



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF THE UNITED STATES

March 2, 2009

Mary G. Wilson
Albuquerque, New Mexico

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

Vice Presidents
Elisabeth MacNamara
Atlanta, Georgia

FROM: Mary G. Wilson, President

Judy Duffy
Birchwood, Minnesota

RE: HR 157, District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act

Secretary-Treasurer
Elaine M. Wiant
Dallas, Texas

The League of Women Voters strongly urges you to support HR 157, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009, and to oppose all amendments.

Directors
Judith S. Davis
Memphis, Tennessee

American citizens living in our nation's capital are treated uniquely – required to pay federal taxes but provided no voting representation in Congress. We strongly urge you to correct this injustice by voting for HR 157.

Nancy J. Eitreich
Seattle, Washington

We understand that a number of extraneous amendments may be considered. The League of Women Voters believes that voting rights legislation is not the appropriate vehicle for broad ranging debates on unrelated issues, especially when other avenues are available for consideration of those issues. We are deeply concerned that opponents may be using other issues as a subterfuge to try to sidetrack this civil rights bill instead of opposing it outright. The League of Women Voters asks you not to join in any such effort.

Stephanie Y. Johnson
Little Rock, Arkansas

The legislation provides voting representation in the House of Representatives for D.C. citizens by expanding the size of the House to 437 members, with the state of Utah gaining the other additional seat until reapportionment after 2010. This assures voting rights for District citizens without upsetting the partisan balance of the House. It also addresses the concern that Utah was not treated fairly in the 2000 reapportionment process. The legislation applies only to the House of Representatives and does not affect the composition of the Senate.

Mary T. Klenz
Charlotte, North Carolina

Over the last 220 years, the principle that all citizens are entitled to a vote in their national government has emerged as a cornerstone of American democracy. Although relatively few Americans were entitled to vote in the early days of the Republic, virtually all restrictions on the franchise have since been eliminated, including those based on race, sex, wealth, and property ownership. Americans living in the nation's capital deserve to have voting representation in the Congress that makes their laws, taxes them and can call them to war.

Janis McMillen
Overland Park, Kansas

Marcia A. Merrins
Fredonia, New York

Carolie Mullan
Lubbock, Texas

Carol Reimers
New York, New York

Norman Turrill
Portland, Oregon

Dianne Wheatley-Gilotti
Palm Harbor, Florida

Americans have espoused and fought for democracy across the globe. We ask that you join that fight by supporting the D.C. House Voting Rights Act of 2009 and opposing all amendments.

Executive Director
Nancy E. Tate