

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Washington, DC
Permit No. 2141

2000 P Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036



Student Outreach

Throughout 2010, DC Vote educated students at the elementary, middle, high school and college level about DC's disenfranchisement. We reached over 700 students by giving presentations to nearly 30 different groups ranging from local public schools to international exchange programs. Regardless of age or background, students were struck by the injustice of the situation and asked questions about how and why DC continues to be denied democracy. Interested in incorporating DC democracy in your classroom? Contact Jennifer Matson, Public Affairs Manager, at jmatson@dcvote.org or at 202.462.6000 x18.

Save the Date: April 18

Please mark your calendars for a protest on Monday, April 18: Tax Day. We will seize the opportunity this day presents to raise awareness of the injustice of taxation without representation in Washington, DC. Stay tuned to your email and our website for more information.

Looking for Interns!

DC Vote is seeking bright, energetic and hard working undergraduate or graduate student interns to support the DC Vote team in 2011. Candidates with an interest in politics, the District and DC voting rights should send a resume and cover letter to resume@dcvote.org. This unpaid internship provides excellent experience, connections and fun!

Use the enclosed envelope or visit our website today at www.dcvote.org to make a contribution to DC Vote.

DC Vote is a 501 (c)(3) educational and advocacy organization whose mission is to secure full voting representation in Congress and full democracy for the residents of the District of Columbia.

The Voice—DC Vote's Newsletter

Editor: Leah Ramsay

Contributors: Abby Levine

Photos: Antonette Russell, Ryan Bright and Jennifer Matson

Copyright © 2011 DC Vote

DC Vote Voice

WINTER 2011
www.dcvote.org

Congress Revokes Delegate Vote

On January 5, 2011 the 112th Congress convened and cast its first vote to deny DC residents the small piece of democracy they had been afforded in the House of Representatives—a vote in the Committee of the Whole. This shameful step backward on the path to full democracy adds insult to injury and bodes ill for the future of Home Rule in DC.

Thankfully, DC Vote members did not go ‘quietly into that night,’ as Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) put it at DC Vote’s rally on the Hill. She was joined by Mayor Vincent C. Gray, who also made a strong case for DC residents standing up to fight for their rights. After the rally, our volunteers fanned out to deliver a petition letter to every member of the House, protesting the loss of DC’s voice in the Committee of the Whole. Many Congressional staff invited us in to hear our concerns, including the staff of House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH). The event garnered nationwide media attention and outrage at the hypocrisy of the Republican leadership.

Moving forward, DC Vote will be watching closely for attacks on Home Rule through the budget approval process, overseen by Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), and the subcommittee overseeing the District, headed by Tea Party freshman Trey Gowdy (R-SC). We will look for friends where we can find them, and expose those who would claim loyalty to our country while trampling the rights of some of its most vulnerable citizens here in the capital.

From the Executive Director

In 2011, DC Vote will demand full democracy for DC in an aggressive and persistent campaign. We are calling on the DC Government to engage in direct and confrontational challenges to force Congress to take action, beginning with changing the street sign on Pennsylvania Ave. to highlight DC’s disenfranchisement. The goal of this Demand Democracy Campaign is to dramatically increase pressure on Congress to end DC’s second-class citizenship. Your support will enable this campaign to be strong and effective. **Please consider donating to DC Vote** by filling out the enclosed envelope.

Sincerely,

Ilir Zherka, Executive Director



Activists Daniel Solomon (L) and Tighe Barry outside Rep. Boehner's office, waiting to get a meeting



DC Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, Ilir Zherka and Mayor Vince Gray at DC Vote's January 4 protest



Two young activists show their support



A team pauses between lobby visits to Congressional offices



Supporters at DC Vote rally in the Rayburn House Office Building foyer



"Abe Lincoln" supports DC voting rights at the Reclaim the Dream rally



Some members of the DC Vote team Demand Democracy on the Mall



Bruce Spiva and his son march to Reclaim The Dream of equality for all citizens



The crowd demands democracy at the Reclaim the Dream Rally

DC Demands Democracy

DC Vote mobilized DC residents to rally under the Demand Democracy banner at several events on the Mall this autumn.

DC Vote supported the One Nation Working Together March with labor, faith, human and civil rights leaders to ensure equal access to the American dream. We successfully pushed to include a message about DC democracy in the One Nation Statement of Principles and DC Vote Board Chair Liz Allen spoke on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

DC Vote also ensured DC democracy messages were included in the Reclaim The Dream civil rights rally and march. Executive Director Ilir Zherka delivered a speech to hundreds of participants with Demand Democracy signs and t-shirts. That same day we also recruited support from Tea Party rally attendees on the Mall. We handed out tea bags to Tea Party protesters, who for the most part were interested in our cause of ending taxation without representation!

At the Rally to Restore Sanity And/Or Fear, DC Vote distributed hundreds of signs and mobilized supporters to spread our message at one of the largest rallies in DC this year. Afterward, we hosted a party at The Passenger bar with Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, featuring a specialty drink called "Norton's Revenge."

Educating through Local Elections

DC Vote used the 2010 local election as an opportunity to elevate and amplify the issue of DC democracy. We put the question to candidates at dozens of community forums: *"What specific acts of protests by the DC government will you lead to demand congressional action to end our second-class citizenship?"*

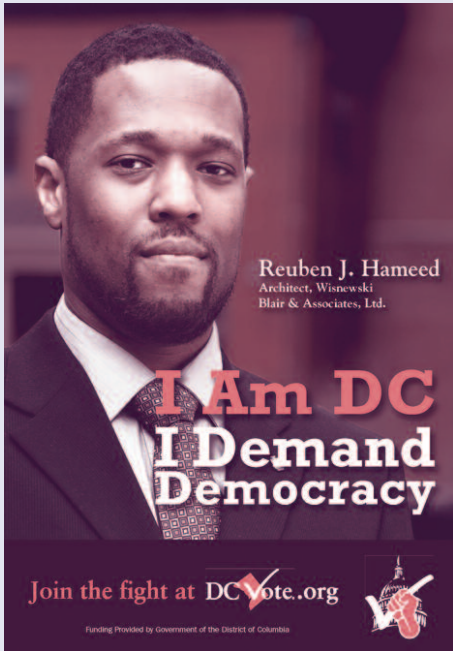
Among the many positive responses from candidates were strong statements from Vincent Gray, now Mayor of DC, and Kwame Brown, the new Chair of the DC Council. We will hold these leaders accountable for their campaign promises and expect that the engaged DC residents who packed every forum and townhall will do the same. Mayor Gray has said he is ready to take aggressive action and wants DC residents to stand with him.



Eugene Kinlow (L) presents awards to Jim Bubar and Janice Davis at our first annual volunteer recognition event



(L-R) DC Councilmember Jack Evans, Ilir Zherka and NAACP Chairman Benjamin T. Jealous at the One Nation press conference



I Am DC — I Demand Democracy

Last summer we continued the *I Am DC — I Demand Democracy* ad campaign, highlighting the real people who call DC home. Individuals like Barbara Lang, CEO of the DC Chamber of Commerce, a local nurse and Afghanistan war veteran participated. Through placement at Metro bus shelters and in the *Washington City Paper* endorsement issue, over 8 million area residents were exposed to this exciting campaign.



Ilir Zherka speaks on a panel at Howard University



Volunteers (L-R) Joy Ash, Matt Lien, Kirsten Teumer and Ed Davis at the H Street Community Festival



Hundreds of new supporters were recruited at summer festivals



Ambassador Elizabeth Frawley Bagley (L) accepts her husband's award from Rep. Donna Edwards

Raising Awareness at Community Festivals

As is our annual tradition, DC Vote reached thousands of supporters and broadened our network through our outreach at summer festivals including Capital Pride, Palisades Parade, Adams Morgan Day, Barracks Row Festival, Fiesta DC, the National Black L.U.V. Festival, H Street Festival and Feria de la Familia. We collected 2,263 signatures on our Demand Democracy petition, engaged dozens of volunteers and recruited new supporters to the cause. We were particularly successful with recruiting local college students and reaching out to DC's Latino community with printed material in Spanish.

Champions of Democracy 2010

Veterans of our annual Champions of Democracy dinner proclaimed that “this was the best program ever,” that they were “inspired” and “ready to fight.”

At a moment when the economy and the political challenges we face could have resulted in a small crowd or a defeatist attitude, we had the opposite. The ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel was filled to capacity to honor our 2010 Champions: **Smith Bagley** (posthumously), President of the Arca Foundation, **Kathy Schmidt**, DC Vote grassroots leader and **Andy Shallal**, owner of Busboys & Poets. Kathy and Andy gave impassioned speeches that rallied the audience, and *Hardball* anchorman **Chris Matthews** gave a moving tribute to his friend Smith.

Attendees included Congresswomen **Donna Edwards (D-MD)** and **Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)**, DC Councilmembers Kwame Brown, David Catania and Mary Cheh, DC Chief Financial Officer Natwar Gandhi, University of the District of Columbia president Dr. Allen Sessoms, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights President Wade Henderson and more. Sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the event a success!