

Making Democracy Work for All – DC Statehood

Most of us believe that for democracy to work for all of us, it must include us all. But today, Americans living in Washington, DC are barred from having an equal voice and voting representation in Congress simply because of where they live.

The time is now to use your voice!



Historical Events to Know

1801 -- DC Citizens Disenfranchised

1847 -- Congress shrinks size of DC

1871 – Territorial government

1874 -- 3 Commissioners for ~ 100 years

1964 – 1st vote for President

1973 – Limited Home Rule



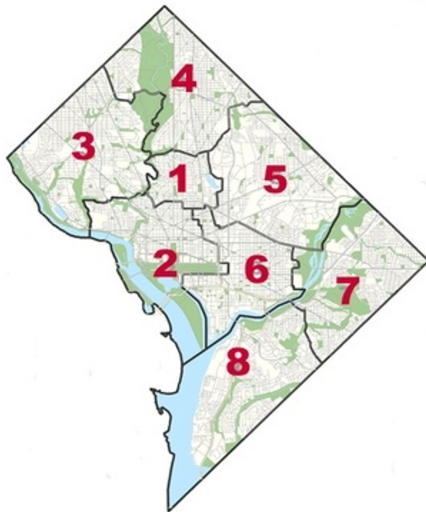
How did we get here?

- Since 1801, DC has been ruled by Congress and still is.
- Admission Acts were introduced in every Congress after 2011.
- DC residents voted overwhelmingly November 8, 2016, to petition for statehood with a new constitution and boundaries.
- In 2020 H.R. 51 passed the House.
- **Now, in 2021 H.R. 51 passed! S. 51 is introduced.**



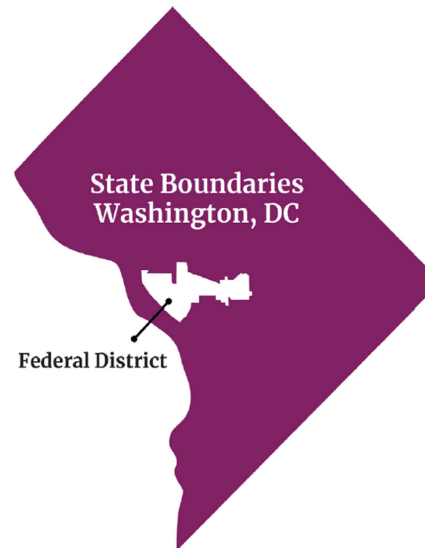
Under DC Home Rule we look like a state county or municipality – we need the rights and representation of a state

DC Map showing 8 wards



- Elected Mayor
- 13 DC Council members
- Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners
- Judges appointed by the President
- DC is subject to all laws, policies, procedures, appointments in the House and Senate but...

Proposed DC Statehood map



Currently:

- No vote on Supreme Court justices
- No vote on treaties and war
- No vote on how taxes are spent but pay more federal taxes than 22 states.



Article 4, Section 3 (New States)

- Congress admits new states into the Union.
- Congress has always granted new states rights equal to those of existing ones.
- State boundaries cannot be changed without the consent of the state.
- All but the original 13 of now 50 states were admitted to the Union by a majority vote of Congress & signature of the sitting President.



What we need now

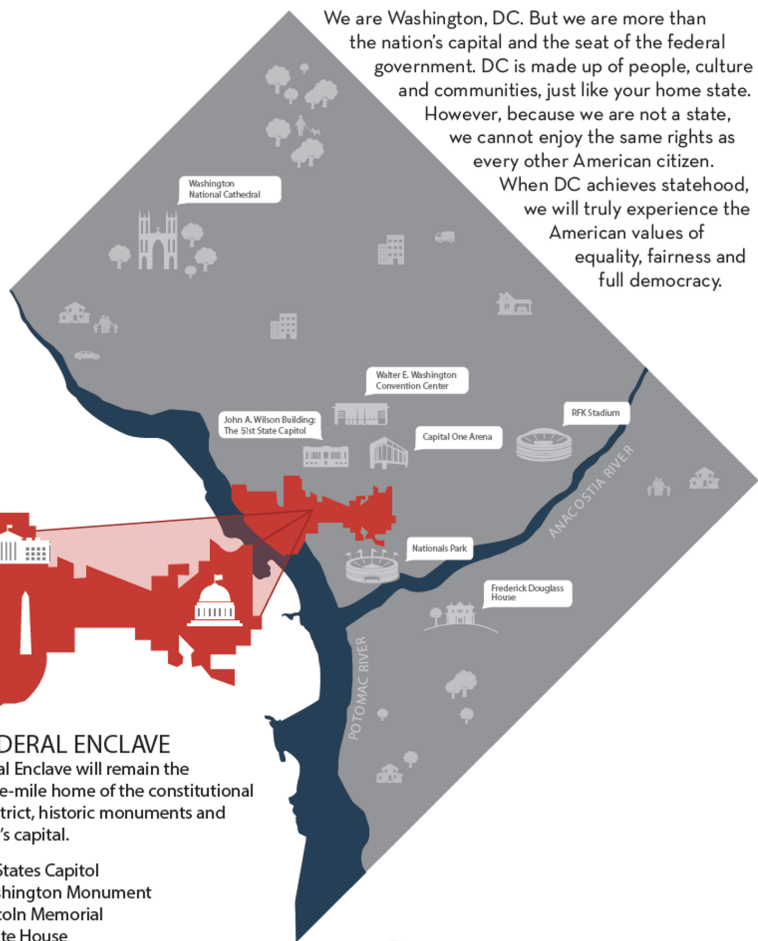
- DC residents are not constituents, so we need informed constituents who can vote to use their voices.
- Diversity should be celebrated and needs of our residents accounted for. This is not the reality.
- To move forward together, we must ensure that Americans have equal representation under the law so we are able to elect leaders who govern in our interests and make the promise of our democracy real for us all.



YOUR STORY IS OUR STORY

★ ★ ★ Washington, DC - the 51st State

We are Washington, DC. But we are more than the nation's capital and the seat of the federal government. DC is made up of people, culture and communities, just like your home state. However, because we are not a state, we cannot enjoy the same rights as every other American citizen. When DC achieves statehood, we will truly experience the American values of equality, fairness and full democracy.



THE FEDERAL ENCLAVE
The Federal Enclave will remain the two-square-mile home of the constitutional federal district, historic monuments and the nation's capital.

- United States Capitol
- The Washington Monument
- The Lincoln Memorial
- The White House



WE ARE GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

#Picture51

Tag us on Twitter or Instagram @LWVDC and show us what DC statehood means to you!



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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