



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

Kenneth D. McClintock
Secretary

October 22nd , 2012

Dear citizens:

I encourage you to participate in the National Student/Parent Mock Election sponsored by Fundacion Ramón Barquín and Instituto de Formación Democrática. This mock election is the nation's largest voter education project, designed to increase political participation among young people. It will be held on November 1, 2012 in your school and online at www.LaJuventudHabra.com and www.NationalMockElection.org, where students will vote for all elected positions, in addition to the Presidency of the United States and Puerto Rico's Political Status Plebiscite. Students will also have the opportunity to debate issues that matter to them in an Issues Forum.

Students in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands have cast more than 2.4 million votes since 1988. The Mock Elections in the United States have garnered a total of more than 50 million votes by students, parents, and teachers in the last two decades. In the 1996, 2000, and 2004 presidential elections the vote tally was broadcast live on CNN and C-SPAN the evening of the Mock Election, and in 2008 and 2009 broadcasted live on Mock Election's YouTube Channel. The Mock Elections programs are recognized and funded by the US Elections Assistance Commission that strengthens the values and freedoms of our representative democracy.

Studies have shown that participation in the National Student/Parent Mock Elections, the only civic-education program endorsed by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), increased the belief that voting is important, that social studies classes


are relevant, and that public policy participation is fundamental to preserving democracy. Students of all age feel included in the electoral process. The mock election allows students to get involved in the electoral process and speak out. Teachers, students, and parents simply get involved and speak-out.

Through local Puerto Rico initiatives like www.TeenVoicesofDemocracy.com, www.YouthIssuesForum.com and www.InformedDemocracy101.org., we are setting the pace for a new generation to become exemplary citizens that can pass the torch of freedom and democracy to other generations.

I encourage you all – students and teachers alike – to participate in the upcoming Mock Election. You can register your school online at www.mockelectionpr.com and www.nationalmockelection.org. Learn more about current affairs and election issues by visiting www.lajuventudhabla.com. With your help, Puerto Rico will again have the largest amount of participants among all states and territories of the United States.

Thank you for enriching our democracy for future generations.

Sincerely,



Kenneth D. McClintock