



Jennifer González-Colón first woman elected as Puerto Rico's Representative to Congress

Puerto Rico's House Minority Leader Jennifer González-Colón was elected this past November 8 as Puerto Rico's Representative to the U.S. Congress. In so doing, she became the first woman ever to hold that office. Also, she received the most votes (over 718,000) of any elected official on the Island in the 2016 election.

González-Colón, a lifelong Republican and activist for Puerto Rican statehood and equality, first entered elected office as a Representative in a 2002 special Election, becoming the youngest member of the Puerto Rico House of Representatives. She then quickly rose through the ranks becoming Chair of the exclusive House Government Committee during her second term and, at just 33 years of age, Speaker of the House in her third term.

During her time in the legislature she figured prominently in authoring, sponsoring, and passing landmark legislation on veterans' services, identity protection, victim's rights, domestic violence prevention, improving the business climate, lowering utility costs, voting rights and financing, environmental protection, tax relief, and government streamlining.

Her priorities as Puerto Rico's sole Representative in Congress will include spearheading the economic recovery of Puerto Rico, and securing the equal treatment for Puerto Rico's three and a half million US Citizens in federal policy, regulations, services, and funding. Most importantly, however, she plans to lead the fight in our Nation's Capital to ensure that Congress responds favorably and decisively to the overwhelming electoral mandate in the 2012 Status Plebiscite where over 61% of Puerto Rico's voters supported the Island's admission as the 51st state of the Union. To that end, she introduced as her first bill the Puerto Rico Admission Act on her second day as a Congresswoman.

Her strong voice is already being heard on Capitol Hill. In just her second week as a Member-Elect of the U.S. Congress, she was elected by her colleagues in the Republican Conference to the influential House Policy Committee.

A product of the Puerto Rico public school system and recipient of a Juris Doctor and Master's of Law degree, González-Colón also serves the Chair of the Puerto Rico State Republican Party, and First Vice Chair of the local New Progressive Party, the standard bearer for Puerto Rico's statehood.

###