

Essential elements for commonwealth:

- ✓ U.S. citizenship
- ✓ A common defense limited to participation in "valid" wars
- ✓ Voluntary military service
- ✓ Spanish as the official language; English as a second language
- ✓ A common market
- ✓ Guarantee of the permanence of Section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code
- ✓ Control over maritime fleets and the flag under which commercial vessels operate
- ✓ Limited freedom to negotiate international commercial accords and treaties
- ✓ Control over labor and immigration laws
- ✓ Jurisdiction over aerial traffic and bankruptcy laws
- ✓ U.S. currency and banking.

■ Areas for improvement to the commonwealth status:

- ✓ Clarification of a permanent, bilateral pact with the United States
- ✓ Ability to protect local agricultural and manufactured products through the imposition of an import duty
- ✓ Power to opt for a variety of maritime transporters, not only U.S. flag ships
- ✓ Ability to set minimum wage and control all labor-related legislation and immigration rules
- ✓ Permission to use federal block grants as local government sees fit
- ✓ Addition of a second resident commissioner and voting powers for both
- ✓ Right of Puerto Rico to become a member of international organizations such as the United Nations and the Organization of American States
- ✓ Control over communications and media content so as to reflect Puerto Rico's societal standards, which were perceived as more conservative than those in the United States
- ✓ Elimination of the federal courts
- ✓ Right to vote for president
- ✓ Return of federally owned lands
- ✓ Jurisdiction over navigable waters to 200 miles offshore
- ✓ Participation in world sporting events, including the Olympics.

