign Free Association in third place.

5. Seat allocation in the Legislative Assembly is still ongoing as final votes are tallied, but early projections suggest the PNP may increase its representation in both chambers.

All congressional representatives and elected officials will take office on January 2, 2025.

General elections

Electoral results



*Source: Own elaboration based on data from the State Elections Commission..

- The ruling party's candidate **Jenniffer González** won the gubernatorial election. **With 39.45% of the vote,** she surpassed the percentage achieved by Governor Pedro Pierluisi in the 2020 elections. González thanked Puerto Ricans for supporting "the path of hope and action". Thus, she becomes the second woman to assume this position in Puerto Rico and ensures the continuity of the PNP in power since 2016.

- **Juan Dalmau, candidate of the Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño (PIP)** and ally of the Movimiento Victoria Ciudadana, obtained **32.78% of the votes**, consolidating his position as the second most voted candidate. Dalmau described this achievement as "historic," noting that, for the first time, the PIP broke the traditional two-party dominance of the PNP and PDP in Puerto Rico's elections.

- **Jesus Manuel Gonzalez, candidate of the Partido Popular Democratico (PPD), came in third place with 21.02% of the votes.** Electoral participation reached 57.78% of the citizens eligible to vote.

Winners of the day

DL | FORTALECEMOS LAS DEMOCRACIAS DE AMÉRICA LATINA | STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACIES IN LATIN AMERICA

Jenniffer González (PNP)
Elected governor



Profile

She is a political scientist and holds a master's degree in law. Affiliated with the Republican Party of the United States, she has an extensive parliamentary career, where she has served since 2002.

Government Plan

Her main proposals include:

- Positioning Puerto Rico as a center for fintech and blockchain innovation and establishing a regulatory framework to promote innovation and ensure consumer protection.
- Creating a specialized committee to review tax rates on individuals and businesses to simplify the tax system.
- Implementing an energy policy aimed at reducing fossil fuel dependency.

Pablo Hernández Rivera (PPD)
Resident Comissioner-elect



Profile

Pablo Hernández Rivera is an attorney. He worked as a legal officer at the Federal Court in Puerto Rico, and as a public policy consultant in Washington, D.C.

Commissioner's role

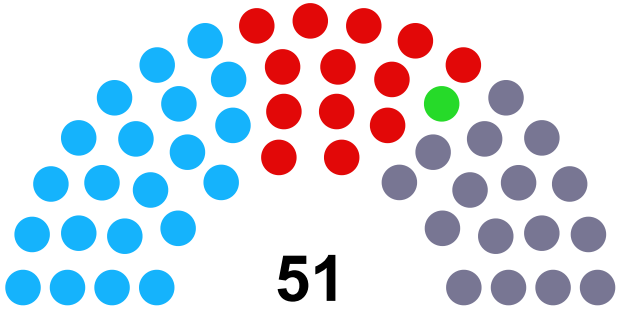
The Resident Commissioner is an official elected by the citizens in general elections and has the function of representing the Island before the U.S. federal government. He is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives with the right to speak but not to vote in its plenary sessions.

In this election, the governor and the Resident Commissioner belong to different parties. Although both offices are usually held by members of the same party, this is not the first time this division has occurred; it happened in 2004 and 2012.

Legislative Elections

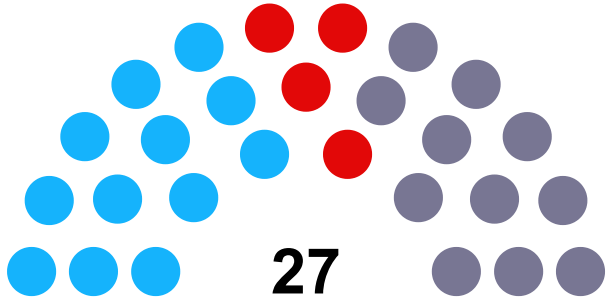
Current composition of the Legislative Assembly

House of Representatives 2025-2029



*Source: based on data from the State Electoral Commission

Senate 2025-2029



*Source: based on data from the State Electoral Commission

House of Representatives

Based on the current results, the PNP has secured 21 out of 51 total seats, positioning itself close to achieving a standalone quorum, while the PIP has obtained a single seat. The PPD, meanwhile, holds the second-largest minority with 13 representatives. Five seats for proportional representation and 11 at-large representatives remain undetermined, suggesting the possibility of additional seats for each party. **This leaves the PNP with a viable chance to reach majority independently if it can secure more representatives.**

Senate

At this stage, the PNP has obtained 12 Senate seats, with the PPD holding 4. Eleven at-large seats are still undecided, which could provide an opportunity for the **PNP to achieve a standalone majority and enable other parties**, like the PIP and PD, to gain Senate representation for the first time in this election cycle.

Plebiscite results on political status

56.82%

In the recent plebiscite, statehood emerged as the most voted-for option among Puerto Ricans, signaling a preference for Puerto Rico's full and permanent integration into the United States. This change would place Puerto Rico and its citizens entirely under the U.S. Constitution and establish it as a state with the same rights and status as the current 50 states.

What's next?

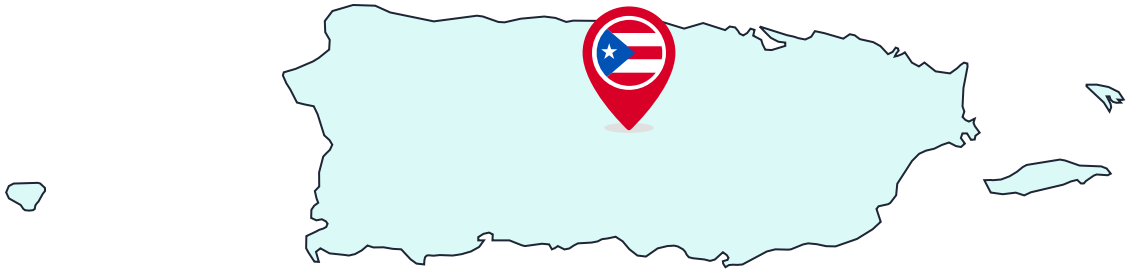


Given the non-binding nature of the plebiscite, a change in Puerto Rico's political status would require an Admission Act to be introduced in the U.S. Congress. If approved, it would then advance to the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico for consideration. Should it pass both stages, the governments of Puerto Rico and the United States would negotiate the terms and timeline for the transition to the new status..



Compared to previous plebiscites, support for the leading option saw a decrease. In a notable shift, independence gained significant traction, emerging as the second most popular choice with 30.85% of the vote. This marks a 29.55% increase in support for independence compared to the 2017 plebiscite, the last instance in which all three options were presented.

Support for independence increased by ▲ 29.55% compared to the 2017 election, the last plebiscite that presented all three options.



Other Reports from Directorio Legislativo



Uruguay Post-Electoral Report
October 2024

MORE INFO



Puerto Rico Pre-Election Report
October 2024

MORE INFO

DL | FORTALECEMOS LAS DEMOCRACIAS DE AMÉRICA LATINA | STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACIES IN LATIN AMERICA

Directorio Legislativo is a non-partisan, independent organization that has promoted the strengthening of legislative branches and the consolidation of democratic systems in Latin America for 15 years. It does so through transparency, public access to information, and engagement with stakeholders from the public, private, academic, and civil society sectors.

info@directoriolegislativo.org

BUENOS AIRES
Av. de Mayo 1130 5 J,
CABA, (1085), ARG
+ (5411) 5218-4647

WASHINGTON D.C.
1110 13th Street NW, Suite 800, NW
Washington DC 20005, USA
+ 1 (786) 828-0675