



BECOMING THE 51ST STATE

Frequently Asked Questions

How will statehood be achieved?

Statehood for the people of Washington, D.C. will be achieved by the House and Senate passing and the President signing the DC Statehood bill. Statehood legislation, which requires a simple majority vote and cannot be repealed, is the way that every state, except for the original 13, became part of the United States. In November, 2016 86% of DC voters declared their support for statehood. The next step is Congressional passage of the DC Statehood bill.

Is it Constitutional to reduce the size of the District of Columbia?

Yes. The Constitution sets only a maximum size, "ten miles square," for the federal district that is the "Seat of the Government of the United States." Congress has the authority to redefine the borders of the federal district and shrink its size, as it did in 1846, when the portion west of the Potomac was returned to Virginia.

Creating the 51st state will require a simple reduction in the size of the federal district to an unpopulated area which includes the Capitol, White House, Supreme Court, National Mall and key monuments.

Will our new state be financially viable?

Yes. Washington, D.C. now operates as if were a state with several exceptions. For example, our courts and state/local criminal justice system, including criminal prosecutions, prisons, probation and post incarceration oversight, are under federal control. The District's vibrant urban economy has a bigger gross domestic product than 16 states. Statehood will allow tapping other potential revenue streams which are prohibited by the District's Home Rule Charter.

Why is statehood important to the people of Washington, D.C.?

The people of Washington, D.C. deserve the same rights that the people in the 50 states enjoy. District residents are required to fulfill all the obligations of U.S. citizenship. Yet for over 200 years, we have been denied a voice in our national government and the right to govern ourselves. Enacting the DC Statehood bill will at last give us the same rights of Congressional representation and self-government that people in the 50 states currently enjoy.

How can you help?

Please visit www.dcstatehoodcoalition.org to sign the petition!