



**2005**  
**Annual Report**

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# DC Vote 2005 Annual Report

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## **Executive Summary**

Founded in 1998, DC Vote is an educational and advocacy organization dedicated to securing full voting representation in Congress for the residents of the District of Columbia.

DC Vote advances its mission by serving as the leader and “manager” of the DC voting rights movement. We provide information and leadership for a diverse range of individuals and organizations including local residents, national activists, high-profile Americans, congressional “champions,” and the media, who educate the public on DC’s status and advocate for full congressional voting representation. Our goal is to raise enough awareness of this issue so that the Congress passes a measure extending full voting representation to residents of Washington, DC.

DC Vote has educated members of Congress, notably Representative Tom Davis (R-VA). Rep. Davis chairs the House Committee on Government Reform, which has jurisdiction over many DC issues. With input and support from DC Vote, he re-introduced the DC Fairness in Representation Act (DC FAIR Act, H.R. 2043) in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. The bill would give DC residents a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives. Together with our coalition partners, we are now conducting public education and advocacy efforts so that members of Congress have all the information they need when deciding to take action to end DC’s denial of democracy.

DC Vote produced and hosts on its Web site the most comprehensive source of information on the DC FAIR Act. The DC FAIR Act Web pages include comments from opinion-leaders, media coverage, fact sheets, the language of the legislation, a summary of the bill, photos from the media event held on the day of the bill’s introduction on the Hill, and more. To educate conservative leaders about this topic, we drafted an opinion piece for former U.S. Vice Presidential candidate Jack Kemp, which he agreed to author. It was published in the *Washington Times* and widely distributed online.

In addition to educating members of Congress, DC Vote has been very successful in three main program areas:

### **Transitioning to a Targeted Campaign and Engagement of Supporters**

In 2005, DC Vote transitioned to a national campaign and generated hundreds of local, national and international media reports on the issue of DC’s denial of voting representation in Congress. Our work in this area continues because media outlets use DC Vote as the primary source of information on this issue and increasingly add DC’s denial of voting rights to stories about social justice. In addition, DC Vote increased the membership of our coalition to 34 organizations by the end of 2005 and several others will join in early 2006.

Our coalition partners have been continuously involved in the movement by signing on to letters sent to Congress, engaging their local and national membership in our issue and adding information about DC Vote and DC voting rights to their Web sites. We initiated four DC Vote volunteer committees to assist in our work to educate people about our cause and ask Congress to take action. In 2005, these committees met monthly and were an

important resource for DC Vote as they amplified our presence in the media, maintained relations with staff in targeted members of Congress' offices, and engaged young supporters at schools, universities and colleges.

## **Directing Polls, Focus Groups and Interviews to Gauge Support**

We commissioned a new, seminal poll that showed 82 percent of Americans support full voting representation in Congress for DC residents. KRC Research conducted the national telephone survey from January 14-16, 2005, with 1,007 U.S. adults ages 18 years and older. One critical piece of information we learned from this poll is that a super majority of Americans believe that congressional representation is “an American birthright.”

Consequently, DC Vote has adjusted the language we use to educate people about DC voting rights and adopted a new, more effective tag line for the organization: Working to Bring American Democracy to America's Capital. We are working with the Trellis Fund in this area to further our knowledge of how various demographic groups think about this issue by conducting interviews and focus groups. We believe that this kind of research is crucial for effectively framing our issue.

## **Compiling the Effects of Disenfranchisement**

In 2005, DC Vote produced a final draft of a report reviewing the impact to the District's public health from DC's denial of representation in Congress and from congressional interference in local government and policy decisions. When released in 2006, this report will provide a new benchmark in connecting the 'idea' of having no voting representation in Congress with its 'tangible effects' on the residents of the nation's capital. Building off of our success in producing this report and recognizing further areas of research that DC Vote has helped to define, the Trellis Fund, as mentioned above, launched the DC Democracy Initiative (DCDI), designed to provide up to \$300,000 to nonprofits or academic institutions working to strengthen our understanding of identified areas of interest regarding the DC voting rights movement. Among the goals of their initiative is to further explore the tangible effects of disenfranchisement.

## I. Advocacy and Outreach

### 1. Educating People about the DC FAIR Act (H.R. 2043)

Our principal advocacy goal in 2005 was to promote the debate around the DC FAIR Act and engage our coalition partners in the effort to advance the bill through Congress.

DC Vote achieved its goal. We played the pivotal role of creating a DC FAIR Act coalition and met regularly with congressional and DC council allies. We helped our coalition partners follow through on their advocacy commitments including letter writing campaigns, broadcasting e-mails, adding information and links to their Web sites, holding meetings with members of Congress, and launching other advocacy efforts.

The DC GOP sent a representative to almost every 'DC FAIR Act Coalition' meeting held throughout the year and former Republican Vice Presidential candidate Jack Kemp agreed to send an op-ed supporting the DC FAIR Act that was drafted by DC Vote and picked up by the *Washington Times*.

DC Vote also worked to address concerns that the bill would result in re-districting in Utah. We worked with the DC Appleseed Center for Law and Justice to develop an alternative approach: A temporary at-large congressional district. We reviewed and distributed legal opinions about the approach. DC Vote also worked with Representative Rob Bishop (R-UT) and his staff, Representative Chris Cannon (R-UT) and his staff, and others in support of the at-large compromise.

To educate other members of Congress, DC Vote sent four informational one-pagers to every member of Congress, every committee and every subcommittee. Additionally, we actively engaged *Roll Call* where several articles appeared about the DC FAIR Act and where a Guest Observer piece from DC Vote was also published.

DC Vote engaged our volunteers in an advocacy effort called, "Operation Ohio," which was designed to get letters sent to Senator George Voinovich (R-OH) asking him to sponsor a companion bill in the U.S. Senate. Consequently, hundreds of letters were sent to the Senator from individuals and organizations.

We also asked our coalition partners to continue raising awareness about our issue among their members and to advocate for cosponsorship of the DC FAIR Act. We successfully engaged the following organizations in this effort:

- The Washington, DC Association of REALTORS® and the Greater Washington Area Association of REALTORS® hosted a booth at the National Association of REALTORS® annual meeting in Washington, DC. Hundreds of their participants sent letters to Congress urging support.
- The League of Women Voters engaged in multiple steps to help, including lobbying members of Congress, asking their members around the country to send letters to Congress, meeting with Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and convincing him to act as a cosponsor to a Senate companion bill to the DC FAIR Act when it is introduced.

- Common Cause sent an action alert to more than 200,000 people around the country asking concerned citizens to get involved. More than 13,000 people responded positively to the action alert.
- The National League of Cities passed a resolution supporting the DC FAIR Act and worked to gain further support among city and county leaders in Utah, Ohio and elsewhere for the bill.
- The NAACP sent out an action alert nationwide giving their support for the DC FAIR Act and asking NAACP supporters to send letters supporting the DC FAIR Act to their members of Congress.
- The National Urban League, who also supports the DC FAIR Act, asked their Ohio affiliates to send letters to Sen. Voinovich asking him to sponsor a companion bill in the Senate. At least one affiliate sent a letter to the Senator.

## **2. Educating and Engaging the Local Community**

For Tax Day this year, more than 30 volunteers fanned out across Capitol Hill to hand out “Taxed, Without Representation” stickers to congressional staffers and others. Our efforts were covered by the local media.

On July 1, 2005, more than 300 DC voting rights supporters came together for the Equal Voting Rights for DC Rally, as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly began their annual session in Washington, DC. DC Vote served as the lead organizer for the event and planned and produced a series of additional events to encourage the more than 300 international diplomats to pass a resolution supporting full congressional voting rights for DC.

## **3. Volunteer Committee Structure and Empowering Volunteers**

In the spring of 2005, DC Vote activated four volunteer-driven committees which were supported by dozens of volunteers at monthly meetings. The four committees were: Communications, Advocacy and Outreach, Student Outreach and Students for DC Vote.

Communications Committee Volunteers were assigned targeted media outlets in states where members who had power over influential congressional committees had constituents. The Committee was instrumental in getting op-eds and letters-to-the-editor placed in newspapers and publications across the country as well as online.

Advocacy and Outreach Committee volunteers were assigned to contact targeted members of Congress who have power over DC issues as well as their staff. The Committee had success in educating those members of Congress and their staff about DC voting rights; current legislation, including the DC FAIR Act; and using DC Vote as an informational resource.

The Student Outreach Committee was very active in working to develop curriculum materials and educational opportunities for DC schools. The Students for DC Vote group includes student organizers and members at 20 colleges and universities in DC and around the

country. These students are taking local action to raise awareness and getting articles, letters and opinion pieces published in their local and school papers, on radio stations, and online at schools across the nation.

## **II. Communications**

### **1. Educating Americans through Earned Media**

Since our inception, we have successfully used creative media events and stories to educate people about our issue and market our organization through earned media.

In 2005, DC Vote was recognized in hundreds of print articles, television segments, radio programs, and online publications locally, nationally and internationally as the organization leading the movement for DC voting rights in Congress. Many of the media hits resulted from our drive to inform editorial boards of newspapers in targeted states about DC voting rights, our advocacy alerts and volunteer actions, and the numerous events we produced in 2005 to raise public awareness about DC's injustice.

In February 2005, DC Vote partnered with DC Public Access TV (DCTV) to produce 'DC Democracy Day,' where DC Vote and DCTV brought 10 local nonprofits working on issues affecting voting rights, voter education, voter registration, and other voting rights issues together. Each of these organizations was given 45 minutes to put their message on film. DCTV generously produced a one minute PSA *pro bono* for each of the groups from their taped messaging. These PSAs ran on DCTV throughout 2005.

DCTV and DC Vote continued to have good relations and in September and October of 2005, DC Vote was part of the DCTV Soapbox Series where local advocacy organizations had two segments to present their issue and then give viewers opportunities to find out how to get more involved.

In April 2005, DC Vote, with the help of Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and the DC Sports and Entertainment Commission (DCSEC) arranged for a 20' x 10' banner to be permanently erected at RFK Memorial Stadium. More than 50 publications around the country carried stories about our banner and linked it to the issue of DC voting rights.

On July 1, 2005, more than 300 DC voting rights supporters came together for the Equal Voting Rights for DC Rally, as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly began their annual session in Washington, DC. DC Vote served as the lead organizer for the weekend's events, and DC Vote constructed and displayed a significant political art installation on Freedom Plaza in downtown DC for the rally that gained international media coverage.

DC Vote has developed strong relations with a number of important media personalities and reporters at local media outlets and on the Hill. We are regularly contacted as a source for the most current information by these friends of DC Vote, as well as other national and sometimes international media outlets. We held a series of informational sessions and

luncheons with reporters and radio personalities over the summer that resulted in better coverage of the issue and a better understanding among the media of the enormous efforts that DC Vote undertakes on a daily basis to promote the DC voting rights movement.

DC Vote's earned media is posted on DC Vote's Web site. Often people see media pieces on our Web site before they see them in the source media outlet. DC Vote maintains good relations with several media outlets who regularly give DC Vote permission to post their copyright materials *pro bono*.

## **2. National Public Awareness Campaign**

DC Vote received a grant from the Herb Block Foundation in 2004 to develop a plan for getting the DC government involved in a public awareness campaign concerning DC residents' denial of voting representation in Congress and denial of local autonomy from congressional review. DC Vote met with the Mayor, the Council Chairman and Councilmembers Evans, Fenty, Brown and Barry (through his aide) to secure their support.

We also worked in 2005 with the law firm of Arnold & Porter LLP on issues around getting the DC government more involved in educating the general public about DC's plight. They produced a legal memorandum which persuaded the Mayor's counsel that the city could legally spend money to 'educate' people about DC's status without it being considered lobbying. Mayor Williams subsequently set aside \$1 million for such a campaign in the FY 2006 budget.

## **3. Expanding Our Web Site Capabilities**

With support from the Trellis Fund, we created the most comprehensive online source of materials related to DC voting rights history, our Online Library Project.

One of our most important communications outcome measures is based on the number of unique visits to DC Vote's award-winning Web site. Those visits have increased steadily from less than 1,000 average visits per month in 2003; to more than 10,000 average visits per month in 2004; and to more than 13,000 average visits per month in 2005. The number of total visits to our Web site nearly doubled from 2004 to 2005 (233,469 in 2004 to 400,496 in 2005), as did the average number of daily visits (637 in 2004 to 1,198 in 2005).

Additionally, when we initiate activities designed to increase public awareness of our issue, we can measure our success by the number of visits to our Web site generated from that activity. For example, during the month of September 2005, DC Vote launched several letter writing campaigns with our supporters aimed at media outlets and elected officials to gain support for the DC FAIR Act. Web site statistics broke all previous records in September with 15,710 unique visits and nearly 50,000 total visits. We logged 2,953 visits in a single day.

## **4. Communicating Our Successes**

DC Vote takes great pride in our communications strategy, and we consider ourselves to be among the top in our field with regards to the many ways we communicate our message and

our successes to our supporters, the media, the Hill and opinion-leaders. We send monthly e-mail bulletins reporting our successes, giving updates on our upcoming activities, describing our past activities, asking for donations, sharing new reports, and other important information. These bulletins are read by thousands of supporters, and the readership grows each month. We mail printed quarterly newsletters and send electronic copies reaching an audience of more than 8,000. We also send numerous targeted e-mails with announcements, reminders, information, or advocacy alerts each month.

## **5. Measuring Public Support for DC Voting Rights**

Between January 14 and 16, 2005, a seminal national poll sponsored by DC Vote was conducted that showed 82 percent of Americans support full voting representation in Congress for DC residents. One critical piece of information we learned from our poll is that a super majority of Americans believe that congressional representation is “an American birthright.” Consequently, DC Vote has adjusted the language we use to educate people about DC voting rights and adopted a new, more effective tag line for the organization: Working to Bring American Democracy to America’s Capital.

On January 25, 2005, the results of DC Vote’s new poll were released at a DC Voting Rights Summit held for DC Vote by the Public Welfare Foundation and other foundations who are interested in raising the profile of DC Vote and the issue of DC’s denial of full congressional voting rights.

## **6. Describing the Effects of the Denial of Democracy**

In 2005, DC Vote produced a final draft of a report on the impact to the District’s public health and the health of its residents as a result of DC’s denial of representation in Congress. When released in 2006, this report will provide a new benchmark in connecting the ‘idea’ of having no voting representation in Congress with its ‘tangible effects’ on the residents of the nation’s capital.

Building off of our success in producing this report and recognizing further areas of research that DC Vote has helped to define, the Trellis Fund launched the DC Democracy Initiative (DCDI) designed to give up to \$300,000 to nonprofits or academic institutions working to strengthen our understanding of identified areas of interest for the movement. Among the goals of their initiative is further exploration of the tangible effects of disenfranchisement.

## **III. Financial Support**

### **1. DC Vote’s 2005 Annual Champions of Democracy Awards Reception**

DC Vote’s signature awards event, the annual Champions of Democracy Awards Reception, is our main tool for honoring individuals and groups who have acted as champions of democracy for DC, as well as our most significant fundraising event for both individual and corporate donors.

In 2005, the event was held at the Madison Hotel in downtown DC, and the master of ceremonies was Michael Kahn, Artistic Director of DC's Shakespeare Theatre. Our 2005 Champions of Democracy were **Joe Sternlieb**, Co-Founder of DC Vote and Deputy Director of the Downtown DC Business Improvement District; and **Joslyn Williams**, President, Metropolitan AFL - CIO.

The location was elegant and well-situated with an attractive and well-coordinated silent auction held during the event. There was plenty of seating and abundant food and beverage. More than 300 supporters joined DC Vote to honor this year's Champions of Democracy. Entertainment for the evening was provided by the Blues Alley Youth Orchestra and a video montage of photos from DC Vote events and supporters from the past year was shown throughout the evening.

More than 75 items were included in DC Vote's Third Annual 'Let Washington Be Heard' Silent Auction. The Silent Auction was a tremendous success and DC Vote is deeply grateful to the donors of items and services.

DC Vote's 2005 Champions of Democracy Awards Reception grossed a little more than \$180,000, exceeding our goal of \$150,000. With total expenses around \$40,000, the event netted approximately \$140,000. Corporate sponsorship tripled from last year, and revenue from the silent auction nearly doubled.

## 2. Donors to Champions of Democracy 2005

DC Vote is thankful for the generous support of hundreds of donors, and we are especially grateful to the following sponsors of the 2005 Champions of Democracy Awards Reception.

- AARP District of Columbia
- Akridge
- Johnny Barnes
- Diane & Norman Bernstein
- Jeff Blum
- Dominique Bravo & Eric Sloan
- The Honorable Kwame R. Brown
- Thomas Blanton & Marsha Lillie-Blanton
- Amelie & Bernei Burgunder
- David Carliner
- Charles E. Smith Commercial Realty
- Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
- Comcast of the District
- The Honorable Linda Cropp
- Eldon Crowell
- DC Appleseed Center
- Debs-Jones-Douglass Institute
- Douglas Development Corporation
- David Crane
- Daniel & Toby Edelman
- Richard & Lois England
- Fleet Feet – Adams Morgan
- Flowers on Fourteenth
- The Honorable Adrian M. Fenty
- Forest City Washington
- Juan Gaddis
- Rena Gordon
- Ann Hoffman
- Joseph F. Horning
- Hotel & Restaurant Employees Local 25 AFL–CIO
- Independence Air
- Jenner & Block LLP
- Kelly Companies
- Aviva Kempner – *In Memory of James Forman*
- Royal Kennedy & Johnathan Rodgers
- John Klenert
- Eric Koenig & Amy Schwartz

- Debra & Josh Levin
- Laborers' International Union of North America Local 657
- Lloyd Leonard & Elizabeth Wiener
- Margot & Ed Levin
- The Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project and Program on Law and Government
- Lorelie S. Masters
- Samuel & Shelvie McCoy
- Meltzer Group
- Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
- Charles & Jeanette Miller
- Ruthanne & Robert Miller
- Willa Day Morris & Chapman Todd
- Lovell & Jack Olender
- Larry Ottinger & Cinthia Schuman
- Richard Paisner
- Nixon Peabody LLP
- Ralph & Helen Petersberger
- PNC Bank
- Joshua Pokempner & Gretchen Gardner
- Sarah Pokempner & Jerry Levine
- Thorn Pozen
- B. Michael & Margaret W. Rauh
- Riverdale International, Inc.
- Cynthia Robbins
- Lee Rubenstein
- Kathy & Al Schmidt
- Eleanor & Van Seagraves
- Jane & Daniel Solomon
- Bruce Spiva & Anna Gelpern
- David Steinberg
- Kathy Swayze
- Teamsters Local Union No. 639
- Tycko, Zavareei & Spiva LLP
- Tyrone Conard Agency
- UDC David A. Clarke School of Law
- United Food & Commercial Workers – Local 400
- Verizon Washington, DC
- Washington Teachers' Union
- Charles C. Wilkes
- Laurel Wingate & Brian Cox
- Barbara T. Yeomans
- Barry Zigas & Jodie Levin-Epstein

### **3. DC Vote's Third Annual 'Let Washington Be Heard' Silent Auction Donors**

Many thanks go to the individuals and businesses that helped to make the 2005 'Let Washington Be Head' Silent Auction a resounding success!

- 701 Restaurant
- Accapella Restaurant, New York
- Akridge
- The Honorable Sharon Ambrose
- Arena Stage Theatre
- Arucola
- Avalon Theatre
- The Honorable Marion Barry
- Bite of the Big Apple
- Blues Alley
- Busboys & Poets
- The Honorable Kwame Brown
- Cake Love
- Calvert Woodley
- Capitol Hill Bikes
- Capitol Steps
- The Honorable David Catania
- Chevy Chase Gallery
- The Honorable Linda Cropp
- DC Dance Collective
- DC Wheels, Inc. (Dance Place)
- Elizabeth Arden
- Expressly Nails
- The Honorable Adrian Fenty
- Flexcar
- Folger Shakespeare Library
- Ford Theatre
- Four Seasons
- Freedman Photography
- Full of Beans

- The Honorable Jim Graham
- The Honorable Vincent Gray
- Grooming Lounge
- H2O
- Hair by Arnold
- Independence Air
- Johnson's Flower & Garden Centers
- Aviva Kempner
- Kimpton Hotels
- Colbert King
- Lincoln Theatre
- Madison Hotel
- Mar de Plata
- Marrakesh Restaurant
- Marty's
- Lorie Masters
- Sam & Shelvie McCoy
- The Honorable Phil Mendelson
- Nana
- National Zoo
- Nevin Kelly Gallery
- Odyssey Cruises
- Catherine Oleksiw
- The Honorable Vincent Orange
- Palette Restaurant
- Paris Alexander Day Spa
- Parthenon
- The Honorable Kathy Patterson
- Periwinkle
- Phillips Flagship
- Prime Rib
- Pulp
- Rappahannock Wine Cellars
- Kathryn Ray
- Razi Studio Artistic Photography
- Red Fox Inn
- Red Sage Restaurant
- Eugene Robinson
- The Honorable Carol Schwartz
- Shakespeare Theatre
- Sofitel Washington, DC
- Daniel & Jane Solomon
- Sterling Portraits
- Studio Theatre
- Suna Lee Photography
- Tabard Inn
- Teatro Goldoni
- The Mark, New York
- Washington Engraving Co.
- Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
- Zawadi
- Zola Restaurant

#### **4. Unprecedented Foundation Support**

DC Vote continues to have strong support from local and national foundations:

We received multi-year funding from the Public Welfare Foundation, the Trellis Fund and the Meyer Foundation. We also have new grants from the Cafritz Foundation, the Arca Foundation, the Herb Block Foundation, the Summit Fund, the Consumer Health Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation. We have bridged the gap in gaining support from national foundations, such as the Carnegie Corporation. We have also met with and were asked to submit a proposal to the Ford Foundation. Obtaining support from these influential players on the national philanthropy scene validates the work of DC Vote and will give us access to other national funders.

#### **5. Individual Support Quadruples**

Beginning at the \$20 level, our membership program is principally designed to give more people the opportunity to contribute to and support DC Vote. The program also gives DC Vote an opportunity to identify people who are willing to join us as advocates and potentially increase their giving over time.

As DC Vote grows, we are trying to expand the number of individual donors to compliment our foundation support. In 2004, we conducted several test membership and prospect mailings with a significantly positive return. In 2005, with these successes under our belt, DC Vote added over 1,600 new members and supporters to our rolls.

## **IV. Conclusion**

Our organization grew steadily throughout 2005, and DC Vote continues to think bigger and broader for the years to come. We have made every effort to communicate our message far and wide. In doing so, DC Vote transitioned to a national campaign and generated hundreds of local, national and international media reports on the issue of DC's denial of voting representation in Congress. Web site statistics broke all previous records in September 2005 with 15,710 unique visits and nearly 50,000 total visits. The DC Vote award-winning Web site logged 2,953 visits in a single day.

We commissioned a national poll that showed 82 percent of Americans support full voting representation in Congress for DC residents, and DC Vote produced a final draft of a report on the impact to the District's public health from DC's denial of voting representation in Congress. We produced and launched a public service announcement video entitled "Bring Democracy Home" that aired nationally on TV One, and we produced another PSA through DCTV that aired locally throughout the year.

DC Vote is proud to report that we educated hundreds of members of Congress on our issue which has resulted, in part, in the DC FAIR Act being introduced by Rep. Davis. The bill would grant Washington, DC, a full vote in the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time ever. DC Vote added more than 1,600 new members in 2005, and our numbers continue to grow.

DC Vote celebrates our successes in 2005 and strengthens our mission to bring American democracy to America's capital.

### **DC Vote Board of Directors for 2005**

**Daniel Solomon** – Chair  
Director, The Naomi & Nehemiah Cohen  
Foundation

**Bruce Spiva** – Vice Chair  
Partner, Tyco, Zavareei & Spiva LLP

**Lorie Masters** – Treasurer  
Partner, Jenner & Block, LLP

**Samuel McCoy** - Secretary  
Consultant

**Johnny Barnes**  
Executive Director, ACLU – National  
Capital Area

**Wade Henderson**  
Executive Director, Leadership Conference  
on Civil Rights

**Aviva Kempner**  
Filmmaker & Writer

**John Klenert**  
Political & Media Consultant

**Maria Olivas**  
Senior Manager, External Affairs, Verizon  
Washington, DC

**Chellie Pingree**  
President & CEO, Common Cause

**Sarah Pokempner**

Social Worker & Community Activist

**Cynthia Robbins**

Managing Director, See Forever

**Mark Schaefer**

United Methodist Chaplain, American University

**Marque Chambliss**

Consultant

**Elizabeth A. Allen**

Assistant General Counsel, Gannett Co., Inc.

**DC Vote Coalition Partners for 2005****National Partners**

- Alliance for Justice
- Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
- Common Cause
- Friends of the Earth
- Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR)
- League of Women Voters of the United States
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- National League of Cities
- National Urban League
- People For the American Way (PFAW)
- U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG)
- United Auto Workers (UAW)
- USAction
- D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute
- D.C. Hunger Solutions
- D.C. NAACP
- DC Action for Children (DC ACT)
- DC Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, Inc.
- Downtown Coalition of Congregations
- Foundry United Methodist Church - Democracy Project
- Greater Washington Board of Trade
- Greater Washington Commercial Association of REALTORS® (GWCAR)
- Greater Washington Urban League
- InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
- League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia
- Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
- So Others Might Eat (SOME)
- United Nations Association of the National Capital Area
- Washington, DC Association of REALTORS® (WDCAR)
- Whitman-Walker Clinic
- YWCA National Capital Area

**Local Partners**

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of the National Capital Area
- Armenian National Committee - Washington, DC Chapter
- Council of Latino Agencies

## DC Vote Staff for 2005

### Staff at the Close of 2005

- **Ilir Zherka**, Executive Director
- **Kevin Kiger**, Communications Director
- **Eugene Dewitt Kinlow**, Outreach Director
- **Antonette E. Russell**, Operations Manager
- **Christopher M. Belisle**, Development Manager
- **Lateefah Mims**, Staff Assistant

### Additional Staff from 2005

- **Zainab Akbar**, Program Assistant
- **Kimberly Bassett**, Program Director
- **Shawn Rolland**, Communications Associate

## Special Thanks for 2005

DC Vote thanks the numerous individuals and businesses who gave so much of their time, energy and support to DC Vote in 2005.

### Individuals

- John Capozzi
- Donald De Haven
- Jewell Fenzi
- Ann Hoffman
- Patricia Kackley
- Emma Levine
- Margaret McCarthy
- Frank H. Rich Sr.
- Mark David Richards
- Nell Schaffer
- Donald Sherman
- Kathy Swayze
- Lindsay Tiemeyer
- Gina Trippi
- Eli Zigas

### Businesses & Organizations

- Bar Pilar
- Café Saint-Ex
- Capitol Advantage
- Chadwick Cipiti Studios Inc.
- Clarke County, VA, Board of Elections
- Dan Kaufman Graphics
- DCTV
- Edelman
- Fleet Feet
- Greater Washington Commercial Association of REALTORS®
- Jenner & Block LLP
- The Kelly Companies
- Local 16
- Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington
- Madam's Organ
- Marty's
- National Urban League
- Radio One
- Signs by Tomorrow
- TV One
- Washington, DC Association of REALTORS®