



PUERTO RICO CONFERENCE

2010 | Entrepreneurship for Growth



Luis G. Fortuño Burset
Governor
of the Commonwealth of
Puerto Rico



Luis Fortuño was born October 31, 1960 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He attended Colegio Marista of Guaynabo, graduating in 1978, with honors. In 1982, he graduated from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, in Washington D.C. where he earned his Bachelor's Degree. In 1985, he received his Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia, School of Law. During his college years, he served as an intern at the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration in Washington, D.C. and cofounded the Puerto Rico Statehood Students Association, while he remained active in youth organizations that favored the statehood status for Puerto Rico.

He began his public service career as Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company in 1993. In 1994, he served as the Island's first Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce. During that time, he served on numerous boards of directors in different Public Corporations.

He then returned to the private law practice, until 2003. Shortly thereafter, he was elected Resident Commissioner in the general elections of 2004, and for the first time in history, he served with a Governor from the opposing party.

Upon commencement of the 109th Congress, he was elected by his colleagues to serve as Vice-President of the House Republican Freshman Class. He was also elected to serve as Vice-Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Conference. During his tenure, he was responsible for an \$835 million allocation approval by Congress for the Island's infrastructure, the largest in the US Territory's history.

On November 4, 2008, Fortuño was elected Governor, giving the New Progressive Party its largest victory in history. As Governor, he is member of the National Governors Association and the Southern Governors' Association.

During his professional career, he's been recipient of special recognitions from several organizations. In 1996, he was named Man of the Year by the Caribbean Business, while in 1995 he was recognized as Public Servant of the Year by the Marketing Industry and Distribution of Food and Beverage Products Association of Puerto Rico. In 1994, he was recognized as Public Servant of the Year by the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce and as a Distinguished Executive by the Sales and Marketing Executives Association of Ponce and the Southern Region of Puerto Rico. He has been a member of different boards of directors, including the Ana G. Méndez University System and the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico. He is a member of the American Law Institute and the Urban Land Institute.

Fortuño is married to Lucé Vela and is father of triplets Maria Luisa, Luis Roberto and Guillermo.