

## **Statehood remains the most popular status option in 2019**

July 14, 2019

The Puerto Rico Herald obtained the key findings from a telephone survey of 804 Puerto Rico registered and likely voters conducted May 29 to June 3rd, 2019 by a public opinion research nationally recognized firm. The poll, not conducted for any candidate or party, included questions on a wide array of important topics, using a scientifically designed sample across all of Puerto Rico regions, age groups, gender and socioeconomic levels to produce reliable findings regarding the current attitudes of registered voters about issues and potential candidates for office.

### **Key Findings**

#### **Mood of the Electorate & Hurricane Recovery**

**While conditions remain poor, opinions are slowly improving (either as result of improvements on the ground or residents getting used to the status quo)**

- Most voters are dissatisfied with the way things are going, but satisfaction has doubled since the record lows established in 2016
- Quality of life ratings (while still not particularly good) hit a 12-year high
- Anger over current conditions is declining and a narrow majority is optimistic about the future

**Voters have mixed views of Rosselló's first term, with concerns about corruption a significant liability**

- Voters split on evaluations of Rosselló as Governor, with perceptions around corruption driving views
- Six-in-ten voters see corruption as a major problem
- Majorities disapprove of Rosselló's performance on key issues (his worst grades are on corruption and government spending, best grades on handling status issues and the economy)
- Rosselló's *personal* favorability (54 favorable – 41 unfavorable) is better than his job performance numbers

### **Rosselló – Bernier is currently the most likely matchup**

- Bernier has a wide lead in the PPD primary race for Governor
- Bhatia holds a modest edge over Yulín Cruz for Resident Commissioner, and is the preferred Resident Commissioner candidate for supporters of each PPD candidate for Governor

### **The 2020 general election – while a long way off – could be very tight**

- Bernier currently holds a very slight lead over Rosselló if both are their party's nominee
- Bernier's area of strength: women, younger voters, those who see corruption as a major problem, those falling behind in hurricane recovery
- Voters who favor PREPA privatization back Rosselló, those who favor eliminating the fiscal control board are *narrowly* in Rosselló's camp as well

### **Carmen Yulín Cruz's window appears to have closed**

- Rosselló holds a sizable lead against Carmen Yulín Cruz if she is the PPD nominee
- Majorities do not think she would be a good Governor or Resident commissioner

### **Statehood remains the most popular status option**

- Six-in-ten favor seeking Statehood (right in line with historical norms)
- Statehood holds a wide lead in a three-way plebiscite
- Two-thirds would accept Statehood if Congress offers

### **Puerto Ricans are closer to GOP views on cultural issues**

- Majorities agree with GOP positions on school prayer, abortion, and same-sex marriage
- Vulnerability for the GOP on healthcare, as almost all Puerto Ricans agree with the emerging Democratic position that government should play a role in ensuring everyone has healthcare

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