



Democratic Party of Puerto Rico / Partido Demócrata de Puerto Rico

Democratic Presidential Primary will result in substantial savings to the budget

Voting shall take place next April 28

SAN JUAN—To save money on the Puerto Rico State Elections Commission's budget and in light of President Joe Biden's guarantee of the minimum number of delegates needed to obtain the presidential nomination, the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Democratic National Party (DNC) authorized amending the Puerto Rico Delegate Selection Plan to use ten voting centers for the presidential primaries on April 28.

Charlie Rodríguez, Chairman of the Democratic Party of Puerto Rico, said that a voting center will be set up in each of the eight senatorial districts. In addition, a voting center will be established in Vieques and another in Culebra.

Rodríguez said the polling stations will open continuously from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. As an additional savings in the expenses previously estimated for the primary, the counting machines will not be used and the ballots will be counted manually.

Rodríguez requested and obtained the necessary amendments from the DNC to reduce the cost of the primary. "The State Elections Commission budgeted \$1 million, and with the adjustments we have implemented, we estimate that the Democratic primary will not exceed \$60,000."

Rodríguez explained that on March 12, Biden secured the Democratic Party's presidential nomination with decisive victories in Georgia and Mississippi. As of that date, the president had 1,972 delegates, five more than needed to mathematically secure the nomination.

"Although Biden already has the nomination, all states and territories that have not yet selected their delegates must continue with the delegate selection process established by the laws of each jurisdiction and the party's rules," insisted Rodríguez.

Puerto Rico will have 65 delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, which represents more delegates than 24 U.S. states and territories. Of the 65 delegates, 36 are to be chosen in the April 28 presidential primary, 24 additional delegates are selected at the Puerto Rico Democratic Party State Convention on June 8, and five are automatic delegates. The latter automatic delegates are the Governor and the four local party officers who are members of the DNC.

"We are moving forward with the process of electing delegates who are committed to supporting Biden's candidacy, and we will consider any support for challengers Dean Phillips and Marianne Williamson. Phillips recently withdraw from the race, but since he did not notify in time, his name remains on the Puerto Rico ballot", the Democratic leader said.

Rodríguez emphasized that Biden was the only candidate for whom 102 people filed their intention to be district delegates and to occupy one of the 36 positions available per district to be elected in the April 28th primary.

The rules stipulate that presidential candidates select their delegates. The district-level delegate candidates chosen by Biden's authorized representative from the 102 applicants in Puerto Rico were as follows:

DISTRICT		NAME
SAN JUAN 4 Delegates	1 2 3 4	Miguel B. Hernández-Vivoni Katherine Erazo Eddie Charbonier Ivonne Lozada-Rosas
BAYAMON 4 Delegates	1 2 3 4	Carmelo Ríos Aida M. Márquez-Ibáñez Juan E. Hernández-Mayoral Debora Soto-Arroyo
ARECIBO 5 Delegates	1 2 3 4 5	Erik Y. Rolón-Suárez Glorimar Falconi-Arroyo Edgardo Feliciano Elizabeth Rosa-Vélez Ángel (Kuko) Ramos-López

MAYAGUEZ 5 Delegates	1 2 3 4 5	Luz “Lucy” Arce-Ferrer José Julián Roldán-Villanueva Evelyn Vázquez Braulio Torres Zulma R. Rosario
PONCE 5 Delegates	1 2 3 4 5	Jessica Martínez-Santos Emmanuel Piñeiro-Castro Marially González-Huertas Angel Fourquet Astrid Vázquez
GUAYAMA 5 Delegates	1 2 3 4 5	Jesús (Gardy) Colón-Berlinger Margarita Nolasco Luis Javier Hernández-Ortiz Evelyn Díaz-Suárez Carlos Rodríguez-Mateo
HUMACAO 4 Delegates	1 2 3 4	Rosachely Rivera Roberto Jesús López-Román Glenda Villafañe José “Conny” Varela
CAROLINA 4 Delegates	1 2 3 4	Lornna Soto Angel Matos Aurelio Agelviz Daisy I. Cruz-Christian

Charlie Rodriguez mentioned that March 29 is the deadline for those not registered to vote in Puerto Rico to register and be eligible to vote in the Democratic Presidential Primary.

On April 26, two days before the event, the Chairman of the Puerto Rico Democratic Party announced that advance voting will be conducted for inmates in the correctional institutions and Juvenile Detention and Social Treatment Centers operated by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Metropolitan Detention Center operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and the Juvenile Institutions, operated by the Puerto Rico Juvenile Institutions Administration.