

# Statehood is the best option

It is imperative that those who will be voting in the July plebiscite be provided with factual information on the three options — statehood, free association and independence. The plebiscite is a political process to remove Guam from the United Nations oversight.

In a nutshell, statehood will fully “integrate” Guam with the United States as a state of the

union. Independence and free association will “disintegrate” Guam from its present relationship with the United States and will turn Guam loose to chart its own destiny.

If statehood should not prevail in the plebiscite, and Congress accepts and acts on the results, Guam’s status quo as we know it today would be repealed and



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Guam would no longer be a U.S. territory. This, consequently, would force the discontinuance of all federal assistance, aids and grants for social, economic, education programs as well as highway and infrastructure funding.

Persons who get their U.S. citizenship by virtue of the 1950 Organic Act of Guam run the risk of not enjoying their full benefits while living in a non-U.S. Guam.

Under the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1962, a native born or naturalized U.S. citizen could lose his or her citizenship by taking an oath or making affirmation of allegiance to a foreign country or a political subdivision thereof. Further, his descendants born on Guam also could run into problems with their citizenship since Guam would no longer be a U.S. territory.

Statehood is the only option that can guarantee not only your U.S. citizenship but also the citizenship of your descendants and the preservation of Guam. And Guam will continue to exist as a state if statehood is attained.

As a state, Guam would acquire state sovereignty and have full control of all state matters. The people would have full powers to elect permanent citizenship under the U.S. Constitution, vote for the president and the members of Congress, two senators and one representative.

Guam would also vote in national elections, set up a state government, and...

... questions

of the people  
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# The Best Option for Guam

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Under the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1962, a native-born or naturalized U.S. citizen could lose his or her citizenship by taking an oath or making affirmation or other formal declaration of allegiance to a foreign state or a political subdivision thereof. And their descendants born on Guam also could run into problems with their citizenship since Guam would no longer be a U.S. territory.

Statehood is the only option that can guarantee not only your U.S. citizenship but also that of your descendants and the generations to come. And Guam will continue the status quo until statehood is attained.

As a state, Guam would acquire state sovereignty and have full control on all state matters. The people would have full protection and permanent citizenship under the U.S. Constitution, vote for the president and vice president and have two senators and one representative in Congress. Guam would also write its own state constitution, set up a state government (three equal

branches — executive, legislative and judicial) and have equal access to federal revenue sharing, programs, grants, aids and entitlements available to all states. This will increase Guam's level of federal assistance.

Social Security Supplemental Income and the Earned Income Tax Credit would also be available for Guam. These two programs certainly will provide millions of dollars to our SSS recipients and low-income wage earners.

Having two senators and a representative in Congress should enable Guam to get more federal dollars in appropriations, grants, aids and entitlements than it's currently receiving as a territory.

After living for more than 100 years under the U.S. flag, Guamanians have assimilated the American way as part of their lifestyle. Their loyalty to the United States is unquestionable, even in the darkest hours of enemy occupation during WWII.

Their desire to remain in the American family was well documented in the two previous plebiscites conducted.

*Edward R. Duenas is the chairman of the Statehood Task Force.*