

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 2051

February 10, 2022

David A. Skeel Jr.
Chairman
Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico
P.O. Box 192018
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00919

Dear Chairman Skeel:

As Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, which has broad oversight of our nation's federal elections, I write today to express my concern about a report that Puerto Rico had to extend its 2020 primary election because some precincts did not have ballots on the day of the election, which might have led to individuals not casting a vote in the election due to not knowing about the extension in their precinct.¹

America's decentralized elections system is the best in the world. Since last Congress, I have met with Secretaries of State, Lt. Governors, and local election administrators from states as wide-ranging as Alaska, Iowa, New York, and Utah, among others, to learn about and promote the many first-rate examples of excellence in election administration across the country. I recently traveled to Puerto Rico to learn more about its election system and processes. Unfortunately, while there, I heard many concerns about the 2020 primary election. Situations like this have the potential to damage voter confidence in our election systems at a time when we can least afford it.

It is my understanding that a major reason for the delay was due to the Financial Oversight and Management Board (Oversight Board) not authorizing funding for the primary election until a mere four weeks before election day. In the interest of ensuring that this does not occur in the future, please respond with an explanation of the Oversight Board's role and process in authorizing funding for elections. Please also provide a detailed timeline, with dates, of the Oversight Board's actions pertaining to the 2020 primary election. Finally, please explain any changes the Oversight Board has made since 2020 to ensure a delay does not occur in the future.

Please submit your response no later than March 11, 2022. Should you have questions, please contact Caleb Hays, General Counsel and Deputy Staff Director, at Caleb.Hays@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration

CC: Natalie Jaresko, Executive Director, Financial Oversight and Management Board
Francisco Rosado Colomer, President, State Elections Commission
Jenniffer González-Colón, Resident Commissioner

¹ Cristina Corujo, *Puerto Rico primaries turn chaotic after ballot delay, residents demand answers*, ABC News (Aug. 12, 2020), <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/puerto-rico-primaries-turn-chaos-ballot-delay-residents/story?id=72285843>; See also Camila Domonoske, *Puerto Rico's Primary Election On Sunday Was Historic—In a Bad Way*, National Public Radio (Aug. 10, 2020), <https://www.npr.org/2020/08/10/900903297/puerto-ricos-primary-election-on-sunday-was-historic-in-a-bad-way>; See also Dánica Coto, *Puerto Ricans, upset at botched primary, demand answers*, Associated Press (Aug. 10, 2020), <https://apnews.com/article/ap-top-news-puerto-rico-san-juan-latin-america-caribbean-0fe0d731116b4e9dc197049c1f4cb726>.