



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: David A. Lorenzo-Botello, Legislative Correspondent
Purpose: Final action – vote expected
Keywords: #DCStatehood

AGENDA ITEM #3D
Date: 02/25/2020
Action

SUBJECT

Resolution urging the United States Congress to use its constitutionally mandated powers to admit the residential and commercial areas of the District of Columbia, not including the National Capital Service Area – known as the Seat of the Government of the United States, as the 51st State of the Union.

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Action expected for February 25, 2020.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The District of Columbia has over 700,000 residents that pay taxes. Yet those residents do not have full representation in the United States Congress or the ability to locally govern. On February 11, 2020, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will vote on H.R. 51, the Washington D.C. Admission Act, which would grant District residents full representation in Congress and the ability to self-govern. This will be the first time that Montgomery County has introduced a resolution supporting D.C. statehood and the first time since 1993 that Members of Congress will vote on this important issue.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Residents of the District of Columbia pay taxes, yet those residents do not have full representation in the United States Congress or the ability to locally govern.

This report contains:

D.C. Statehood Resolution

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Glass
Co-sponsors: Council President Katz, Councilmember Albornoz, Councilmember Rice,
Councilmember Jawando, Councilmember Friedson, Councilmember Navarro

SUBJECT: Support for District of Columbia Statehood

Background

1. This nation is founded on the belief that all people are endowed with certain inalienable rights and that to secure these rights, governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.
2. The United States is the formal union of states formed by their people and to have the full rights of self-government, one must be a citizen of a state.
3. Statehood only requires a simple majority vote in each house of Congress and the President's signature and is the only form of self-government that Congress cannot amend or take away
4. The people of the District of Columbia are the only Americans who bear all the burdens of citizenship, but who do not enjoy all of the citizenship's benefits and remain effectively a colony
5. Residents of the District of Columbia have fought and died in each of America's wars, including the war that created this country.
6. No other nation in the entire world denies the right of self-government, including participation in its national legislature, to the residents of its capital and several international human rights organizations have found that the District's lack of voting representation in Congress violates international law.
7. The Constitution only sets a maximum size for the "Seat of the Government of the United States," otherwise known as the District of Columbia, and Congress, with the consent of the Commonwealth of Virginia and local residents, reduced the size of the District of Columbia in 1846, when it returned one-third of the District to Virginia.

8. Congress in the 1973 District of Columbia Self-Government and Government Reorganization Act, (the "Home Rule Act") has already carved out the federal core of the District, including the White House, Capitol, Supreme Court, Mall and monuments, as the National Capital Service Area and such area can constitutionally be the "Seat of the Government of the United States."
9. District voters have overwhelmingly expressed their desire for statehood by voting in a 2016 advisory referendum in favor of statehood.
10. Newly introduced legislation H.R. 51 / S. 631 has a record 224 and 35 original cosponsors respectively.
11. The District of Columbia is home to over 702,000 residents, which is more than the states of Wyoming and Vermont.
12. District residents pay the highest federal income tax per capita when compared to residents of any of the 50 states.
13. The District has passed 24 consecutive balanced budgets, achieved a "triple A" bond rating in 2018 and maintains enviable cash reserves. Washington, DC adds nearly 900 new residents per month; its \$16 billion local budget is funded by mostly local taxes and fees, the District has clearly proven its ability to self-govern.
14. Statehood is the simplest and most constitutional way to make the people of the District of Columbia full citizens of the United States of America and is a matter of simple justice.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The Council urges the Congress to use its powers under Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution and admit the residential and commercial areas of the District of Columbia, minus the National Capital Service Area which shall henceforth be the Seat of the Government of the United States, as the 51st State of the Union.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq., Clerk of the Council