



## DC & the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress 2011 Timeline

**January 4** – The 112<sup>th</sup> Congress is sworn-in, and their first order of business is revoking the DC Delegate's vote in the Committee of the Whole.

**Third bill introduced** – H.R.3 – would put a permanent **ban on locally funded reproductive healthcare** in DC and consider those local funds to be federal funds.

**January 30** - Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) threatens to **repeal DC's marriage equality law**.

**February 8** – DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes **Norton is blocked from testifying** at a hearing on DC's reproductive health laws. DC Vote activists stage a protest and are removed from the hearing.

**February 10** – The House passes a spending bill with riders that **prevent DC from using local funds** for abortions and syringe-access AIDS prevention programs.

**February 17**- DC Vote organizes a **protest** outside House Speaker John Boehner's DC residence.

**February 24** – the DC Council holds a survey among residents on adding a street sign to Pennsylvania Ave that would communicate their disenfranchisement, i.e. "Let DC Vote."

**March 2** – DC Vote organizes a **file-in** at Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's office to ask for support in the debate over riders in the federal budget.

**March 17** – The House Oversight Committee announces an investigation of the DC Mayor.

**March 29** - DC Vote organizes a Senate Advocacy Day, taking dozens of meetings with Senate staffers, asking for vocal opposition to DC riders in the federal budget bill.

**April 8** – **President Obama and Senator Harry Reid trade DC's Home Rule authority to Speaker John Boehner to reach a deal on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 federal budget**, allowing Congress to ban DC from covering reproductive healthcare through the local Medicaid program.

**April 11** – DC Mayor Vince Gray and members of the DC Council, along with dozens of citizens, are arrested protesting the budget deal. **41 total are arrested.**

**April 15** – Young people organize a protest on DC Emancipation Day outside Senator Reid's office; **3 people are arrested.**

**April 19** – Members of Congress sign [a letter](#) to DC Mayor Vince Gray, reading "*We trust you will act immediately to respect and faithfully implement the law by ensuring that no further taxpayer funds are expended for elective abortion.*" **Seven of the signers represent states where local tax dollars are used to cover abortion costs for low-income women.**



**April 29** – The **Obama Administration announces it will oppose H.R. 3**, in part because it “restricts the District of Columbia's use of local funds, which undermines home rule.”

**May 3** – The women of the Congressional Black Caucus issue a letter to the women of the Senate, calling on them to support the women and American citizens of DC.

**May 4** – The House passes H.R. 3, which would **permanently ban the District from using local funds to cover abortions for low-income women through Medicaid and federalizes DC's local government** and funds for the purposes of the legislation, a new tactic. DC women lead a protest across from the Capitol, where **8 are arrested including DC Councilmember Mary Cheh**.

**May 11** – DC Vote organizes a protest across from the Capitol focusing on local budget control, **8 are arrested**.

**May 12**– The House Oversight Subcommittee holds an unorthodox hearing on DC's local budget. Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), presents the idea of allowing DC to set its own fiscal year and have its local budget approved separately from the federal appropriations process, Delegate Norton says she will work with him on the effort.

**June 8** – **DC Vote, Delegate Norton and DC Mayor Vince Gray are joined by national advocacy leaders** from a wide range of social-issue organizations at a press conference to release [a letter](#) sent to members of the House Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government. The letter urges them to oppose riders on the 2012 federal budget that would restrict the use of local District funds. Nearly 100 organizations signed onto the letter, and the following spoke at the press conference: AIDS United, Human Rights Campaign, The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, and NARAL Pro-Choice America.

**June 16** – the House Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government **passed the DC 2012 budget with an amendment that would prevent DC from using local funds for Medicaid coverage of abortion for another year**.

**June 23** – Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) introduces an amendment to the FY 2012 Appropriations bill that would remove the DC abortion provision, but it is defeated by a party-line vote. The House Appropriations Committee passes the FY 2012 Financial Services Appropriations bill, **preventing DC from using local funds to provide poor women equal-access to abortion services**. **Rep. Jeff Flake (R-AZ)**, a member of the Committee, votes to include the provision despite the fact that **Arizona is one of 17 states that provides locally-funded abortion coverage for poor women**.

**June 25** – Nearly 700 activists gather at the **White House Rally for DC Democracy** in Lafayette Square Park, calling on President Obama to stand up for DC. **12 people are arrested for demonstrating in front of the White House**.

**July 7** – DC Vote leads an advocacy day on Capitol Hill, meeting with the staff of over twenty members of Congress, urging them to oppose additional riders on the DC budget when it comes to the House floor.