

## **Michael Bloomberg is the odds-on favorite in the Democratic Primary in Puerto Rico**

March 3, 2020

The Puerto Rico Herald obtained the key findings from a telephone survey of 803 Puerto Rico registered and likely voters conducted February 18<sup>th</sup> to February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 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**

- Voter sentiment has gotten worse. Just 8% say things are getting better and a whopping 60% say things are getting worse. Just 8% say the economy is excellent or good; 72% think it is “poor.” This is partially (but not entirely) attributable to the earthquake, which was a problem for 70% of voters.
- Senator Eduardo Bhatia looks like the most likely PPD nominee, and Pedro Pierluisi has a robust advantage in the PNP primary. Mr. Pierluisi currently holds a 9-point edge over Senator Bhatia in the general election, but neither main candidate cracks 30% - meaning this race has plenty of room for movement.
  - Resident Commissioner Jenniffer Gonzalez has a solid 17-point lead in her race for reelection.
  - The legislative races will be a battle – the PNP has a narrow 4-point edge on the generic ballot against PPD candidates.
- Statehood gets 57% support when those interviewed are asked about seeking statehood. A majority (53%) would back statehood in a yes-no plebiscite; just 29% would vote no.

- Voters are especially optimistic about statehood's ability to help with education, infrastructure, job creation, and disaster recovery.
- There is lots of room for non-PNP groups to advocate for statehood. Voters are much more favorable toward pro-statehood efforts than toward the PNP itself, partisan identification with the PNP remains fairly low, and twice as many think it's time for new voices to lead the fight for statehood than think the PNP is the best organization to do so.
  
- Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is the odds-on favorite in the Democratic Primary in Puerto Rico to be held On March 29<sup>th</sup>, with twice as much support as Senator Bernie Sanders. His messaging is clearly having an effect and resonating with Puerto Ricans.

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