



A Leader for the Transformation of Puerto Rico

I will work with Puerto Ricans of all status preferences in order to achieve the greatest development for Puerto Rico, at the same time that we effectively attend to our relationship with the United States and resolve the status issue through an impartial and transparent process which is directed by citizens themselves.

I will dedicate our best resources to ensuring a top-level education system for our children and adults. I will guarantee access for all to a universal and preventive health system, an island-wide mass-transport system, as well as unprecedented economic opportunities and true political power for our citizens.

I will increase productivity and reduce government spending through a better and wider use of technology, the use of merit as a criterion for promotions, in addition to decentralizing government agencies and taking party-politics out of them. I will establish a single chamber Legislature, with part-time legislators that have a maximum of two terms and less benefits. I will implement the recall mechanism for all elective positions.

I will implement a Restoration Economy that is both productive and competitive. I will rebuild all of our towns, and at the same time reactivate agriculture and fortify tourism. I will accomplish energetic self-sufficiency for all of Puerto Rico.

History

Rogelio Figueroa García was born on September 13, 1963 in Naguabo and was raised in the rural community of Parcelas Aguas Claras in Ceiba. He is the youngest of nine siblings.

His father, Sotero Figueroa Pomales, was a sugar cane worker and farmer, and his mother, Juanita García Noble, devoted herself to the care of the home and family.

Rogelio grew up in a modest environment, in the midst of nature. Since then, a genuine interest and a particular preoccupation grew within him towards the natural environment and communities such as the one he grew up in.

Education

Rogelio went to school from Kindergarten to Second Grade in Parcelas de Ceiba School, from Third to Sixth Grade in Naguabo's Eugenio Brac School, from Seventh to Ninth in Naguabo's Escuela Intermedia Urbana, and he graduated in 1981 from Rafael Rocca High School in Naguabo.

In 1986, he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez Campus.

He got a Masters Degree in Chemical Engineering from Ohio State University in 1988.

Professional

Rogelio Figueroa is a specialist on industrial processes for the manufacture of cosmetics and foods, as well as on pharmaceutical and biotechnological processes. He is a well-known troubleshooter in the pharmaceutical and biotechnological industries.

He worked in the design and manufacture of personal care products from 1988 to 1990. He was a scientist in the pharmaceutical industry from 1990 to 1995. He has over 19 years of experience in the development and improvement of industrial processes and systems.

In addition, he has over 12 years of experience as an entrepreneur in industrial technical services, documentation, and information systems for the pharmaceutical and biotechnological industries.

He is currently an entrepreneur in the development of renewable energy alternatives and the construction of green buildings.

Rogelio has dedicated more than 11 years of his life to community work as a consultant on environmental issues, developing sustainable alternatives to unsustainable projects.

- Toa Baja Community in the Defense of the Coastal Zone [ver más](#)
- Santa Bárbara Community against mud deposit from the deepening of Carraízo lake
- Communities Against Route 66 / Citizens for Super Expressway 3 [ver más](#)
- Citizens' Commission for the Rescue of Caimito
- Development of Public Policies for Sustainable Development
- Alliance for the Development of Ceiba (APRODEC) through the rescue of the lands at Roosevelt Roads
- Loíza and Piñones Communities

Political Leader

Rogelio Figueroa is the Co-founder and President of Puertorriqueños por Puerto Rico party (Puerto Ricans for Puerto Rico Party). He participated in the 2004 election as a write-in candidate for governor. In an unprecedented event in Puerto Rican history, in May 2007 he managed to gather, with a group of brave Puerto Ricans, all the endorsements necessary to register the party for the 2008 election.

He is the candidate for governor for Puertorriqueños por Puerto Rico in the 2008 elections.

Rogelio Figueroa is a leader for new times, with new ideas and new styles of doing politics. His political philosophy is based on very simple and basic principles. Rogelio recognizes that the only way to solve Puerto Rico's problems is going to their root causes, and not to their superficial symptoms, as it has always been done with no results. In order for Puerto Rico to achieve its maximum potential, the first thing we need to tend to is our division as a People, created on the basis of status preferences.

Rogelio invites us to become part of the Great Restoration Project for Puerto Rico, based on the reconciliation and participation of all Puerto Ricans, in harmony and in peace, for the benefit and advancement of all.



Rogelio Figueroa: Founder and Gubernatorial Candidate of the PRPR

Those who have met or heard Rogelio Figueroa, president of Puerto Ricans for Puerto Rico, know that he is a warm and magnetic leader who has a cutting-edge vision for Puerto Rico, the capacity to articulate it lucidly, and the energy and skills to pursue and achieve it no matter the obstacles.

These are the qualities that have enabled Figueroa, together with a small band of collaborators, to create and register a new political party in Puerto Rico after years of struggle despite the opposition of the three traditional parties and of the electoral system they jointly control. The few new parties that have come into existence on the island over the last half century have been dissident groups splitting off from traditional parties, whereas Figueroa has created the burgeoning PRPR from nothing.

Of humble origin, Figueroa was born in 1963 of mixed racial parentage (his father was white and his mother black) and grew up surrounded by an exuberant nature in the township of Ceiba, on the island's northeast coast. His father was a farmer and sugar-cane worker, his

mother a housewife who raised a large family. These origins help explain his desire to end the social, economic and racial marginalization of many Puerto Ricans; his ability to understand and bring together people of all backgrounds; and his commitment to protect the island's seriously degraded natural environment.

Before entering politics, Figueroa was both successful in business and active in community development. After obtaining a BS Magna Cum Laude in Chemical Engineering in the University of Puerto Rico and an MS in the same field from Ohio State University, Figueroa worked on the development and improvement of industrial processes and systems in the pharmaceutical and biotechnical industries. For the last decade, he has been an entrepreneur providing information systems and technical services to these industries and, most recently, constructing "green" buildings.

But even as he flourished in business, Figueroa became an active consultant and advisor to community groups in towns and communities like Toa Baja, Caimito and Piñones, employing his technical training and people skills to help them develop sustainable alternatives to harmful private and government developmental projects. He has collaborated with his home town of Ceiba to ensure that the huge former naval base of Roosevelt Roads next to Ceiba that was decommissioned when the Navy exited Vieques, be developed for the benefit of the town and the public rather than for narrow private interests.

Despite his successes as an entrepreneur and community activist, Figueroa early understood that he would need to go into politics to achieve significant change. He organized the PRPR in 2003, was a write-in candidate for Governor in 2004 and finally registered the party in 2007. He has recruited a candidate for Resident Commissioner and a diverse group of 63 citizen candidates to run for the Legislature. Although Figueroa has become well-known through his continuous appearances in the broadcast media, university campuses and other venues, his challenge is to break through the standard political background chatter that dominates the media in order to make the electorate aware of the PRPR and the dramatic changes it is proposing for Puerto Rico.

Certainly one of the most striking of these changes is the party's unique position on the solution of Puerto Rico's century-old political status dilemma. The PRPR wants to resolve this divisive issue since it imbues even the simplest issues with an ideological hue that makes agreement difficult or impossible. Now, unlike the other three parties that are committed respectively to statehood, independence or Commonwealth, the PRPR has no official status position or preference. Although both the members and the leadership of the PRPR individually hold diverse views on status they have subordinated their personal preferences in their desire to work together for the common good. Why is the party neutral on this historic issue? There are several solid reasons. First, the party is committed to resolving the country's real problems here and now rather than counting on a particular status solution to solve them; indeed, it believes unemployment, crime, urban sprawl, poor public education and the high cost of energy and food will be problems under any political status. Secondly, the party believes that in a society of renewed progress and hope, the people will be prepared to examine rationally the status alternatives rather than fearfully as they do now. And thirdly, the PRPR wants the Puerto Rican people to decide democratically the status issue, not have it imposed on them.

Since the party holds no official status preference, once in power it will be uniquely positioned to provide a level playing field during the decision process, something that is impossible for the other parties that will try to manipulate that process in both Washington and Puerto Rico to favor their particular status preference, as they have always done.

But the rest of Figueroa's proposals are just as innovative. While his plan is to grow the Puerto Rican economy, which has been in recession for three years and suffers unemployment three times that of the U.S, he would do so by taking it in a different direction than heretofore. He would promote a "restoration economy" to benefit the whole society rather than the favored few, as "development" tends to do now.

To achieve his linked priorities of economic growth and social progress, Figueroa would provide government incentives to stimulate the private sector to generate new locally-owned businesses and thousands of permanent jobs, which would attract both the unemployed and surplus government workers. For what purposes? He would reconstruct and increase the density of existing urban areas, for Puerto Rico needs to end the urban sprawl that is destroying community and the environment. His improvements to the cities' infrastructure would both accommodate more people and improve quality of urban life by increasing green areas and making the cities pedestrian friendly.

He would create an effective system of public transportation linking buses, trains, taxis, planes and boats, thus enabling people to get to work and elsewhere easily, while curtailing the dominion of the car which is the agent of urban sprawl, pollution and interminable traffic jams. He would revive agriculture, moribund for the past 50 years, and so reduce the island's costly dependence on imported food. Similarly, and perhaps most importantly, he would pursue energy self-sufficiency through the utilization of this tropical island's abundant renewable resources of sun and wind, as well as the hydrogen they would produce, thus cutting back on and eventually eliminating the importation of increasingly expensive fuel oil on which the island is almost totally dependent.

As the island's economy becomes more self-sufficient in food and energy, so will the people become more self-reliant and confident since this sustainable growth will create jobs, spread the new wealth fairly evenly, and reduce the cost of living. This is growth with a human face.

Indeed, Figueroa insists that social and economic development must go hand in hand. The restoration economy is geared to combating the island's social problems, which include dependency on food stamps and welfare, drug addiction and its related criminality as well as a huge underground economy, by creating job opportunities that do not now exist.

But people need to be prepared for the new jobs, so the party will funnel the enormous savings achieved by generating energy locally into a revamped public education that will be decentralized and depoliticized, pay teachers far better than at present and that will begin at birth, not just at pre-kinder. The government will ensure quality child care for parents who are studying or working. And, since good health is crucial both for quality of life and fitness for work, it will establish universal health care with an emphasis on prevention to reduce illness and costs.

Rogelio Figueroa may be a visionary, but he is also a practical man who knows how to get things done.