

EXPANDED ANSWER 61:

Citizenship

It is expected that demand for Independent Vieques citizenship will be strong. It will, therefore, be important to have strict regulations on the granting of full citizenship, resident alien visas, and work visas. Rapid growth in the population would cause chaotic real estate development as well as stretch available infrastructure to the breaking point. Determination of the rights to citizenship needs to factor in many issues with an emphasis on the following status items as of a particular cutoff date:

- Place of birth
- Current domicile
- Current residence
- History in Vieques
- Family in Vieques
- Property owned in Vieques
- Effort to gain independence for Vieques
- Work in Vieques
- Retired in Vieques

Other factors that would come into the decision matrix include:

- Business and real estate investment
- Deposited Assets
- Job creation
- Criminality

The following would have automatic rights to immediate citizenship (which would cover almost all current Viequenses):

- Those who were born in PR and lived in Vieques immediately after birth
- Those who are currently domiciled in Vieques and have been since on or before January 1, 2019 or other date agreed upon

Others would be screened against the weighted criteria listed above. Clearly we want to have motivated, energetic, good people to be our community members, but we wouldn't care to see an influx of people (from PR, US, or anywhere else) who have little history here and just want in for their own agendas. Those having critical skills and/or providing significant and appropriate resources or investment would certainly benefit from favorable review.

An orderly process for securing visas and applying for citizenship needs to be created. Population planning dictates the determination of limitations, acceptable growth rates, and procedures.