



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**BRUCE SPIVA**—Chair  
Partner, Spiva & Hartnett LLP

**ELIZABETH A. ALLEN**—Vice Chair  
Assistant General Counsel,  
Gannett Co., Inc.

**STEFAN C. NICHOLAS, ESQ.**—Treasurer  
Income Director,  
Jackson and Campbell, P.C.

**MARQUE CHAMBLISS**—Secretary  
Consultant

**ED DAVIS**  
Vice President of Policy and  
Research, Common Cause

**CURTIS L. ETHERLY JR.**  
Vice President of Public Affairs,  
Coca-Cola Enterprises

**JOHN KLENERT**  
Political & Media Consultant

**LORELIE S. MASTERS**  
Partner, Jenner & Block LLP

**SAMUEL MCCOY**  
Consultant

**MARC MORIAL**  
President and CEO,  
National Urban League

**VINCENT ORANGE SR.**  
Region Vice President,  
District of Columbia, Pepco

**JOSEPH M. PERTA**  
Principal, Bernstein Global  
Wealth Management

**ANDY SHALLAL**  
Owner, Busboys and Poets

**DONALD SHERMAN**  
Associate, Crowell & Moring, LLP

**MARK SCHAEFER**  
United Methodist Chaplain,  
American University

**DANIEL SOLOMON**  
Director, The Naomi and Nehemiah  
Cohen Foundation

**JOSEPH STERNLIEB**  
Vice President for Acquisitions,  
EastBanc

**ILIR ZHERKA**—Executive Director

Organizations listed for  
identification purposes only

Dear President Obama:

For more than half a million Americans living in Washington, DC, the road to democracy has been a centuries-long struggle. With your critical support, 2009 can be the year when DC residents are finally given a seat at the table of American democracy.

**We are writing to urge you to continue to be a leader in the fight for DC voting rights.** Unlike the dire and complex issues facing our economy, there is an easy solution to DC residents' denial of democracy. The DC Voting Rights Act, which you co-sponsored last year, has been introduced in the 111th Congress. *The single most important step you can take is to sign this legislation into law as soon as it reaches your desk.*

In the coming year, Congress will be making key decisions on issues affecting every aspect of American life - from the economy to the global war on terror. DC residents demand and deserve a vote on these critical issues. As the DC Voting Rights Act moves through Congress, you can help highlight this issue in two important ways.

- **Change the license plates on the presidential motorcade.** President Bill Clinton added the DC license plates, which bear the revolutionary slogan "Taxation Without Representation," to the presidential limousine and motorcade before he left office. President George W. Bush promptly removed the plates, signaling his opposition to democracy for DC. We ask that you demonstrate your support by restoring the "Taxation Without Representation" DC license plates to your motorcade before you travel down the Pennsylvania Avenue parade-route after your inauguration. This simple act will signal to millions of Americans across the nation that you are committed to democracy for ALL Americans. Already, the issue has garnered hundreds of media stories and has mobilized the people of the District in calling for a change of plates on the motorcade.
- **Mention DC voting rights in your inaugural address.** As you take the stage, just one day after the anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, you will have the opportunity to highlight the modern civil rights struggle by calling on Congress to extend voting rights and full democracy to Americans living in the nation's capital. Your message will reach tens of millions across the nation and around world.

Nearly 600,000 Americans living in your new hometown - Washington, DC - are looking forward to celebrating victory in 2009. Passing the DC Voting Rights Act is a monumental step towards full democracy for DC residents who have waited too long to have their voice heard in Congress.

Sincerely,

**DC Vote**

**P.S.** For more information regarding the history and impact of DC's license plates, visit: <http://www.dcvote.org/media/media.cfm?medialD=1202>.

[www.dcvote.org](http://www.dcvote.org)  
[info@dcvote.org](mailto:info@dcvote.org)

2000 P Street, NW . Suite 200 . Washington, DC 20036 . 202.462.6000 . fax 202.462.7001