

DC Republican Committee

August 8, 2007
For Immediate Release

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DC REPUBLICANS CALL ON CONSERVATIVE TALK RADIO TO SUPPORT DC VOTING RIGHTS

WASHINGTON, DC – In an effort to signal our support for this bill the DC Republican Committee sent the following letter in regard to S.1257, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007, to many of the country's most influential conservative talk radio programs.

The letter was sent to:

Rush Limbaugh, Bill O'Reilly, Sean Hannity, Michael Savage, Glenn Beck, Laura Ingraham, Neal Boortz, Melanie Morgan, Michael Medved, Dennis Prager, Hugh Hewitt, Jay Severin, Mark Davis, Mark Levin, Bill Cunningham, Jim Quinn, G. Gordon Liddy, Michael Reagan, and Michael Graham.

(Sent via first class USPS mail and/or email)

August 8, 2007

As Chairman and Republican National Committee members of the only state urban Republican Party, we strongly support S. 1257, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007, which would give voting rights for U.S. citizens of the District of Columbia and we hope that you will as well.

The D.C. Republican Committee (D.C.R.C.) shares with every other Republican Committee a proud history of leaders who believe in equality and opportunity for all Americans.

A brief history of our party proves just that. In 1861 the first Republican President, Abraham Lincoln, sent to the first Republican Congress his first legislative message, calling for the freedom of slaves in the District of Columbia. Since then, the District celebrates this event as D.C. Emancipation Day.

The Republican Party also played a leading role in securing women the right to vote. In 1896, Republican Party was the first major party to favor women's suffrage. The first woman elected to Congress was a Republican, Jeanette Rankin from Montana in 1917.

In 1962, D.C.'s own Republican, Edward W. Brooke became the first African American in the United States to be elected as a state's Attorney General in Massachusetts. In 1966, Senator Edward Brooke became the first African American popularly elected to the United States Senate, the African American to serve since Reconstruction.

We support D.C. voting rights in the House of Representatives for two main reasons. The first being, there are more than half a million U.S. citizens residing in our city, paying federal taxes higher than all but one of the states, defending our country by serving in our militaries, and fulfilling their obligations of Citizenship.

This is an opportunity for the Republican Party to remind the country that we are the only major party with an uninterrupted history of civil rights. Do not forget that Republicans can 'compete' with traditionally democratic votes in major urban cities. Republicans should remember we as a Party can win in urban cities. Such examples are Governor Mitt Romney who won precincts in Boston, former Mayor Rudy Giuliani won New York City twice, Senator Norman Coleman served as the Mayor of St. Paul Minnesota and Senator George Voinovich had a distinguished career as the Mayor of Cleveland Ohio.

We strongly believe that the District clause of the Constitution, under which the first Republican President and Congress emancipated slaves in D.C., empowers the Congress to give D.C. voting representation in the Congress. In this belief we join distinguished conservative, Republican constitutional scholars like Viet Dinh, Sec. Jack Kemp, and Ken Starr, as well as Republican lawmakers like Congressmen Tom Davis, Mike Pence, Senator Orrin Hatch and retired Senator Edward Brooke. Thanks to a Republican amendment in the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee bill, any constitutional challenge to this bill would receive expedited judicial review by the federal courts before it takes effect.

The D.C.R.C. strongly urges Conservatives and Republicans alike to unite and support S. 1257, to give U.S. citizens in D.C. voting representation in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,
Robert J. Kabel
Robert J. Kabel
Chairman
DC Republican Committee

Sincerely,
Betsy W. Werronen
Betsy W. Werronen
DC Republican National Committeewoman

Sincerely,
Anthony W. Parker
Anthony W. Parker
DC Republican National Committeeman

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