

A recent island wide poll conducted by a nationally recognized opinion research firm amongst 800 likely voters in the U.S territory shows a continuing trend of support for Statehood, when compared with previous polls conducted over the years. The environment for a statehood campaign and for New Progressive Party (PNP for its Spanish acronym) candidates is extremely favorable as we move towards the 2016 election year.

Fiscal Control Board

In the midst of the fiscal crisis a majority of Puerto Ricans support the creation of a Fiscal Control Board. 68% support it while 20% oppose it, with 11% not sure. As to the approval of the Fiscal Control and its members, 65% believe it should be by the United States Congress.

The economy

The issue of the economy dominates voters' concerns. Fully 82% of voters say Puerto Rico is heading on the wrong direction.

Voters give very negative ratings to the strength of the economy and are pessimistic it will improve. Consider these numbers...

- 87% of voters state that buying groceries has become a major burden, 95% say the same about medical expenses, and;
- 56% think the sales tax ("IVU") should be lowered back to 7%.

The Puerto Rican government is increasingly blamed for economic conditions. Currently, 53% of voters blame the Puerto Rican government and 18% blame the world economy. Three years ago, in 2012, it was the opposite—41% blamed the world economy and 27% blamed the Puerto Rican government.

Political leaders and parties

In the NPP primary race, Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi continues to build his lead against his opponent Ricky Rossello with 46% supporting Pierluisi against 38% who support Rossello with 15% not sure. If the elections were held today both NPP candidates would defeat PDP candidate, former Secretary of State David Bernier. Pedro Pierluisi leads Bernier 38% to 22%, while Rossello leads Bernier 31% to 25%.

In the race for resident Commissioner Jenniffer Gonzalez holds a comfortable lead. In the NPP primaries the former Speaker leads Carlos Pesquera 65% to 23%. On the PDP side, former Party President Hector Ferrer leads State Senator Angel Rosa 51% to 30%. In a general election matchup Gonzalez leads Ferrer 45% to 27%.

Statehood

Voter support for statehood is at an all-time high. Contrary to what is traditionally projected by some media outlets, the issue of political status is important to voters in Puerto Rico. Two thirds of those interviewed, 65% of likely voters polled, answered that they favor seeking statehood for Puerto Rico.

- 70% of voters responded that the status issue is extremely or very important to them.
- In a three-way status plebiscite, 59% would pick statehood, 22% keeping current status, and 7% independence.

