



# DC Statehood Toolkit: Fixing the Hole in Our Democracy

League of Women Voters, District of  
Columbia



# Breaking News!

House of Representatives to hold historic vote on  
Washington DC Admission Act on June 26, 2020



How Did We Get Here?

# Some Quick History Notes

- Congress moved into DC in 1801 with the Organic Act that disenfranchised DC citizens as it established the federal District.
- Congressmen were already concerned about DC's status but kicked the can down the road.
- Gave back Virginia section of DC to Virginia before the Civil War, establishing precedent that Congress can reduce the size of the District.
- Tried lots of local control methods but ended up with dictatorial system of 3 Commissioners who controlled DC affairs for 100 years.

# Modern Time Advances



23<sup>rd</sup> Amendment passed, giving DC citizens the right to vote for President (1964, first time DC got to vote for President)



Home Rule Act allows DC citizens to elect Mayor, DC Council and School Board (early 70's)



Attempt to pass a Constitutional Amendment to give DC representation fails in 1985 when only 16 state legislatures pass it.



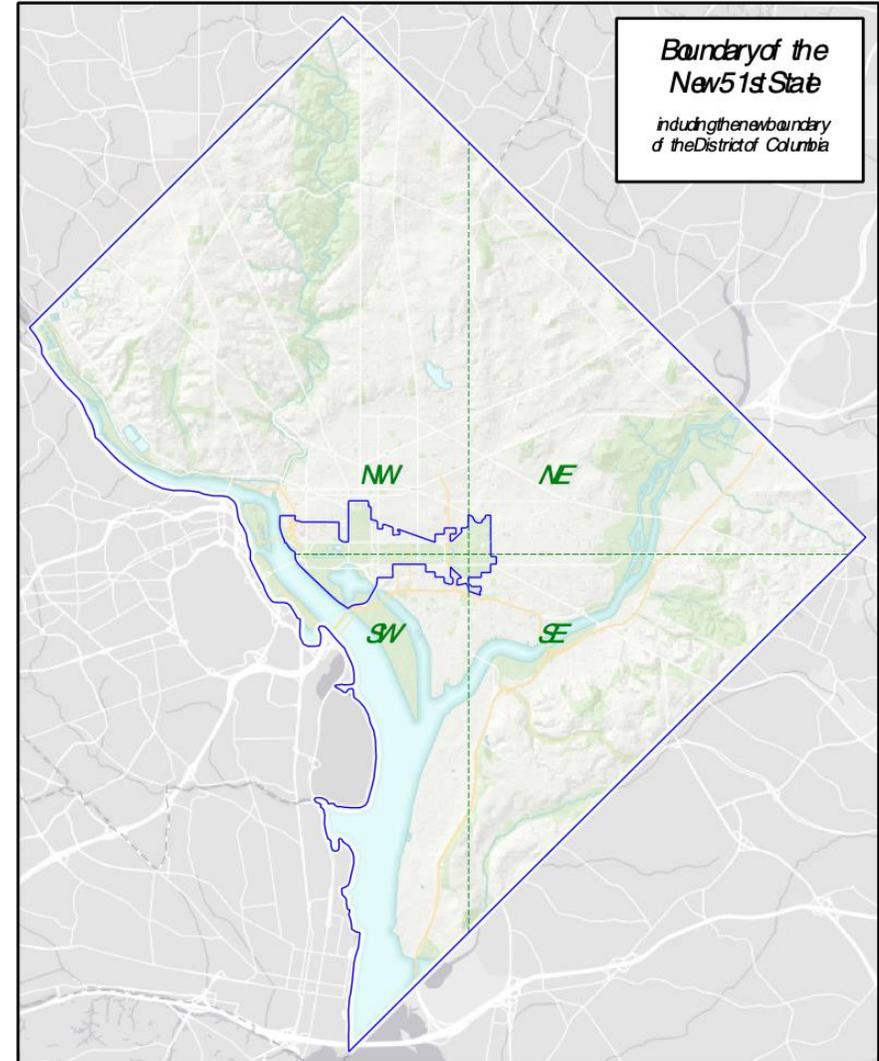
First statehood bill on floor of House fails to pass in 1993.



New referendum calling for statehood passes by wide margin in 2016, setting up this most recent effort to achieve statehood.

# What does DC Statehood look like?

- Federal District is the small section, about 2 miles sq., that would still be our nation's Capital.
- Major national landmarks are in the Federal District, like the Capitol, Supreme Court, White House, Senate and House office buildings, Library of Congress, monuments and the national Mall.
- The larger part where over 700,000 people live, more than Wyoming and Vermont and on par with Alaska and North Dakota, would be the new state.



Map prepared by John Loikow (10/27/16)

## Next Steps

- House passes Washington DC Admission Act on June 26.
- Currently 225 House members and 40 Senators are co-sponsors of the Act.
- Senate must pass Act and President must sign for the new state to enter the Union.
- If this Senate and President do not act, the Bill dies and must be reintroduced in a future session of Congress.

# What You Can Do!

- Talk about DC statehood to your friends and neighbors. People don't know much about it.
- Learn more about DC statehood by checking out our DC Statehood Toolkit at [www.lwvdc.org](http://www.lwvdc.org). Invite the League to talk at your community group.
- Send LWVDC postcard mailers to your family and friends who live in the 50 states. They can use the easy return postcard to support us. Email [statehood@lwvdc.org](mailto:statehood@lwvdc.org) with your contact information and the number of mailers you need, and we will get them to you.
- Join the DC 51 Vote Watch Party on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM-9 PM by signing up at [www.showup4DC.com](http://www.showup4DC.com)

# Thanks so much!

---

Time for Q and A

Anne Anderson, Chair, LWVDC Committee for Full Rights for DC Citizens  
[statehood@lwwdc.org](mailto:statehood@lwwdc.org)