

New party's president to make write-in bid for governor

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After falling short in his bid to collect the 100,000 signatures required by the State Elections Commission to get on the November ballot, Puerto Ricans for Puerto Rico President Rogelio Figueroa announced Monday will be vying for La Fortaleza as the party's write-in candidate.

The 40-year-old engineer said he decided to enter the island's gubernatorial race due the "discontent me and other citizens began to feel about the three main political party's contenders."

"The three main political candidates are all focused on the status issues. At our party we don't ask who believes in what status option. We are focused on protecting and rehabilitating the environment and our cultural patrimony," Figueroa said at a news conference at PRPR headquarters in Santurce.

Figueroa said that the party is already registered in four municipalities: Rincón, Moca, Vieques and Culebra. Last week the party announced Carlos Gastón was on the ballot in the Rincón mayor's race, its first official candidate.

Figueroa said that if elected governor he will resolve the island's status dilemma through a process of consensus.

"The biggest obstacle in resolving the status issue is that political parties have excluded each other's proposals and that trend needs to end," Figueroa said.

Figueroa said that the island crime problem can be curbed by getting more community input on solutions.

"This way it won't be such a political issue, because the Police Department is politicized by the central government. We want the workers, the managers and the people served at the community level to propose solutions to fighting crime," Figueroa said.



STAR PHOTO BY MIGUEL RIOS

Puerto Ricans for Puerto Rico President Rogelio Figueroa discusses his write-in bid for governor during a press conference in Santurce on Monday. Beside him is Carlos Gastón, the party's candidate for Rincón mayor.