



March 14, 2016

Dear Mr. Trump,

The next President can play a major role in bringing fair and representative democracy to the people of the District of Columbia, and repair an aspect of our political system that is an international embarrassment.

You stand alone among the Republican candidates in your public support for democracy for DC, and we hope you will continue to address this unjust anomaly in our political system as you continue your campaign.

For the people who live here, the District of Columbia is more than the seat of government. We raise our families here, pay our taxes and serve on juries; we fight for our country in our nation's military and we work together to create a strong community in which our children can learn and thrive. Yet, every day, every one of the nearly 700,000 residents of the capital of the world's strongest democracy is denied the right to participate in that same democracy.

Not only are District residents deprived of full voting representation in Congress, we are also subject to the politically-motivated whims of members of Congress from other parts of the country.

How can we claim to be the world's leading democracy when any law or budget that we as DC citizens support must be approved by Congress - a body that has more than enough trouble handling its own business? District residents should control their own budget and be in charge of local affairs, just like any other community in the country.

The District of Columbia was created in the late 1700s to help protect the original Congress from unruly mobs. At the time, the area was sparsely populated farmland and swamp. There is no way our Founding Fathers could have envisioned that their action would lead to the disenfranchisement of hundreds of thousands of American citizens in the thriving Washington, DC of today.

Further, addressing the ongoing lack of political rights for DC would help relieve a simmering international problem for the United States. Both the United Nations and the Organization of American States have declared the current status of DC a violation of international agreements on political rights, and called on the U.S. Congress to correct this situation.

EQUALITY FOR DC

1100 H Street NW, Suite M-100, Washington, DC 20005 DCVote.org



Several months ago, you publicly stated that when it comes to full democracy for the people of DC, you will support whatever District residents think would be best for them. The last public opinion poll indicated that 67% of DC resident support statehood to address the great injustice we face.

While Congress ultimately has the ability to grant the people of the District equal rights, as President you would have certain tools at your disposal to do what is best for the people of DC. As such, DC Vote requests your response on the following potential efforts that could be undertaken by the next President:

1. Draft and recommend legislation, or issue an executive order granting full and equal rights.
2. Issue a Presidential proclamation supporting equal rights for DC.
3. Direct a presidential task force to develop a list of recommendations on how best to provide equal rights and full jurisdictional autonomy to the District of Columbia.

Presidential involvement in advancing democracy for the people of the District would bring substantial attention to our struggle and remove a potential vulnerability when the US promotes democracy around the world.

We respectfully request that you respond to this inquiry by March 31, 2016. Please feel free to contact me at kperry@dcvote.org, or call 202-462-6000 ext. 111.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Perry".

Kimberly Perry

Executive Director

DC Vote