



SPONSOR: Sen. S. McBride & Sen. Townsend
Sens. Gay, Hoffner, Huxtable, Pinkney, Sturgeon

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 9

URGING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT FEDERAL LEGISLATION GRANTING
STATEHOOD TO THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

1 WHEREAS, the people living on the land that would eventually be designated as the District of Columbia were
2 provided the right to vote for representation in Congress when the United States Constitution was ratified in 1788; and

3 WHEREAS, the passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the District of Columbia under the exclusive authority
4 of the United States Congress and abolished residents' right to vote for members of Congress and the President and Vice
5 President of the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia were granted the right to vote for the President and Vice
7 President through passage of the Twenty-Third Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1961; and

8 WHEREAS, as of 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau data estimates that the District of Columbia's population at
9 approximately 689,545 residents is comparable to the populations of Wyoming (576,851), Vermont (643,077), Alaska
10 (733,391), and North Dakota (779,094); and

11 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia share all the responsibilities of United States citizenship,
12 including paying more federal taxes than residents of 22 states, service on federal juries, and defending the United States as
13 members of the United States armed forces in every war since the War for Independence; yet they are denied full
14 representation in Congress; and

15 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia themselves have endorsed statehood for the District of
16 Columbia and passed a District-wide referendum on November 8, 2016, which favored statehood by 86%; and

17 WHEREAS, no other democratic nation denies the right of self-government, including participation in its national
18 legislature, to the residents of its capital; and

19 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia lack full democracy, equality, and citizenship enjoyed by the
20 residents of the 50 states; and

21 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has repeatedly interfered with the District of Columbia's limited self-
22 government by enacting laws that affect the District of Columbia's expenditure of its locally-raised tax revenue, including

23 barring the usage of locally-raised revenue, thus violating the fundamental principle that states and local governments are
24 best suited to enact legislation that represents the will of their citizens; and

25 WHEREAS, although the District of Columbia has passed consecutive balanced budgets since FY1997, it still
26 faces the possibility of being shut down yearly because of Congressional deliberations over the federal budget; and

27 WHEREAS, District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and Delaware U.S. Senator Tom Carper
28 introduced in the 117th Congress H.R. 51 and S. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, that provides that the State of
29 Washington, D.C. would have all the rights of citizenship as taxpaying American citizens, including two Senators and at
30 least one House member; and

31 WHEREAS, District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and Delaware U.S. Senator Tom Carper
32 introduced in the 118th Congress H.R. 51 and S. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, that provides that the State of
33 Washington, D.C. would have all the rights of citizenship as taxpaying American citizens, including two Senators and at
34 least one House member; and

35 WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Committee has called on the United States Congress to address the
36 District of Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization of American States has declared the
37 disenfranchisement of District of Columbia residents a violation of its charter agreement, to which the United States is a
38 signatory.

39 NOW, THEREFORE:

40 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware that the members of
41 the United States Congress are urged to enact federal legislation granting statehood to the people of Washington, D.C.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Delaware supports admitting Washington, D.C. into the Union as
43 a state of the United States of America.

SYNOPSIS

This Senate Resolution urges the United States Congress to enact legislation granting statehood to the people of Washington, D.C.

Author: Senator S. McBride