



# The DISTRICT of COLUMBIA **F·R·E·E·D·O·M·Act**



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**STATEHOOD NOW!**

**STAND OPP FOR DC'S DOOM**

**DEMOCRACY FOR DC**

**STATEHOOD NOW!**



**EQUAL RIGHTS FOR DC**

**SQUAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR DC**

**Full Representation Ensuring Every District Of America Matters**

# THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA F.R.E.E.D.O.M. ACT

*Full Representation Ensuring Every District Of America Matters*

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2026 Democratic Primary Candidate for Delegate to Congress

## **Executive Summary**

The District of Columbia is home to more than 700,000 tax paying Americans who serve in our armed forces, operate our federal government, sustain our national economy, and uphold our democratic traditions. Yet these citizens remain without voting representation in Congress and without full sovereignty over their own locally raised funds and laws.

This is not a symbolic issue. It is a structural failure of American democracy.

The District of Columbia **F.R.E.E.D.O.M. Act** presents a comprehensive strategy to strengthen Home Rule immediately while advancing a clear, executable pathway to full statehood. This framework treats statehood not as a slogan but as a legislative, political, and organizing campaign rooted in civil rights, fiscal autonomy, and democratic equality.

In plain terms, this plan is about one simple idea: if you live here, work here, pay taxes here, and raise your family here, then you deserve the same rights and the same representation as every other American.

This policy brief explains how we will move statehood forward with a clear legislative plan, a realistic timeline, and a strategy to defend the District from federal interference while the fight continues.

## **I. The Democratic Imperative**

The District remains the only democratic capital in the modern world whose citizens are denied full legislative representation. Congress retains authority to overturn locally passed laws, insert policy riders into the District's budget, and withhold locally raised tax dollars.

For many residents, this sounds like something that only happens in Washington politics, far away from daily life. But it is not far away. When Congress interferes with DC, it can change what happens in our schools, our hospitals, our public safety strategy, and our ability to invest in housing and homelessness prevention. It can even change whether the District can spend money it already collected from its own residents.

Statehood is therefore both a civil rights correction and a structural democracy reform. Strengthening Home Rule is the immediate stabilization strategy while pursuing full sovereignty. Home Rule is the minimum standard. Statehood is the full promise of democracy.

## II. Legislative Framework

The District of Columbia F.R.E.E.D.O.M. Act will consist of four integrated legislative pillars. These pillars are designed to work together. Statehood is the destination, but Home Rule protections are the shield we need while we fight to get there.

### 1. Immediate Introduction of Statehood Legislation

On the first day of the new Congress, comprehensive statehood legislation will be introduced and prioritized for early hearings and markups.

This matters because timing is power in Congress. If statehood is introduced late, it becomes an afterthought. If it is introduced on Day 1, it becomes a priority and a test of leadership. The goal is to force the conversation early, set the agenda, and build momentum before opponents have time to derail the process.

#### **The bill will:**

- **Establish the State of Washington Douglass Commonwealth:**

This provision formally creates the new state, ensuring that DC residents are no longer treated as second class citizens.

- **Preserve a constitutionally compliant federal enclave:**

The Constitution requires a federal district for the seat of government. This provision keeps a smaller federal capital zone while allowing the rest of the District to become a state. It protects the Nation's Capital while freeing the people who live here.

- **Provide full voting representation in both chambers of Congress:**

This is the heart of the fight. It means DC would finally have two U.S. Senators and voting Members of Congress like every other state. No more being governed without representation.

### 2. Statehood Implementation and Transition Act

Statehood requires operational planning. Winning a vote in Congress is not enough. We must also be ready to govern as a state in a way that protects services, keeps the economy stable, and ensures residents are not harmed during transition.

#### **A companion measure will:**

- **Establish a DC Statehood Transition Commission:**

This commission would coordinate the legal and administrative transition from District status to state status.

- **Set enforceable legal, fiscal, and administrative deadlines:**

Deadlines prevent delay tactics. They also ensure agencies are prepared for the shift in authority.

- **Require quarterly public reporting:**

Statehood must be transparent. Residents should be able to see what is happening, what progress is being made, and how the transition is being managed.

- **Define federal enclave boundaries:**

This clarifies what remains the federal capital and what becomes part of the new state, reducing confusion and preventing future disputes.

- **Coordinate agency level readiness planning:**

Every major agency must plan for staffing, budgeting, and service delivery under statehood so there is no disruption in healthcare, public safety, transportation, or education.

This ensures the transition is structured, transparent, and resident led.

### **3. Home Rule Protection and Anti Interference Act**

Until statehood is secured, Home Rule must be fortified. This legislation is the immediate defense strategy.

Right now, Congress can interfere with DC through budget riders, political takeovers, and attempts to cancel locally passed laws. That means local democracy can be overridden by politicians who do not live here, do not pay taxes here, and do not answer to DC voters.

#### **This legislation will:**

- **Eliminate Congress' ability to withhold locally raised taxpayer dollars:**

DC residents should never again have their own money taken hostage in Congress. Our budget is funded by our residents. We should be able to spend it without federal punishment.

- **Restrict or eliminate appropriations riders targeting DC:**

Policy riders are how Congress sneaks in restrictions on DC laws. This provision blocks those backdoor attacks.

- **Increase procedural barriers to Congressional overrides:**

This means Congress will no longer be able to interfere with DC quietly or easily. If Members want to override a DC law, they should have to do it in the open, through a standalone vote, with hearings and accountability. In practice, we will push rules and legislation that require recorded votes, prohibit backdoor riders, and make any override process more transparent and more politically costly.

- **Transfer National Guard authority to the Mayor of the District:**

No President should be able to deploy troops in our streets without the consent of the people who live here. Statehood requires sovereignty, but even before statehood we must protect DC from federal militarization.

- **Create transparency requirements before any federal interference:**

If Congress or the executive branch is going to interfere, residents deserve notice, hearings, and accountability.

Home Rule is not optional. It is the minimum threshold of democracy.

#### **4. Permanent Representation Guarantee**

The objective is not incremental reform. The objective is full voting representation equal to every other state.

Some proposals try to offer partial solutions, symbolic seats, or temporary voting arrangements. Those approaches fail because they keep DC residents dependent on the goodwill of Congress. Rights should not depend on goodwill. Rights should be guaranteed.

This pillar ensures the goal remains clear and uncompromised: full sovereignty, full representation, and full equality.

### **III. Transition Governance Model**

Statehood requires both sovereignty and structural clarity. The proposed transition governance model expands representation and neighborhood level empowerment.

This model is rooted in a simple belief: statehood should not only change DC's relationship with Congress, it should also strengthen democracy inside DC itself.

- **Each Ward transitions into its own city structure:**

This brings government closer to the people. It strengthens neighborhood level accountability and ensures local priorities are not lost in citywide politics.

- **The federal enclave remains the Nation's Capital and becomes the State Capital:**

This protects the constitutional requirement for a federal district while ensuring the new state has a defined capital structure.

- **Each Ward Councilmember transitions into the Mayoral seat of their respective city:**

This creates clear executive leadership for each Ward city, strengthening local control and service delivery.

- **ANC Commissioners transition into City Councilmembers:**

ANCs are the closest elected officials to residents. This transition would expand their authority and make local government more responsive.

- **Each Ward elects two State Senators and four State House members:**

This establishes a state legislature that reflects the District's communities and ensures each Ward has strong representation in state government.

**The final governance structure will be determined through:**

- **A Statehood Governance Referendum**

Residents must vote on the structure they want.

- **A Constitutional Convention led by residents**

Residents must write the rules of the new state, not politicians in Congress.

## **IV. Strengthening Home Rule Immediately**

Until statehood is enacted, the Delegate must operate as the first line of defense against federal harm.

This is not theoretical. Congress has repeatedly targeted DC, including withholding locally raised funds and threatening federal takeovers. Those actions create instability, raise fear, and disrupt services.

**The strategy includes:**

- **Modernizing the Home Rule Act to limit Congressional and executive interference:**

Home Rule was written in 1973. The world has changed. Congress has changed. Executive power has expanded. Home Rule must be updated to meet today's threats.

- **Protecting budget autonomy so locally raised funds cannot be frozen during federal standoffs:**

DC should never be shut down because Congress cannot pass a federal budget. Our local budget is separate, and it should be treated as such.

- **Coordinating strategically with the DC Attorney General to expand prosecutorial authority:**

DC deserves the same legal tools every state has. Strengthening the Attorney General's authority strengthens local sovereignty.

- **Maintaining regular accountability meetings with the U.S. Attorney:**

The U.S. Attorney's Office plays a major role in public safety and prosecution. DC residents deserve transparency and accountability in how that office operates.

- **Introducing federal safeguards against unrequested National Guard deployments:**

DC must be protected from political theater that turns our streets into a staging ground for authoritarian power.

Home Rule is harm reduction. Statehood is structural correction.

## **V. National Strategy and Coalition Building**

Advancing statehood requires disciplined coalition work. We win this fight the same way we win any civil rights fight: by organizing, building alliances, and making it politically impossible to deny people their rights.

### **1. Congressional Coalition Development:**

We will build majority support within the Democratic caucus and engage any Republican willing to publicly defend democratic equality.

### **2. Unifying DC Civic Organizations:**

DC has many strong statehood organizations. The challenge is unity. When every group speaks with one voice, the message becomes unstoppable.

### **3. Converting Federal Interference into Mobilization:**

Every Congressional override becomes a national organizing moment. Interference will trigger public education, media exposure, grassroots activation, and coalition expansion.

### **4. Taking the Case Nationally:**

When Members of Congress refuse to support DC, we will take the case to their districts. We will elevate statehood as a national civil rights issue, not a local inconvenience.

## **VI. Realistic Timeline**

The timeline depends on Congressional alignment but will follow an aggressive structure.

### **First 100 Days**

Introduce legislation. Demand hearings. Launch national coalition expansion.

### **Year One**

Secure House passage or majority support. Expand state legislative resolutions. Operationalize the Transition Commission framework.

### **Year Two**

Build Senate coalition. Advance procedural strategy. Expand grassroots mandate nationally.

### **Year Three**

With aligned House, Senate, and White House leadership, advance passage of the **DC F.R.E.E.D.O.M. Act**.

Full statehood is achievable within ten years or sooner under favorable federal alignment.

## **VII. Most Likely Legislative Pathway**

The most viable procedural pathway requires disciplined use of Congressional procedure.

**Primary Path:**

Passage through regular order in both chambers under unified Democratic control.

**Filibuster Reform:**

If necessary, advocate for a democracy exception to the Senate filibuster for statehood legislation.

**Simple Majority Pathway Similar to Budget Reconciliation:**

A structural pathway could be pursued by incorporating fiscal and representation elements into a reconciliation style vehicle, limiting Senate debate and allowing passage with a simple majority. This would require careful drafting to satisfy reconciliation rules and Senate constraints.

**Parallel Constitutional Framing:**

Frame statehood as Congress exercising its plenary authority over the District under Article I, Section 8, thereby avoiding constitutional amendment requirements.

This approach requires disciplined caucus unity and national political will.

## VIII. Addressing Democratic Resistance

If Democratic Members refuse to support statehood, a coordinated accountability strategy will be implemented.

This is not about internal party drama. This is about civil rights. No Democratic Member should be allowed to campaign on equality while denying it to 700,000 Americans.

**1. Direct Engagement:**

Private caucus advocacy and policy briefings outlining fiscal fairness and democratic equality.

**2. Public Transparency:**

Publicly track and publish Member positions.

**3. Constituent Pressure Campaign:**

Organize district level education campaigns in those Members' home districts emphasizing:

- 700,000 tax paying Americans denied representation
- Democratic platform commitments to civil rights
- Fiscal fairness arguments

**4. Coalition Leveraging:**

Engage labor unions, civil rights organizations, faith coalitions, veterans groups, and healthcare advocates within those districts.

**5. Political Reciprocity:**

Make clear that denying representation to DC residents undermines Democratic credibility nationally.

The strategy is corrective. Representation is not negotiable.

## IX. Fiscal and Social Priorities Under Statehood

Statehood strengthens the District's ability to protect the basic building blocks of stability and dignity.

- **Protect housing stability:**

With full sovereignty, DC can defend tenant protections and invest in affordable housing without Congress undermining the work.

- **Address homelessness:**

Statehood strengthens our ability to build a housing first strategy and protect funding from political attacks.

- **Secure education funding:**

DC students should not be punished because Congress wants to make a political statement.

- **Expand healthcare access:**

Healthcare is not a talking point. It is survival. Statehood helps secure Medicaid and Medicare funding and strengthens local authority over healthcare systems.

- **Protect veterans benefits:**

DC is home to veterans and military families. They deserve stable, protected services.

- **Preserve public parks and neighborhood infrastructure:**

Quality of life is part of democracy. Parks, recreation, and public spaces must be protected from budget sabotage.

Federal interference destabilizes these priorities. Sovereignty secures them.

## X. Conclusion

The **District of Columbia F.R.E.E.D.O.M. Act** is a comprehensive legislative and organizing blueprint to secure full democratic equality for the residents of the District of Columbia.

This framework strengthens Home Rule immediately, establishes a transition governance model, builds a realistic Congressional pathway, and creates a national accountability strategy.

Statehood is not symbolic. **It is structural.**

Home Rule is not optional. **It is foundational.**

Representation is not partisan. **It is democratic.**

The 700,000 residents of the District of Columbia deserve nothing less than full citizenship, full sovereignty, and full representation.

***The time is now!***

## AGENT ROLE & OBJECTIVE:

Introduction: You are My Agent 573, a dedicated Customer Support Specialist at "Kelly Mikel for DC", focused on assisting my clients.

Your Goal: Gather contact information and, if the caller's query matches a configured tool trigger, use the appropriate tool.

## HANDLING CALLER QUERIES: LOGIC & RULES

If the caller asks a question, check whether the question matches a tool's trigger condition.

1. If the question matches a tool's trigger condition:

- Use the tool immediately, without asking for additional information.

2. If no tool is available OR the question does not match a tool's trigger condition:

- Politely inform the caller that a team member will reach out to them with an answer.

- Do not suggest using the internet, websites, apps, or external sources.

- Redirect the conversation back to gathering the remaining contact information, without engaging in further details about their question.

## GENERAL RULES:

- Avoid asking for further query details.

- Don't repeat the same sentence verbatim.

- Stick to Provided Information Only: Only respond with information given in the prompt or tool instructions. Do not add extra details that have not been specified. If information requested by caller is not specified in the prompt, say that a team member will reach out to them with an answer.

- Avoid Assumptions and Generalizations: You are only allowed to work with the information provided in the prompt. Do not confirm, infer, or guess any details that are not explicitly stated.

## STRUCTURED CALL FLOW SCRIPT:

1. Assurance of Prompt Support:

Instruction: Assure the caller of a prompt callback from our team, highlighting our commitment to satisfaction.

## 2. CALL CONCLUSION:

Instruction: End the call once you have catered to the caller's queries and gathered the requested details by thanking the caller again, assuring them that their issue is being addressed, and wishing them a pleasant day.