



Pass It On: **Support Statehood for Washington, DC**

DC Disenfranchisement is a Centuries-Old Civil and Voting Rights Violation

- ★ Residents of Washington, DC lost Congressional voting representation in 1801.
- ★ Washington, DC residents achieved the right to vote for President in 1964.
- ★ 672,000 residents in Washington, DC have no voting representation in either Chamber of Congress and no voice at all in the Senate.
- ★ Congressional disenfranchisement precludes District residents from taking part in important national discussions, including who serves on the Supreme Court, whether to go to war, sensible gun legislation, or how our tax dollars are spent.
- ★ The laws and local budget passed by the DC Council face Congressional review, delaying and impeding timely and effective governance.
- ★ Congress regularly imposes social policy changes to DC laws, even though DC residents do not have the right to vote for or against these members of Congress.

Washington, DC is Ready and Deserves Statehood

- ★ The United States is the only democratic government in the world that denies representation to the residents of the capital.
- ★ Residents pay more federal income tax per person than any state and more total federal income tax than 22 states.
- ★ DC residents serve on federal juries and serve in the military, as all Americans do.
- ★ Washington, DC operates as a city, county, and state, unlike any other jurisdiction.
- ★ The DC Council has passed 21 consecutive balanced budgets, funded by local taxes and fees. DC has high bond ratings and significant cash reserves.

The Path to Statehood

In April 2016, Mayor Bowser presented A Bold Path to Statehood during DC's Emancipation Day breakfast.

Following the Tennessee Plan, the steps toward statehood include:

- 1. DC Constitution** – The New Columbia Statehood Commission drafted a constitution to replace the Home Rule Charter, enacted by Congress in 1973. The constitution creates a state government for the State of New Columbia.
- 2. Constitutional Convention** – During a three-day Constitutional Convention, the New Columbia Statehood Commission elicited public feedback on the constitution.
- 3. Defining a Federal District** – Consistent with the US Constitution, boundary lines have been designated outlining the new Federal District and the 51st state.
- 4. Advisory Referendum** – An advisory referendum will be on the November 8th ballot to allow DC residents to vote their support for statehood, approve the constitution, agree to the boundaries, and commit to a representative form of government.
- 5. Petition for Statehood** – After approval by the voters, the District will petition the new President and Congress for admission to the Union. The November vote and constitution serve as the basis for the petition, demonstrating to the President, Congress, and people of the United States that Washington, DC is prepared for and merits admission to the Union with the same rights enjoyed by all Americans.

Get Involved!

The New Columbia Statehood Commission needs support from all Americans to gain Congressional approval. Visit **Statehood.dc.gov** to learn more about the DC Statehood effort.

DC Residents: pass this page on to engage and educate your family and friends.

All Americans: pass this page on and call or write your Senators and Representative
and tell them to support equality and voting rights for the people of Washington, DC.