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PRESS RELEASE

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Florida GOP Continues to Offend Hispanics

Orlando - The chairman of the Orange County GOP Lew Oliver should take responsibility for his party's poor performance among Hispanics in Orange County, instead of blaming the Puerto Rican community, which is one of the region's newest and most vital Hispanic demographics.

It's the second offensive remark regarding Hispanics coming from the state GOP in less than a month, following the incident reported nationwide of Governor Rick Scott's staffers mocking Mexican accents.

The GOP leadership should blame their poor performance on their insensitive, stereotypical, and uneducated attitudes toward the Hispanic community. The Republican Party in Florida needs to educate itself about the diversity of Americans who contribute to our society. This includes Puerto Ricans, who are born American citizens, and have greatly contributed to the success of the United States of America.

For example, Puerto Ricans who have and continue to contribute to our American culture include Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Mari Carmen Aponte - Ambassador to El Salvador, the great baseball Hall of Famer Roberto Clemente, and the Borinqueneers - also known as the 65th Army Infantry, who from World War I through the Korean War proudly served their country, despite their confinement to a racially segregated unit.

There is every indication that Puerto Ricans, who number nearly 1 million in Florida and who are concentrated in the Central Florida region, are poised to become major contributors to our great state as well.

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