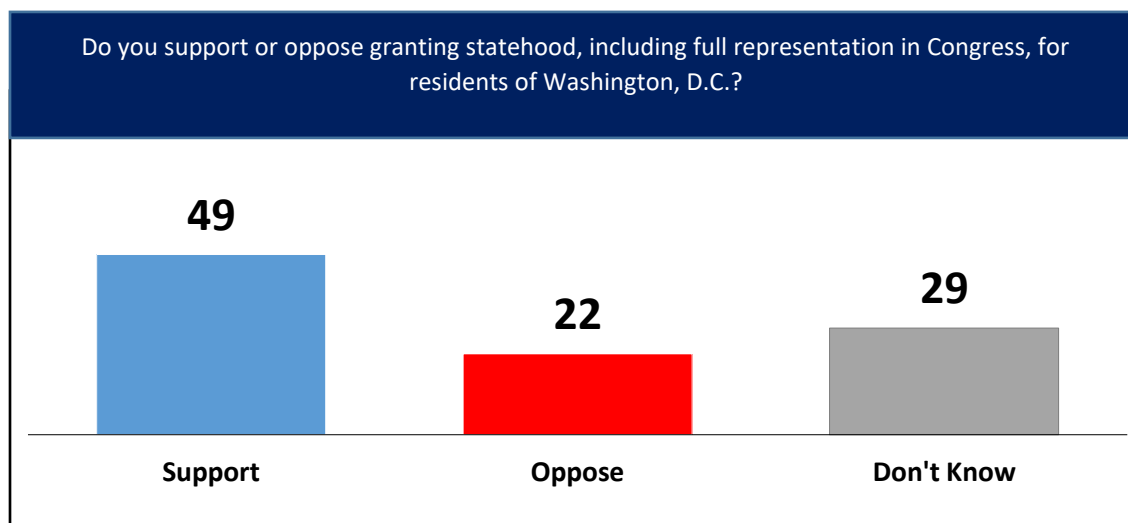


To: Bo Shuff and Barbara Helmick, *D.C. Vote*
From: Daniel Gotoff, Celinda Lake, and McCauley Pugh, *Lake Research Partners*
RE: Analysis of Findings from New Nationwide Poll on D.C. Statehood
Date: September 4, 2020

The following memo summarizes key takeaways from a recently completed national survey of Americans on the issue of D.C. Statehood.¹

At the outset, a distinct plurality of voters nationwide (49%) are supportive of a proposal to “grant statehood, including full representation in Congress, for residents of Washington, D.C.” compared to just 22% who oppose statehood for the District. One-quarter of the electorate (29%) is unsure.

Not only does support for statehood for D.C. outpace opposition by double digits at the outset, but voters move towards supporting statehood in even larger numbers as they learn more about the issue—including after being exposed to equal amounts of pro-statehood and anti-statehood messaging.



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Democrats are the most likely partisans to be supportive of statehood, while independents are the least likely to have an opinion. Voters of all age groups support this proposal, with 40-49-year-olds the most supportive. Voters with college degrees are also particularly supportive of statehood. Men tend to be more supportive than women, though that is because women are disproportionately undecided, not more likely to oppose statehood.

¹ Lake Research Partners designed these questions as part of a nationwide omnibus survey, which was conducted online between August 10th and 14th. The survey reached 940 voters and has a margin of error of +/-3.2%.

Do You Support Or Oppose Granting Statehood, Including Full Representation In Congress, For Residents Of Washington, D.C.?																
	Gender			Party ID			Age					Race/Ethnicity			Education	
	Total	Male	Fem.	Dem.	Ind.	GOP	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+	White	Black	Lati.	Non-coll.	Coll.+
Support	49%	53%	46%	63%	19%	46%	49%	54%	60%	39%	48%	49%	56%	49%	39%	66%
Oppose	22%	29%	16%	12%	23%	34%	22%	17%	13%	25%	32%	26%	9%	16%	25%	19%
Und.	29%	18%	38%	24%	58%	21%	29%	29%	27%	37%	20%	25%	35%	35%	36%	16%

After simulating an engaged debate on the issue of D.C. statehood, with arguments on both sides of the issue, support for the proposal nearly expands to nearly 6-in-10 voters nationwide. In this scenario, and against a strongly worded attack on the proposal that casts it as little more than a political power grab by the Democrats that would give elites even more power, once voters hear that the 705,000 residents of the District are like any other hardworking, taxpaying Americans but are denied the right to participate in their democracy by being deprived of full representation in Congress and are subject to the political whims of politically-motivated Congresspeople, support jump to 58%, opposition ticks up to just 29% oppose, with only 12% of voters remain undecided.

D.C. Statehood Nationwide Survey: Text Of Engaged Debate
Pro-statehood Messaging: Denied Participation in Democracy Emphasis
The 705,000 people who call Washington, D.C. home are like any other Americans. From teachers and nurses to fire-fighters and custodians, Washingtonians raise families, pay taxes, and fight in America's wars. Yet they're denied the right to participate in America's democracy. D.C. people are deprived of full representation in Congress and are subject to the politically-motivated whims of Congresspeople from across the country. No matter where you live or what you look like, all Americans have the right to full representation and having their voices heard. Statehood for Washington D.C. is about treating all American citizens fairly and as equals.
Anti-statehood Messaging
Granting Washington D.C. statehood is nothing more than an unconstitutional power-grab by Democratic leaders in Congress who just want to try to tilt the political playing field in their favor and empower the most radical agenda in modern American politics. Making D.C. a state would dilute the political power of Americans who live outside of the elite Washington D.C. bubble. Liberal politicians need to get out of their high-dollar fundraisers and go see where the real people are at across our country and the message will be clear – the constitution is right, and D.C. should not be a separate state.
Support statehood: 58% Oppose statehood: 29% Don't know: 12%

When voters hear this debate, almost every major subgroup registers a shift in support for statehood. The solid overall majority includes a plurality of Republicans and roughly two-thirds of Democrats, while independents are split on the issue, with a significant number still undecided.

Engaged Debate over Statehood																
	Gender			Party ID			Age					Race/Ethnicity			Education	
	Total	Male	Fem.	Dem.	Ind.	GOP	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+	White	Black	Lati.	Non-coll.	Coll.+
Support	58%	65%	53%	69%	31%	57%	62%	64%	56%	54%	57%	57%	62%	66%	52%	70%
Oppose	29%	25%	33%	19%	38%	42%	32%	28%	21%	28%	36%	32%	18%	24%	33%	23%
Und.	12%	10%	15%	12%	31%	2%	6%	8%	23%	18%	7%	11%	20%	10%	15%	7%

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