

CAPITAL GAINS

Should the District of Columbia be given a vote in the House of Representatives?

For more than 200 years, residents of the District of Columbia have not had a vote in Congress. The U.S. capital is a federal city-not a state-and therefore has a unique political status in the Constitution. The District is entitled to a delegate in the House of Representatives who can sponsor legislation but is not able to cast a vote. The federal city has no representation at all in the Senate.

The Constitution gives Congress the power to legislate over the District in "all Cases whatsoever." Ever since Washington became the Capital City, residents of the District have petitioned for representation in Congress, beginning

with the election of 1801.

Earlier this year, a proposal was reintroduced to Congress that would grant the District of Columbia full membership and voting rights in the House. Proponents argue that denying the District a voting member in Congress is the very "taxation without representation" that the Founders fought against. Opponents say that the Constitution gives

the right of representation only to states, thus in the interest of national security, the District should remain under the supervision of Congress.




Should the District of Columbia be given a vote in the House of Representatives?

YES

- D.C. residents pay taxes, serve in the military, and shoulder all other responsibilities of citizenship and therefore have the right to be represented in Congress.
- Without representation in the House and Senate, the District's 550,000 residents are denied equal voting rights with other Americans.
- The bill for D.C. representation would also add a new member to the House from Utah, expected to preserve partisan balance and accomplish a long overdue expansion of Congress from 435 to 437 members.

NO

- Representation in Congress is a right that the Constitution gives only to states, not to individual citizens.
- In order to protect the federal government, Congress must maintain legislative control over the District of Columbia, as the Founders envisioned.
- Congress is large enough already; expanding its size would only add to government bloat.

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|  © 856.853.7500 fax 856.853.5271 | JOB NUMBER 11555 | MATERIALS / INSTRUCTIONS NEW Panel - Inkjet print w/ 3 mil overlam mt to 1/2" MDF, Edge WRAPPED Fasten wall with pinch cleat system QTY: 1 | | | | CLIENT APPROVAL | DATE |
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