

Democracy Deserved?

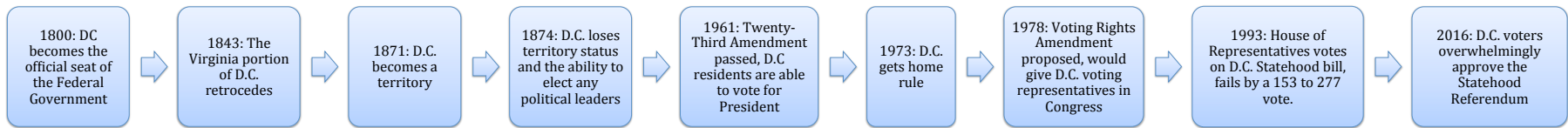
An Analysis of Statehood for Washington, DC



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Washington, D.C. was established to provide a sovereign space for the federal government to operate without the threat of state power or state militias influencing the government. An unintended consequence of the creation of the Capital is that the residents of D.C. do not have representation in the federal government nor do they have autonomy, despite paying federal taxes. By understanding the history of D.C.'s relationship with the federal government, the current and future statehood movements will be able to find success.

Explanation of Research	Local Jurisdictions with Congressional Intervention	Potential Remedies
<p>My research questions were: Why did the past attempts for statehood fail and what should statehood look like in the future?</p> <p>This thesis is meant to serve to better inform the leaders of the current statehood movement to address shortcomings and help statehood succeed in the short term.</p> <p>I spent time at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library in Washington, D.C. examining documents, books, and theses on the subject of statehood. I also went to statehood related events throughout D.C.</p>	<p>D.C.'s fiscal year budgets</p> <p>Passing and Enacting laws</p> <p>Partisan issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legalization of marijuana • Providing funding for abortions • Increasing gun control • Establishing a needle exchange • Enacting a physician assisted suicide law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional Amendment to either giving D.C. voting representation in Congress or establishing the 51st state. • Retrocession which would include returning the 68 square miles that is currently D.C. back to Maryland, who seceded the land in 1790. • Tennessee Plan, used by Tennessee in 1796, entails a territory calling itself a state then demanding to be acknowledged as such in Congress. • Statehood, the most realistic option, would involve Congress passing a law declaring statehood.



Constitutional Considerations

Overall, the constitution should preserve what works under the current form of government and enhance checks and balances.

The Legislative Branch should increase from 13 members to 24.

The Executive Branch should include a Lieutenant Governor that sits as the head of the State Legislature. The appointment of CFO should be confirmed by the Legislature.

The Judicial Branch should stay most similar to the current form. Judges should be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature .

The State should be named Douglass Commonwealth.

Primaries should be open to encourage Republicans participating in the almost entirely Democratic government.

A super majority should be needed for referenda, ballot initiatives, and amendments.



How to Achieve Statehood

The movement should start by agreeing on a course of action and consolidating the numerous tiny movements into one unified voice. They should generate conversation amongst Washingtonians and the nation about the issues that come with the current status of D.C. Then the movement should lobby Congressmen to seriously support D.C. statehood.

Support faintly exists throughout Democrats in Congress for statehood, but residents need to convince them that statehood is a politically savvy issue to support.

These steps are not impossible to achieve. Therefore with proper leadership and a clear list of priorities it is possible to achieve statehood for Washington, D.C.