

facts

The U.S. is the only democratic nation in the world that denies representation in the national legislature to citizens of its capital city: Washington, DC residents have no representation in the U.S. Senate and only one non-voting delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Per capita, more Washington, DC residents have fought in wars defending American democracy than residents of any state.

Washington, DC residents pay over three billion dollars in annual taxes to the Federal Treasury—more, per capita, than the residents of all but one state.

Washington, DC is the only U.S. jurisdiction not permitted to spend its own local tax dollars without approval by Congress.

Washington, DC's population is larger than Wyoming's and is close to that of seven others.

According to polls, the overwhelming majority of Americans support full representation for Washington, DC residents.

1788 The U.S. Constitution is ratified, giving Congress exclusive power over the capital.

1791 President George Washington sets the boundaries of the District of Columbia combining land from Maryland and Virginia.

1801 District residents are disenfranchised from the national legislature by an act of Congress.

1871–1874 Washington, DC is given a nonvoting delegate to the House of Representatives, but the position is abolished three years later.

1961 The 23rd Amendment is ratified, granting Washingtonians the right to vote in presidential elections for the first time.

1970 The U.S. House of Representatives passes a law providing Washington, DC with a nonvoting delegate.

1978–1985 Congress approves a constitutional amendment providing two senators and a house member for Washington, DC. The amendment is ratified by 16 of the required 38 states.

2000 A federal appeals court holds that Washington, DC residents cannot be enfranchised through the courts, but must look instead to the Congress to extend voting rights to DC.

2003 The United States is found to be in violation of international human rights law by the Organization of American States for denying DC residents voting representation in their national legislature.

2003-2004 Several pieces of legislation addressing DC's disenfranchisement are introduced in the U.S. House and Senate, and hearings are held for the first time in a generation.

DC Vote is an educational and advocacy organization whose mission is to secure full voting representation in Congress for the residents of the District of Columbia.



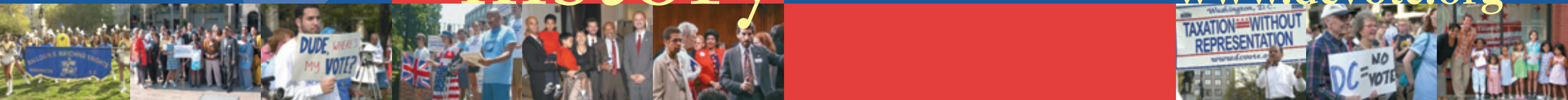
Working to secure democracy for Washington, DC

history



1500 U Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009
202.462.6000 • www.dcvote.org • info@dcvote.org

www.dcvote.org



“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” —Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1963)

Democracy Denied for Americans Living in Washington, DC

Washingtonians share all the responsibilities of other Americans: they pay federal income taxes, they defend their country in times of war, and they serve on federal juries. Ironically, people living in the “capital” of the free world are denied one right that is at the very foundation of a democracy: the right to shape the laws under which they live.

Our Founders fought the Revolutionary War to end “taxation without representation.” The time has come to fulfill the promise of American democracy by treating Washingtonians equally and giving them voting representation in Congress.

The Solution

Congress can extend democracy to our capital by passing the No Taxation Without Representation Act. This would provide Washington, DC with two U.S. Senate seats and the appropriate number of U.S. House seats based on its population. Congress already treats Washington, DC as a state in over 500 ways; voting representation in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate would be just one more way.

“The Republican Party supported DC voting representation because it was just, and in justice we could do nothing else.”

—Senator Robert Dole (R-Kansas) (1978)

DC Vote: Fighting for Democracy

Founded in 1998, DC Vote is an educational and advocacy organization whose mission is to secure full voting representation in Congress for the residents of the District of Columbia by:

- educating Congress and the American public about this injustice
- formulating solutions with coalition partners and elected officials
- promoting change based on the principle that a government is democratic only when people have the ability, through freely elected leaders, to shape the laws under which they live

Advocating for Change

Because the solution to this injustice will ultimately come through Congress, DC Vote and its supporters work actively to educate members of Congress and the national government about the plight of Washingtonians and to encourage the enactment of legislation extending democracy to Washington, DC.

Reaching out Nationally

Washington, DC residents cannot win this fight alone because they do not have power where they need it the most—in the U.S. Congress. So DC Vote works with national coalition partners to educate the American people about our plight and to promote activism among supporters in targeted states and districts. Our goal is to get local and national media interested in this injustice, to educate elected officials about DC’s status, and to demand that Congress right this historic wrong.

Engaging the Residents of Washington, DC

We rely primarily on the commitment, time, and resources of dedicated local supporters who passionately believe that they should be full citizens. These supporters include parents, teachers, lawyers, doctors and concerned residents. They increase awareness of the effects of disenfranchisement through essay and art contests, information tables at neighborhood and community gatherings, and public rallies and events. We host an annual DC Voting Rights Day on April 15th to highlight the fact that, while Washington, DC residents readily assume the taxation responsibilities of citizenship, they do not enjoy the same rights. DC Vote also works closely with elected officials and our delegate to the U.S. Congress to coordinate our collective educational and outreach efforts.

Serving as a Resource for the Media

Local, national and international media rely on DC Vote to provide the most relevant and up-to-date information on this issue. Through spokespersons and printed materials, DC Vote is the voice behind the movement to bring full congressional voting representation to Washington, DC residents.

“No 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. Other rights, even the most basic, are illusory if the right to vote is undermined.”

—U.S. Supreme Court Justice Black, *Wesberry v. Sanders* (1964)

Join DC Vote Today!

You can support representative democracy for all Americans today by becoming a member of DC Vote. Members receive a monthly e-mail bulletin from DC Vote about upcoming events and activities, a quarterly newsletter highlighting DC Vote accomplishments, and a DC Vote bumper sticker.

Membership

\$20 \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250

Other Donations (Please specify) \$

If you are considering a contribution of \$500 or more, please call 202.462.6896 or send an e-mail to donors@dcvote.org to learn about additional benefits.

Payment and Contact Information

Become a DC Vote member today by visiting our secure website; by calling toll free 866.437.3332; or by mailing this completed form with your credit card information or a check to the address below.

Enclosed is a check made payable to: DC Vote

Charge my credit card

Visa MasterCard American Express

Exp Date

Card Num

Signature

I'd like to make a monthly donation on my credit card of \$ to support DC Vote.

Name

Address

City, District/State, Zip

Home Phone Work Phone

E-mail Address

I'd like to volunteer for DC Vote. Please contact me.

I'd prefer not to receive e-mails from DC Vote.

Return Completed Form and Payment to

DC Vote • 1500 U Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009
202.462.6000 • www.dcvote.org • info@dcvote.org

DC Vote is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization. All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

