

Resolution to Revoke Washington, D.C. Self-Governance and Special Privileges

Summary

Washington D.C. is placed under Congressional oversight, and D.C. residents only have to pay federal taxes not state-level taxes. The District's far-left Democratic leadership has been soft on crime, favors non-citizen voting, and, of course, D.C. statehood. Opposition to any of these initiatives is framed as "racism" against D.C.'s majority-black population, eliminating any reasonable debate on this issue. Furthermore, the Founding Fathers never intended for the nation's capital to be a state, and in fact, *Federalist No. 43* warns against it, for the very reason of avoiding partisan influence. ^[1]

Resolution

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia's government is specifically distinguished from the States and given special oversight by Congress in Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 of the U.S. Constitution, which says, "To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings" ^[2]; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this Congressional oversight, the District of Columbia Home Rule Act of 1973 provided for a mayor and city council to Washington D.C. However, this is still under Congressional oversight and funded by the Federal government, meaning only federal taxes, and not state-level taxes, are paid ^[3]; and

WHEREAS, under U.S. Attorney for District of Columbia Matthew Graves, 67 percent of criminal cases in Fiscal Year 2022 failed to lead to a prosecution ^[4]; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of current Mayor Muriel Bowser and the D.C. Council, Washington D.C. has pursued radical criminal justice reforms to weaken the rule of law including the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022,

which restricted gun rights, loosened drug-related offenses, and repeal certain imprisonment provisions [5]; and

WHEREAS, Washington D.C.'s non-voting member of U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, has promoted D.C. statehood, introducing the Washington D.C. Admission act on January 9, 2023. This includes the introduction of two new Senators, tilting the balance of power in favor of the Democrats, Norton's party [6]; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Norton blames opposition to these policies as racism against D.C.'s majority black population, rather than legitimate disagreement. This leftist worldview fosters division and resentment and tears at the fabric of our national unity [7]; and

WHEREAS, Norton introduced a bill to allow noncitizen voting, and slammed opponents as once again being "undemocratic," and blaming it on D.C.'s lack of statehood [8], despite Congress passing a law in 1996 specifically banning noncitizen voting in Federal elections, [9]; and

WHEREAS, the Founding Fathers never intended for millions of people to live and work in Washington, D.C., but wanted it to remain neutral so its government buildings could service the whole country. James Madison in Federalist No. 43 warned that if the capital was not federally controlled and neutral, that, "the public authority might be insulted and its proceedings interrupted with impunity," which includes partisan meddling in its affairs [1]; and

THEREFORE, [INSERT COMMITTEE NAME HERE] calls on every Republican leader throughout [INSERT NAME OF STATE AND LOCALITIES HERE], to support the contents of a resolution demanding a revocation of DC's self-governance and special privileges. The [insert committee name here] passes this resolution to create a mandate demanding that DC's self-governance and special privileges be removed.

Sources

1. *Federalist #43*. <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Madison/01-10-02-0248>
2. *The U.S. Constitution* - Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17
3. Council of the District of Columbia. *District of Columbia Home Rule Act*. 2018, dccouncil.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Home-Rule-Act-2018-for-printing-9-13-182.pdf.
4. "Hearing Wrap up: D.C.'s Crime Crisis Created by Soft-on-Crime Policies, Lack of Prosecutions." United States House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, 16 May 2023, oversight.house.gov/release/hearing-wrap-up-d-c-s-crime-crisis-created-by-soft-on-crime-policies-lack-of-prosecutions%ef%bf%bc/.
5. Council of the District of Columbia. *Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022*. 2021, legiscan.com/DC/text/B24-0416/2021.
6. Congressional Research Service. District of Columbia Voting Representation in Congress: Overview of Proposals. 8 Mar. 2023, www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF11443.
7. Wright, James. "D.C. Delegate Slams GOP's Attempt to Repeal Home Rule Act." *The Washington Informer*, 12 July 2024, www.washingtoninformer.com/repeal-home-rule-act-d-c-statehood/.
8. Schnell, Mychael. "House Passes Resolutions to Block DC Noncitizen Voting Bill, Criminal Code." *The Hill*, *The Hill*, 9 Feb. 2023, thehill.com/homenews/house/3852191-house-passes-resolutions-to-block-dc-noncitizen-voting-bill-criminal-code/.
9. "Laws Permitting Noncitizens to Vote in the United States." *Ballotpedia*, ballotpedia.org/Laws_permitting_noncitizens_to_vote_in_the_United_States. Accessed 25 Mar. 2025.