



DC Voting Rights Act Mark-up Reflects History of Bipartisan Support

www.dcvote.org

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Dear Member of Congress:

Throughout history, Democrats and Republicans have gone on record in strong support of DC voting rights. Presidents, presidential candidates, senators, members of Congress and prominent legal experts from both sides of the aisle have declared support for granting the residents of Washington, DC, a vote in Congress.

You can join this elite list and end the injustice in Washington, DC, by working to enact H.R. 5388, the DC Voting Rights Act. This bill would give residents of the District of Columbia a voting member of Congress for the first time ever, and it recently passed overwhelmingly in the House Committee on Government Reform by a vote of 29-4.

Read on to find out what your colleagues have said on this critical issue. I ask you to cosponsor the DC Voting Rights Act and work to end the denial of democracy in Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

Ilir Zherka
Executive Director



"It is simply inexcusable that residents of the District of Columbia, the Capital of the Free World, the city that symbolizes our grand experiment in representative democracy – that these citizens do not have a representative with a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives, the People's House."

U.S. Congressman Tom Davis (R-VA), May 11, 2006



"Party should not matter when it comes to a democratic right as basic as representation in the legislature that taxes your citizens and sends them to war."

U.S. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), May 11, 2006



"I have often said that the DC voting rights struggle is one of the last great civil rights challenges facing our nation. Representative Tom Davis and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton have reached across the aisle to craft a bill that finally gives the voting franchise to the half a million Americans who are denied it."

The Honorable Jack Kemp, June 5, 2006



"This transcends partisanship. We need to start giving the vote to people who haven't had the vote in the District of Columbia, and that's the right thing to do, not the partisan thing to do."

U.S. Congressman Chris Cannon (R-UT), May 3, 2005

(over please)



“It is fundamentally unfair and purely undemocratic not to provide taxpaying citizens with a voice in their government. The District's citizens should have a voice in legislation that impacts their lives and deserve the right to elect representatives who can vote to defend their interests.”

U.S. Senator John Kerry (D-MA), 2004



“While I will leave for others discussion of the political considerations presented by the particulars of the D.C. Fairness Act, I commend Chairman Davis for seeking to address – and surmount – the legal and constitutional obstacles that have hobbled congressional efforts to solve the continuing problem of District disenfranchisement.”

The Honorable Kenneth W. Starr, June 23, 2004



“I find it fundamentally unfair that citizens of our nation's capital are treated as second class citizens of the country. Residents of the District of Columbia have given their lives protecting democracy as members of the Armed Forces. They pay taxes, they serve on federal juries, and they perform all other duties of citizenship. Yet because they have no vote in Congress, they are denied fundamental equal rights as American citizens.”

DNC Chairman and former presidential candidate Howard Dean (D-VT), 2004



““No taxation without representation”” is a fundamental principle of our democratic society, which since our founding has continually expanded the voting franchise. Today, thanks to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, there is nowhere in the world that a U.S. citizen can move to, still owing federal income tax, and lose their rights to voting representation in the U.S. Congress; nowhere, that is, except to our nation’s capital, Washington, D.C.”

U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), June 23, 2004



“It should offend the democratic sense of this nation that the 850,000 citizens of its Capitol, comprising a population larger than 11 of its states, have no voice in the Congress.”

President Richard Nixon (in a message to Congress April 28, 1969)



“There should be no doubt that District citizens deserve full voting representation.”

President Jimmy Carter, 1976



“They should also be entitled to representation in the Congress. Indeed, representation in the Congress would be much more valuable to the citizens of the District of Columbia than the simple privilege of voting for President and Vice President of the United States. I believe the effectiveness of representation in the Congress, in the interest of the citizens of the District of Columbia, would be much greater.”

U.S. Senator Prescott Bush (R-CT), grandfather of President George W. Bush, May 11, 1961



“It is almost incomprehensible that in this day and age that ours is the only democracy in the world in which citizens of the capital city are not represented in the national legislature. This injustice is felt directly by District residents but it also casts a shadow over the democratic traditions of the entire nation.”

U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman (D-CT), January 27, 2005