

Beyond the Surface: Puerto Rico's November 2012 Referendum

Escrito por Luis Figueroa-Martínez

Viernes, 16 de Noviembre de 2012 02:51 - Última actualización Viernes, 16 de Noviembre de 2012 02:57



A lot of confusing reports have circulated outside Puerto Rico in the past few days regarding the results of the November 6, 2012 non-binding referendum on the island's colonial status that was part of the local general elections.

In response, I produced on Wednesday, November 7, an earlier version of this table and posted on Facebook. Below I explain the table and point out how it's only slightly different from the original one I posted on Facebook.

Why this Table?

This table presents an initial look at the numbers that tries to go "beyond the surface" of the basic number reported by most media outlets.

The referendum asked voters two questions. **Questions #1, "Condición Política Actual" (Today's Political "Condition" [status vis-à-vis the US])**

, asked voters whether they supported a continuation of the current status, which it defined as a "territorial" one (more on that further below). These are the numbers the government's Electoral Commission reported as of November 8th:

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QUESTION #1: Support "Current Territorial Political Status"?

No	937,955	54.0%
Yes	798,938	46.0%
TOTAL	1,736,893	

QUESTION #2: Preferred "Non-Territorial" Options?

"Statehood"	805,155	61.1%
"Sovereign Commonwealth"	438,896	33.3%
"Independence"	72,978	5.5%
TOTAL	1,317,029	

BEYOND THE SURFACE: The Issue of Q#2 Ballots "Voted" Blank

"Statehood"	805,155	45.1%
"Sovereign Commonwealth"	438,896	24.6%
"Independence"	72,978	4.1%
Ballots "Voted" Blank	470,032	26.3%
TOTAL	1,787,061	

BEYOND THE SURFACE: Comparing Questions #1 vs. #2

Support for "Current Status" in Q#1	798,938	47.6%
Support for "Statehood" in Q#2	805,155	48.0%
Support for "Independence" in Q#2	72,978	4.4%
TOTAL	1,677,071	

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BEYOND THE SURFACE: "Statehood" vs. All Other Q#2 "Voted" Ballots

Voted for "Statehood"	805,155	45.1%		
NOT "Voted" for "Statehood"	981,906	54.9%		
TOTAL	1,787,061			

FINAL NOTE: The Issue of the "Challenged" Ballots

Question #1 "Challenged" Ballots	12,781	
Percentage of Q#1 Ballots	0.7%	
Question #2 "Challenged" Ballots	17,673	
Percentage of Q#2 Ballots	1.3%	