Who Lives in DC

When our country’s founders chose a location in 1790 for the new capital city, there weren’t many people living here. That has changed, and today there are over 700,000 residents of Washington DC -- more than the states of Vermont and Wyoming. We’re a diverse group, too: 46% of us are African American, 46% White, 4% Asian, and 11% are of Hispanic origins. Just about every ethnic group you can imagine is represented in our cultural “melting pot.”

We’re proud to live in the Nation’s Capital, but the truth is that most of us lead everyday lives quite separate and apart from the monuments, the government agencies, the embassies, and the museums that constitute official Washington. We are everyday Americans.

We Work for a Living

- Most District residents (over 67%) work in the private sector, not in government.
- The vast majority work in various professional, scientific, or technical services. Residents are also doctors, nurses, police, plumbers, painters, carpenters, electricians, and other skilled workers. Our offices get cleaned, our trash picked up, and our children taken care of by many hard-working men and women.
- A sizeable minority work for trade, professional, and other associations. The good works of these nonprofit associations extend way beyond the Beltway.

We Educate Our Children and Ourselves

- 240 public schools, including 128 public charter schools and 106 private schools, teach our children.
- 7 major private universities and our own public university, the University of the District of Columbia, provide post-secondary education.
- 26 public libraries serve the District.

We Defend our Country

- Active Military: over 10,000 men and women serve in Active-Duty Military. DC has more active military serving in the US forces today than 27 states in the Union.
- The DC National Guard: more than 2,700 serve as Soldiers and Airmen in the DC National Guard.

We Worship

- We’re home to some of the oldest, largest, and most beautiful churches, including the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the Washington National Cathedral.
- Virtually every denomination and faith tradition is represented here in hundreds of places of worship throughout the city.
Fixing the Hole in Our Democracy: DC Statehood Toolkit

We Take Care of Our Communities

- Non-partisan “Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners” and civic associations volunteer their time to improve our neighborhoods.
- A long history of boys’ and girls’ clubs and associations continue today and serve youth across all four DC quadrants.
- Over 30 public community gardens and many neighborhood garden clubs work to feed our communities and beautify our residences and public spaces.

We Play

- Approximately 1000 acres of parkland are available for recreation and leisure, with over 50 swimming pools and 73 recreation centers for the good health and enjoyment of our residents.
- Plus, 12 dog parks provide for the good health and enjoyment of our furry friends!
- Major professional men’s and women’s sports teams plus a variety of Little League teams are available.
- Book clubs, hiking clubs, singing clubs, golfing clubs – we have clubs enough to serve just about any interest or hobby you can imagine.
- And, we celebrate the seasons with spring house and garden tours, summer outdoor music events, fall Oktober Fests, and winter Christmas caroling.

Many of Us Are Long-Time Residents

- Although DC’s population has grown along with DC’s reputation as an attractive city to live and work, nearly 40% of DC residents were born in the District.
- Many families date their connection to the District to the Civil War and earlier.
- The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of Washington, DC, founded in 1865, is DC’s oldest civic organization and is still very active.

Just like you, we raise our families, pay our taxes, serve on juries, fight for our country, and work together to create strong, caring communities. Just like you, we deserve the rights and representation enjoyed by Americans who live in the 50 states.

The DC Statehood Toolkit is designed for citizens across the country to learn more about the District of Columbia and why DC Statehood matters to the residents of our nation’s capital.

The Toolkit is a joint project of the League of Women Voters Education Fund and the League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia, thanks to a generous grant from the government of the District of Columbia.
How the District of Columbia is Governed Today

Since enactment of the DC Home Rule Act on December 24, 1973, the District has been governed much like any state in the US. There are three separate, co-equal branches of government: legislative, executive, and judiciary, each providing checks and balances. There are, however, a few important areas in which the District government cannot operate with the same autonomy that governments in the 50 states do. States generally have the power to make and enforce laws, to create their own agencies, and to manage their affairs free from interference from the federal government. They also have voting representation in both Houses of Congress. This is not the case for DC.

National Level Representation

DC residents elect a delegate with limited voting rights to the US House of Representatives, as well as two shadow Senators and one shadow Representative whose task is to petition Congress for statehood.

Lack of Autonomy: District residents have limited voting representation in the House of Representatives. And, whereas residents in all 50 states have two voting Senators, DC residents have no representation at all in the Senate.

DC Legislature

The Council of the District of Columbia serves as DC’s legislature. All Council members are elected on a partisan basis, with two seats reserved for members who are not from the majority party. Of the 13 Council members, four are elected at-large, as is the Chair, and eight are elected one each from the District’s eight wards. Members serve for 4-year terms. The Council passes legislation and has the power to create, abolish, or organize any District agency. The Council essentially serves year-round, breaking for a summer recess from mid-July to mid-September when Council members concentrate on constituent services. The body is unicameral, just as is the Nebraska Legislature. Incidentally, the Nebraska state legislature with 49 members is the smallest in the US; New Hampshire’s, with 425 members, is the largest.

District residents also elect Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (ANCs), who represent local neighborhood concerns. The system was designed to bring the government closer to the people and allow the people to get closer to the government. Today there are 40 ANCs and almost 300 Commissioners serving “Single Member Districts.”

Commissioners are elected to 2-year terms in nonpartisan elections and serve without pay. Each represents approximately 2,000 people in a Single Member District.

Lack of Autonomy: DC’s Home Rule Act mandates the composition of the Council in two ways. First, the number of legislators is restricted to 13 with no provision for growth based on population increases or complexity of governing. Second, no more than two of the four at-large positions can be nominated by the same party. Most importantly, all legislation enacted, including the annual budget, must be submitted to Congress. Congress has 30 legislative days (days Congress is in session) to review the legislation, 60 days in the case of certain laws related to criminal offenses.

DC Executive

The Chief Executive of the District is the mayor. The mayor has the responsibility to enforce all District laws; administer and coordinate District departments, including the appointment of a District Administrator and heads of the departments (subject to confirmation by the Council); to set forth policies and agendas; and to prepare and submit the DC budget to the Council.
The mayor either approves or vetoes bills passed by the DC Council; submits drafts of legislation to the Council; and can propose federal legislation or action directly to the president and/or Congress. Mayors can draft and enact executive orders relative to the departments and officials under their jurisdiction and reorganize any entities within the executive branch (except in the case of formal disapproval by the Council). The mayor is elected to a 4-year term in the same year as federal midterm elections take place. There are no term limits in the District. If the mayor is unable to serve, the Chair of the Council of the District of Columbia acts until a new mayor is elected.

The District’s agencies mirror those in most of the 50 states. Agencies include Planning and Economic Development; Education; Health and Human Services; Public Safety and Justice, which includes the Metropolitan Police Department and the Department of Human Resources; Policy and Legislative Affairs; and General Counsel. The District also elects its Attorney General. There are also several independent agencies, which include the DC Public Library, the University of DC, and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

**Lack of Autonomy:** Like a governor, the mayor signs bills before they become law. Unlike a governor, she must await until the Congressional review period passes without objections before a law takes effect.

**DC Judiciary**

The District has two courts: The Superior Court, which is the trial court for DC, and the DC Court of Appeals, which is the equivalent of state Supreme Courts. In addition, five other bodies form the Judiciary branch. The Joint Committee on Judicial Administration handles various administration and personnel issues, including audits, annual budget requests, and liaison with other court systems. The Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure is the judicial disciplinary agency that has the power to censure, reprimand, or remove judges from either the DC Court of Appeals or the Superior Court. The seven-member Judicial Nomination Commission recommends to the US President candidates for judgeships. Members of the Commission are appointed by the US President, DC Mayor, DC Council, Chief Judge of the US District Court, and the DC Bar. DC’s Sentencing Commission and Criminal Code Reform Commission develop recommendations for sentencing standards and criminal code revisions; they also maintain statistics, do training, and create sentencing guidelines.

**Lack of Autonomy:** The 50 states generally use one of five different methods for selecting their judges: 1) appointment by the governor; 2) appointment by the state legislature; 3) merit selection by a legislative committee based on past performance (some states also employ “retention elections” after judges have been in place); 4) partisan elections; 5) non-partisan elections. The common thread is that judges for any state are selected by some state action. Judges in the DC Court of Appeals and DC Superior Court are appointed by the President of the United States. DC is the only jurisdiction without the power to appoint its own judges.
Congressional Interference in District of Columbia Local Affairs

The quest for Statehood for the people of DC is not only about securing full representation in the US Congress, but also about securing rights to self-governance and local autonomy in the District of Columbia.

Under the District Clause of the U.S. Constitution (Article 1, Section 8), the U.S. Congress continues to exercise authority over DC local affairs. Congress reviews all DC legislation before it can become law. Congress can modify or even overturn such legislation. It can impose new and unwanted laws on the District. And it retains authority over the District’s local budget, most of which is funded only by taxes levied by the District on its residents.

Members of Congress routinely impose their own personal political agendas on the District of Columbia and its residents. Recent examples include:

- Expanded federally funded private and religious school voucher programs.
- Barred District spending to offset the costs of abortions for low-income residents.
- Challenged DC’s medical marijuana program and prohibited DC from taxing, regulating and commercializing marijuana sales.
- Challenged DC’s efforts to control gun violence.
- Blocked needle-exchange programs aimed at reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Threatened to repeal DC marriage equality laws.
- Challenged DC’s Death-with-Dignity laws.
- Threatened to prevent implementation of a successful citizen initiative to require minimum wages for tipped workers.
- Attempted to block DC from implementing Obamacare on behalf of residents seeking affordable health care.

Opinions may vary on these issues; but that is not relevant. What is relevant is the problem underlying all of them: Congress, without the consent of the governed, routinely acts to circumvent DC’s democratically enacted laws and budgets.

Every State in the Union enjoys the right to manage its local affairs consistent with the laws of the land.
How Does the World View Violations of Equal Political Participation for DC Citizens?

Between 2003 and 2006 the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Organization of American States, and the United Nations Human Rights Commission all expressed concern about the disenfranchisement of Washington DC residents. They based their concerns on the “United Nations inaugural human rights declaration and subsequent human rights conventions which recognize that everyone has the right to take part in the government of her country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.” (Human Rights Special Interest Group, humanrights.sig@gmail.com)

For example:

• Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, Article 21 (1)) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

• The United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, 1976), Article 25: Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions: (a) To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives; (b) To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors; (c) To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.

• ICCPR, Article 26 – All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall prohibit any discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. (Underline added for emphasis.)

• Since 1801, the United States government has systematically denied the residents of the District of Columbia the right to enjoy equal political participation in their own national legislature.

After due deliberation, all three bodies have expressed concern about the disenfranchisement of Washington DC residents. [Editor’s explanatory comments included in brackets]:

How Does the World View Violations of Equal Political Participation for DC Citizens? Fixing the Hole in Our Democracy. League of Women Voters Education Fund ©September 2021
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• The U.N. Human Rights Commission (UNHRC), in 2006, “…remains concerned that the residents of the District of Columbia do not enjoy full representation in Congress, a restriction which does not seem to be compatible with article 25 of the covenant” [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights—ICCPR].

• The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights [for the Organization of American States] (OAS), in 2003, “…concludes that the State [USA] is responsible for violations of the Petitioners’ rights [citizens of DC] under Articles II and XX of the American Declaration [American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man] by denying them an effective opportunity to participate in their federal legislature.” The Commission goes on to recommend that the USA provide “…the Petitioners with an effective remedy, which includes adopting the legislative or other measures necessary to guarantee to the Petitioners the effective right to participate, directly or through freely chosen representatives and in general conditions of equality, in their national legislature.”

• The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) “Parliamentary Assembly, composed of 320 members from 55 parliaments, in 2005, assembled in Washington, D.C. and passed a unanimous resolution calling on the U. S. Congress to grant equal congressional voting rights to Washingtonians, i.e., one member of the U.S. House of Representatives and two representatives in the U.S. Senate. These organizations, charged with monitoring human rights treaty violations around the world, continue to express concern over the plight of DC residents.

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Frequently Asked Questions about Statehood for the People of DC

Why do residents of Washington, DC want Statehood?

The people of Washington, DC deserve the same rights that the people in the 50 states enjoy. District residents are required to fulfill all the obligations of U.S. citizenship—paying taxes, voting, and serving on juries and in the military. Yet for over 200 years, we have been denied a voice in our national government and sovereignty over our local affairs. Admitting the residential and commercial parts of DC as a state will at last give us representation in Congress and control over our state and local government.

How will Statehood be achieved?

Statehood will be achieved by the House and Senate passing and the President signing legislation admitting the new state. Statehood legislation, which requires a simple majority vote and cannot be repealed, is the way that every state, except for the original 13, became part of the United States. The people of the District of Columbia have voted in support of statehood, have approved a state constitution, a representative form of government, and the proposed boundaries. The next step is Congressional passage of statehood legislation such as the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, which has passed the House and has moved to the Senate.

Wouldn’t it make more sense for DC to join neighboring Maryland or Virginia?

The District of Columbia has been separate from Maryland and Virginia for over 200 years. While DC, Maryland, and Virginia work cooperatively on many regional issues, neither Maryland nor Virginia residents are interested in annexing the District of Columbia. Likewise, DC residents prefer the full autonomy that only Statehood can provide. States must consent to any changes in their boundaries. Fourteen Members of Congress from Maryland and Virginia sponsored the Admission Act in the 117th Congress.

Isn’t DC already represented in the US Congress by Eleanor Holmes Norton?

Yes and no. DC’s Delegate in the US House of Representatives (currently Eleanor Holmes Norton) can sit on and vote in Committees, can introduce legislation, and can participate in legislative debates, but she cannot vote on bills being considered by the full House. DC has no representation in the US Senate.

Is it Constitutional for the federal district to be reduced in size, and the residential and commercial portions of DC to become a State?

Yes. Article I. Section 8 of the Constitution sets only a maximum size (“...not exceeding ten Miles square...”) for the federal “Seat of the Government of the United States”. Congress has the authority to redefine the borders of the federal district. (Congress did so, for instance, in 1846, when a portion of the original territory of the District of Columbia west of the Potomac River was retroceded to Virginia.)
If DC becomes the 51st State, what will happen to the federal seat of government, monuments and museums?

This area is unpopulated, will be clearly mapped, and will remain in place under federal jurisdiction. Only the residential and commercial areas of the District of Columbia will be part of the new 51st State. Of course, these areas include some federal properties that will continue to function just as all federal properties do in the 50 states.

Can DC afford to be a State?

Yes. Washington, DC now operates as if it were a State, and its vibrant urban economy has a bigger gross domestic product than many States. DC pays over $27 billion/year in federal taxes – more than many states. DC has balanced its budgets year–after–year for over 20 years and now enjoys a credit rating that is the envy of jurisdictions across the country. Local taxes, not federal dollars, constitute the vast majority of the District’s budget. “There is no longer any reason to worry that the District would not be a fiscally viable state,” according to Alice Rivlin, former head of the White House Office of Management and Budget, former Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve Board, and former head of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, which delivered the city to financial stability.

Isn’t DC too small to be a State?

No. The population of the District of Columbia is more than 700,000 — more than the States of Wyoming and Vermont and on par with six other states. In any case, there are no population or geographic size criteria for Statehood in the US Constitution.

Where do things now stand with DC’s quest to become the 51st State?

In 2020, the U.S. House of Representatives took the historic step of passing the Washington, D.C. Admission Act (H.R. 51) with 232 votes. H.R. 51 has passed the House again in 2021. S. 51 has been introduced in the 117th Congress, with record co–sponsorship. We look to build on this momentum, pass the legislation, and get it signed into law. To do that will require the support of Americans from DC and across the country, the support of a majority in the US Congress, and the support of the President, which he has given.
The Rights of DC Citizens are in Your Hands

The 700,000+ people who live in the District of Columbia effectively have no vote in either the House or the Senate. Senators and Members of Congress have the power to remedy this hole in our democracy. But many, many Americans are not aware of DC’s status nor how disenfranchised its residents are.

Time and again, when DC citizens have visited Congressional offices, we have been told that the issue of our unfair situation does not seem to come up from their constituents, so there is no reason for them to act on the problem. Yet, when people around the country do understand how our rights are restricted and interfered with by Congress, they say things like, “How un-American!”

Community groups like the League of Women Voters all around the country can continue the struggle for fairness and equality. They can support full and equal enfranchisement by helping to educate their communities about DC’s situation and how this problem can be solved through statehood for the commercial and residential parts of DC.

Here are some things you can do:

• Host a public education event in your community in the coming year. There are plenty of resources on the League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia website (www.lwvdc.org). Members of LWVDC stand ready to answer any questions, and to provide speakers and fact sheets, etc., to help you with this important educational endeavor. We can Zoom in for your event.

• Display the map that shows how the federal district will be preserved as our nation’s capital, with the iconic monumental core under federal government control. The commercial and residential parts, where some 700,000+ people live, work, play in their communities, will become the new state.

• Post our images to social media to draw attention to the problem and help people understand what it is like to live in a community that is subject to the will of Congress without full voting representation in that body. You can get occasional social media posts by sending an email to the address below.

• Appoint someone from your group or school to get occasional updates on this issue. This struggle has been going on since the establishment of the District in 1801 and needs continuing attention.

• Stay in Touch. Email statehood@lwvdc.org or go to www.lwvdc.org to stay updated.
The Changing Face of DC Governance Over Time

Washington, DC was established on July 16, 1790, after President George Washington chose it to be the capital of the new United States of America. The states of Maryland and Virginia each ceded land to create a “ten miles square” federal city. Washington chose Pierre L’Enfant to design the federal city with the Capitol to be the center of a grid. For the next 10 years, as Congress prepared to move to its permanent home, DC residents, depending on what part of the city they resided in still voted in either Maryland or Virginia elections.

Loss of Franchise: The Organic Act of 1801

In 1801, when Washington was officially declared the capital of the United States, Congress moved in, and citizens living in the District of Columbia were no longer allowed to vote for Congressional representatives by order of the Organic Act of 1801.

The First Steps

In 1801, the federal district encompassed five units: Washington City, Georgetown, Washington County in Maryland, and Alexandria and the County of Alexandria in Virginia. Congress passed emergency legislation that divided the District into Washington County where Maryland laws would apply and Alexandria County where Virginia laws would apply.

Citizens in Washington City who favored self-government organized protests and meetings and in 1802 petitioned Congress for a municipal charter. The Charter granted by Congress made Washington an incorporated city and gave voters the right to elect a six-member local legislature (then called a Council) that could pass laws and levy a tax on real estate to pay for city services.

The President appointed the mayor until 1812, when a new law gave the Council the power to elect the mayor from the Council, which then was comprised of 12 elected members and a group of aldermen. Policy makers realized early that there was an inherent inequity in the treatment of Washington residents. Veterans of the War for Independence who had fought for democracy and against “taxation without representation” now were taxed but had no representation because they lived in DC. In 1803 a bill to retrocede parts of the District not being used by the federal government to Maryland and Virginia came before Congress but did not pass. Only about 3,000 people lived in Washington, far fewer than the minimum generally preferred by Congress to become a state at that time.

Expanded Franchise

The local governments of Alexandria and Georgetown had originally been left intact. A new charter from Congress in 1820 allowed the white male residents of Washington City to elect their own mayor, board of aldermen, and board of common council. In addition, it stipulated that the federal government would participate in funding much-needed improvements in the infrastructure of the city.

Another Step Toward Democracy

During the Civil War, the population in the federal district increased substantially, and infrastructure issues intensified. The Organic Act of 1871 reorganized Washington City, Georgetown, and the unincorporated Washington County in Maryland into the District of Columbia (Alexandria City and the County of Alexandria had been retroceded to Virginia in 1846). The Act also established a new government. Organized like a territorial government, the District had a governor and a bicameral legislature with an appointed 11-member upper house and an elected 22-member lower house. The District was allotted one non-voting representative to Congress. In addition, an appointed Board of Public Works
was charged with controlling development of the District’s infrastructure. In 1873, President Ulysses S. Grant appointed Alexander Robey Shepherd to the new post of governor. Shepherd authorized large-scale projects to modernize Washington, overspent the budget by three times and bankrupted the District. Those actions combined with racist concerns about the growing political power of black men being elected to the lower house led Congress to act.

**Then 100 Years of Appointed Governance**

In 1874, Congress abolished the legislature and office of Delegate to Congress; instead, they provided a board of three commissioners appointed by the President. The Organic Act of 1878 made the Board permanent with two civilians and one army officer from the Corps of Engineers. Congress served as the city council and legislature. This structure lasted nearly 100 years, during which District residents had little to no say in their governance.

In 1967, President Lyndon Johnson presented a new governance plan to Congress. A nine-member city council, a single mayor–commissioner, and an assistant to the mayor–commissioner would all be appointed by the President. While the Council was officially nonpartisan, no more than six Councilmembers could be of the same political party.

**District Residents Vote for President for the First Time**

In 1959, Congress took up legislation that would become the 23rd Amendment to the US Constitution. The next year, the House Judiciary Committee proposed a resolution solely devoted to the District’s rights in presidential elections. It passed the House on June 14, 1960, and the Senate two days later. All candidates in the 1960 presidential election endorsed the amendment, and New Hampshire became the 39th state to ratify the amendment on March 30, 1961. District residents voted in a presidential election for the first time in 1964.

**Another Step with Home Rule Efforts**

Between 1948 and 1966 the Senate passed some form of a Home Rule Act six different times. None ever passed the House of Representatives. In 1968 the District was allowed to vote for an elected school board. Finally, in 1973, Congress passed the Home Rule Bill, and DC voters approved it in a referendum in 1974. Citizens elected the Mayor and Council in 1974. Voters also approved the election of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, each to represent 2,000 residents, to advise the Council on neighborhood concerns.

**Governance Under the Home Rule Act**

The powers and duties of the Council are comparable to those held by state, county, and city legislatures, including the authority to adopt laws and to approve the District’s annual budget submitted by the Mayor. The Council is a co–equal branch of government, part of a system of checks and balances like any other state government. Congress maintains the authority to:

- Review all legislation passed by the Council before it can become law.
- Retain authority over the District’s budget.
- Disband the District government at any point.

The President of the United States holds the authority to appoint the District’s judges.

The residents of the District of Columbia have no voting representation in the U.S. Senate and limited voting representation in the U.S. House.
Renewed Efforts to Petition for Statehood

In 2016, the Mayor of the District of Columbia launched a new effort to apply for statehood after a break of some 20 years. The New Columbia Statehood Commission (named after the original statehood constitutional convention in the early ‘80s) was given the task of developing the elements of a “Tennessee Plan” (so called because Tennessee successfully used this plan when applying for statehood) for the District. The Commission developed a draft constitution, established proposed boundaries for the new state, and wrote a referendum to appear on the November 2016 ballot. The final version established a new name, Washington, Douglass Commonwealth for the new state. When the DC Council reviewed the work of the Commission in preparation for the final vote authorizing the constitution and proposed boundaries, they concluded their report with the following:

Statehood is the only practical way that District citizens can participate in a fully democratic government as part of the United States. It is the only way to ensure that our local government will never be subject to a shutdown because of Congress’ quibbling over purely federal matters. It is the only way to give District residents local elected representatives to enact purely local laws that will not be subject to national debates over divisive social issues. It is the only way to create a justice system that is representative of, and sensitive to, our community values. Statehood is the only way to give residents a full, guaranteed, and irrevocable voice in the Congress of the United States—the same voice enjoyed by all other citizens across the country. Statehood is the most practical solution to right the historical wrong of denying voting rights to citizens of the District and to guarantee the right to local self-governance.

On November 7, 2016, DC citizens voted overwhelmingly to support the referendum for DC statehood. Since then, the Washington DC (for Douglass Commonwealth) Admission Act has passed the House twice and in September 2021, the Senate version (S. 51) has 46 co-sponsors.

Only statehood will bring full rights for the people of the District of Columbia.

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