

ABOUT THE LEAGUE...

The District of Columbia League of Women Voters is a member of the League of Women Voters of the United States, a non-partisan political organization, 58 years old, with 131,009 members in the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. D.C. has 614 members.

The Leagues study and act on problems susceptible to political solution and work to encourage and develop an informed electorate. Leagues are open to all.

One activity at all levels of government has been candidates' forums, in person, on radio, and since 1948, on TV, culminating in the nationally televised Presidential and Vice-presidential debates of 1976.

A goal since 1924 has been to give the national capital representation in Congress and the Electoral College. The latter was accomplished in 1961 by the 23rd amendment, although it arbitrarily set D.C.'s electors at three, regardless of population. Hence H.J. Res. 554 includes repeal of the 23rd amendment.

The LWVUS has pledged to work with state Leagues for passage of the proposed amendment by the 38 states required for ratification of a Constitutional amendment.

Having passed the House of Representatives by more than the necessary 2/3 vote, the resolution must also be passed by the Senate by a 2/3 vote. Expressions of support from voters already represented are crucial to gaining full and equal representation for the nation's capital.

Please address letters of support to:

Your Senator
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

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D.C. LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Room 733
Washington, D.C. 20036

"...GOVERNMENTS ARE
INSTITUTED AMONG
MEN, DERIVING THEIR
JUST POWERS FROM
THE CONSENT
OF THE GOVERNED."

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



BUT NOT FOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

D.C. LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 1978

Received; read the first time

APRIL 24, 1978

Read the second time; ordered placed on the calendar

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution to provide for representation of the District of Columbia in the Congress.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*
 3 *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the*
 4 following article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-
 5 stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all
 6 intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified
 7 by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States
 8 within seven years from the date of its submission by the
 9 Congress:

"ARTICLE —

2 "SECTION 1. For purposes of representation in the
 3 Congress, election of the President and Vice President, and
 4 article V of this Constitution, the District constituting the
 5 seat of government of the United States shall be treated as
 6 though it were a State.

7 "SEC. 2. The exercise of the rights and powers con-
 8 ferred under this article shall be by the people of the Dis-
 9 trict constituting the seat of government, and as shall be
 10 provided by the Congress.

11 "SEC. 3. The twenty-third article of amendment to the
 12 Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

13 "SEC. 4. This article shall be inoperative, unless it shall
 14 have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by
 15 the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within
 16 seven years from the date of its submission."

Passed the House of Representatives March 2, 1978.

Attest: EDMUND L. HENSHAW, JR.,
Clerk.**END THE DENIAL OF DEMOCRACY FOR D.C...**

We are United States citizens living in the Nation's capital. We want to be represented in Congress.

We pay the taxes legislated by the House of Representatives.

We are affected by our Nation's treaty obligations, which are ratified by the Senate.

We are legitimately concerned about Presidential appointments, which are approved by the Senate.

We fight in wars declared by both Houses of Congress.

But we have no *vote* in Congress. Why?

Because we live in the Nation's capital.

Because the Constitution, which sets out the procedure for Congressional representation, was written 13 years before the capital was located in Washington, D.C.

Because the Founding Fathers thought of the future Federal City as a gathering place where delegates from the several States would conduct the Nation's business; they didn't foresee a major city with a permanent population.

In short, we are the victims of an oversight.

But oversights can be corrected.

Constitutional experts have testified there is no Constitutional barrier to both Senate and House representation for the District of Columbia. And, there is broad support in the country for such representation—

H.J. Res. 554, providing for a Constitutional amendment to grant such representation, passed the House of Representatives on March 2, 1978, by a vote of 289 to 127;

Both the Democratic and Republican party platforms call for full voting representation for the District of Columbia.

President Carter and Vice President Mondale support it;

More than 50 national and D.C. organizations such as the League of Women Voters, Common Cause, the Washington Metropolitan Board of Trade, labor unions and church groups support D.C. Congressional representation.

We ask for our right to be heard and counted in Congress;

NOT because we pay more Federal income tax per capita than the citizens of 42 of the states, although we do;

NOT because the District of Columbia has a larger population than seven states, although it does;

NOT because every nation except the U.S. and two military dictatorships grant voting representation in the national legislature to their Federal districts, although they do;

NOT because the Senate has already been enlarged 37 times since the Constitution was adopted, and can be again;

NOT because we are more populous than any State at the time it was given representation in both Houses of Congress, although we are.

BUT, we ask for representation because it is *right*. We ask for the benefit of those ideals of equality and justice that are the basis of our democracy. The time has come. The time is NOW.

This proposed Constitutional amendment would not make the District of Columbia a state, nor would it affect local city government. Congress would continue to have final authority over the Federal District.