

• CONGRESSIONAL WORKSHOP •  
**Topic # 5**  
**Grant Statehood to Puerto Rico?**

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**Overview**

**Questions to ponder:** Do citizens of Puerto Rico want statehood? Who should decide statehood - Congress or the people? Why not just allow Puerto Rico (and our other territories) the right to vote for president as with the District of Columbia? Is self-determination the answer? Or is retaining Commonwealth status a better choice? Or maybe total independence for the island? Based on population, how many Reps would P.R. have in the House of Representatives? Whom would that advantage? And what about the English language problem?

**Background references**

- <http://capwiz.com/ef/issues/bills/?bill=10194441>
- [http://www.workings.com/LIA\\_PR.htm](http://www.workings.com/LIA_PR.htm)
- <http://www.nationalcenter.org/PuertoRicoFacts898.html>
- <http://www.englishfirst.org/puerto/puerto.htm>
- [http://www.geocities.com/us\\_int/USI-PR.html](http://www.geocities.com/us_int/USI-PR.html)
- [http://www.crf-usa.org/bria/bria17\\_4.htm#puerto\\_rico](http://www.crf-usa.org/bria/bria17_4.htm#puerto_rico)
- <http://geography.about.com/od/specificplacesofinterest/a/puertorico.htm>
- <http://www.puertorico-herald.org/issues2/2005/vol09n34/Poll0934-en.html>

**Citations supporting the affirmative**

- <http://www.prstatehood.com/home/index.asp>
- <http://studentorgs.gwu.edu/prss/StatehoodIssues/>
- <http://www.petitiononline.com/pr51usa/petition.html>
- <http://www.puertorico-herald.org/issues2/2007/vol11n01/PRR0201-Puerto-Rico-Report-en.html>
- <http://www.conservativeusa.org/portorco.htm>
- <http://www.washingtontimes.com/article/20080426/NATION/952646792/1002>

**Citations supporting the negative**

- <http://www.eagleforum.org/column/2007/mar07/07-03-28.html>
- <http://www.heritage.org/Research/LatinAmerica/EM495.cfm>
- [http://www.puertoricousa.com/english/english\\_menu\\_views.htm](http://www.puertoricousa.com/english/english_menu_views.htm)
- <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/JWCRAWFORD/can-pr.htm>
- <http://www.puertorico-herald.org/issues2/2005/vol09n34/PRHappyStatusQuo.html>
- <http://www.cnn.com/US/9812/14/puerto.rico.01/>

**Additional Magazine References**

- Economist, December 4, 2004, "The Ties that Bind"
- Time, May 15, 2000, "The Guns of May, the Sounds of Countrymen" (Vieques)