

DC STATEHOOD FACT SHEET

➤ STATEHOOD IS THE ONLY PATH TO FULL CITIZENSHIP.

- Only statehood confers ALL the benefits of citizenship:
 - Full voting representation in both houses of Congress
 - Control over our own laws and budgets
 - Control over our criminal justice system (judges, district attorney)
 - The *respect* accorded only to states (having our sculptures in Statuary Hall, state quarters, etc. without the need for special legislation)

➤ STATEHOOD IS POLITICALLY ACHIEVABLE.

- Statehood requires only simple legislation to achieve; no constitutional amendment is necessary
- President Obama has announced his support for DC statehood
- Democrats (currently the majority in both houses of Congress) should support statehood for partisan reasons
- One path to statehood could be pairing the admission of DC as a state along with Puerto Rico
- Members of Congress around the country (especially beyond the DC region) could be persuaded to support DC statehood as a means to reduce federal financial obligations to the District (such as funding for courts and prisons), overcoming likely concerns in Maryland and Virginia about non-resident taxes.
- The District should encourage international bodies and foreign governments to find the United States in violation of human rights standards for its treatment of the district, thereby putting pressure on the U.S. government

➤ **STATEHOOD IS FINANCIALLY FEASIBLE.**

- The District could afford to reassume state functions ceded in the 1997 Revitalization Act
 - Total cost of assuming state functions (including prisons, courts and Medicaid costs): **\$941,155**¹
 - The office of the DC Chief Financial Officer estimates that if DC were able to tax non-resident income at its current tax rates it could raise more than **\$2 billion** in additional revenue.²
- The DC government should explore ways to increase revenues from goods and services purchased by non-residents (e.g., restaurants, stores heavily used by daytime commuters)
- The DC government should press the federal government for a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for services rendered to tax-exempt federal properties
- The DC government should press for PILOTs by non-profit organizations exempt from taxes

➤ **STATEHOOD SHOULD BE THE GOAL OF THE DISTRICT'S CITIZENS AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP.**

- The District must present a single message and unified stance in support of Statehood.
- All actions of the District government and its representatives in Congress should be done with the goal of statehood in mind.

¹ Testimony of Alice M. Rivlin, Brookings Institution and Georgetown University, before DC Council Special Committee on Statehood and Self-Determination, July 13, 2009

² Ibid.