

## Summary of Alaska Statehood Admissions Process

### **1867 – Purchase of Alaska**

President Andrew Johnson signed Treaty with Russia approving the purchase of Alaska, which was then formally transferred to the United States and subjected to rule as a military district - October 18, 1867  
Residents declared U.S. citizens (except for Alaska Natives) and held under military rule.

### **1884 – Alaska First Organic Act**

Public Law 48-347 - Act providing a civil government for Alaska – May 17, 1884  
Provided a government for the District of Alaska.

### **1912 – Alaska Declared Territory Through Second Organic Act**

Public Law 62-334 - An Act To create a legislative assembly in the Territory of Alaska, to confer legislative power thereon, and for other purposes - August 24, 1912

### **1916 – First Alaska Statehood Admission Bill Introduced**

A multitude of bills for the admission of Alaska as a state were introduced in subsequent years, hearings were held and some were approved in one chamber or another, but none were approved by Congress as a whole or signed into law.

### **1946 – Locally Sponsored Plebiscite Held on Admission of Alaska as a State**

Voters were asked to pick between “Statehood for Alaska for \_\_\_” or “Statehood for Alaska against \_\_\_” and 58% voted in favor and 41% voted in opposition – October 1946

### **1949 – Alaska Creates “Statehood Committee”**

Territory legislature authorizes and funds the Alaska Statehood Committee

### **1955 – Alaska Convenes a Constitutional Convention**

Objective is to frame a state constitution as other territories that became states had done successfully in the past - November 8, 1955

### **1950 – Alaska State Constitution Approved**

68% of voters approve state constitution - November 7, 1950

### **1956 – Alaska Approves Tennessee Plan**

61% of voters support immediate election of two senators and one representative to Congress - April 24, 1956

### **1958 – Alaska Admission Act Becomes Law**

Public Law 85-508 - An Act to Provide for the Admission of the State of Alaska into the Union - July 7, 1958

### **1958 – Federally Sponsored Plebiscite Held on Admission of Alaska as a State**

Plebiscite held pursuant to Public Law 85-508 where voters were asked “Shall Alaska be immediately be admitted into the Union as a State?” and 83% voted “Yes” and 16% voted “No” – August 26, 1958

### **1959 – Alaska Admitted as State of the Union**

Pursuant to Public Law 85-508 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs proclamation officially admitting Alaska as a state - January 3, 1959

## Summary of Hawaii Statehood Admissions Process

### **1898 - Annexation of Hawaii**

President William McKinley signed Newlands Resolution approving annexation of Hawaii to become part of the United States - July 7, 1898

### **1900 – Hawaii Organic Act**

Public Law 56–331 - The Hawaiian Organic Act - April 30, 1900

Provided a government for the territory of Hawaii and U.S. Citizenship for its residents.

### **1919 – First Hawaii Statehood Admission Bill Introduced**

A multitude of bills for the admission of Hawaii as a state were introduced in subsequent years, hearings were held and some were approved in one chamber or another, but none were approved by Congress as a whole or signed into law.

### **1935 – Hawaii creates a “Statehood Commission”**

Territory legislature authorizes and funds the Hawai‘i Equal Rights Commission to fight political discrimination against Hawai‘i. It was later be renamed “The Statehood Commission.” – September 27, 1935

### **1940 – Locally Sponsored Plebiscite Held on Admission of Hawaii as a State**

Voters were asked “Do you favor statehood for Hawaii?” and 67% voted “Yes” and 32% voted “No” – November 5, 1940

### **1947 – Hawaii “Statehood Commission” opens Washington D.C. office**

### **1949 – Hawaii Convenes Constitutional Convention**

Objective is to frame a state constitution as other territories that became states had done successfully in the past - May 20, 1949

### **1950 – Hawaii State Constitution Approved**

75% of voters approve state constitution - November 7, 1950

### **1959 – Hawaii Admission Act Becomes Law**

Public Law 86–3 - An Act to Provide for the Admission of the State of Hawaii into the Union - March 18, 1959

### **1959 – Federally Sponsored Plebiscite Held on Admission of Hawaii as a State**

Plebiscite held pursuant to Public Law 86-3 where voters were asked “Shall Hawaii immediately be admitted into the Union as a State?” and 94% voted “Yes” and 5% voted “No” – June 27, 1959

### **1959 – Hawaii Admitted as State of the Union**

Pursuant to Public Law 86-3 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs proclamation officially admitting Hawaii as a state – August 21, 1959

## **Summary of Puerto Rico Statehood Admissions Process**

### **1898 – Annexation of Puerto Rico - Treaty of Paris**

30 Stat. 1754-1762 - Ended the Spanish-American War and Spain ceded Cuba, Guam, Puerto Rico, and portions of the West Indies to the United States. Additionally, Spain surrendered the Philippines to the U.S. for \$20 million. The treaty specified that the, “civil rights and political status of the native inhabitants of the territories hereby ceded to the United States shall be determined by the Congress.” Approved by the Senate during the 55th Congress (1897– 1899) on February 6, 1899.

### **1900 – First Organic Act for Puerto Rico - Foraker Act of 1900**

31 Stat. 77-86 or Public Law 56-191 - Temporarily to provide revenues and civil government for Porto Rico (Foraker Act) - April 12, 1900

Established a Puerto Rican government administered by the U.S. President and Congress, with an 11-member executive council, a house of delegates, and a governor; the governor and executive council were all appointed by the U.S. President. Designated the island an “unorganized territory,” granting inhabitants “U.S. national” status but not full U.S. citizenship. Provided for biennial elections for a Resident Commissioner, with a non-voting seat in the U.S. House. Passed by the 56th Congress (1899–1901) as H.R. 8245.

### **1917 – Second organic Act for Puerto Rico - Jones Act of 1917**

39 Stat. 951-968 or Public Law 64-368 - Act to provide a civil government for Porto Rico (Jones Act) - March 2, 1917

Established a Puerto Rican government administered by the U.S. President and Congress, with an 11-member executive council, a house of delegates, and a governor; the governor and executive council were all appointed by the U.S. President. Designated the island an “unorganized territory,” granting inhabitants “U.S. national” status but not full U.S. citizenship. Provided for biennial elections for a Resident Commissioner, with a non-voting seat in the U.S. House. Passed by the 56th Congress (1899–1901) as H.R. 8245.

### **1934 – First Statehood Petition Submitted to Congress**

Puerto Rico House and Senate approve Concurrent Resolution Declaring that final status of Puerto Rico should be Statehood and send it to U.S. Congress – 1934

### **1934 – First Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Bill Introduced**

Resident Commissioner Santiago Iglesias Pantín introduces first bill to admit Puerto Rico as a state of the Union. Since then 30 other bills dealing with statehood for Puerto Rico have been introduced in the U.S. House and Senate. A few hearings have been held but none of these bills has been marked up in Committee or voted on by either chamber.

### **1947 – Elective Governor Act of 1947 - Crawford Butler Act**

Public Law 80-362 – To amend the Organic Act of Puerto Rico - August 5, 1947

Amended the Foraker Act to permit Puerto Ricans to elect their governor. Passed by the 80th Congress (1947–1949) as H.R. 3309.

### **1950 – Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act of 1950**

Public Law 81-600 - Act to provide for the organization of a constitutional government by the People of Puerto Rico - July 3, 1950

Mandated a Puerto Rican plebiscite on the territory’s future relationship with the United States. Presented three options: independence, statehood, or commonwealth. With approval of a status option, the Puerto Rican legislature would convene a constitutional convention to draft a constitution for the island, including a bill of rights, to be submitted to the U.S. President and Congress for approval. Passed by the 81st Congress (1949–1951) as S. 3336.

### **1952 – Ratification of Puerto Rico Constitution**

Public Law 82-447 – Amending and approving the constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico - July 3, 1952

**1964 – U.S. – PR Commission on the Status of Puerto Rico**

Public Law 88-271 - Act to establish a United States-Puerto Rico Commission on the Status of Puerto Rico - February 20, 1964

**1967 – First Locally Sponsored Plebiscite Held on Political Status of Puerto Rico**

Statehood obtained support from 39% of voters – July 23, 1967

**1993 – Second Locally Sponsored Plebiscite Held on Political Status of Puerto Rico**

Statehood obtained support from 46% of voters – November 14, 1993

**1998 – Third Locally Sponsored Plebiscite Held on Political Status of Puerto Rico**

Statehood obtained support from 46% of voters – December 13, 1998

**1998 – U.S. House of Representatives Approves US-PR Political Status Act (Young Bill)**

H.R.856 - United States-Puerto Rico Political Status Act – March 4, 1998

**2000 – First Appropriation of Funds for Federally Sponsored Plebiscite**

Public Law 106-346 – Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations - October 21, 2000

**2010 – U.S. House of Representatives Approves Puerto Rico Democracy Act (Pierluisi Bill)**

H.R. 2499 - Puerto Rico Democracy Act – March 29, 2010

**2012 – Fourth Locally Sponsored Plebiscite Held on Political Status of Puerto Rico**

Statehood obtained support from 61% of voters – November 6, 2012

**2012 – Second Statehood Petition Submitted to Congress**

Puerto Rico House and Senate approve Concurrent Resolution 67 To request the President and the U.S. Congress to respond to the results of the 2012 plebiscite and begin the process of admitting Puerto Rico as a state – December 11, 2012

**2014 – Second Appropriation of Funds for Federally Sponsored Plebiscite**

Public Law 113-76 – Consolidated Appropriations Act – January 17, 2014

**2017 – Fifth Locally Sponsored Plebiscite Held on Political Status of Puerto Rico**

Statehood obtained support from 97% of voters – June 11, 2017

**2017 – Puerto Rico creates a “Statehood Commission”**

Territory legislature authorizes Puerto Rico Statehood Commission to act as the shadow delegation to Congress advocating the admission as a state. It was later be renamed the “Puerto Rico Equality Commission.” – August 18, 2017

**2018 – Third Statehood Petition Submitted to Congress**

Puerto Rico House and Senate approve a Concurrent Resolution To request the President and the U.S. Congress to respond to the results of the 2017 plebiscite and begin the process of admitting Puerto Rico as a state – January 10, 2018

**2020 – Sixth Locally Sponsored Plebiscite Held on Political Status of Puerto Rico**

After 122 years under the American flag, on November 3, 2020 the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico vote for the first time ever exclusively on the question of statehood “YES” or “NO”. An indisputable majority of 52.5% voted “YES” for Puerto Rico’s immediate admission as a state. – November 3, 2020