



María de Lourdes Santiago is the vice-president of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP). She holds a law degree from the University of Puerto Rico. In 2002 she led a group of civil disobedients (all women) into the Navy's practice range in the island municipality of Vieques, for which they were sentenced to a month in jail. She has served two previous terms as Senator at-large: 2005-2008, when she became the first *independentista* woman elected to the Puerto Rico Legislative Assembly, and 2013-2016. In 2016 she was the PIP's candidate for Governor. In the period between 2017 she acted as the PIP's Electoral Commissioner. At the 2020 election she obtained the largest amount of votes of any candidate in the Puerto Rican Senate. She is currently Senator at-large and presides the Special Oversight Commission for the Special Education Program.