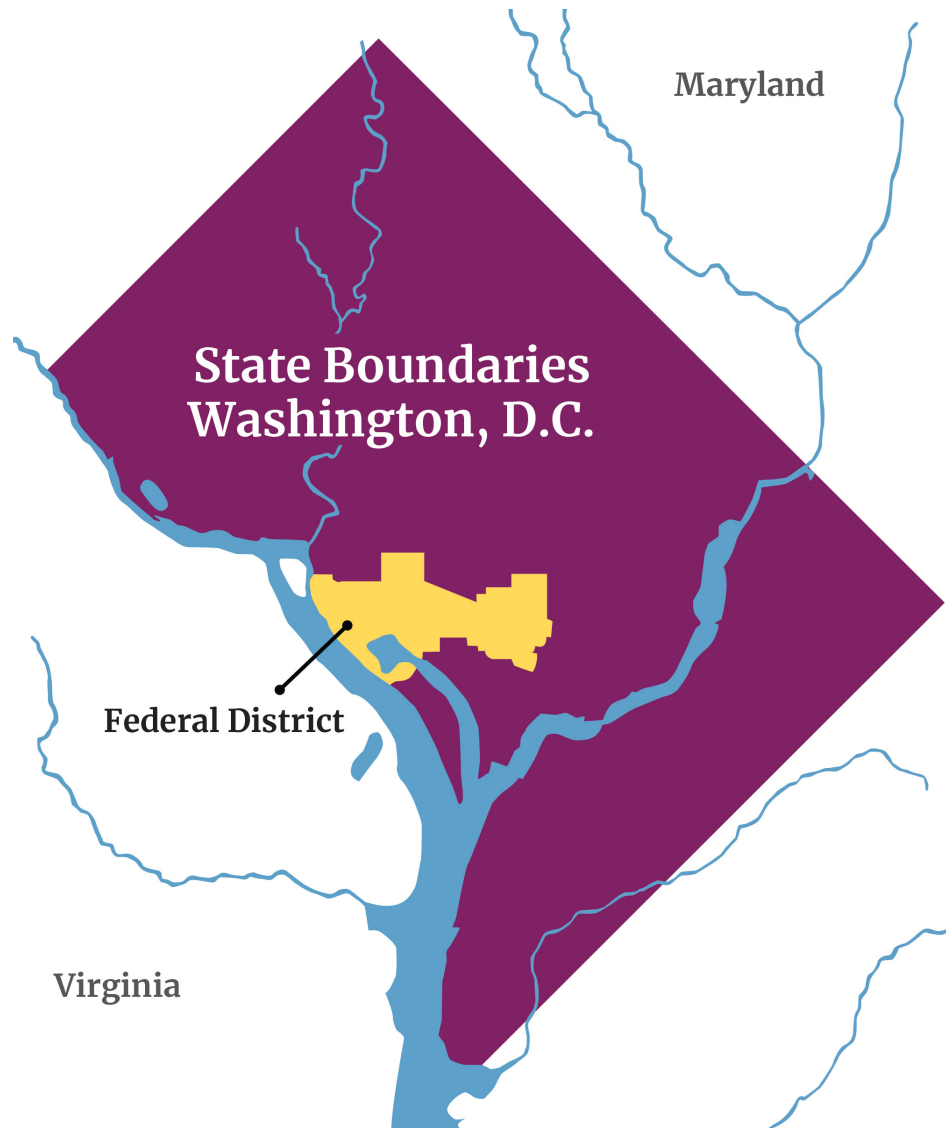


# Ten Things to Know about D.C. Statehood

1. We have more people than either Vermont or Wyoming. They get to be a state. Why not us?
2. Senators and Representatives make critical decisions and must listen to their voters. We don't have anyone with a vote in Congress listening to us.
3. D.C. elects a Delegate to Congress who can do many things but has no vote on any final legislation.
4. We do what we are supposed to—pay taxes, fight for our country, and must obey US laws. We deserve representation.
5. D.C. elects a Mayor and a D.C. Council, but Congress can still throw out our laws and change our budget.
6. Unlike all the states, the federal government is in charge of D.C.'s judicial system.
7. In 2016, D.C. voters voted 86% in favor of statehood.
8. D.C. can become a state by an act of Congress, signed by the president; no Constitutional Amendment needed.



9. **PROGRESS!**  
The Washington D.C. Admission Act (HR 51) has passed the House twice. In 2024, HR 51 has 210 co-sponsors and S. 51 in the Senate has 46 cosponsors.
10. When the new state is admitted, the nation's capital will be in the Federal District. Our nation's capital will still belong to all Americans!

# But what about...

## Common questions about D.C. statehood

### ***What about the people who still say D.C. Statehood is unconstitutional?***

The Constitution requires there be a federal district “no more than 10 miles square.” In our proposal, the constitutionally-required federal district will become smaller. It will include the White House, Congress, and the National Mall, and many other buildings that house our national government. It will not include any residents other than those in the White House, will still be under Congress’s control, and will still belong to all Americans. Congress has reduced the size of the federal district before, when it approved the return of the area west of the Potomac River to Virginia at the request of residents in that area and the state of Virginia.

***What about Puerto Rico and the other territories?*** Puerto Rico has not applied for statehood by submitting an “admission act” to Congress like D.C. has. We will support them if they do because we believe in self-determination and voting rights for Americans.

***What about just going back to Maryland?*** The people of D.C. have voted to petition for statehood, not to return to Maryland. The District was created in 1790,

before the majority of US states were created. We have our own culture and values. The Maryland legislature voted overwhelmingly in 1990 not to take back D.C. and almost all of the Maryland congressional delegation supports D.C. statehood. States must agree to any changes to their borders, so Congress could not force Maryland to “take back” D.C..

***What about the claim that D.C. is too small to be a state?*** Acres do not vote. People do. At nearly 700,000, D.C. currently has more residents than Vermont and Wyoming. And Alaska, North Dakota, and South Dakota all have less than 1 million residents.

***Won’t D.C. lose a lot of federal money when it becomes a state?*** Just like all other states, D.C. receives federal funds for many programs including Medicaid, transportation, and education. It will continue to receive this money when it becomes a state. The federal government also pays for part of D.C.’s judicial system. In fiscal year 2022, all federal funds were 28% of D.C.’s budget, compared to a national average of 36.4%. The amount ranged from 50.5% of Louisiana’s budget to 22.2% of North Dakota’s in fiscal year 2022, the most recent date comparable data is available.



***Please sign our petition!*** We need people from around the country to show their support for ending DC’s disenfranchisement through statehood.

<http://bit.ly/Petition4DC>

Got more questions?

Go to [www.lwvdc.org/statehood](http://www.lwvdc.org/statehood) or write to [statehood@lwvdc.org](mailto:statehood@lwvdc.org).