

STATE ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Work Summary
1991-1996



STATE ELECTIONS * **COMMISSION**
COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

Referéndum para la aprobación o rechazo del electorado de la Reclamación de Derechos Democráticos aprobada por la Asamblea Legislativa de Puerto Rico.

Voto a favor de la Reclamación de Derechos Democráticos.

SI

Voto en contra de la Reclamación de Derechos Democráticos.

NO

Resultados, el Pueblo de Puerto Rico, solamente tiene los siguientes derechos...

Plebiscito sobre el status político de Puerto Rico



ESTADIDAD



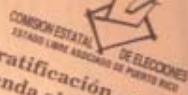
ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO



INDEPENDENCIA

PAPELETA MODELO

Referéndum para la ratificación o rechazo del Pueblo de Puerto Rico de la enmienda al Párrafo Quinto de la Sección del Artículo II y la enmienda a la Sección 3 del Artículo V de la Constitución del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico.



REFERENDUM 6 de NOVIEMBRE

CONSULTA SOBRE LA FIANZA

¿Se le otorga el derecho a quedar en libertad bajo fianza cuando tenga derecho a quedar en libertad bajo fianza...?

SI **NO**

COMISIONES DEL SUPREMO

¿Se le otorga el derecho a permanecer en libertad bajo fianza cuando con respecto por delito grave, se le impute la comisión de delitos graves serios y represente amenaza...?

SI **NO**

Logo	Party Name	Representative	Senator	Accumulation Representative
	Partido Nuevo Progresista	...	...	...
	Partido Popular Democrático	...	...	...
	Partido Independiente Puertorriqueño	...	...	...
	Partido Popular Libertario	...	...	...
	Partido Nuevo Progresista	...	...	...
	Partido Popular Democrático
	Partido Independiente Puertorriqueño
	Candidatos Independientes

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	Bail
	Increase the Number of Supreme Court Justices

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uring the celebration of the 1991 - 1996 Electoral Events SEC President Hon. Juan R. Melecio shared his time with electoral workers and members of the press on his visits to the Electoral Colleges.



Message from the President

For the State Elections Commission this report represents the successful closing of a chapter filled with great achievements in the electoral field. Carrying out eight electoral events between 1991 and 1996 gave the Commission the opportunity to accomplish a world record number of results in electoral events successfully held and reported.

Our personnel set itself to the task in body and soul, to grow day by day, and standing shoulder to shoulder regardless of political affiliations. They are the true anonymous heroes of the mission we have accomplished.

With this same degree of effort we were able to keep our Agency moving forward and achieve a 100% improvement of our image and credibility, as well as the release of electoral reports in record time. However, I have to acknowledge those who preceded the current electoral organism, and I should add that the experience in the electoral process held by the commission colleagues was achieved through time and hard, creative work.

Counting with the initiative of this personnel was inspiring, because thanks to their example, we improved our physical facilities and acquired advanced technical systems and equipment that allowed us to deliver better service to the electorate.

We have crossed horizons and placed ourselves within an international context to let our electoral system be known to the world.

For these reasons, I invite you to share in this report the achievements of the men and women who, joined hand in hand by a dedication to hard work and orientation to results, changed history to the benefit of Puerto Rican democracy and the State Elections Commission.



"Carrying out eight electoral events between 1991 and 1996 gave the Commission the opportunity to accomplish a world record number of results in electoral events successfully held and reported."

Introduction

This report is a summary of all the work carried out by the State Elections Commission during the electoral events held between 1991 and 1996.

Here you will find the highlights, processes, laws, achievements and the work carried out by each division of the Commission and, above all, the goals achieved from 1991 and 1996.

The Commission would have liked to present this work report much earlier; however, the 1991 Referendum on Democratic Rights Law initiated a chain of subsequent electoral events, including the 1992 Presidential Primaries, the 1992 Political Party Primaries, the 1992 General Elections, the 1993 Plebiscite on Political Status Formulas, the 1994 Referendum on Amendments to the Constitution, the 1995 Political Party Primaries and the 1996 General Elections which delayed the report's production.

Holding all these electoral events, and delivering the constant services provided to the electorate by the Commission, required a great degree of direction, planning and organization on the part of the State Elections Commission.

If we try to recall the work done during this time, or if we search through press files and newspaper reports, we would probably find in this memories, as well as in public opinion, positive notes which point to a united work team joined in performing an excellent job.

If we search through press files and newspaper reports, we would probably find in this memories, as well as in public opinion, positive notes which point to a united work team joined in performing an excellent job



For the past years, the Commission has become an agent of change. Together we have achieved monumental goals; notable among these is the construction of a new headquarters building at a cost of over fifty million dollars, which will be ready for occupancy between 1998 and 1999.

Also remarkable are the formalization of relations with several international electoral organizations, our active participation as consultants and observers in Latin American countries, and our entrance into the Interamerican Union of Electoral Organisms. In the meantime, we have held eight electoral events, emphasized the development of our technological infrastructure, and have set the foundations for the Commission's entry into the XXI century as an efficient and modern organism that retains the people's credibility and trust.

Hon. Juan R. Melecio, SEC President

1809
Puerto Rico's first elections
take place

Elections by Decree and General Elections of Delegates to the Spanish Courts, 1809-1896¹

Recount of Elections in Puerto Rico

To begin a recount of the elections celebrated in Puerto Rico, we have to go back to 1809. Back then, the elections were very important because they were of constitutional type. These elections took place every two to three years to elect Delegates to the Spanish Courts, Attorneys and Senators. Since universal suffrage was limited, Puerto Ricans did not vote for political posts of the highest authority, like governor. Although, it was not until November 4, 1952 that Puerto Ricans voted to elect their own Governor for the very first time. In point of fact, the beginnings of the Puerto Rican election process have their roots deep inside the political environment of those years. Though, limited in several aspects, said environment was quite advanced in other aspects like electoral composition and distribution.

The following recount shows the main events in Puerto Rican elections history.

Election Date	Delegates and Procurators	Aguadilla	Eurípides Escoriaza
July 15, 1809	Ramón Power y Giral	Mayagüez	Manuel Corchado y Juarbe
		San Germán	José Julián Acosta
April 16, 1810	Ramón Power y Giral	Sabana Grande	Román Baldorioty de Castro
		Ponce	Román Baldorioty de Castro
March 13, 1821 ²	José María Quiñones Antonio Veguer	Guayama	José Facundo Cintrón
		Humacao	Joaquín María Sanromá
July 20, 1834 ³	José San Just Esteban de Ayala	Río Piedras	Francisco Mariano Quinoñes
		Caguas	José Blanco y Sosa
		Coamo	Luis Padial
		Utua	Gregorio Ledesma y Navajas
May 3 to June 3, 1869⁴			Senators
Voting percentage 69.39%			Guillermo F. Tirado
Districts	Delegates		Wenceslao Lugo Viñaz
San Juan Bautista	Manuel Valdés Linares		Pedro Mata
	José Ramón Fernández		Luis María Pastor
	Marqués de la Esperanza		
	Juan Bautista Machicote		
	Juan Antonio Puig		
Villa de Arecibo	Juan Antonio Hernández	April 27, 1884⁶	
	José María Pascasio de Escoriaza	Voting percentage: 68.07%	
	Luis Ricardo Padial	Districts	Delegates
Villa de Mayagüez	José María Pascasio de Escoriaza	Capital	Fernando Arteaga
	Luis Antonio Becerra	Vega Baja	Francisco de Paula Acuña
	Francisco de Paula Vázquez	Arecibo	Manuel Alcalá del Olmo
	Sebastián Plaja y Vidal	Quebradillas	Manuel Fernández Capetillo
	Román Baldorioty de Castro	Aguadilla	Eugenio Despujol, Conde de Caspe
		Mayagüez	Francisco Lastres
		San Germán	Joaquín González Stéfani
		Sabana Grande	Rafael María de Labra
		Ponce	Ermelindo Salazar y Schuck
June 20 and 23, 1871⁵		Guayama	Diego A. Martínez
Voting percentage: 80.54%		Humacao	Antonio Soler
Districts	Delegates	Río Piedras	Martín del Salto
Capital	José Laureano Sanz	Caguas	Teodoro Guerrero
Vega Baja	José Antonio Alvarez	Coamo	Andrés Mellado
Arecibo	Luis Padial	Utua	Ángel Vallejo Miranda
Quebradillas	Juan Antonio Hernández		

Senators
 Feliciano Herreros de Tejada
 Fernando Vida y Palacios
 Fernando Colón Márquez
 Jaime Girón y Agrafel

April 4, 1886⁷

Voting percentage: 73.15%

Districts	Delegates
Capital	Manuel Alcalá del Olmo
Vega Baja	Rafael Terol y Ortega
Arecibo	Rafael Bosch y Carbonell
Quebradillas	Manuel Fernández Capetillo
Aguadilla	Juan Bautista de la Torre
Mayagüez	Francisco Lastres
San Germán	José Julián Acosta
Sabana Grande	Rafael María de Labra
Ponce	Julio Vizcarrondo Coronado
Guayama	Benito Pérez Galdós
Humacao	Antonio Soler y Bou
Río Piedras	Eduardo Gullón y Dabán
Caguas	José Sanz y Peray
Coamo	Julio Usera y Martín
Utua	Diego Suárez Sánchez

Senators
 Feliciano Herreros de Tejada
 Fernando Vida y Palacios
 José de la Torre y Villanueva
 Teodoro Lodico y Font

February 1, 1891⁸

Voting percentage: 65.69%

Districts	Delegates
Capital	José Gallart y Forgas
Vega Baja	Angel María Vallejo y Miranda
Arecibo	Manuel Ramírez de Verger
Quebradillas	Ignacio Despujol y Rigalt
Aguadilla	Juan Bautista de la Torre
Mayagüez	Francisco Lastres

San Germán	Angel Salcedo y Ruiz
Sabana Grande	Rafael María de Labra
Ponce	Miguel Moya y Ojanguren
Guayama	Miguel Martínez Campos
Humacao	Juan José García Gómez
Río Piedras	Eduardo Gullón y Dabán
Caguas	Antonio Alfau y Baralt
Coamo	Julio Usera y Martín
Utua	Francisco Martín Sánchez

Senators
 Diego Suárez Sánchez
 Luis Dabán y Ramírez de Arellano
 Emilio Drake y de la Cerda
 Teodoro Lodico y Font

March 2-5, 1893⁹

Voting percentage: 56.32%

Districts	Delegates
Capital	Eduardo Gullón y Dabán Francisco García Molinas Gilberto Quijano y Fernández
Ponce	Fernando Mellado y Leguey Juan Francisco Gascón Luis Soler Casajuana
Mayagüez	Francisco Lastres Juan Bautista de la Torre Vicente Balbás y Capó
Arecibo	Ignacio Díaz Caneja
Quebradillas	José de Santos y Fernández
Guayama	Ramón Martínez de Campo
Humacao	Juan José García Gómez
Caguas	Antonio Alfau y Baralt
Coamo	Enrique Corrales y Morado
Utua	Francisco Martín Sánchez

Senadores
 José de la Torre y Villanueva
 Teodoro Lodico y Font
 José Gallart y Forgas

1. All the information summarized above appears in Dr. Fernando Bayrón Toro's book "Elecciones y partidos políticos de Puerto Rico", revised and updated edition, Editorial Isla, Inc., Mayagüez, 1984.

2. This election is important inasmuch as the electoral districts or parties increase from five to seven.

3. These two Puerto Ricans are named "Procuradores", or Attorneys, following the Royal Decree approved on June 1831.

4. Out of a population of 650,000, only 2,580 individuals have the right to vote.

5. On this election, fifteen districts are created and four senators are chosen. Out of 19,789 voters, 15,940 cast their ballots.

6. There were 2,794 registered voters and 1,902 voted.

7. There were 2,492 registered voters and 1,823 voted. Puerto Rico's population reached an approximate 800,000 inhabitants.

8. There were 2,527 registered voters and 1,660 voted.

9. Districts were modified by the rulings of the Maura Electoral Law of 1892. There were 8,700 voters and 3,943 voters.

General Elections in Puerto Rico under
United States Rule: by date, total registered voters,
total active voters and name of governor,
1900-1996

Date	Registered	Voted	Governor
October 18 to November 6, 1898	-	-	John R. Brooke ¹⁰
November 6, 1898 to May 9, 1899	-	-	Guy V. Henry ^{10 11}
May 9 to April 30, 1900	-	-	George W. Davis ¹¹
May 1 to September 14, 1901	-	-	Charles H. Allen ¹²
November 6, 1900 ¹³ Voting percentage: 47.5%	123,140	58,367	Charles H. Allen
November 8, 1912 ¹⁴ Voting percentage: 73.1%	204,472	149,645	George R. Colton
June 16, 1917 ¹⁵ Voting percentage: 71.57%	244,530	175,006	Arthur Yager
November 2, 1920 ¹⁶ Voting percentage: 92.84%	268,643	249,431	E. Montgomery
November 8, 1932 ¹⁷ Voting percentage: 84.76%	452,738	383,722	Horace Towner Theodore Roosevelt Jr. James R. Beverley
November 3, 1936 ¹⁸ Voting percentage: 71.87%	764,602	549,500	James R. Beverly Robert H. Gore Blanton Winship
November 5, 1940 Voting percentage: 79.56%	714,960	567,579	Blanton Winship
November 7, 1944 Voting percentage: 82.25%	719,159	591,978	Guy J. Swope Rexford Guy Tugwell
November 2, 1948 Voting percentage: 73.38%	837,085	640,714	Rexford Guy Tugwell y Jesús T. Piñero ¹⁹
November 4, 1952 ²⁰ Voting percentage: 75.29%	883,219	664,947	Luis Muñoz Marín
November 6, 1956 Voting percentage: 79.71%	873,842	646,575	Luis Muñoz Marín
November 8, 1960 ²¹ Voting percentage: 83.90%	941,034	789,487	Luis Muñoz Marín

Date	Registered	Voted	Governor
November 3, 1964 Voting percentage: 82.09%	1,002,000	820,975	Roberto Sánchez Vilella
November 5, 1968 Voting percentage: 78.41%	1,176,895	922,822	Luis A. Ferré
November 7, 1972 Voting percentage: 84.14%	1,555,504	1,308,950	Rafael Hernández Colón
November 2, 1976 ²² Voting percentage: 86.09%	1,701,217	1,464,600	Carlos Romero Barceló
November 4, 1980 ²³ Voting percentage: 78.18%	2,071,777	1,619,790	Carlos Romero Barceló
November 6, 1984 ²⁴ Voting percentage: 88.86%	1,959,877	1,741,638	Rafael Hernández Colón
November 8, 1988 Voting percentage: 84.53%	2,144,583	1,817,241	Rafael Hernández Colón
November 3, 1992 Voting percentage: 84.47%	2,242,381	1,881,872	Pedro Rosselló
November 5, 1996 Voting percentage: 82.7%	2,380,676	1,977,704	Pedro Rosselló

10. These first three governors were appointed by the U.S. Congress as military governors of Puerto Rico.

11. After the change in sovereign rule, Congress and the U.S. President named the first three governors of the Island. The people of Puerto Rico wasn't consulted in the naming of said governors.

12. First civil governor of Puerto Rico.

13. These elections were held under the provisions of the Foraker Act, approved in 1900. There were seven electoral districts and only men over 21 years of age, who could read and write or paid taxes to the government, could vote. Through suffrage, Puerto Ricans elect Federico Degetau as their Resident Commissioner and 35 Delegates to the Puerto Rico House of Delegates.

14. This election is very important as the Electoral Law is amended to give representation to minorities.

15. Due to the new Organic Charter for Puerto Rico, known as the Jones Act and approved on March 2, 1917, new electoral bylaws and district divisions are drawn. The Island was divided in representative districts and senatorial districts. Including At-large representation, the Senate has 19 seats and the House of Representatives 39.

16. On this election, 90.84% of Puerto Ricans voted for senators and representatives. This figure is due to a law, making voting compulsory and applying penal sanctions and the loss of the right to vote for eight years to transgressors.

17. Law 74 of 1929 decreed that women could vote as long as they could read and write like men. Thus the increase of voters.

18. This election is very important, as universal suffrage is introduced. There will be no restrictions based on sex, illiteracy, property ownership of tax paying. The only requirements were to be over 21 years old and to enjoy the legal capability to be registered.

19. This was the first Puerto Rican Governor selected by the President of the United States.

20. This is a very important election in Puerto Rican history, because for the first time Puerto Ricans elect their governor.

21. Thanks to amendments made to the Electoral Law, from this date on, public funds are granted for political parties' campaigns.

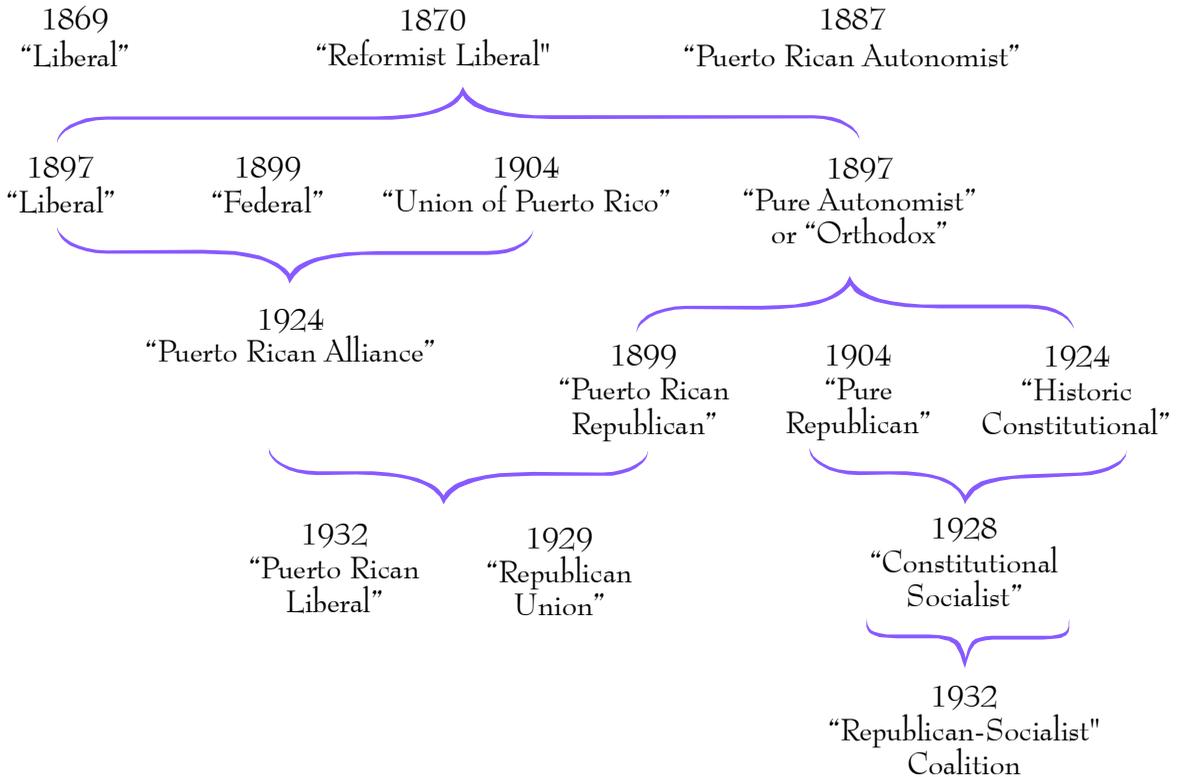
22. On this election, the Electoral Law is replaced by an Electoral Code, and the entity in charge of elections is replaced by an Electoral Court.

23. On this general election the Electoral Identification Card is used from April, 1979, and the opened college is introduced.

24. On this election two separate ballots were used as a consequence of the 1983 Electoral Reform: one a municipal ballot and a state ballot.

Geneology of Political Parties in Puerto Rico

1869
 “Conservative”
 (‘Unconditionally Spanish’);
 Disappeared in 1898 upon the change of sovereign rule.



- 1906 “Free Federation” → 1915 “Socialist”
 - 1912 “Independence of Puerto Rico Party”
 - 1932 “Nationalist”
 - 1936 “Progressive Republican Union”
 - ↳ in 1948, “Puerto Rican Statehood”
 - ↳ in 1953, “Republican Statehood”
 - 1940 “Pure Agricultural”
 - 1940 “Popular Democratic”
 - 1946 “Puerto Rican Independence”
 - (Due to its losing electoral standing, it has been re-registered on numerous occasions)
 - 1947 “Puerto Rican Liberal” → in 1948, “Reformist”
 - 1968 “People Party”
 - 1968 “New Progressive Party”
 - 1972 “Partido Auténtico Soberanista” (esperando)
 - 1972 “Puerto Rican Union Party”
 - 1980 “Puerto Rican Socialist Party”
 - 1983 “Partido Renovación Puertorriqueño” (esperando)
-

*Section 14 (16 LPRA 20) of the Electoral Law officially recognizes two types of political parties: principal parties and parties by petition.

- 1917-The year's general elections were held under the new system established by the Jones Organic Act, passed by the U.S. Congress on March 2, 1917. With this new constitutional system, a bicameral legislative system still in place was established
- 1924-Founding of the Puerto Rican Alliance, a political union between the Union of Puerto Rico and Puerto Rican Republican parties.
- 1928-Founding of the "Good Government Group". This event made possible the creation of new political parties on 1932. The Constitutional Socialist Party grouped together the Socialist and Historic Constitutional parties.
- 1932-Dissidents from the Puerto Rican Alliance, who formed part of the "Good Government Group", adopt the name "Republican Union". Another group from the Puerto Rican Alliance founded the Puerto Rican Liberal Party. On this year, women who could read and write voted for the first time. The Nationalist Party registered as a party by petition and participated in the 1932 Elections.
- 1936-On this year, universal suffrage was established in Puerto Rico.
- 1940-The Puerto Rican Unification was a group of Liberals and dissidents from the Puerto Rican Union and Socialist parties. On July 21, the Popular Democratic Party is officially founded.
- 1946-The Puerto Rican Independence Party is founded in Bayamón.
- 1948-The Republican Union adopts the name "Puerto Rican Statehood Party" and the Puerto Rican Liberal Party changes its name to Reformist Party.
- 1951-On June 4, voters agreed to draft their own Constitution, casting 387,016 votes in favor and 119,169 against.
- 1952-On March 3, the Referendum for the acceptance or rejection of the Constitution submitted to voters was celebrated: 374,649 votes in favor, 82,923 against.
- 1953-Starting on this year, the Puerto Rican Statehood Party amended its name, calling itself from now on Republican Statehood Party.
- 1960-The political group named "Christian Action Party" registered in sixty (60) electoral precincts and got fifty-two thousand ninety-six (52,096) votes.
- 1964-Law no. 3, passed on March 26, ruled that political parties that participated in the previous general elections (November 8, 1960) and obtained more than three (3) percent of the total vote for Governor of Puerto Rico in said elections can participate in the 1964 General Elections. Based on this legislation, the Puerto Rican Independence and Christian Action parties earn their place on the 1964 Electoral Ballot.
- On April 23, 1964, the Constitutional Board that managed the revision of the senate and representative districts released its official report, making said revision effective for the November 8, General Elections.
- Mr. Westerband got 1,487 votes in the Independent Candidates Column on the 1964 Electoral Ballot throughout the whole Island of Puerto Rico.
- The total number of votes for the office of Governor of Puerto Rico (in this case, 881,451) is, by law, the number on which the standing of political parties is determined. Law 3 of 1964 ruled that five (5) percent of the vote was needed.
- 1968-Two new political parties are founded: the People Party and the New Progressive Party.

Brief Review

About the Development of Puerto Rico's Electoral System

The history of Puerto Rico's electoral system created a framework for the people of Puerto Rico in a country of great political, social and educational transformation throughout the 19th and 20th century.

Fifty-three free and democratic general elections have been held in Puerto Rico, if we identify 1809 as the year when the first election was held and Ramón Power y Giralt was elected deputy to the Spanish Courts.

By 1906, when the first Electoral Law was approved, a process of regulation began in the areas of Registration, Electoral Boards, Electoral Colleges and Scrutiny. Under that very same law it was decided to hold the General Elections corresponding to the "biannual" or two-year periods of 1906, 1908, 1912 and 1914.

Only men who were land owners or owners of property, and who paid taxes, were allowed to vote during that time. This situation provoked transcendental changes in the country's social-political atmosphere, that would eventually lead to the integration of the entire population in the Electoral System.

Once the right to vote was granted to men over 25 years of age, it was not until 1932 that the Puerto Rican woman participated for the first time in the electoral process.

Today, 52% of voters in the Puerto Rico Electoral Register are women. Much later, in 1970, the people participated in a Referendum that granted the right to vote to 18-year-old young people. This group first voted in the 1972 General Elections.

The influence of the United States in Puerto Rican electoral processes begins in 1900 through the Foraker Act. Since then, we begin to use the territorial distribution and political equality doctrine, known as "One Man, One Vote".

We cannot forget that, prior to the arrival of the United States in Puerto Rico, the Spaniards had already implemented an electoral system where only Puerto Rican

Today, 52% of voters in the Puerto Rico Electoral Register are women. Much later, in 1970, the people voted on a Referendum that granted the right to vote to 18-year-old young people.

land and property owners, who were tax payers (men over 25 years of age), had the right to vote for their representatives in the Spanish Courts.

In addition to granting American citizenship to Puerto Ricans, the Jones Act of 1917 contributed to the voting process with the establishment of four-year electoral terms.

Although significant changes began to be implemented in the electoral field, the right of Puerto Ricans to vote and choose a Governor continued to be denied because they simply did not have that right.

At that time, the Governor of Puerto Rico was appointed by the President of the United States. It was not until 1952 that Puerto Ricans voted to elect their own Governor for the very first time.

An Electoral Code was established in 1935 concerning Universal Suffrage and in 1936 the System of Closed Voting Colleges was created. That same year also saw the elimination of a requirement that denied voting rights to people who could not read or write.

Prior to this accomplishment, women gained the right to vote in 1932. The right to elect the Governor of Puerto Rico by direct vote was implemented in 1948 as an amendment to the Constitution, similar to the one established in 1970 when 18-year-old young people were granted the right to vote.

An Electoral Code had to be established in 1935 concerning Universal Suffrage and in 1936 the System of Closed Voting Colleges was created.

The State Elections Commission



The State Election Board and the Electoral Court first existed within Puerto Rico's Electoral System, later giving way to Law #4 of December 20, 1977, which created the State Elections Commission.

This institution was created by law to plan, organize and supervise electoral processes. The Commission put into effect the procedures for the registration of voters, political parties and candidacies, as well as voting in the General, Special and Primary Elections held between 1991 and 1996.

During this period the Electoral Law was amended in order to empower Commissioners to name the President and Acting President, in addition to creating an additional position of Vice-President.

By Law two new members joined the Commission: a President, who is its Executive Official as representative of public interest and an Electoral Commissioner as representative of each political party.

For electoral events, the Commission also integrated a First Vice-President to represent the party that won the elections, a Second Vice-President, from the party that came in second, and a Third Vice-President from the party that finished third.

The First Vice-President, in accordance to the law, inspected and informed the Commission about work compliance in the areas of Electoral Operations, Administration, Planning, Auditing, Personnel, Security and the Press.

The Second Vice-President inspected and informed the Commission about work related to the Secretary's Office, the Computing Center, Legal Counseling, System and Procedures, Education and Training and Electoral Studies.

The Electoral Law was amended in order to empower Commissioners to name the President and Acting President.

Finally, the Third Vice-President inspected and informed the Commission about work compliance in the area of Field Operations.

All of them also complied with this legal functions and other tasks assigned by the President of the Commission.

The goal of the equal participation of all political parties, based on the principle of consensus in the Commission's decision making, was the preservation of the free and impartial character of the electoral events held in Puerto Rico.



During the Electoral Events celebrated from 1991 to 1996, Commission President Hon. Juan R. Melecio (center) counted on the assistance of (left to right) Ramón Bauzá Escobales, First Vice-President; Ramón M. Jiménez Fuentes, Secretary; Néstor J. Colón Berlingerí, Second Vice-President; and Félix F. Rodríguez Hernández, Third Vice-President.

Mission Accomplished

1991 to 1996



The State Elections Commission, in the words of its President, was the agency responsible for managing, planning, organizing, structuring, directing and supervising the celebration of all electoral events held in Puerto Rico between 1991 and 1996.

During this period the Commission was in charge of two Referendums, Presidential Primaries, two Political Party Primaries, one Plebiscite and two General Elections, for a total of eight major electoral events.

The Commission was in charge of developing several advertising campaigns to educate, guide and inform voters about the electoral events being held. Within the context of Government, it counted on the cooperation of other departments, agencies, entities and public corporations in regard to the use of office space, equipment, materials and other resources available.

To summarize, the Commission represented the public interest during this period and was in charge of carrying out all other necessary and convenient procedures to comply with the Electoral Law.

During this period, some of the people, not working any longer at the Commission, deserve recognition, since with their work, effort and sacrifice, they played a key role in laying the foundation that led to the successes that enabled us to accomplish this mission.

Marking the finger with ink while entering the voting college is one of the procedures which gave credibility to the voting process between 1991 and 1996.



1932

Women vote for the first time

Puerto Rico counts with a very sophisticated electoral system where the guarantee of the voter's rights and the controls, transparency and integrity of the processes surpass those of any other country in the hemisphere.

The purity of our electoral registry; the efficiency and accuracy of the packing of election material; the technological advantages incorporated by the system at the registration boards all through the Island, connected on line with the central branch; the picture and signature digitalization systems, along with the microfilming of documents and the two new buildings, designed to function for the next 50 years, are only part of the legacy to the new millennium.

During the present decade, particularly from 1991 onward, some 10 million voters have gone to the voting booths in eight events; almost as much as the total citizens who have voted for the past 30 years; and in all these events, the accuracy of their results has been validated through general votes scrutinies and recounts. During the same period, Puerto Rico opened its doors to open electoral experience and talent to other countries in the Americas and since then the demand has not ceased.

Two countries have passed in the electoral culture begun in 1809, which during the 20th Century has set rules on the highest levels of trust and credibility, guaranteed the results and the legitimacy of the elected governments; which has been fundamental to the political and economic stability that has stimulated this country's development.

Let it be God's will that those who take over the reins of our electoral system in the future keep it on the high standard it currently holds.

Ramón Bauzá Escobales, First Vice-President

State Elections Commission Officials and Former Officials



Hon. Juan R. Melecio
President



Manuel Herrero García, Esq.
NPP Commissioner



René Arrillaga Beléndez, Esq.
PDP Commissioner



Damaris B. Mangual, Esq.
PIP Commissioner



Mirtelina López Montañez, Esq.
NPP Alternate Commissioner



Mr. Iván Algarín
PDP Alternate Commissioner



Roberto Velázquez, Esq.
PIP Alternate Commissioner



Mr. Ramón Bauzá Escobales
First Vice-President



Mr. Néstor J. Colón Berlingeri
Second Vice-President



Mr. Justo E. Echevarría
Third Vice-President



Mr. Félix F. Rodríguez Hernández
Third Vice-President



Mr. Ramón M. Jiménez
Secretary



Mr. Sixto A. Ortiz
First Sub-Secretary



Mrs. Irma Rodríguez
Second Sub-Secretary



David Rivé, Esq.
Aide to the President
in Legal Affairs

Carlos Canals Mora, Esq.
Former NPP Commissioner

Mr. Juan Toledo
Former NPP Alternate
Commissioner

Eudaldo Baéz Galib, Esq.
Former PDP Commissioner

Ariel Nazario, Esq.
Former PDP Commissioner

Modesta Alberti, Esq.
Former PDP Commissioner

Nicolás Gautier, Esq.
Former PDP Commissioner

César Miranda, Esq.
Former PDP Commissioner

Mr. Esteban Rodríguez Estrella
Former PDP Alternate
Commissioner

Manuel Rodríguez Orellana, Esq.
Former PIP Commissioner

José Malavé, MD
Former PIP Alternate
Commissioner

Sigfrido Pons, Esq.
Former Second Sub-Secretary

Mr. Benicio Carmona
Aide to the President in
Electoral Affairs

Mr. Edwin Ramos Jourdan
Aide to the President in
Administrative Affairs

Mr. José A. Bravo
Coordinator of Electoral Events

Mr. Carlos Colón Berrios
Former Aide to the President
in Administrative Affairs

Mrs. Luz M. Graziani
Former Advisor to the
President in Press

Mr. Luis A. De Casenave
Director of Administration

Mr. Salvador González
Sub-Director of Administration

Mrs. Frances Carrión
Auxiliary Director of
Administration

Mr. Nery A. López
Former Director of
Administration

Mr. Harry O. Vega
Former Sub-Director of
Administration

Agnes M. Pietri, Esq.
Legal Affairs

Julia M. Santiago, Esq.
Former Director of
Legal Affairs

Mrs. Leticia Rosado
Director of Auditing

Mrs. Ivonne Rivera
Director of Electoral Studies

Mrs. Luz Delia Vázquez
Director of Education
and Training

José A. Valentín, Esq.
Director, Planning

Mr. Hipólito Núñez
Director of Electoral Operations

Mr. Jorge Torres
Former Director of Electoral
Operations

Mr. Steven Colón
OSIPE Director

Mr. Julio Vélez
OSIPE Sub-Director

Mrs. Frances Miranda
OSIPE Control Supervisor

Mr. José E. Alvarado Sólivan
Director, Press Office

Mrs. Brunilda Vélez
Director, Human Resources

Mr. José S. Jimeno
Former Director, Human Resources

Mrs. Inés Rodríguez
Former Director, Human Resources

Mr. Ernesto Williams
Director of Security

Mr. José Sánchez Cedré
Former Sub-Director of Security

Mr. Leandro Flores
Chief of Finances

Mr. Carlos J. Guerra
Chief of Purchases

Mrs. María T. Bértolo
Chief of Budget

Mr. Carmelo Toledo
Chief of General Services

Mr. Martín Fresneda
Chief of Quality Control

Tasks and Duties Performed



Information gathering center on General Election Results.

The Commission revised, corrected and printed all electoral lists for each and every one of the electoral events that took place.

As its main task, the State Elections Commission established electoral procedures, in accordance to the Law and regulations followed in all the electoral events that were held. Among other things, it:

Studied the problems of an electoral nature, and kept records of all procedures followed, steps taken and decisions made.

Drafted resolutions, approved working plans and adopted rules and regulations for the best performance of the Agency.

Revised, corrected and printed all electoral lists for each and every one of the electoral events that took place. It also addressed and resolved all controversial matters brought to its attention.

Implemented all legal revisions that needed to be made in order to carry out in an effective way the aims of the laws which ordered the Electoral Events.

Compiled and evaluated local electoral procedures in the light of the technological, procedural and legislative developments of other democratic jurisdictions around the world.

Preserved and kept in a convenient way the original copies of files, registers, records and other electoral documents.

Published the revised editions of the Electoral Law and the Regulations adopted for each one of the electoral events.

Decided, according to regulations, the equal distribution of printed electoral materials that were published.

Approved and adopted all the necessary rules in order to implement all requirements of the laws approved for the electoral events.

Developed affirmative action plans and approved the appropriate regulations to facilitate the right to vote of the disabled community.

Maintained direct and constant communication with Permanent Registration Boards (JIP, spanish acronym) and Local Commissions.

Affirmative action plans were developed and appropriate regulations to aid in the disabled community's right to vote were approved.

The State Elections Commission established vanguard programs to help the physically disabled population at the permanent registration boards.



Starting Point

In October, 1991, the Commission began the transformation of the Direction and Administration, the Planning and Development of Electoral Activities into what is today the State Elections Commission.

Established an open and direct communication with Electoral Commissioners, Vice-Presidents, Directors and all Agency personnel.

Made great strides in the services, document transactions and tasks related to the Secretary's Office.

Maintained innovative programs for the benefit of Agency officials, assigned new responsibilities and established daytime working hours.

Carried out the necessary technical computer improvements through the use of the most advanced technology.

Developed dynamic communications and public relations programs to reestablish communication with the local information media.

Developed advertising, promotional, informational, educational and motivational campaigns for the electorate.

Created education and training programs for the Permanent Registration Boards and Local Commissions, as well as orientation and information courses at public and private schools, libraries and work places.

Established the Electoral Events Coordinator Office to keep control and continuity in the tasks carried out to set up the Information Centers during each of the electoral events.

The Commission established open and direct communication with Electoral Commissioners, Vice-Presidents, Directors and all Agency personnel.

Electoral Events



Eight electoral events took place between 1991 and 1996. These were carried out in accordance with the stipulations of the Electoral Law and by the laws approved by the Honorable Legislative Assembly and signed by the Governor.

Electoral Events

Referendum on the Guarantee of Democratic Rights (1991)



The Referendum on the Guarantee of Democratic Rights represented a great challenge to the Commission. On October 2, 1991, came the approval of Law #86, “Law Authorizing the Referendum on the Guarantee of Democratic Rights”, which established that a Referendum would take place on December 8, 1991.

Said Law required that the people of Puerto Rico be presented for their approval or rejection, with a Claim of Democratic Rights that included the following:

The right to free determination of Puerto Rico’s Political Status; the right to choose a Status with utmost dignity, without colonial or territorial subordination to the powers of the United States Congress; the right to vote for the three Status alternatives; the right to guarantee culture, language and identity, including sports representation; and the right to guarantee United States citizenship under any alternative presented at any Status consultation.

Said Law assigned \$4.7 million to fund the project, which were itemized as follows: \$3 million for the organization and implementation of the Referendum, \$1.4



million for a public orientation and motivational campaign, and \$300,000 for the transportation of voters.

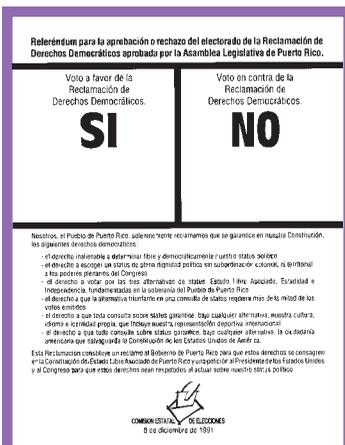
To fulfill its duty, as established by the Law, the State Elections Commission carried out many tasks. Among them, it:

- Established a communications network throughout the Island. Said system included the necessary contingency measures to guarantee a result true to the will of the people. The cost in private contracts for the security of the system reached \$58,360.
- Printed the ballot and other electoral materials.
- Developed an orientation and motivational campaign for Puerto Rican voters.
- Handled 215,683 electoral transactions at the Permanent Registration Boards four months before the Referendum.
- Held three orientation seminars for 298 Presiding Judges of the Local Commissions and Local Commissioners regarding the rules for the Referendum and the approved procedures.

Referendum on the Guarantee of Democratic Rights (1991)

- Used 5,848 Electoral Colleges for the voting process, distributed throughout 1,500 public schools, 62 private schools and 54 mobile units.
- Printed 3.2 million ballots, both model and official ones, and prepared 7,777 briefcases with electoral material.
- Became the focal point of the radio and television broadcasts, as a result of new and innovative systems and the installation of an Information and Press Center at the Condado Convention Center.
- Invested \$168,589 to successfully release the results on the night of the electoral event.

Although the budget assigned to this event was \$3 million, the real cost surpassed \$6 million, so the Commission had to use \$2 million as funds assigned by the Legislature in anticipation of pre-electoral preparations.



Model Ballot 1991 Referéndum

Referendum on Democratic Rights (Statistical Data)

Total of votes against	660,267
Total of votes in favor	559,163
Total of blank votes	2,538
Total of null votes	9,554
Total Votes	1,231,522
Total registered voters	2,052,690
Percent (%) of participation	60%



1952

**For the first time Puerto Ricans
can vote for the office of
Governor at General Elections**

The period between 1991 and 1996 has been one of the most intense in Puerto Rico's electoral history. During this period, eight electoral events were held under the supervision of the State Elections Commission. I had the opportunity of working during this period as Secretary to the Commission from 1991 to 1995, and from 1995 onwards as Second Vice-President.

Since the 1983 Electoral Reform, the Commission has as its guiding light the goal of celebrating every electoral event with a higher degree of diligence and efficiency than the preceding event. To this end, the Commission has counted on the commitment of all Commission personnel to constantly analyze each event and each transaction to find ways to improve the process.

During this last period, the guidance and firm support of Commission President, the Hon. Juan R. Melecio, and of the Electoral Commissioners from all political parties has been instrumental in the implementation of major changes in the proceedings and in the introduction of state-of-the-art technology which have made our electoral system one of the most reliable and secure not only in the hemisphere but in the world. Recently, several technological projects under discussion and analysis for the past years have been initiated, thus keeping the Commission's high standing as a standard for other Electoral Systems.

In light of these experiences, our Electoral System has won the recognition and respect of all persons who know it personally and who have come to know it through the professional exchange programs in which many Commission officials have participated. In these exchange programs, we contribute with our experience and learn from the experience of our fellow representatives of electoral systems all through the Western Hemisphere.

In the end, it is the People of Puerto Rico who deserve the highest recognition, since it is the People, with its high participation in the electoral events and its constant claim of respect for the independence of its electoral organisms, who have made possible our electoral system's reaching its high standing among democracies throughout the world.

Néstor J. Colón Berlingeri, Second Vice-President

Electoral Events

Presidential Primaries (1992)

The Presidential Primaries were held on April 5, 1992. At this time the Commission was conducting all the processes necessary to file the candidacies for the Political Party Primaries and the General Elections, as well as the recusal process for the election year.

The Presidential Primaries were an electoral event that entailed two separate, yet simultaneous elections. The Electoral Colleges in each Voting Center were distributed between the Republican and Democratic Parties, and two separate systems of compilation for the results were also established.

The Education and Training Office trained close to 200 employees in the management of equipment at the Permanent Registration Boards and in code interpretation and alphabetization to begin processing 192,574 electoral transactions, in addition to those registered for the 1991 Referendum.

The Human Resources Office retained the services of 60 temporary employees recruited during the 1991 Referendum, and it renewed the transfer applications of 122 employees from other agencies.

The Commission also:

- Programmed separate processes for obtaining the results by contracting private companies at a cost of \$52,520 and establishing a communications network throughout the Island.
- Printed 4.3 million pages of voting lists, 869,250 list formats and 4.1 million ballots, both model and official ones.
- Increased the storage area up to 47,925 square feet, at a cost of \$37,289 per month, in order to prepare 8,220 briefcases with electoral materials. These facilities were later used for counting the votes from the Primary Elections.

The Presidential Primaries were an electoral event that entailed two separate, yet simultaneous elections.

- Used 6,328 Electoral Colleges distributed among 1,500 public schools, 58 private schools and 49 mobile units.
- Established an Information and Press Center at the Convention Center at a cost of \$122,930, including the communications network.

The cost of the event reached \$2,244,291. Due to a lack of funds, the Commission was forced to pay the debt partly with the General Elections budget.

Electoral participation amounted to 328,647 voters, or 15% of those registered. Among these, 263,335 participated in the Democratic Primaries and 65,312 in the Republican Primaries.

College Election Officials supervise the voting process during the Presidential Primaries.



Electoral Events

Political Party Primaries (1992)

On May 31, 1992, following a process similar to that of two simultaneous General Elections, the Commission held the Political Party Primaries.

The number of candidacies filed for this electoral event turned these Primaries into the second largest held in Puerto Rico. The largest primary process so far took place in 1996.

To speed the first stage in the validation of endorsement petitions within the candidacy filing process, the Commission incorporated an advanced optic reading system, as well as computerized equipment to validate each party's endorsement petitions.

During the candidacy filing process, 2 million endorsement petitions were printed; 1.8 million were distributed among the candidates, from which 1,088,189 were filed.

The Commission rented four separate sites to complete said process; one was used by the Filing Unit, while the remaining three were assigned one to each of the three political parties, respectively.

The SEC also offered 80 orientation sessions with groups of candidates and ad-hoc notaries regarding how to fill out the endorsement forms.

The result of the candidacy filing process resulted in 843 candidates, 399 by the Popular Democratic Party, 266 by the New Progressive Party, 138 by the Puerto Rico Independence Party, one by the Local Vieques Movement, and 39 Independents.

Among these, 406 were certified as sole candidates and 437 went to the primaries, not including around 5,000 candidates to Municipal Assemblies.

The Commission held a total of 120 Primaries: 80 by the PDP and 40 by the NPP.

It also conducted the set-up of 7,246 Electoral Colleges distributed among 1,500 public schools, 60 private schools and 63 mobile units.

The Commission incorporated an advanced optic reading system, as well as computerized equipment to validate each party's petitions.

The Commission received and processed 81,554 electoral transactions since the close of the Electoral Registry for the Presidential Primaries until the Political Parties Primaries.

It printed 4.7 million pages of official voting and reports, one copy for each party in the Primaries.

For the first time, the Commission used high-speed, high resolution laser technology to print the documents.

It enlarged the storage facilities by renting 30,000 square feet in the facilities of the former news daily El Mundo, where 8.5 million ballots were handled and 9,654 briefcases stuffed with electoral material.

To receive and divulge the results on the night of the Primaries, the Commission established an Information and Press Center where an information access system was used for the first time by the Press. Each media outlet that covered the event received a terminal connected to the central computer, where results of the 104 precincts were accessed simultaneously.

The Commission also developed an information and motivational campaign geared to voters at a cost of \$576,316.49.

It invested about \$101,443 in the set up for the release of the Political Party Primaries' results.

The SEC contracted private companies to develop the programming that would allow the storage and release of the results, at a cost of \$49,530.

It increased the number of temporary employee contracts, from 93 to 196, and renewed the contracts of 122 employees transferred from other agencies.

In the PDP's 80 Primaries, 429,592 voters participated, while 332,417 participated in the 40 NPP Primaries, for a total of 752,009 voters, 35% of the 2,136,293 in the Electoral Registry.

Each media outlet that covered the event received a terminal connected to the central computer, where results of the 104 precincts were accessed simultaneously.

Electoral Events

Depuration of the Electoral Lists (1992)

The SEC approved a Regulation for rejections, which gave special emphasis to the most complete compliance of the due process before the Presiding Judges and Local Commissions assumed jurisdiction over voters.

The work that led to holding the 1992 General Elections began with the rejection or depuration of the electoral lists.

Through this legal mechanism, the Commission eliminated from the General Registry of Voters those voters whose registration or transfer petitions were excluded or impugned. However, two principal causes were responsible for the highest number of exclusions: change of residence and death.

To protect the electoral viability of every person duly registered, the SEC approved a Regulation for rejections, which gave special emphasis to the most complete compliance of the due process before the Presiding Judges and Local Commissions assumed jurisdiction over voters.

It held three orientation seminars for 148 Local Commission Presidents. A total of 324 Registration Officials were trained and 400 Local Commissioners oriented, including permanent and temporaries from all parties.

The SEC Geo-Electoral Technicians participated in the counseling of the Permanent Registration Boards and the Local Commissioners regarding the correct location of the voters, accompanying them to the site to identify and establish the electoral limits.

As a result of this process, a total 68,751 rejections were made, itemized as follows: 12,000 were declared invalid; 37,560 exclusion orders for reasons of residence; 13,131 exclusions by cause of death, and 60 for other causes.

Eight thousand exclusions were declared invalid because voters transferred their records within the time limit required by law.

It received and processed about 295,000 documents through the Exclusion Unit of the SEC Secretary's Office.

The Commission also forfeited nearly 50,000 death certificates received from the Demographic Registry, as required by law.

Electoral Events

General Elections (1992)

College election officials inspect the voting equipment briefcase before beginning the voting process.



The 1992 General Elections were summoned under Electoral Law, Law #4 of December 20, 1997, as amended. Three main political parties exist within the Puerto Rican electoral system.

In the General Elections the candidates for governor were: Victoria Muñoz Mendoza, for the Popular Democratic Party, Pedro Rosselló M.D., for the New Progressive Party, and Fernando Martín Esq., for the Puerto Rico Independence Party.

The candidates for Resident Commissioner in Washington were, Antonio (Tito) Colorado Esq., for the Popular Democratic Party, Carlos Romero Barceló Esq., for the New Progressive Party, and Víctor García San Inocencio Esq., for the Puerto Rico Independence Party. Each party also had candidates for Senator At-Large, Representative At-Large, District Senator, District Representative, Mayor and Assembly persons. There were also several independent candidates.

The General Elections were held November 3, 1992, through an open college system of voting. A total of 1,881,872 voters participated, out of 2,224,381 who were registered.

The New Progressive Party won with 938,969 votes or 49.90%, followed by the Popular Democratic Party with 862,989 or 45.86%, and the Puerto Rico Independence Party with 79,219 or 4.21% of the votes issued and awarded.

In this manner, Pedro Rosselló, M.D. was elected Governor and Carlos Romero Barceló, Esq. was elected Resident Commissioner in Washington.

The New Progressive Party also elected 6 Senators At-Large and 14 District Senators, 6 Representatives At-Large, 30 District Representatives, and 54 Mayors and Assembly Persons.

Likewise, the Popular Democratic Party elected 6 Senators At-Large and 2 District Senators, 6

General Elections (1992)

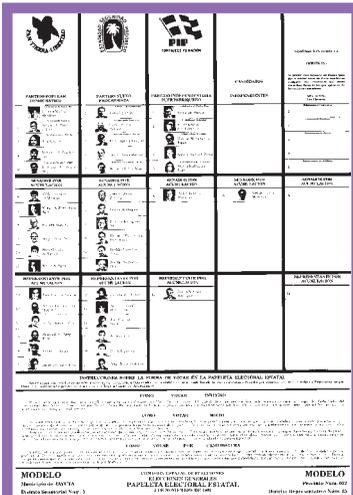


The 1992 General Election were supervised by the three commissioners. From left to right, José Ariel Nazario, Esq. (PDP), Carlos Canals Mora, Esq. (NPP) and Manuel Rodríguez Orellana, Esq. (PIP).

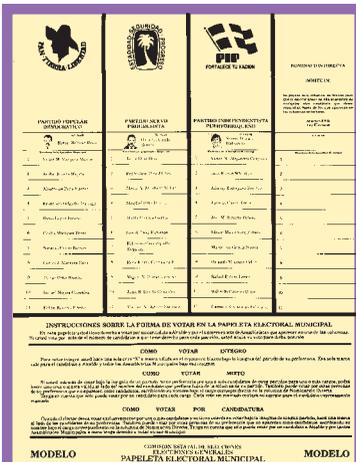
Representatives At-Large, 10 District Representatives, and 24 Mayors and Assembly Persons.

The Puerto Rican Independence Party elected one Senator At-Large and one Representative At-Large.

It is important to note that the Minority Law was applied during this election in favor of the Popular Democratic Party, due the high number of legislative seats obtained by the New Progressive Party.



Model State Ballot 1992 Elections



Model Municipal Ballot 1992 Elections

1992 General Elections: Official Results

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	
NPP	Pedro Rosselló	938,969	49.90	
PDP	Victoria Muñoz Mendoza	862,989	45.86	
PIP	Fernando Martín	79,219	4.21	
	Others	695	0.04	
	Total	1,881,872		
		PDP	NPP	PIP
Party Line Vote:	676,010	816,758	51,441	
Mixed Vote:	153,047	98,236	23,725	
Candidates:	70,489			
Registered voters:	2,242,381			
Percentage of Participation:	84.47%			

Electoral Events

Plebiscite on Political Status Formulas (1993)

 On May 20, 1993, the House of Representatives Project #694 was presented proposing to hold a Plebiscite on Political Status Formulas in Puerto Rico, which, as amended, became Law #22 of July 4, 1993.

Said Law called for a Plebiscite on the Political Status of Puerto Rico. On November 14, 1993, the people had the opportunity to vote between Statehood, Commonwealth and Independence.

The symbols proposed by said Law to represent each Status formula were the circle, the rectangle and the triangle.

The Commission made a random selection to assign said symbols. Statehood was assigned the circle, Commonwealth the rectangle, and Independence the triangle.

Said Law assigned the amount of \$8,750,000 to pay for the costs of holding the Plebiscite. These funds were distributed in the following manner: \$4,700,000 to organize and hold the Plebiscite; \$1,350,000 to pay for a voter's information and orientation campaign, and \$2,700,000 for transportation of voters and the political parties or organizations which represented the Status Formulas.

The Law also called for spending limits on advertising by government agencies, so the Commission created the Advertising Review Board, represented by the three political parties and the public interest.

An Absentee Vote Administrative Board (JAVA, Spanish acronym) was also created to manage the affairs of voters with a right to Absentee Vote and the Vote of Inmates.

Prior to the Plebiscite, the Commission drafted the Regulation and Proclamation, and established education and training programs for the officials, judges and personnel of the Permanent Registration Boards.

It ended the process of depuration of electoral lists, using the optic reader mechanism. It also programmed and designed the system to be used in the process, as well as the islandwide communications network to transmit the results.

The Commission made a random selection to assign symbols. Statehood was assigned the circle, Commonwealth the rectangle, and Independence the triangle.

Plebiscite on Political Status Formulas (1993)

The Electoral Registry closed with 2,312,912 voters. Total voter participation was 73.5%, marking the highest index of participation for this type of electoral event ever.

It printed 1,965,000 sheets containing the islandwide electoral lists, that included the Precincts, Municipalities, Units and Colleges. Also produced were 510 microfiche sets, and the master file was updated, showing a total of 3,454,934 voters, among whom 2,177,334 were active.

The Commission printed 4 million ballots, 3 million official and 1 million model ballots. It also prepared: 6,931 briefcases for the Colleges, 1,680 for the Units, and 104 for the Local Commissions. 20,793 voting booths and 6,931 ballot boxes were used.

The Electoral Registry closed with 2,312,912 voters, including those who did not vote in the 1992 elections. Total voter participation was 73.5%, marking the highest index of participation for this type of electoral event ever.

To receive the results during the day of the Plebiscite, an Information and Press Center was established at the Reception Center of the Government of Puerto Rico.

Due to the importance of this electoral event, 220 journalists and 156 technicians from 35 newspapers, 26 radio stations and 18 television stations, as well as 5 news wire services from around the world covered the Plebiscite on the Political Status of Puerto Rico.



That was the first time the Commission and the University of Puerto Rico joined forces to transmit the results to the world via the Internet.

Among the applications submitted to receive the results of this Plebiscite election were those from the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, and the Vice President, Albert Gore.

Plebiscito sobre el status político de Puerto Rico



COMISION ESTATAL DE ELECCIONES DE PUERTO RICO
14 de noviembre de 1993

Model Ballot 1993 Plebiscite

1993 Plebiscite on the Political Status of Puerto Rico: Official Results

Formulas	Votes	%
Commonwealth	826,326	48.6%
Statehood	788,296	46.3%
Independence	75,620	4.4%
Other Votes	10,748	0.6%

Null votes: 6,543 Blank votes: 4,199

Votes recorded:
1,700,990 out of 2,312,912 or 73.5%

Colleges recorded:
6,569 out of 6,569 or 100.0%



Electoral Events

Referendum on Amendments to the Puerto Rico's Constitution (1994)

On August 2, 1994, Law #49 was approved, authorizing the celebration of a Referendum on Amendments to the Constitution of Puerto Rico. On November 6, 1994, the people of Puerto Rico had the opportunity to vote on the following proposals.

The first proposal was to amend the 5th paragraph of Section 11, Article II of the Constitution, entitled “Bill of Rights”, in order to limit the right of bail.

Bail Restriction

“All persons accused will have the right to remain free under bail before a conviction, except when he or she has been previously convicted for a serious crime, is suspected of having committed one or more serious crimes, and presents a threat to society.”

The second proposal was to amend Section 3, Article V, to increase the number of Supreme Court Justices.

Increase the Number of Supreme Court Justices

“The Supreme Court will be the last resource in Puerto Rico and will be composed of one Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices.” Derogation was also proposed of the sentence in said Section that states that: “The number of Justices can only change according to the Law, at the request of the Supreme Court itself.”

The Law authorized the use of \$8 million to pay for the Referendum, distributing the funds in the following manner: \$5.5 million to organize and conduct the event; \$2.3 million to pay for a voter’s information and orientation campaign and \$200,000 for voter transportation costs.

This Referendum was unique in that, in addition to the three registered political parties, two other groups of citizens expressed their intention to participate: the Citizen Defense Committee, headed by Dr. Trina Rivera de Ríos, and the Civil Movement, headed by Eudaldo Báez Galib, Esq.

On August 17, 1994, Supreme Court Justice Gilberto Gierbolini determined that, in the absence of public cost control specifications in the Law, Article 8.001 of the Electoral Law entered into effect. As a result, the Court ordered the State Elections Commission to name an Advertising Review Board to evaluate the need to publish any government ads until the day of the Referendum.

On September 23, 1994, the Supreme Court ordered the Commission to paralyze all additional distribution of funds in regards to the information and orientation campaign called for by Article 7 of the Referendum's Law, and to abstain itself from printing or continuing to print ballots or any other printed material in reference to said event.

On September 30, 1994, the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional the House's Concurrent Resolution #14, and parts of the Law that proposed to add Section 20 to Article VI of the Constitution to set a fixed number of terms for the elective offices of Governor, Senator, Representative and Mayor.

According to the Supreme Court, these three propositions, added to that of Bail and the number of Supreme Court Justices, exceeded the number of amendments that the Constitution allows to be presented to the people in a Referendum.

As a result of the decision made by the Supreme Court, the Referendum's ballot only presented two options: the elimination of Bail and the increase in the number of Supreme Court Justices.

The information and orientation campaign appeared massively, educational messages were promoted in which it was explained to all voters the reasons to vote in favor or against each of the proposals.

The Commission coordinated with Channel 11 News a series of presentations where Commission executives would

This Referendum was unique in that, in addition to the three registered Political Parties, two other groups of citizens expressed their intention to participate: the Citizen Defense Committee and the Civil Movement.

Referendum on Amendments to the Puerto Rico Constitution (1994)

inform and guide the people about the proposals during all news broadcasts.

The SEC printed 2,800,000 official ballots and 850,000 model ballots. It prepared 6,860 briefcases with electoral material for the Colleges, 1,680 for the electoral Units and 104 for Local Commissions.

The Commission was involved in 271,497 electoral transactions. A total of 20,850 voting booths and 6,860 ballot boxes were used in the voting process.

The total of voters eligible to vote in this event was 2,126,248, of whom 1,338,420 voted, for a 62.9% participation.

The Commission established a Press and Information Center at the Reception Center of the Government of Puerto Rico to inform the results of the Referendum.

Results of Referendum on Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments	Votes	No	%	Yes	%	Blank	%
Bail	1,313,633	706,146	53.76	601,934	45.82	5,553	0.42
Justices	1,314,041	712,026	54.19	592,514	45.09	9,501	0.72

PAPELETA MODELO

REFERENDUM
6 de NOVIEMBRE de 1994

COMISION ELECTORAL REFERENDUM
SECCION DEL GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO

Referendum para la ratificación o rechazo del Pueblo de Puerto Rico de la enmienda al Párrafo Quinto de la Sección 11 del Artículo II y la enmienda a la Sección 3 del Artículo V de la Constitución del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico.

CONSEJA NOMBRE LA FANJA

La Dama de Damas, Sección 11, Párrafo 5o del Artículo II de la Constitución del Estado Libre Asociado, referente al derecho de los fedatos está así que:

"Cada acusado tendrá derecho a quedar en libertad bajo fianca antes de recibir un fallo condenatorio".

¿Aprueba esta modificación o propone enmendar dicho párrafo por otro?

"Cada acusado tendrá derecho a permanecer en libertad bajo fianca antes de recibir un fallo condenatorio, excepto cuando haya sido declarado culpable por el jurado. Si sigue la modificación de texto o más debidos que sea votar y represente su voto para la comunidad."

CONSEJA NOMBRE LA FANJA

La Sección 3 del Artículo V de la Constitución del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico se enmienda a lo que sigue:

"El Tribunal Supremo será el Tribunal de última instancia en Puerto Rico y se compondrá de un juez presidente y cuatro jueces asociados. El Tribunal será electo para un período por ley, y sus fallos del grupo Tribunal Supremo."

¿Aprueba el Tribunal de última instancia o propone enmendar esta Sección por otra?

"El Tribunal Supremo será el Tribunal de última instancia en Puerto Rico y se compondrá de un juez presidente y ocho jueces asociados. Si desea la opción que sigue que el número de jueces sólo podrá ser variado por ley, a voluntad del propio Tribunal Supremo."

INSTRUCCIONES SOBRE COMO VOTAR

Esta papeleta contiene 2 enmiendas electorales. Usted tiene derecho a votar "porfirme" o "en contra" de cada una de las enmiendas propuestas, y tiene la opción de votar a favor o en contra de ambas o sólo una de las propuestas. Si vota a favor de la enmienda, haga una marca (X) debajo del SI, y si está en contra, haga una marca (X) debajo del NO.

Model Ballot 1994 Referendum

Electoral Events

Political Party Primaries (1995)

At the Primaries, voters from each Party chose the candidates that would appear on the ballots for the 1996 General Elections.

Voters check their names on the Electoral Lists during Party Primaries.

Local Primaries were held on December 10, 1995. In these Primaries, voters from each Party chose the candidates that would appear on the ballots for the 1996 General Elections.

Due to an amendment in the Federal Law, these Primaries were held ahead of schedule in order to hold them on the second Sunday of the last month of the year prior to the General Elections.

For these Primaries, the Primary Petition Form was revised and adapted to the new technology, so that the validation process was accelerated. The Form was designed to be read by the optic reader in a computer system.

Locally, the Popular Democratic Party held Primaries to select candidates for Senator and Representative At-Large, Senators in 6 Districts, Representatives in 27 Districts and 9 Mayors.

Likewise, the New Progressive Party held Primaries to select candidates for Senators and Representatives At-Large, Senators in 2 Districts, Representatives in 19 Districts and 22 Mayors.



Electoral Events

General Elections (1996)

On November 5, 1996, General Elections were held, and the people of Puerto Rico voted to choose its Governor, Resident Commissioner in Washington D.C., Legislators and Municipal Governments for the upcoming term.

An interesting fact is that, for the first time in General Elections, Puerto Rican voters showed their electoral will in three separate ballots.

The ballots were presented in the following manner: one for State government, in which the offices of Governor and Resident Commissioner in Washington D.C. were selected; another for the Legislature, to select Senators and Representatives, and another for Municipalities, to select Mayors and Assembly Persons.

In the General Elections of November, 5, the electorate selected a Governor, a Resident Commissioner in Washington, D.C., 27 Senators, 51 Representatives, 78 Mayors and 862 Assembly Persons.

The General Elections were won by the New Progressive Party with 1,006,331 votes, or 51.1%, the Popular Democratic Party obtained 875,852 votes, or 44.5%, and the Independence Party received 75,304 votes, or 3.8%. Electoral participation was 1,971,717 from an Electoral Registry of 2,380,676, or 82.7%.

In the same fashion as in the 1992 Elections, the Minority Law was applied in favor of the Popular Democratic Party.

The Commission developed a voter's information and orientation campaign, which was of great benefit as far as the different forms of voting in the three ballots.

This electoral event took three months of planning and coordination, in which processes of electoral preparation were developed so that each Party could train at least 30,000 college officials. Likewise, the Absentee

An interesting fact is that, for the first time in General Elections, Puerto Rican voters showed their electoral will in three separate ballots.

Vote, Inmate Vote and Early Vote mechanisms were developed in the Local Commissions.

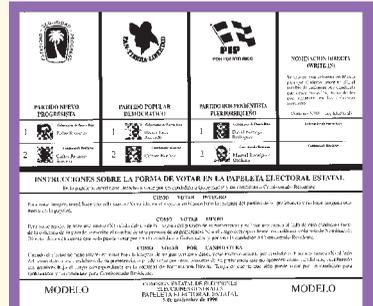


1996 General Elections Results for Governor Candidates

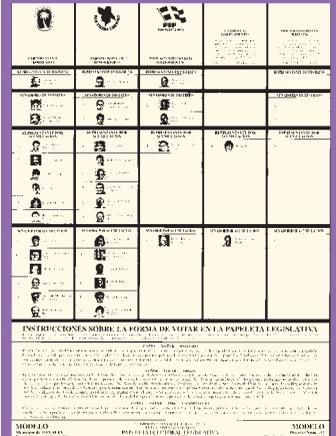
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
NPP	Pedro Rosselló	1,006,331	51.1
PDP	Héctor Luis Acevedo	875,852	44.5
PIP	David Noriega	75,304	3.8
	Others	10,217	0.5
	Total	1,967,704	

	NPP	PDP	PIP
Party Line Votes:	963,538	855,960	58,043
Mixed Votes:	14,725	6,206	12,473

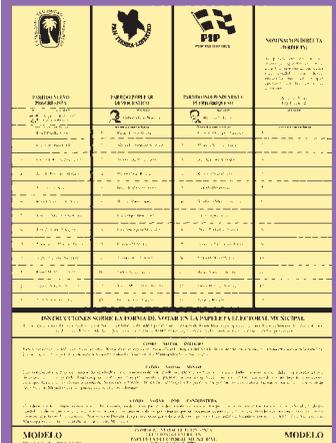
Candidates:	51,223
Registered:	2,380,676
Total Voters:	1,971,717
Percentage of Participation:	82.7%



Model State Ballot 1996 Elections



Model Legislative Ballot 1996 Elections



Model Municipal Ballot 1996 Elections

Special Elections

A high percentage of Puerto Rican voters participate continuously in Special Elections.



During the period between 1991 and 1994, the Commission organized, managed and supervised various special elections for legislative seats left vacant.

On March 1st, 1992, a special election was held among Popular Democratic Party voters to fill a vacancy in Representative District #26, which included the towns of Juana Díaz, Villalba and Santa Isabel.

Another special election was held among New Progressive Party voters to fill the vacancy in Representative District #39, corresponding to Carolina's 100th Precinct.

The Electoral Law includes dispositions that Parties can adopt to nominate their candidates, as long as the procedure adopted ensures the expression of voters affiliated to that Party.

Article 3.004 of the Autonomous Municipalities Law established the procedures for the selection of Mayor in case of a vacancy.

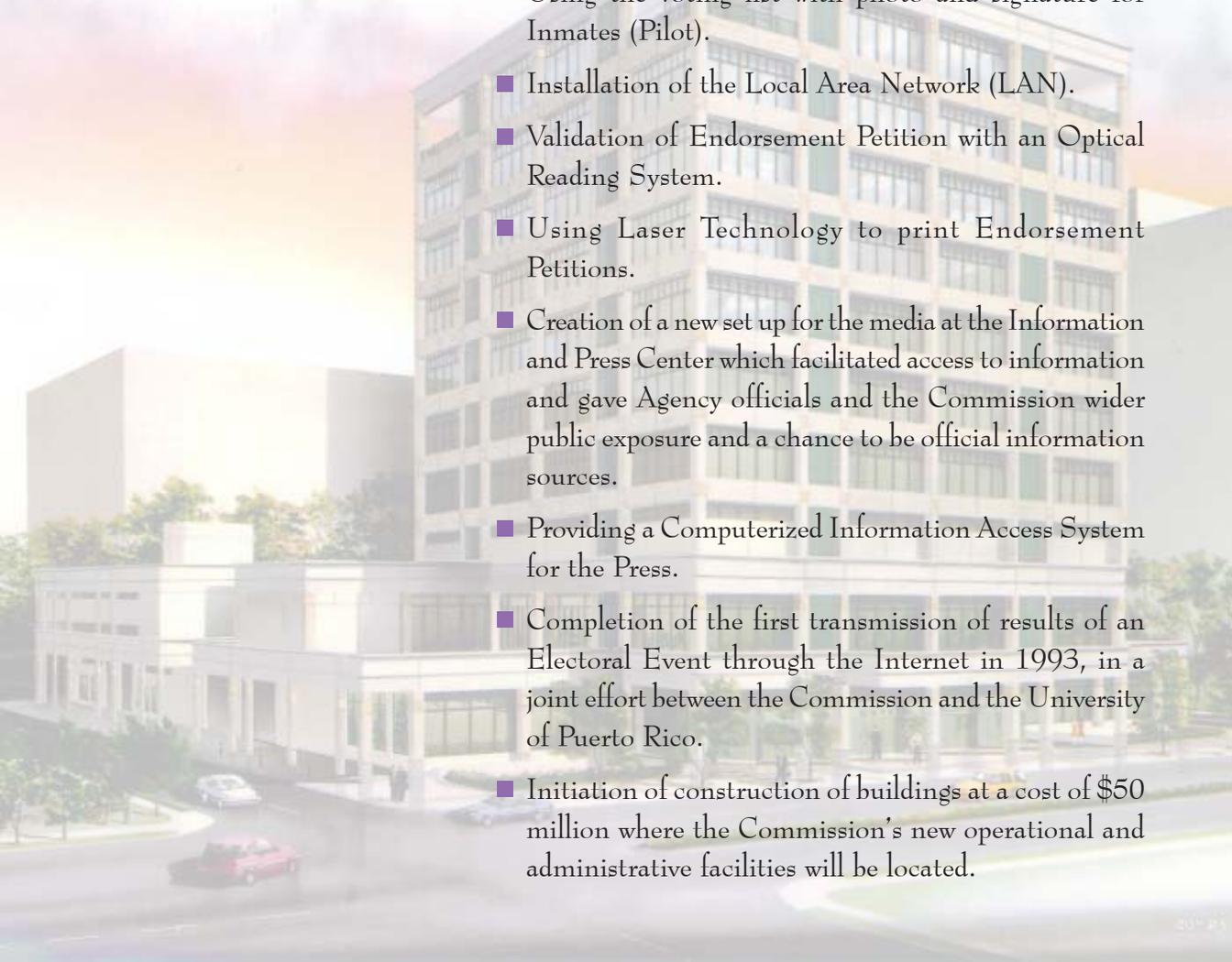
Another special election was the primary held by the Popular Democratic Party on March 20, 1994, in which the candidate for governor for the 1996 General Elections was chosen.

To hold each of the special elections, the Commission coordinated the use of Voting Centers with the Department of Education. The Commission prepared and supplied the electoral lists, the printing of the ballots and other materials, in addition to carrying out the process of voting and scrutiny along with the applicable party.



The Commission successfully accomplished many ambitious goals between 1991 and 1996. Among them are:

- Designing and using a ballot form for blind people.
- Design of a voting booth for disabled persons according to federal requirements.
- Acquisition of the Mobile Unit as a Permanent Registration Board.
- Modernization of the information systems.
- Development of an Electronic Voice System for voters.
- Initiation of the Image Digitalization Project.
- Starting the Electronic Photo Project (Pilot).
- Entering the Internet era.
- Using the voting list with photo and signature for Inmates (Pilot).
- Installation of the Local Area Network (LAN).
- Validation of Endorsement Petition with an Optical Reading System.
- Using Laser Technology to print Endorsement Petitions.
- Creation of a new set up for the media at the Information and Press Center which facilitated access to information and gave Agency officials and the Commission wider public exposure and a chance to be official information sources.
- Providing a Computerized Information Access System for the Press.
- Completion of the first transmission of results of an Electoral Event through the Internet in 1993, in a joint effort between the Commission and the University of Puerto Rico.
- Initiation of construction of buildings at a cost of \$50 million where the Commission's new operational and administrative facilities will be located.



The Productivity of the Commission's Offices

Each Office of the Commission was responsible for carrying out many tasks prior, during and after each electoral event.

The effort and dedication of the Commission's components reflected a positive result as far as the achievements, public image, effectiveness and credibility of the Commission, as well as the organization, development and timely release of the results of the electoral events held between 1991 and 1996.

Administration

The Administration Office offered support services to the Commission's organizational structure as a whole. Its function was to coordinate, supervise and direct the activities related to the budget, sales, supply, finances and general services. This Division comprises the Sales and Supply Office, Finance, Budget and General Services, as well as the sub-units of Property, Reproduction, Mail, Transportation, Storage, Janitorial Services, Conservation and Management.

The CEE's Administrative Division was able to carry out the following tasks between 1991 and 1996:

- Managed the Agency's budget. Coordinated the required services to other Government Agencies. Contracted the required locales for the development of the electoral events.
- Coordinated and facilitated the purchase of electoral materials, the making of the ballot boxes and the voting booths, the printing of the ballots and other related forms required for electoral events.
- Coordinated the contracting of private presses to print the ballots.
- Coordinated the design of the first Mobile Unit to provide services.
- Coordinated the reproduction of the voting ballots for the blind, as well as a voting booth for the disabled.
- Managed a sales volume for service goods, orders and contracts for all electoral events, including the operational fund during the period between 1991 and 1996 that reached \$18,329,593.44.
- Between 1991 and 1994 it processed 43,856 documents from the Finance Office.
- Disbursed, through its Special Payment Official, a total of \$26,236,209.24, from 1991 to 1994, as a result of the 6,500 vouchers that were intervened and accounted for.

Administration

- Processed 17,509 documents, from 1994 to 1995, which resulted from 2,021 direct payment vouchers and 8,920 checks released by the Special Payment Official.
- Coordinated the preparation of the budget petitions and memos directed at obtaining the funds for electoral events and activities.
- Managed the Agency's operational budget from 1991 to 1992, which reached \$12,771,774.
- Assigned the following amounts from 1991 to 1996: \$6 million for pre-electoral activities, \$4.7 for the 1991 Referendum, \$2,244,291 for the Presidential Primaries and \$4,400,000 for the Political Party Primaries. Added to the operational budget, added up to \$30,116,065.
- Registered 1,156 service contracts, answered three pointers from the Comptroller's Office about contracts, processed 66 additional endorsement applications and 18 car accident claims, all between 1991 and 1996.
- Coordinated the delivery of electoral materials islandwide during electoral events.
- Renovated Permanent Registration Boards in Ponce, San Juan 002, Guaynabo Tintillo, Culebra, Trujillo Alto 103-104 and Carolina 101.
- Received 840 service applications between 1991 and 1996.
- Managed 197,637 mailing pieces, received 88,727 and sent 108,910 at a cost of \$79,075.96, from 1991 to 1996. 4,467 petitions were processed in the messenger service area during that period.
- Photocopied 37,864,542 pages for the following Manuals: Procedures, Regulations, Forms, Colleges, Memos, and Electoral and Statistics Lists, at a cost of \$107,439.26.

- Made 3,581 visits to Permanent Registration Boards. The fleet of vehicles reached a maximum of 162 units. Invested \$126,520.48 in vehicle maintenance and repair, and \$79,044 in n vehicle rental.
- Attended 3,407 requisitions for the central offices and 2,700 for the Permanent Registration Boards, while it maintained and updated an inventory of properties and equipment.
- Acquired 6,814 units totaling \$3,690,471.70, and decommissioned 1,483 for \$651,099.93.

Article 1.004 of the Electoral Law states that the CEE constitutes an independent administrator in regards to personnel management. As a result, on June 28, 1991, the Commission instituted a Regulation for Career Employees and positions of confidence. Among other things, this Office:

- Offered technical and counseling services to Agency employees and executives from 1991 to 1996.
- Recruited personnel, made appointments and changes in job positions and salaries.
- Had an average of 960 employees in different areas: 23 employees of confidence to the President, 219 career employees, 182 transitory and irregular ones, and 531 including Registration and Special Electoral Project Officials of permanent nature, all politically based.
- Recruited 350 transitory employees and 360 transferred from other Agencies, between 1991 to 1994.
- Prepared 3,000 credentials for access control to the Computing Center, Press Center and sensitive areas of result information.
- Updated employee classification and installed 75% of the computerized systems in the different Human Resources areas.
- Implemented the Direct Deposit Payment system to benefit staff.
- Carried out activities such as a blood donation to the Red Cross, Puerto Rico Chapter, recognition to the Personnel Administration Technicians, Auditors, Messengers, Public Servants, Women's Week, Secretaries and a Hepatitis B Immunization campaign.
- Offered training sessions, that reached 80% of the personnel and 50% of the supervisors, to improve

employee performance and development in the use of new technology and programs of Aid to Employees.

- Drafted new norms for the Recruitment of Transitory Employees.

Legal Affairs Office

This Office offered the necessary counseling to put in place the norms, regulations and mandates of the Electoral Law. Among other things, this Office:

- Made legal opinions about electoral affairs referred to it. It participated in legal studies and analyses about any necessary legislative action.
- Between 1991 and 1992, provided legal advice on 47 occasions, in 29 agency cases, at the administrative and legal phases.
- Prepared and closed 151 contracts for professional services, renting, storage, advertising services, obtaining electoral materials, food supplies and others.
- Offered 684 notary services in reference to hiring of new personnel.
- Participated in the drafting and counseling of 20 regulations and norms, as well as in 7 resolutions.
- Carried out 9 management investigations, and referred 42 cases to the Justice Department.
- Prepared Volumes II and III of the Interpretation Compendium on the Mandates of the Electoral Law to the Courts of Justice.

The Auditing Office was created under the Electoral Law to impose limits on the expenditures of political parties. This Office was responsible for verifying the limit of contributions from people or political groups, prohibited certain sources of finance to the political parties, controlled campaign spending by political parties and required the public disclosure of the documents. Among the tasks carried out in the areas of External and Internal Auditing are:

- Monitored, through External Auditing, compliance with the mandates of the Law and Regulations regarding to the limits established for contributions and expenditure by political parties and Candidates, as well as the financial affairs of Political Action Committees.
- Achieved, through Internal Auditing, a clean and efficient public administration by verifying the legality and correctness of all fiscal transactions and the identification of deficiencies or irregularities or undue administrative practices.
- Offered orientation regarding the mandates of the Law and Regulations to 801 candidates in the political party Primaries and 1992 General Elections, of which 212 were found to have irregularities, from 1991 to 1994.
- Answered 121 petitions from the Media and 44 Advertising Agencies and attended to the affairs of Political Action Committees.
- Received and examined 12 reports from political parties about expenses charged to the electoral fund, four reports about expenses charged to the reorganization fund of the parties and 21 expense reports not charged to the electoral fund.
- Examined 165 reports about the Presidential Primaries, 67 on candidates to the Local Primaries and 145 on candidates to elective posts, Governor and 13 Mayors.

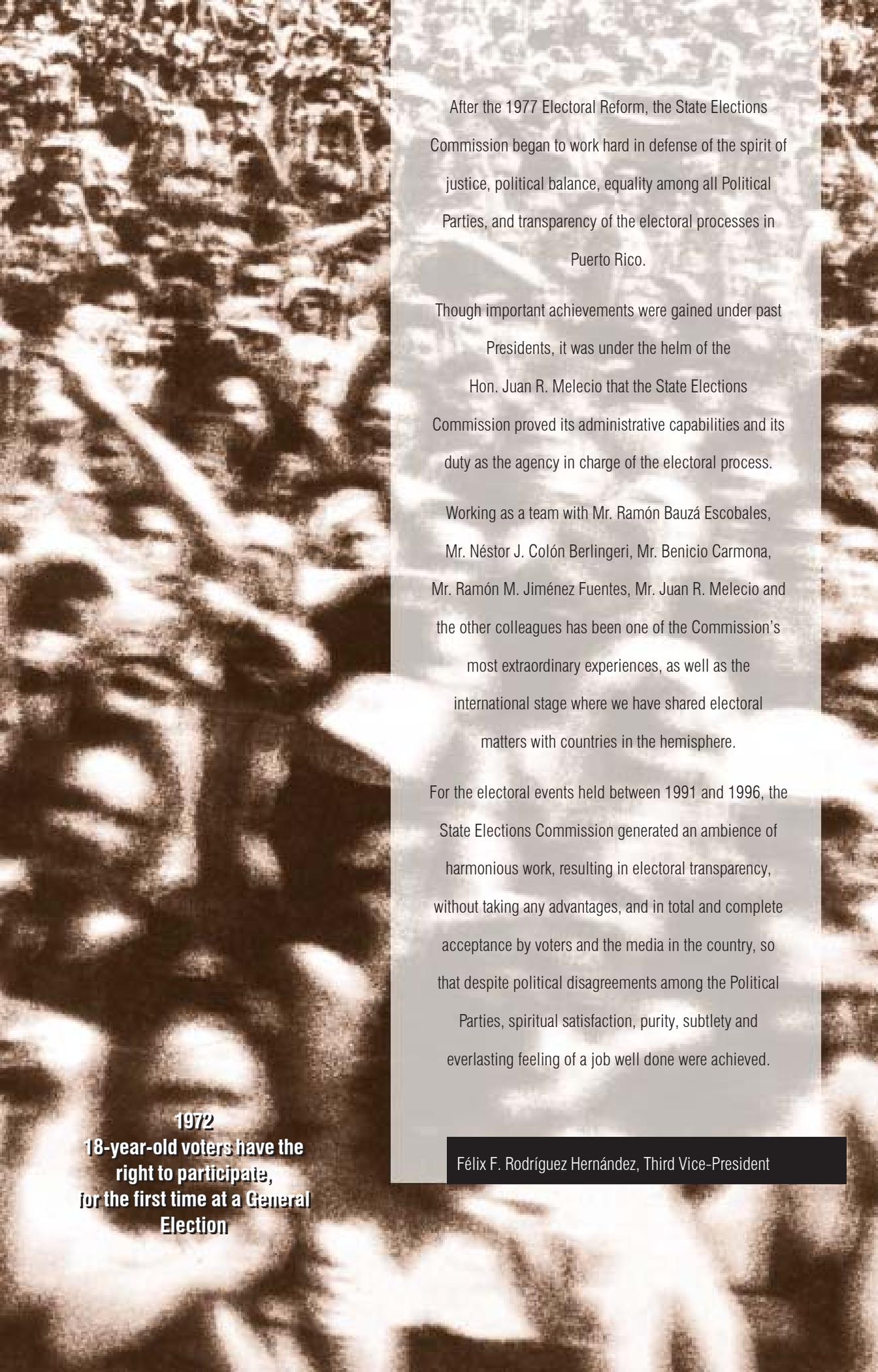
Auditing Office

- Examined nine reports on advertising expenditures and 226 reports from the media.
- Ensured that candidates and political parties reported 95% of contributions received in excess of the limits established under Law.
- Identified those that exceeded the limits established under law and was able to implement a mechanized system that accounted for the contributions of \$100 or more, from natural and judicial persons to the political parties and candidates.
- Revised the Regulation for the Use of Public Funds assigned to the Consultation Process on the Political Status of Puerto Rico and the reorganization of the political parties.
- Drafted amendments that were approved by the SEC on January 30, 1992, and participated in the revision of various regulations.
- Audited the accounts of the Media.
- Prepared a report on the total expenditures in advertising time and space purchased by the Political Parties during the electoral year.
- Prepared an External Auditing Report in 1994, that was revised and verified by External Auditors, which revealed that the Popular Democratic Party as well as the New Progressive Party exceeded the media expenditure in advertising campaign as established in Article 3.016 of the Electoral Law.
- Examined a draft of the Intervention Report of the Comptroller's Office in 1995, regarding contracts granted by SEC to an Advertising Agency in the years 1991-92, and prepared a report about the 47 invoices of the Advertising Agency that were related to the special auditing. An auditing process was undertaken from January 1st, 1993, to January 31, 1994.
- Revised and recommended several amendments to the Regulation about the "Minimal Content of the



Financial Statements from Candidates Up for Election” in 1995.

- Prepared a brochure on the regulations applicable to political parties, candidates, municipal committees, independent groups or people for the 1996 Local Primary and General Elections.
- Prepared reports during the election year on three political parties, one local party, 43 Political Action Committees, 168 aspirants to candidacy in the Local Primaries, 442 candidates to elective posts for the 1996 Elections, 117 media and 41 advertising agencies, for a total of 815 people and entities that rendered reports.
- Contracted the services of “Publish Records Services” to monitor political ads published in the media during the election year.
- Undertook 11 investigations about possible violations to the Electoral Law. It also started a special investigation about invoices for money paid unduly to a government agency.
- Revised the Auction Regulation Draft and started a revision on travel expenses.
- Undertook a special investigation about merchandise delivery and receipt procedures at the Agency, to recommend the appointment of Auxiliary Receivers to enable designation by employees at the Materials Storage.
- Sent to the Comptrollers Office the reports on the Corrective Action Plans related to the advertising agency.



After the 1977 Electoral Reform, the State Elections Commission began to work hard in defense of the spirit of justice, political balance, equality among all Political Parties, and transparency of the electoral processes in Puerto Rico.

Though important achievements were gained under past Presidents, it was under the helm of the Hon. Juan R. Melecio that the State Elections Commission proved its administrative capabilities and its duty as the agency in charge of the electoral process.

Working as a team with Mr. Ramón Bauzá Escobales, Mr. Néstor J. Colón Berlingerí, Mr. Benicio Carmona, Mr. Ramón M. Jiménez Fuentes, Mr. Juan R. Melecio and the other colleagues has been one of the Commission's most extraordinary experiences, as well as the international stage where we have shared electoral matters with countries in the hemisphere.

For the electoral events held between 1991 and 1996, the State Elections Commission generated an ambience of harmonious work, resulting in electoral transparency, without taking any advantages, and in total and complete acceptance by voters and the media in the country, so that despite political disagreements among the Political Parties, spiritual satisfaction, purity, subtlety and everlasting feeling of a job well done were achieved.

1972
18-year-old voters have the right to participate, for the first time at a General Election

Félix F. Rodríguez Hernández, Third Vice-President

Education and Training



The Office of Education and Training was called upon to provide training and guidance to members of the Permanent Registration Boards and the Local Commissions on the electoral processes held between 1991 and 1996. It coordinated seminars as well as the orientation of civic and educational entities about the voting process. Among other accomplishments, the Education and Training Office:

- Offered over 3,000 hours of training to 3,617 people related with electoral rights, the implementation of the data entry system and the procedures and functioning of the Permanent Registration Boards, as well as telephone orientation to over 1,500 voters.
- Coordinated special programs with the Education Department in order to use 81 libraries for courses lasting a total of 324 hours, where electoral orientation was offered to Puerto Rican students.
- Made presentations about the electoral process at 30 schools, universities and civic entities in Puerto Rico, and offered information to the disabled community during four radio programs and two television programs.
- Coordinated with the SEC's Press Office the production of documentaries about Training to College Officials for the 1992 and 1996 General Elections.
- Coordinated the registration processes at penal institutions and the mock electoral procedures to test the systems.
- Satisfactorily reached its training, seminar and orientation program goals, achieving 95% of its projections.

Press and Public Relations Office

This Office planned and implemented the community education and orientation programs, presenting information related to the electoral events in order to inform the public and stimulate electoral participation through advertising campaigns.

It also coordinated activities and forums with government agencies and public and private learning institutions at different levels where education about the electoral process was given in conformity with the Electoral Law.

In addition, this Office also:

- Developed a new service strategy in the areas of print media, radio, television, advertising and public relations from 1991 to 1996.
- Recommended that an advertising agency be contracted to prepare electoral information programs and to establish a reliable billing process of the expenses made with government resources.
- Improved the image of the Commission 100%, by conducting a modern, different advertising strategy in sync with the times.
- Coordinated all information, education, orientation and motivational campaigns, in relation to electoral events, through radio, the print media and television.
- Conducted an adequate pre-intervention and certification of all the billing related to advertising costs.
- Drafted press releases and in-depth texts and materials for the public, and organized press conferences.
- Undertook the production of a television program to guide voters titled “Camino a las Urnas” (or “On the way to the ballot urns”) and other news reports on electoral subjects for the media, as well as the coordination for the appearance of Commission officials on radio and television.

Press and Public Relations Office

- Drafted the texts for advertising announcements and maximized the advertising efforts through brainstorming sessions with the advertising agency.
- Followed up on all petitions of information and materials asked for by the media and the general public.
- Organized press kits with electoral information using audiovisual, print and photographic material.
- Prepared a daily summary of the news clippings that dealt with electoral themes and the Commission.
- Established a new concept for the design and set up of all the Information and Press Centers, where the main focus of attention was the Commission. This allowed for a smooth flow of information about the results on the electoral events held at that time.
- Collaborated with the internationalization of the State Elections Commission through the media and foreign electoral organizations.
- Drafted letters and invitations for the President, and the documents received by the Election Center, the Federal Voting Assistance Program, the Federal Electoral Commission, the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) and Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (CAPEL, spanish acronym).
- Organized tours for members of the press who, for the first time ever, could visit the voting centers during the electoral events.
- Worked closely with the Advertising Review Board, organizing and summoning the government and advertising agency officials to educate them about the limits to advertising expenditure during electoral years 1992 and 1996.
- Aided the President's guests who attended the electoral events and coordinated radio and television programs for them.

- Made an advertising investment of \$13,035,301.79 during all electoral events held from 1991 to 1996.
- Invested \$129,186 in the pre-production, production and post-production and transmission of 24 “Camino a las urnas” programs during 1992 and 1996.
- Made considerable savings of \$551,899.47 during 1995 and 1996, as evidenced by the Budget Office.
- Gave accreditation to 315 media outlets from 1991 to 1996, which are itemized as follows: 77 newspapers, 32 news services, 67 television stations and 139 radio stations. Help was given to 804 journalists and 656 technicians during this same time period.
- Sent 90 press releases, answered 409 petitions for information, and organized 48 press conferences, 76 interviews with the print media, 96 appearances in radio programs and 135 in news and television programs.

The media visited Voting Colleges during the Electoral Events.



Security Office

The Security Office provided adequate protection and security measures for the Agency's resources during the electoral events between 1991 and 1996.

This Office had the purpose of ensuring order, security and protection for the property of the Commission and its related entities.

- Registered all the comings and goings at the Agency.
- Drafted security manuals and plans.
- Used 136 security officials during electoral events together with the officials of contracted private companies. They were distributed in three shifts to offer security at SEC, the Computing Center, the Trade Center, San Ignacio, El Mundo and the Information and Press Centers installed in the facilities at the Convention Center, the Government's Reception Center and Roberto Clemente Coliseum.
- Undertook 220 investigations related to violations to the electoral order, including 69 falsification cases, 42 cases of double voting, and 11 counterfeit electoral cards, in addition to 10 accidents involving official vehicles, and over 45 robberies.
- Purchased new videotaping equipment and repaired closed-circuit cameras to provide preventive surveillance of buildings.
- Purchased antennae, satellites and 12 communication radios, as well as computer equipment.
- Provided fire prevention training, while inspecting the buildings and installing extinguishers, hoses and signs.
- Purchased equipment and uniforms for the security officers, including handcuffs, binoculars and flashlights.
- Provided training in supervision techniques, report drafting, fire prevention and other basic concepts for security agents, as well as courses on WordPerfect for Windows.

- Escorted the transportation of electoral materials, SEC officials and guests of the Commission's President.
- Submitted cases to the Justice Department and coordinated arrests with the Puerto Rico Police Department and Immigration Agency.
- Implemented the Emergency Contingency Plan and coordinated with the Police, Medical Emergencies and the Fire Department of Puerto Rico for such cases.



A security agent watches over electoral material during the vote tallying process.

During this period, the Office of the Secretary worked under the direction of a Secretary, a First Under-Secretary and a Second Under-Secretary, reflecting, once again, a party consensus. Among the functions and duties performed during the electoral events, this Office:

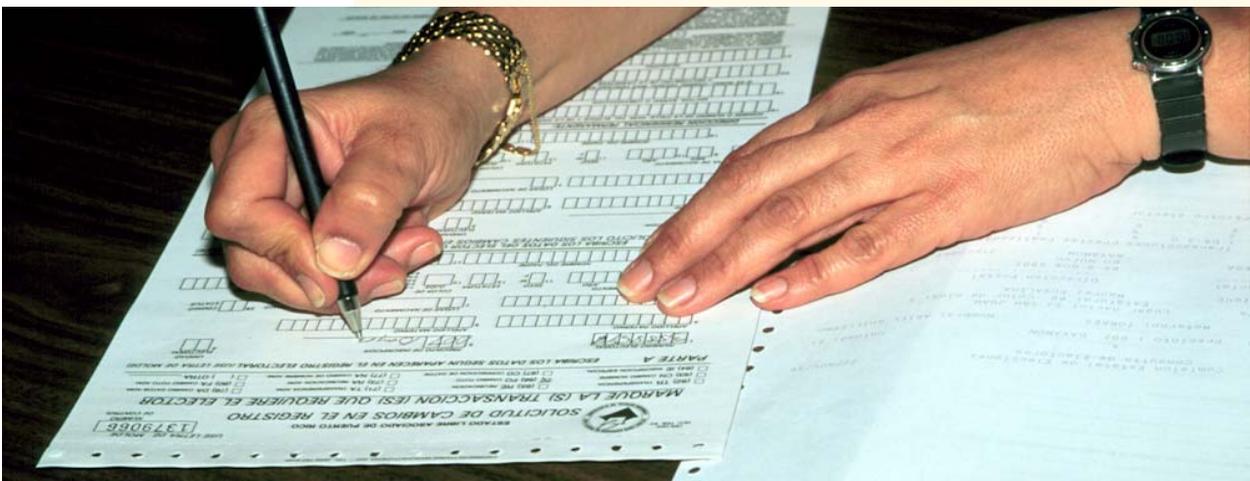
- Prepared all minutiae of meetings held by the Commission.
- Certified the Commission's resolutions, orders, opinions and decisions.
- Received the Commission's texts, documents and notifications.
- Expedited all certifications and notifications of the documents.
- Protected and maintained records of an electoral nature in an adequate and orderly manner.
- Presented and showed electoral records and documents to every the person who requested them, ensuring that they were not altered, mutilated or destroyed nor taken out of the Office.
- Took an oath regarding issues of an electoral nature.
- Carried out other tasks and fulfilled those necessary obligations according to its duties, as required by law, regulation or order.
- The divisions that contributed to reach some of the goals achieved by this Office were the following:
 - General Files Unit - protected and maintained in strict alphabetical order the records of all transactions until 1985.
 - Term Transactions File Unit (Little Robot) - protected and maintained records of all registered voters since 1986.
 - Election Identification Cards File Unit (Robot) - protected and maintained filed voter's cards. These

cards were the original photos used to identify voters during electoral events.

- Inactive File Unit - organized, protected and maintained by category the records of voters who were excluded. Cards were sent to the Exclusion Unit, including the file and traveling cards.
- Exclusions Unit - this division was the center of the electoral work for operational and public policy affairs. It was made up of four boards; each was in charge of two Senatorial Districts and three supervisors, one per Political Party. Among other things, it:
 - Processed all documentation related to the exclusion of voters received from the Demographic Registry, Local Commission, Permanent Registration Boards and Secretary's Offices.
 - Processed all rejections of voters whose registration or transfer petitions were impugned in the registration process.
 - Proceeded with cases, which by virtue of the Electoral Law, were considered to be illegal voters who showed up to vote, and with information from the Demographic Register, 90% of which dealt with people who had passed away in Puerto Rico or were transferred to be buried out of the country. (Most of the exclusions during election year are based on residence.)
- Historical Archives - keeps registration petitions for the years between 1920 and 1972, as well as the lists of voters, itemized by neighborhoods and towns since 1962, and the Electoral Registers from 1968 to 1972. These were used to prepare certifications and verify the registration.

Report on Exclusions, 1992 to 1996

- The Special Board of the Office of the Secretary operated in the same way as a Permanent Registration Board, verifying those cases that were submitted to the attention of the Secretary.
- The Special Board kept a Book of Certificates of the referred cases. It prepared an individual record of each voter, including documents, Election identification card and printouts of the record.
- It prepared and kept up to date cases by precinct.
- It worked on, filed and protected the records of resolved cases. Part of these documents were sent to the Information Systems and Electronic Processing Office along with the revised and approved transactions for preliminary processing.
- It sent copies of the Permanent Registration Board's final numbers to the Statistics Unit.
- It prepared written certificates for the Special Commission about discrepancies found.
- It sent copies of the final transactions made to the Local Commissions and the Permanent Registration Boards, explaining their nature.
- The Special Board was made up of a representative and an alternate from each political party.



Planning Office

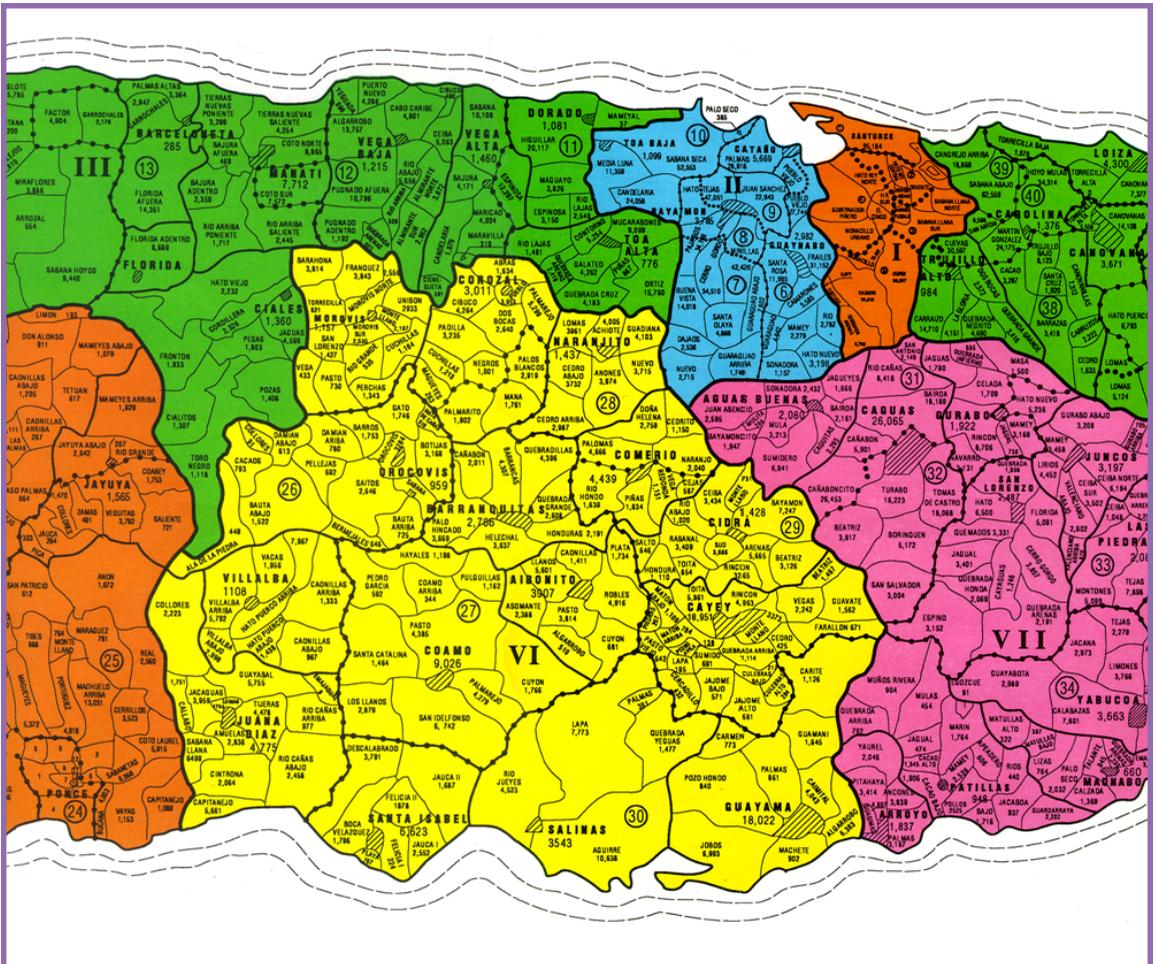
The Planning Office was in charge of providing information related to the electoral limits outlined in the maps, delimitation and itemization of sectors. This document was the basis for the organization of the Electoral Register and the basic instrument that correctly placed voters in the registration process, according to residence, transfers and relocation. Among its main duties, this Office:

- Implemented the results of the Electoral Redistribution that took place after the Census and prepared the electoral maps and precinct delimitation and electoral units, according to the Electoral Redistribution Constitutional Board.
- Followed a continuing revision of all sectors, communities and neighborhoods in Puerto Rico in order to bring them up to date when necessary.
- Coordinated the use of the public schools as Voting Centers and the selection and contracting of private schools, universities, basketball courts and mobile units.
- Repaired a total of 107 schools, and contracted 180 sites and 166 buses as Voting Colleges, in addition to all the Electoral Colleges used in the electoral events held during this period.
- Itemized Colleges by Electoral Units as well as active voters according to units, at the closing of each Electoral Registry.
- Made 32 changes in the limits of the 104 precincts; visited 15 of these, and carried out 120 field visits to 50 communities; made another 17 changes of precincts in the internal configuration of its Electoral Units.
- Offered interpretation of the maps and clarification of the precinct limits to 64 Permanent Registration Board which requested it.

Planning Office

- Provided expert service in 12 judicial hearings.
- Offered information related to the publication of the supplements about the Voting Centers.
- Reduced the number of exclusions by residence.
- Acquired a computer network and a program for the digitalization of the electoral maps.
- Prepared weekly and monthly statistical reports of all electoral transactions performed.
- Offered support to the scrutiny process during the electoral events.

Division sample of the Island of Puerto Rico in Senate and Representative Districts following revisions of the Constitutional Board after the 1990 Census.



During all electoral events held between 1991 and 1996, OSIPE was responsible for the operation of the electoral as well as administrative information system. Among other things, this Office:

- Kept an updated record of all data in the Electoral Register.
- Provided maintenance to the communications network that gave access and support to the Permanent Registration Boards, the Offices of the Political Parties and the Commission.
- Developed and programmed the systems according to public policy established by the Commission.
- Developed the programming for the transmission, storage and reporting of information related to the electoral events.
- Prepared all pre-event Electoral Lists, such as Alphabetical List by Precinct, Island and Unit, and Official Voting Lists.
- Printed 9,324,680 pages of lists and 1,629,180 printed lists.
- Contracted private companies to develop programming and contingency planning for the electoral events.
- Trained personnel to receive, verify and report electoral results.
- Used a laser printer to print the Official Voting Lists.
- Installed a computer terminal for each media outlet during the reporting of the electoral results.
- Speeded up the verification process for voting endorsement validity to the candidates through the use of an optic lens.
- Collaborated with the implementation of the second phase of the mechanization of the Permanent Registration Boards.

Information Systems and Electronic Processing Office

- Purchased an advanced Electronic Voice System. This phone service offered voters information about their electoral status and place of voting, and indicated where to go in case of a problem.
- Coordinated the auction of the Image Project, and selected the one that presented the components for taking photographs through cameras and digital photos.
- Printed the Statistical Reports, Electoral Lists, Creation of microfiche and copies of the Master Files to the Political Parties.
- Printed a total of 175 sets of microfiche and 240,000 reports.
- Provided assistance to the Office of the Commissioners to enable them to verify the attendance of their officials in each Permanent Registration Board.
- Printed Statistical Reports of special electoral events about “Voted and Did Not Vote.”
- Designed a system to take corrective action about errors made by officials of the Permanent Registration Boards and another to register the calls received from the Permanent Registration Boards.
- Designed a procedure that allowed the Permanent Registration Boards to operate with less interruption and better planned equipment repair.
- Invested \$3,267,995.91 in computer equipment.
- Created the Commission’s Internet Website, where electoral information could be accessed at www.ceepur.org.
- Printed Electoral Lists for inmates to vote through the Photo and Signature System.

- Collaborated to establish the Electronic Photograph Pilot Project at the Permanent Registration Boards in Bayamón. A total of 80,000 Election Identification Cards (TIE, Spanish acronym) were made using this system.
- Installed a Local Area Network (LAN) system that established communication between Commission Offices through e-mail.
- A total of 576 persons worked during this period.



State Elections Commission officials supervise the results receiving area previous to election time.

During electoral events, the Electoral Studies Center compiled and evaluated the electoral procedures according to technological, process and legislative development. Among its major duties, it:

- Oversaw a library and offered information to students and teachers.
- Published the Statistics of the Municipal Elections in Puerto Rico from 1900 to 1988.
- Coordinated the set-up of Centers for Receiving and Reporting of the Results of all electoral events held from 1991 to 1996.
- Coordinated the installation of the infrastructure of the computer network for electoral events.
- Collaborated with the rental of the facilities to be used during electoral events.
- Coordinated and supervised the work on the viability studies for the construction of the Commission's building.
- Coordinated the delivery of 453 applications for Electoral Information and 441 documents.
- Promoted the investigation of procedures and history of the electoral processes in Puerto Rico.
- Organized and preserved all electoral materials available at the Center.
- Recommended favorably the Department of Education's Electoral Process course.
- Revised six procedural manuals, along with the supervision in the receiving calls area for electoral events.
- Sought the counseling of the Polytechnic University, the Legislative Library, the Libraries of the Office of Management and Budget (OGP, Spanish acronym) and the University of Puerto Rico, to select the programs that could be adjusted to our needs.
- Worked with OSIPE to establish the SEC's Internet website.

The Electoral Operations Office is the operational division of the Agency responsible for delivering materials and equipment to the Permanent Registration Boards. This Office:

- Prepared and sent all electoral materials to the Voting Colleges for the different electoral events held.
- Received electoral materials after the electoral events were held, and channeled these to the work units that intervene with them. After being scrutinized, they were stored in briefcases with the electoral materials by the Voting Colleges.
- Operated with three work units: the Storage Unit for Materials and Equipment for the Permanent Registration Boards, the Quality Control Unit and the Operations Area.
- The Quality Control Unit had the purpose of intervening in all electoral transactions performed by the Permanent Registration Boards. This Unit was one of those responsible for the accuracy of the actual Electoral Registry.
- It operated from El Mundo building and from storage rooms in Cataño. These work places made for a better organization. Due to this situation, all trucks used in electoral events were dispatched on time, without having to make night deliveries.
- To speed up the packaging of all electoral materials sent to the electoral events, a cargo conveyor was installed and used.
- Acquired a finger cargo transport that speed-up the process and reduced work hours.
- Dispatched 9,672 requisitions to the Permanent Registration Boards and repaired 2,292 pieces of equipment, such as typewriters, cameras, visors, faxes and others.
- Intervened in 1,076,265 transactions, or 100% of documents received.

Electoral Operations

- Dispatched 46,151 briefcases with electoral material to the Colleges, Units and Precincts.
- Processed all Electoral Identifications Cards that needed to be confiscated.
- Performed all its electoral tasks during regular hours, helping the Local Commissions receive the electoral materials on time, which allowed a reduction in 60% of compensatory time.



State Elections Commission officials handle briefcases containing electoral material.

Permanent Registration Boards

(JIP, Spanish acronym)

The Electoral Law, as amended by Law #3 of January 10, 1983, in its Article 1.024, calls for the establishment in each municipality of at least one Permanent Registration Board.

For the electoral events held between 1991 and 1996, the 102 offices throughout the Island were integrated by a representative from each of the Political Parties.

For the electoral events, the Permanent Registration Boards system became the most adequate in updating the Electoral Registry and protecting the right to vote of all participating voters.

This Office also:

- Carried out a continuous process of registration, electoral I.D. cards issuing, transfers and voter relocations.
- Processed the duplicates of lost or deteriorated electoral identification cards.
- Directed registered voters to their corresponding unit electoral list.
- Reported the records and drafted the reports of transactions made each month, and they were sent to their respective files.



Permanent Registration Boards

- Supported to the Local Commissions before, during and after the electoral events.
- Conducted a public opinion study that revealed the following:

Service Evaluation of Permanent Registration Boards

Total people polled	818
Services Rendered	
Clients who received services	98%
Clients who did not receive services	2%
Satisfied clients	95%
Unsatisfied clients	5%
Quality of Services	
Excellent	28%
Good	62%
Average	9%
Bad	1%
Treatment Given	
Excellent	30%
Good	64%
Average	6%
Waiting Period	
Little or reasonable	87%
A lot	13%
Schedule	
Adequate	79%
Recommendations for changes	21%
Physical Facilities	
Good	78%
Average	19%
Inadequate	3%
Interest in Serving the Public	
Shown	96%
Not shown	2%
Doesn't know	2%

Article 3.001 of the Electoral Law established as a Local Party by Petition those groups of citizens who registered themselves with 5% of the total votes of all the candidates for Governor on or before June 1st of the General Election year.

The period between 1991 and 1996 saw the registration of the Local Vieques Movement as Vieques' Local Party, and the United Front of Río Grande as Río Grande's Local Party.

The Auction Board

The Auction Board was the body created by Law and regulation to assure free competition between suppliers and bidders, certifying the procedures that were used in the purchase of materials, printed documents, goods and services from 1991 to 1996.

During this time, the Auction Board held a total of 111 auctions.

Auctions Held

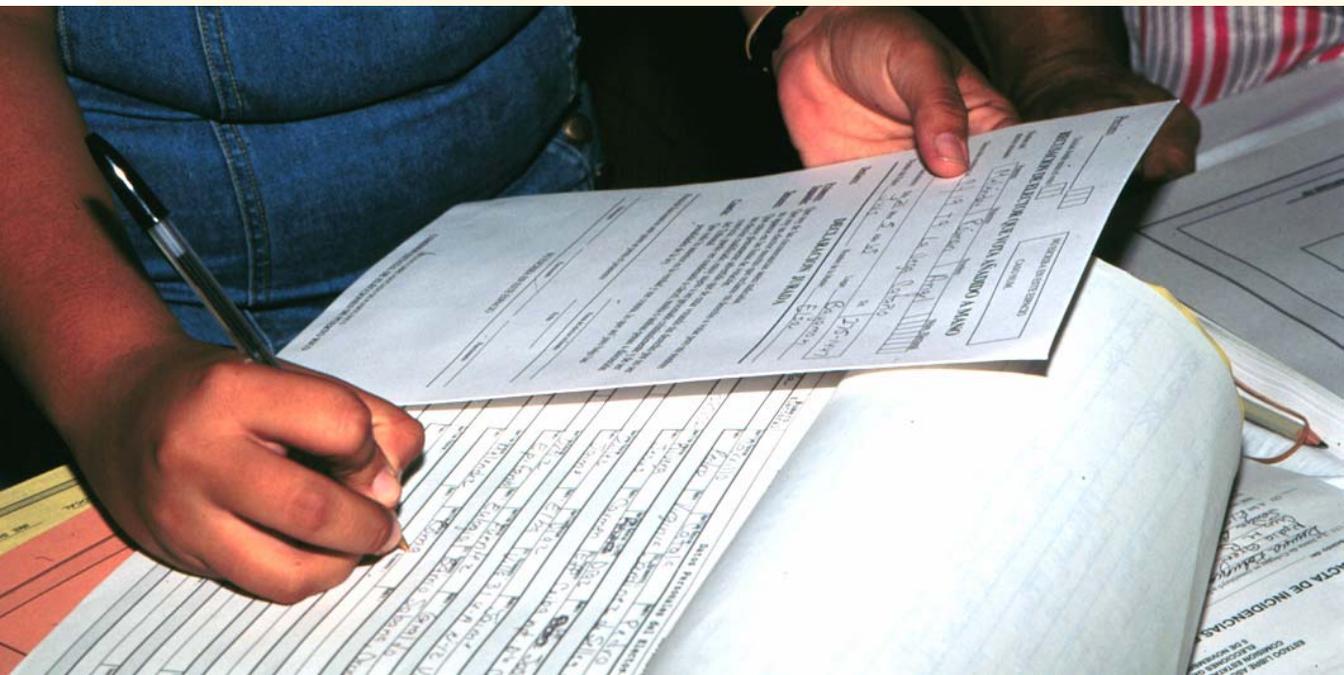
Fiscal Year	Total Auctions
1991 - 1992	28
1992 - 1993	22
1993 - 1994	20
1994 - 1995	22
1995 - 1996	22

College Activities Planning and Development Program

The purpose of this program was to look after the whole Puerto Rican electorate to guarantee that every citizen would meet the requirements to be a registered voter. This program was formed by the Offices of the Secretary, Planning, OSIPE, the Electoral Studies Center, Electoral Operations and Education and Training.

Among other tasks, the program:

- Guaranteed the entry of every person qualified to be a voter, to the Electoral Registry.
- Compiled and periodically evaluated data on electoral procedures and materials for electoral studies.
- Stimulated investigations and electoral proceedings.
- Processed every electoral transaction.
- Kept a file system on electoral documents and minutiae of the Commission's meetings.
- Established the development of projects of an electoral nature.
- Planned, organized, prepared and distributed all materials and equipment for electoral events.



Absentee Vote Administrative Board

(JAVA, Spanish acronym)

The Absentee Vote Administrative Board, was created by virtue of Article 5.037 of the Electoral Law, as amended.

The members of JAVA were appointed by the Electoral Commissioners, and its President by the President of SEC.

The Board managed everything related to the right to vote of certain electoral groups, which were divided into various categories, and it was determined that they were qualified to vote despite the fact that they were outside of Puerto Rico during the electoral events between 1991 and 1996.

The qualifying categories were members of the United States Military or Puerto Rico National Guard who were on active duty outside the Island; qualifying students in educational institutions who were away of Puerto Rico; Workers who were under contract through the Agricultural Program of the Department of Labor, Diplomatic Service or Foreign Service personnel or any exchange program between Puerto Rico and a foreign government; the spouses, children or relatives and dependents properly qualified to be voters, as well as the members of airlines or merchant marines that were working away from Puerto Rico.

JAVA was also responsible for managing the Vote of Inmates in penal institutions, as well as the Advance Vote of Officials from the SEC, Puerto Rico Police and Correction Administration who were assigned to work on the day the electoral events were held.

These are some highlights of JAVA's work:

- From 1991 to 1996 the voter categories that requested JAVA services most frequently were the military, university students and inmates in 43 penal institutions, here and abroad.

Absentee Vote Administrative Board

- For each electoral event, the vote of Inmates, the registration and receiving of the applications was coordinated and carried out.
- JAVA worked with 60 Political Party Balance Boards to process voter applications.
- Followed the rules of the Procedural Manual for the Management of Inmate Vote and Advance Vote.
- Revised the applications, prepared the forms, and took care of its printing and distribution to Permanent Registration Boards and Political Parties.
- Registered all Absentee Vote applications received, those with the 96 federal standard form and the Offices of the Commissioners, and assigned a control number in the registration book.
- Established an Information Federal Registry at the Federal Voting Assistance Program.
- Maintained communication with the Recruitment Office in Fort Buchanan and established a group of coordinators of the different Agencies of the Government of Puerto Rico.
- Drafted and approved the Regulations and Procedural Manuals, the applications for Absentee Vote ballots, Judges Advance Vote, Inmates Advance Vote, reports, dismissal of applications and dismissal of applications for Absentee and Advance Vote.
- All applications were evaluated and a record of each was prepared.
- Inactive voters or those who were not registered in Puerto Rico, but who applied for the Absentee Vote, were guaranteed the vote for the offices of Resident Commissioner in Washington D.C., as dictated by Section 3.3 of the Regulations.
- The Mailing Board filled information on voters who applied to the Absentee Vote.

- Prepared a balance sheet by precinct and category according to an OSIPE form for the voting lists.
- Sent material through the mail, certifying all Absentee Vote ballots according to the applications received, including those of the Federal Registration.
- Validated the votes and verified the signatures and personal circumstances to ensure that the envelope that contained the ballots corresponded to the voters that had applied for the right to vote in absentia.
- Delivered the lists to the Political Parties, according to Section 2.1, clause 4 of the Regulations.
- Evaluated the application for Advance Vote of each inmate that applied to vote, assigned them a control number and verified their voter status.
- Local Commissions certified Voting Centers for Advance Vote and JAVA notified the voters.
- Those voters who applied for Advance Vote and did not show up to vote were excluded from the electoral lists. To enable them to vote, they received a certification through the “Added-by Hand” procedure (“Añadidos a Mano”).
- Gave information about the electoral status through the telephone.
- Initiated the counting of the Advance, Inmate and Absentee Votes on the night of the electoral events.
- Established an Accumulative Mechanized System to count the votes.
- Depuration of the Absentee Voting Lists was done simultaneously with the evaluation procedures of the ballots received.



The Puerto Rican electoral process guarantees inmates their right to vote.

Advertising Review Board

Under Article 8.000 of the Electoral Law, an Advertising Review Board was named in order to evaluate advertising related to Government Agencies and Departments, as well as Municipalities, Public Corporations or Entities, the Legislature and the Judicial Branch from spending on advertising during 1991 and 1996 when electoral events were to be held.

This Law prohibited ads that mentioned programs, projects, achievements, tasks accomplished, projections or future plans; however, it allowed the release of those of a public interest nature, emergencies or urgency.

List of the cases evaluated by the Advertising Review Board between 1991 and 1996

Total of Cases	5,738	Total of Certifications	282
Authorized	3,580	Authorized Certifications	276
Conditional Authorization	1,047	Conditional Authorization	4
Authorized with Limitations	223	Denied	1
Denied	438	Pending	1
Dismissed	47	Total of Complaints	290
Declared academic	57	Conditional Authorization	1
Filed	22	Dismissed	21
Without Jurisdiction	3	Conditional Dismissed	1
Returned	1	Declared Academic	3
Referred to the Commission	1	Filed	140
Rejected	10	Cease Order	3
Pending a Hearing	3	Pending Evidence	1
Other	78	Denied	1
		Withdrawn	19
		Other	100

SEC's Advertising



The development of the electoral events held during this period allowed the advertising field in Puerto Rico to specialize in a new service category.

The Commission's advertising agency, BBDO, together with the Press Office, was able to concentrate its efforts in developing unforgettable advertising campaigns.

The combination of human situations with somehow intangible electoral events, was able to capture the attention of millions of voters during this period.

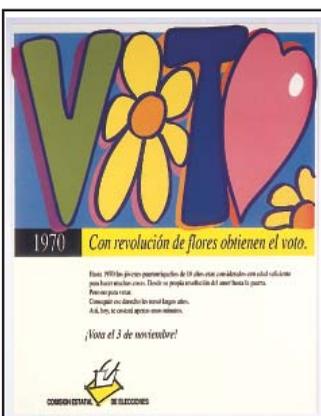
It is important to point out that the advertising campaigns always received the support of the political parties and, above all, of the voting public that always received them approvingly.

The Commission began that journey by improving its image before the public. That's why the design of a new logo and ad campaigns was undertaken, efforts that recreated the most important moments in electoral history.

From that starting point voter registration, information and orientation to the public began along with an encouragement and motivational initiative so that everyone would vote in electoral events.

With the use of diverse communication strategies, including print, radio and television announcements, with animated messages and the use of good talent, the attention of older and younger voters was captured, by transmitting messages that were appropriate in all the media at our reach.

Providing a good service to the voter was the main reason behind improving the Commission's image. Undoubtedly, this was one of its most important achievements, since for the good of the Commission, the public interest is above any other consideration.



The State Elections Commission made the necessary efforts to establish a cooperation and exchange program with electoral organizations around the world, supporting the release of information about electoral events.

During the 1993 Plebiscite, the Commission had the opportunity to value in all its magnitude the interest shown by foreign media and electoral organizations which wanted to know and learn more about the organization, development and undertaking of such an event.

In accordance with the fundamental principle about international consideration and courtesy, the Commission made its personnel available to the international public opinion that was interested, and offered them the physical and technical facilities necessary to inform the results of the plebiscite process.

Starting with this event, until the 1996 General Elections, the Commission showed its interest and made possible that electoral events be the subject of study and analysis, in a professional, integral and transparent manner by foreign electoral officials and institutions.

This policy of openness allowed the Commission to be known internationally as an efficient electoral body. Likewise, it achieved the following short- and long-term goals:

- Earned the credibility and trust of the people, by providing a first class electoral service.
- Held electoral events in an excellent fashion and showed that its only commitment is with the public.
- Strengthened the infrastructure in the administrative, technical and physical aspects.
- Became an exemplary electoral body that extended its reach of influence to an international level by establishing cooperation bonds with the following institutions:
 - National Association of State Elections Directors (NASSED).

- International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) - Washington, D.C.
- Center for Democracy - Washington, D.C.
- Interamerican Institute for Human Rights and its Counseling and Electoral Promotion Center (CAPEL, by its Spanish acronym) - Costa Rica
- Institute For Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) - Sweden
- Joined the Interamerican Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE, by its Spanish acronym).
- Participated as electoral observer and consultant in:
 - The Presidential Election in the Dominican Republic
 - The Presidential Election in Argentina
 - The Presidential Election in Peru
 - The Presidential Election in Colombia
 - The Presidential Election in Honduras
 - The Presidential Election in Mexico, 1994 and 1996
- Participated in congresses and seminars in the United States, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Bolivia.
- Received dignitaries from the American States Organization (OEA, by its Spanish acronym), which was interested in learning about our electoral system.
- Received officials from different countries, including IFES, in Washington, Colombia, Chile and Uruguay for 1996 General Elections.
- Collaborated with the IDEA in Sweden in the revision of the electoral documents.

The starting point for these development years began with the entry of the State Elections Commission into the technological field applied to the electoral process.

With the consensus of the political parties, the Commission will have to continue towards a future in which it is already immersed.

The Commission will have to face great challenges in the field of technology, which is constantly changing every day.

The future is irreversible, and that is why the Commission will have to make changes in the Voting Systems, where already a number of evaluation processes are under way.

If the need arises to establish electronic voting systems or electronic scrutiny systems, the Commission, just as it does now, will have to maintain certain analytical parameters to choose between the systems that would be acceptable or unacceptable to the political parties.

However, the electoral future seems uncertain today. To achieve our goals we will need access to a considerable budget, we will need to train Commission Officials and voters in the use and management of the technology, and above all, we will have to move forward in the security area, which is of great importance for the credibility and trustworthiness of the entire process.

With these future alternatives for the voting process, as well as for scrutiny, an electronic process acceptable to the Commission is necessary in terms of the following requirements:

- Maintain evidence on paper (ballot).
- A minimum number of two ballots.
- Maintain the cross as the acceptable sign.
- The size of the ballot could be reduced.
- Guarantee Write-In.
- Guarantee the Absentee Vote.
- Guarantee Freedom of Speech.
- Guarantee a second chance to vote in case of a damaged ballot.

- Compile damaged ballots.
- The authenticity of the ballots through initials.
- Guarantee vote secrecy.
- Guarantee manual counting by party officials.
- Achieve a level of exactitude equal or better than the actual system.
- Establish alternatives according to geographic area.
- The cost of the system should be proportional to its accuracy and speed, as well as its use and profit of such investment during non-election times.
- Easy to operate.
- That it allow for the recusation of the vote to be made in cases permitted by law.
- Easy to carry, install and manage.

The following are some of the technological projects in the future of the SEC:

- Electronic photography
- Imaging System
- Actualization of Permanent Registration Boards' Technology
- SEC's Digital Network
- Reengineering of the Electoral Registration System
- Updating of physical addresses and geographical codifications
- Conversion to Microfilm Documents in the SEC
- Auditing System
- Endorsement System
- Recommendations on strengthening OSIPE'S Human Resources

The last six years have been very challenging ones. The Commission took action and responded to these, with positive and innovative modifications. Hopefully, with the future projects in mind, the Commission will continue its development and will keep serving its people in as many aspects as possible, fulfilling all expectations.