

**Jennice Fuentes**  
Chief of Staff, Representative Luis Gutiérrez of Illinois

## **Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

### **Politics in Puerto Rico**

Jennice Fuentes explains the two main political parties in Puerto Rico when she was growing up.  
*Interview recorded December 20, 2018*

Politics in Puerto Rico, it's really unlike politics here. Because in the mainland we have the parties that we know—we have Democratic Party and we have the Republican Party, and then we have other parties. In Puerto Rico, me growing up in the 1960s, 1970s, it was really about the Commonwealth Party, which is the party that promotes the status quo, which is the relationship we have with the United States, the Commonwealth of the United States, which basically gives us U.S. citizenship and other rights, and also doesn't give us the right to vote for the presidential election and does not give us much representation in Congress. That's the Commonwealth Party, which in Spanish is Partido Popular Democrático. The other main party is the Partido Nuevo Progresista, which, from its very beginning, has been supporting statehood for Puerto Rico, so that Puerto Rico would in essence become the 51st state.