

## Puerto Ricans support Fiscal Control Board

Dr. Ricardo “Ricky” Rosselló got a significant bump after narrowly defeating Pedro Pierluisi in the March 6<sup>th</sup> gubernatorial primary of the New Progressive Party (PNP for its Spanish acronym). The now official nominee of the PNP now leads PPD candidate and former Secretary of State David Bernier by 20 points, 46% to 26%, but still 14% remain unsure or refused to answer. The remaining percentage is distributed among the rest of the field with Manuel Cidre garnering 5%, Alexandra Lúgaro 4%, PIP leader Maria de Lourdes Santiago 3% and labor leader Rafael Bernabe coming in at 2%. These are some of the latest findings of the latest island wide poll conducted by a nationally recognized opinion research firm conducted amongst 1,100 Puerto Rican voters, including an oversample of 150 voters in Ponce and 150 voters in San Juan. Oversample interviews are weighted down to zero in the overall results. The interviews were conducted between June 20<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Economic issues are driving the electorate this cycle, with 30% naming jobs and the economy as the most important issue facing Islanders, and 12% mentioning the cost of living. Crime and drugs garnered 12%. A sizable number of 43% blame the Puerto Rican government the most for the current economic conditions.

In the race for Resident Commissioner and current Minority Leader in the Territorial House of Representatives Jenniffer Gonzalez regained a commanding lead after the primary, obtaining the support of 50% of the votes, with PDP stalwart Hector Ferrer maintaining 36%.

Support for a fiscal control board remains strong, with 65% supporting it and 25% opposed. On the same subject 42% believe a fiscal control board should be short term and temporary, 25% support that is temporary but longer term and 23% want it made permanent.

Statehood remains the option of choice of voters, with 70% of the residents of the territory expressing that it is the status option that would have the most potential for improving Puerto Rico’s economic situation.



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