



January 2005 National Public Opinion Poll

www.dcvote.org

New Poll Shows Strong Support for DC Voting Rights

A nationally representative telephone survey of 1,007 U.S. adults, 18 years and older, was conducted by KRC Research under the direction of Mark David Richards, Senior Vice President, on January 14-16, 2005. It has a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points.

The key findings of the poll are as follows:

- 78 percent of Americans believe DC residents have the same Constitutional rights as other U.S. citizens, including equal voting rights in Congress.
- When informed of DC resident's disenfranchisement, 82 percent of Americans believe citizens of Washington, DC, should have equal congressional voting rights – in both the Senate and the House. This is a ten-percentage point increase since the question was last asked in 1999.
- The most important reasons for support are:
 - Democracy is an American birthright—all American citizens should have the right to vote in their national legislature
 - Washington, DC citizens should be able to teach their children that everyone counts in American democracy
- 87 percent of Democrats and 77 percent of Republicans support full representation.
- Of the 18 percent who oppose or are not sure about equal voting representation for DC, only 28 percent of those people change their position when representation is limited to the U.S. House of Representatives.
- While only 18 percent of Americans are aware of DC's unequal status, that number jumps to 35 percent for people who have visited DC. A quarter of Americans who have friends or family living in or near DC are aware of DC's status.
- Among those with friends who live in DC, 34 percent were aware of the "Taxation" plates.
- 71 percent of Americans support a Congressional bill to give the elected DC government full budgetary autonomy over the local DC budget.

For a full report of the poll results, please visit www.dcvote.org.

