



## Take Action: Advocate

To effectively amplify the voices of the majority of voters in Puerto Rico that have already chosen statehood four times, it's essential to advocate on their behalf directly with members of Congress and other government officials at the state and federal levels. It is also essential to make your support for Puerto Rico statehood more visible and to document your advocacy in order to spark conversations and inspire others.

### Communicating

Even though it might seem intimidating at first glance, in reality anyone can communicate with a congressional office. As part of this movement, we need to speak directly with legislators and their staff, to encourage them to support statehood for Puerto Rico. Here are some easy ways that you can do this.

#### Find Your Members of Congress:

- To quickly and easily identify your members of Congress use this link: <https://www.pr51st.com/>

#### Decide On Your Message:

- Once you have identified your members of Congress take a moment to decide what you would like to say to them. Write down two or three points that you want to make to help you keep the call focused and get your point across effectively.
- Remember to have a clear request or "ask" at the end. Some examples are:
  - "Introduce binding legislation with an offer of statehood for Puerto Rico;" or
  - "Support the introduction of binding legislation with an offer of statehood for Puerto Rico."
- If you need help with this, you can email [prstatehoodactionweek@gmail.com](mailto:prstatehoodactionweek@gmail.com) or reference the list of talking points we have on our Take Action: Educate tab

#### Make a Call:

- Once you have identified your members of Congress and have clarity on your message, you can either go to their website and call their offices directly. Alternatively, you may call the United States Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121, and a switchboard operator will connect you directly with the House or Senate office you request.

## Write an Email or Letter:

After you have identified your members of Congress, expressing your support for Puerto Rico statehood in writing is an important and powerful way to do advocacy. Follow these tips when writing a letter, submitting a comment through their website, or sending an email.

- **Introduce yourself:** Tell the person reading your letter where you live and a little bit about yourself.
- **State the Issue:** Be clear and concise about why you are writing and what position you want your lawmaker to take. Try to keep your arguments to two or three points maximum.
- **Say Why You Care:** After you have explained your issue, include a personal story explaining why you care about the issue.
- **Include Relevant Facts or Statistics:** Adding facts or data to your argument or personal story will strengthen your argument. Make sure the information you use is correct and up to date.
- **Say Why They Should Care:** Mention how this issue impacts others in your area or district, how it impacts American society and why they should care about it.
- **Have a Clear Request:** Remember to add a clear request or "ask" at the end. An example is: "Support the introduction of binding legislation with an offer of statehood for Puerto Rico, to honor the islands electoral mandate. Please champion and vote for that bill when it reaches the floor."
- **Keep it Positive & Encouraging:** It's ok to show that you're passionate, but always be courteous, respectful and try to use an encouraging tone.
- **Do a Final Review:** Read through your email or letter one last time to make sure it is well-written and free of grammatical mistakes.

## Joining a Petition

Petitions are a great way to show a movement has supporters. The number of signatures is a representation of the amount of support for the cause. Here are links to petitions for statehood for Puerto Rico:

<https://pr51st.salsalabs.org/puertoricostatehoodactionnetworkpetition/>

<https://www.change.org/p/alexandria-ocasio-cortez-the-people-of-puerto-rico-chose-statehood-congress-must-act>

## Making your Support Visible

Investing in merchandise is an amazing way to draw attention to the movement, and to help fundraise for the cause. T-shirt's, pins, buttons, stickers, and phone cases are all different options you can purchase. Not only will you be visibly showing your support, and

promoting the cause, but you'll help inspire others to do the same. It's a great conversation starter to get people informed about the Puerto Rico statehood cause.

The PR51st store has good quality, affordable options.

<https://pr51st.store/>



## Documenting & Sharing Your Advocacy Efforts

To maximize the impact of your advocacy efforts it is essential to document your actions and to share them publicly with others. Social media is a great tool you can use to advocate for statehood by sharing your activism. You can post photos of you or others with hand signs, flags and statehood merch and spread the message while inviting others to join the Puerto Rico statehood movement. Here are some recent examples of pictures advocates have posted:

