



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE UNITED STATES

May 31, 2006

President

Kay J. Maxwell
Greenwich, Connecticut

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Kay J. Maxwell, President

Vice-Presidents

Linda Claire McDaniel
St. Louis, Missouri

RE: H.R. 5388, the D.C. Voting Rights Act of 2006

Marlys Robertson
Boulder, Colorado

The League of Women Voters urges you to support H.R. 5388, the D.C. Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act of 2006, introduced by Representative Davis (R VA) and Delegate Norton (D DC) and recently reported by the Government Reform Committee.

Secretary-Treasurer

Shirley Eberly
Rochester, New York

The legislation provides voting representation in the House of Representatives for citizens living in the District of Columbia by expanding the size of the House to 437 members, with the state of Utah gaining the other additional seat until reapportionment after 2010. This balanced approach provides voting rights for District citizens without upsetting the partisan balance of the House and without jeopardizing seats from other states. It also addresses the concern that Utah was not fairly treated in the 2000 reapportionment process.

Directors

Sarah Diefendorf
San Francisco, California

The citizens of Washington, D.C. have always fulfilled the obligations of American citizenship by paying federal taxes, serving in the military, and contributing leaders in nearly every field of human endeavor. Yet American citizens who live in the District of Columbia are denied voting representation in the U.S. Congress, the very body that has ultimate authority over every aspect of the city's judicial, executive and legislative functions.

Jane Gross

Plantation, Florida

Xandra Kayden

Los Angeles, California

Over the last 200 years, the principle that all citizens are entitled to a voice and a vote in their national government has emerged as a cornerstone of American democracy and a fundamental tenet of our Constitution. Although relatively few Americans were entitled to vote when the Constitution was adopted in 1788, virtually all restrictions on the franchise have since been eliminated, including those based on race, sex, wealth, property ownership, marital status and place of residence. Disenfranchisement of American citizens living in the District of Columbia is the last great exception to the constitutional principle of "one person, one vote."

Odetta MacLeish-White

Gainesville, Florida

Carole Mullan

Lubbock, Texas

Carol Reimers

Hingham, Massachusetts

Olivia Thorne

Wallingford, Pennsylvania

Americans living in the nation's capital deserve to have voting representation in the body that makes their laws, taxes them and can call them to war. Only Congress can ensure that the democracy Americans have espoused and fought for across the globe becomes a reality in the nation's capital.

Mary Wilson

Albuquerque, New Mexico

We ask that you help fulfill the promise of American democracy by supporting the D.C. Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act of 2006.

Executive Director

Nancy E. Tate