



September 15, 2025

Vote Against Anti-DC Home Rule Measures, Support DC Statehood

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of DC Vote and 59 other organizations representing communities in Washington, DC and across the country, we urge you to oppose any measure that would strip power from the people of the District of Columbia and their elected leaders. Instead, we ask that you extend full democracy to DC residents by passing H.R./S. 51 and making DC the 51st state.

As you know, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform recently reported out 13 anti-DC measures. Earlier this month, the House Appropriations Committee included a wide array of policy riders to DC's budget. Taken together, these measures represent the most aggressive attempt to roll back DC home rule in 30 years. We urge you to reject these efforts.

These measures are anti-democratic at their core. Over 700,000 people live in Washington, DC, the majority of whom are Black or Brown. Despite paying taxes and serving on juries and in the military, DC residents do not have any voting representation in Congress. The limited self-government they do have under home rule was meant to be a down-payment on full democracy. The time is now for extending full democracy to DC residents.

Instead, Congress is being asked to go back in time and erode the limited rights people currently possess. This proposed retrenchment is not about helping DC; it is primarily about interfering in the local affairs of people with whom some members of Congress have policy disagreements.

Let us be clear. There is no crime emergency in DC. If there were a true emergency, Congress would, among other things, rush to confirm judges for DC's Superior Court and request more nominees; it would have objected when prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's office were fired for doing their jobs and urge the hiring of additional prosecutors; and it would restore \$158 million in grants for gun violence prevention and \$811 million for public safety and victim services.

In reality, this is a power grab, exemplified by H.R. 5179, the District of Columbia Attorney General Appointment Reform Act. In every jurisdiction, the attorney general is charged with representing the interests of the people. In some instances, the attorney general's duties include ensuring that the president acts according to the law. This bill, however, seeks to strip away that power from the people and shut down recent lawsuits against the current President. Adoption of such a bill would constitute a dangerous step that would significantly erode our democracy nationwide. It should be rejected by Congress.

For nearly two decades, a bipartisan group of members in Congress worked constructively with DC leaders to find solutions to local problems and to help the nation's capital thrive. That approach not only created stability for people living in the DC area, but it also provided an example of how policy differences could be set aside for the common good.

We urge this Congress to find its way back again to bipartisan support for self-governance in DC. Let DC residents hold their locally elected leaders accountable. That is the power and responsibility that people have in every capital of every state in the United States and in every capital of every democratic country in the world. DC residents should have it as well.

Finally, we urge Congress to go a step further – extend full democracy to DC residents by making DC the 51st state.

Sincerely,

DC Vote

A. Philip Randolph Institute

Advancement Project

AFT

American Humanist Association

ANC 5D03

Black Voters Matter Fund

Caring Majority

Choose Democracy

Clean Elections Texas

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Cleveland Park Congregational UCC

Congregation Action Network

D.C. Chapter of the National Organization for Women

DC Action

DC Democratic State Committee

DC Fiscal Policy Institute

DC Jobs With Justice

Democracy Defenders Action

Democracy Matters

DemCast USA

EmpowerEd

Equality California

Feminist Majority

Free Speech For People

Human Rights Campaign

Jewish Voice for Peace-DC Metro

Just Solutions

Justice 4 Housing

Justice and Witness Action Network
Lambda Legal
League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia
League of Women Voters of the United States
Legal Aid DC
Legal Defense Fund
Long Live GoGo
Metro DC Democratic Socialists of America
Miriam's Kitchen
National Association of Social Workers
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Organization for Women
National Women's Law Center Action Fund
Neighbors United for DC Statehood
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Peace Action
People For the American Way
People Power United
Positive Force DC
Public Citizen
Reproductive Freedom for All
Rock Spring Congregational UCC
Secure Elections Network
Sojourners/Sojo Action
Stand Up America
Visionary V Ministries
Voices for Progress
Ward 3 Democratic Committee
We Are Family Senior Outreach Network
198 methods