



## REPUBLICAN PARTY OF PUERTO RICO

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Hon. Carlos Méndez.  
**State Chairman**

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Hon. Luis G. Fortuño  
**National Committeeman**

November 13, 2012

Honorable John A. Boehner  
Office of the Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1011 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-3508

Honorable Eric Cantor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-329, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Puerto Rico Status Plebiscite – November 6, 2012

Dear Honorable Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Cantor and Majority Whip McCarthy:

On November 6<sup>th</sup> 2012, over 1.8 million voters from the U.S. Territory of Puerto Rico went to the polls. In addition to the local elections, voters participated in a status plebiscite to determine: (a) whether to continue with the present form of

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territorial status (Yes or No); and (b) their preference between the three non-territorial options (statehood, independence, or a sovereign free associated state).

For the first time in Puerto Rico's history, voters soundly rejected the present form of territorial status - by a margin of 54% (943,094) to 46% (803,407). Voter turnout was 78.01% of all eligible voters. Moreover, voters selected statehood as the preferred non-territorial option by a wide and decisive margin of 61.13% (809,652). Interestingly, and more tellingly, the total votes in favor of statehood exceeded the total votes in favor of maintaining the present form of territorial status.

The 2012 Republican platform states that:

"[w]e support the right of the United States citizens of Puerto Rico to be admitted to the Union as a fully sovereign state if they freely so determine. We recognize that Congress has the final authority to define the constitutionally valid options for Puerto Rico to achieve a permanent non-territorial status with government by consent and full enfranchisement. As long as Puerto Rico is not a State, however, the will of its people regarding their political status should be ascertained by means of a general right of referendum or specific referenda sponsored by the U.S. government."

Last Tuesday, the United States citizens of Puerto Rico freely and democratically determined by direct vote our desire to change the present political status and support our admission into the Union fully as a sovereign state. It is now up to the U.S. Congress to promptly enact legislation enabling the will of the People. The time has come for Republicans in Congress to embrace their sworn duties under the Constitution and make good on our legacy of leadership in the cause of equality and democracy for the 3.9 million Americans in Puerto Rico.

Further, our party has the opportunity of embracing this process as evidence of its commitment to equality and democracy with a key and growing sector of the Hispanic community in the United States. As such, we respectfully urge our Republican leaders in the House of Representatives to lead this effort to finally deliver the promise of full citizenship (with all of its rights and responsibilities) to the nearly 4 million Americans living in Puerto Rico. This is the only way that the

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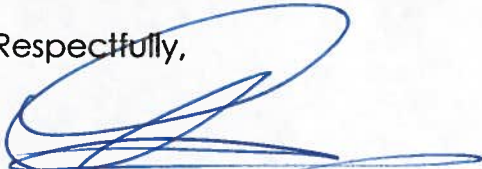
will of the people, as democratically expressed at the polls on November 6, can be respected.

We stand ready to work with you and your staff on this legislation. As soon as your schedules allow, we kindly request a meeting to present and develop an agreeable working plan and the corresponding implementation strategy once Congress reconvenes.

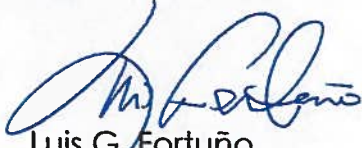
Over the last 40 years, Republican Administrations have provided leadership in resolving the unfinished work of American democracy for Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories. U.S. soldiers from Puerto Rico bravely fight in faraway lands to defend and protect America's basic liberties and our way of life. Congress now must take the above requested measures and steps at home – in the name of equality and justice.

Our country was founded upon a basic principle of a *government by consent of the governed*. Congress has the constitutional authority, as well as the moral responsibility, of applying and living by this founding principle in the case of American citizens in Puerto Rico.

Respectfully,



Carlos Méndez  
Chairman



Luis G. Fortuño  
National Committeeman



Zoraida Fonalledas  
National Committeewoman