

Republicans have a proud history of working to bring American democracy to America's capital. Listed below are statements from Republicans in support of congressional voting rights for DC.



"It's hard to make a straight-faced argument that the capital of the free world shouldn't have a vote in Congress."

U.S. Congressman Tom Davis (R-VA), June 27, 2003



"We note that it is at least ironic that residents of the Nation's capital continue to be denied the right to select a representative to the "People's House." Our conclusion that Congress has the authority to grant Congressional representation to the District is motivated in part by the principle, firmly imbedded in our constitutional tradition, that "[n]o right is more precious in a free country than that of having a voice in the election of those who make the laws under which, as good citizens, we must live."

Professor Viet D. Dinh, Georgetown University Law Center, and Bancroft Associates, PLLC, November 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."

Honorable Kenneth W. Starr before the House Committee on Government Reform, June 23, 2004



"It truly confounds me that the residents of our nation's capital continue to lack one of the fundamental rights of a democratic society- the right to have a voting Member of Congress representing their interests."

U.S. Congressman Ralph Regula (R-OH) before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, May 23, 2002



"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) before the Committee on Government Reform, June 23, 2004



"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."

Statement by U.S. Congressmen Chris Cannon (R-UT), May 3, 2005



Representative Davis has come up with a creative approach and a creative solution. This is the best opportunity for the District of Columbia to get representation.

Statement by U.S. Congressmen Rob Bishop (R-UT), May 3, 2005



"It has long ago been established by court decrees, as well as by American political tradition, that the right to vote in Federal elections is a right that flows directly from the Constitution to each citizen of the United States. This right is one belonging to national citizenship and it arises out of the very nature and existence of the Nation itself."

U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater (R-AZ), Senate Debate, August 17, 1978



"The residents of the District of Columbia deserve the right to representation in Congress if for no other reason than simple fairness."

U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC), Senate Debate, August 16, 1978



"...we simply cannot continue to deny 700,000 American citizens their right to equal representation in the national government,... this basic right is a bedrock of our Republic that cannot be overturned."

U.S. Senator Howard Baker (R-TN) (as Senate Minority Leader), 1978



"The time has come for action, and if this platform means anything it means the Republican Party supports this resolution. Republicans rallied to that platform in great numbers. Our most distinguished leaders enthusiastically adopted it as an excellent expression of Republican principles and ideals. By all accounts, it was a platform that conservatives could be proud of. The Republican Party supported D.C. voting representation because it was just, and in justice we could do nothing else."

U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) (on the 1976 Republican Platform), 1978



"I join the Republican Congressmen and Senators who sponsored and supported [this] constitutional amendment in urging Republicans all over the Nation to assist in implementing this plank of our 1976 party platform."

Bill Brock, Chairman, Republican National Committee, 1976



"The need for an amendment [providing representation for the District] at this late date in our history is too self-evident for further elaboration; continued denial of voting representation from the District of Columbia can no longer be justified."

Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court William H. Rehnquist (as Assistant Attorney General in June 1970)



"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)



"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), May 11, 1961