



Democratic Party of Puerto Rico / Partido Demócrata de Puerto Rico

PRESS RELEASE

## **Puerto Rico Democratic Party Presents Busy Agenda for Election Year**

### **Charlie Rodríguez announces reorganization of the Party and the Presidential Primary, among other events**

**HATO REY** (January 25, 2024)- The Democratic Party of Puerto Rico (DPPR) announced its plans for the current election year. Charlie Rodríguez, the chairman of the party, spoke about the Presidential Primary and the internal reorganization process as the main focus of their work. He was joined by Héctor Joaquín Sánchez, DPPR electoral commissioner, Aurelio Agélviz, Young Democrats president and representative José “Pichy” Torres-Zamora, an at-large member.

Rodríguez, speaking from the headquarters of the Puerto Rico State Elections Commission, also mentioned that the party will be involved in the electoral process to defend the fourth ballot, which is enabled by law for this year. The fourth ballot will allow voters to express their preference for the official presidential candidates of each national party.

Rodríguez successfully convinced the CEE to recognize the DPPR as the advocate for the Democratic presidential candidate. For this purpose, the DPPR must hold an office in the electoral instrument during the current year.

"The Democratic Party of Puerto Rico supports and shall participate in the upcoming presidential election, as provided by law. This election will be part of the general elections of Puerto Rico, scheduled for November 5, 2024. Our participation in this election reaffirms the democratic will of the people in favor of our American citizenship, true permanent union, and statehood," stated the party chair.

Rodríguez said that the local DPPR delegation will support the Democratic presidential candidate nominated by the Democratic National Convention from August 19 to 22, 2024.

"We anticipate that the nominee will be President Biden, the only candidate who has defeated Trump," asserted Rodríguez, while describing the president's sincere concern to protect U.S. citizens residing in the territory.

According to the leader of the island's Democrats, "Biden has granted Puerto Rico the most federal aid among all the presidents. He has released the federal funds allocated for natural disasters previously restricted by Trump. Additionally, Biden supports statehood for Puerto Rico and the approval of congressional bills for a federal and self-executing plebiscite to resolve the dilemma of the colonial status that curtails our rights, development, and progress."

He also pointed out that President Biden had granted parity to Puerto Rico in all federal programs and extended the "Child Tax Credit" benefit to all families with children, previously restricted to families with three or more children. Biden also allocated millions of dollars to install solar panels for low-income and middle-class families, millions to bring internet to isolated communities, reduced and even eliminated student loan debts for many, and lowered the cost of insulin for diabetic patients by 70% by establishing a monthly limit of \$35.

The former senator provided a detailed explanation of the Democratic Party's involvement in the upcoming elections in order of succession of events. These are broken down as follows:

#### **A. Reorganization of the Democratic Party of PR**

**Date: March 16, 2024 (Saturday)**

**Schedule: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Place: Pedrín Zorrilla Coliseum**

#### **Who can vote?**

- 1) Any voter domiciled in Puerto Rico who is registered to vote.
- 2) Must be Active in the General Registry of Voters, and
- 3) Must be affiliated with the Democratic Party prior to receiving the ballot.

#### **What is elected?**

- 1) Chairperson
- 2) Vice-Chairperson
- 3) Committeewoman
- 4) Committeeman
- 5) Two (2) members for each senatorial district totaling 16, half male and half female.
- 6) Ten (10) members-at-large, half male and half female.
- 7) This board is elected for 4 years, beginning its term on August 29, 2024, 7 days after the conclusion of the Democratic National Convention.

## How to file?

- 1) Apply online and file through [www.prdems.org](http://www.prdems.org)
- 2) The filing period is currently open and will close on February 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

## How do I vote in the General Assembly?

- 1) The polling station is open 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 2) Identification Cards authorized to identify the voter:
  - a) Electoral Identification Card, voluntarily shown
  - b) United States of America Passport
  - c) U.S. Global Entry Card
  - d) U.S. Armed Forces or Merchant Marine ID Card
  - e) Driver's license issued by the Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTOP)
  - f) Real ID driver's license of any state or territory of the United States of America.
- 3) One ballot divided between each candidate for chairperson, vice chairperson, committeewoman, committeeman, members per senatorial district, and at-large members.
- 4) Voters cast their votes at the corresponding senatorial district table - there will be eight (8) tables in total located on the main floor of the Pedrin Zorrilla Coliseum.
- 5) Under Article Nine, Section 12 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States, the General Assembly shall be open to the public, and **voting shall not be made by secret ballot**. Therefore, each voter must sign or print their name on the ballot.

## B. Democratic Presidential Primary

**Date:** April 28, 2024 (Sunday)

**Schedule:** 9:00 a.m. a 3:00 p.m. Open Polling System

### **Candidates:**

- 1) Joe Biden – President
- 2) Dean Phillips - Congressman (D-Minnesota-3rd District)
- 3) Marianne Williamson - writer

## **Election of Delegates**

- Puerto Rico will have 65 delegates to the Democratic National Convention - 60 at-large delegates and 5 alternate delegates, more delegates than 32 U.S. states and territories
- 36 are elected by senatorial district in the April 28, 2024 Primaries
- 5 are automatic delegates (Chair, Vice-Chair, Committeeman, Committeewoman and the Governor)
- 7 are elected delegates from among Party leaders and elected officials
- 12 at-large delegates
- 5 alternates at-large

The number of votes obtained in the April 28th primary will determine the proportion that will distribute the 65 delegates from Puerto Rico. In order to be eligible to elect delegates, a candidate must obtain no less than 15% of the votes.

## **Where will the voting take place on April 28th?**

12 Polling Stations throughout the Island

- 1) Eight (8) - at least one (1) polling station for each senatorial district
- 2) One (1) additional polling station for the Ponce district
- 3) One (1) additional polling station for the Guayama district
- 4) Two (2) additional polling stations for the Carolina district, for Vieques and Culebra.

## **Additional Methods of Voting before the primary**

### **1) Early Vote eight (8) days before the Primary**

- From Saturday, April 20 through Saturday, April 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- At the eleven (11) CEE regional offices, seven (7) JIP offices, and twelve (12) special polling stations in different towns of the island.
- The voter must be active in the PR Voters Registry.
- No prior application is required; just show up in person
- You can vote in any of the offices or centers in the senatorial district where you are registered.
- ID of those required by the Electoral Code
- It will be through the "Added by Hand" method.

## **2) Absentee Voting (unexcused and by mail)**

- You can apply online or visit one of the 11 CEE regional offices or 7 JIPs to vote absentee.
- The application period starts on January 24, 2024, and ends on March 14, 2024.
- Any voter can apply for absentee voting without an excuse.
- The CEE will send the ballot by mail, and the voter needs to return it by mail.

## **3) Inmate Advance Voting**

- On April 26, 2024, early voting will take place for inmates in correctional institutions operated by the Government of Puerto Rico and in the Metropolitan Detention Center operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, as well as those under the custody of the Juvenile Detention and Social Treatment Centers operated by the Puerto Rico Juvenile Institutions Administration who are eligible to vote.

## **4) Advance Vote (Traditional)**

- Advance voting is available for CEE officials, voters at work, long-term hospitalized voters, traveling voters, voters with physical disabilities, and others.
- To vote in advance, you can apply online or visit any of the CEE's 11 regional offices or 7 JIPs.
- The application period starts on January 24, 2024, and ends on March 14, 2024.
- You may vote by mail or at CEE offices on a determined date.

## **C. Presidential Election**

**Date: November 5, 2024 (Tuesday)  
Fourth Ballot**

**The Election Code of Puerto Rico of 2020 provides the following:**

“Article 8.1.b.-Presidential Elections. –

It is hereby directed that, by virtue of the civil and fundamental right protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, on the same day of every general election, beginning in the 2024 General Election, every U.S. citizen who is an active voter in Puerto Rico shall exercise and claim their right to vote and express their preference from among the candidates for President and Vice President of the United States of America.

The holding of the Presidential election and the exercise of the right to vote for the President constitute a public interest in connection with the U.S. citizenship and the current expression of self-determination of the people of Puerto Rico as sovereign of our democratic system to reject the colonial subordination status and claim of equal rights and obligations as U.S. citizens.

Therefore, it is hereby authorized that public funds and property be used for such purposes.”