

# DC STATEHOOD™ ★★★ TODAY



**VOLUME 3**

Newsletter of the DC Statehood Congressional Delegation

**August 2016**

## New Columbia Constitution



*Referendum to gain DC Statehood, Page 5*

## 2016 DNC Convention



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### US Congress Statehood Bills Sponsors:

US House (H.R. 317)	133
US Senate (S. 1688)	19

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**FROM U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FRANKLIN GARCIA**

Greetings,

DC Statehood has seen great progress within the past few months, and I am very proud to have been a part of it. We continue to get new co-sponsors of H.R. 317 (New Columbia Admission Act), we have introduced a DC Statehood Referendum, while we continue to see the DC Statehood message grow out of state. With these recent events, and the strong endorsement from Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, I am very optimistic about the future of DC Statehood.

Please continue to enjoy the rest of the summer.

Franklin Garcia  
U.S. Representative (Shadow) for the District of Columbia

**TEACH-IN ON STATEHOOD**

UDC's David A. Clarke School of Law hosted a DC statehood Teach-In on June 20<sup>th</sup> to educate UDC students and District of Columbia residents about the disenfranchisement of over 670,000 D.C. residents. Panelists included Chair of Appleseed

Jon Bouker, General Counsel for the Mayor, Betsy Cavendish, and UDC Law School professor, Wade Henderson. The areas that the panelists focused on included the history of voting rights in D.C., cases for and against statehood, the current statehood implementation process, and the campaign for statehood going forward. The challenges that are being faced on

the pathway to statehood were also discussed by the panelists. These included providing for continued existence for D.C. as the seat of government, the impact of the 23<sup>rd</sup> amendment to U.S. Constitution, and concerns regarding the proposed small House of Delegates and amendments for the Constitution. Betsy Cavendish informed the audience that the Mayor and Statehood Commis-

sioners announced that there would be a draft D.C. Constitution and welcomed all D.C. residents to submit their comments during the convention process. In reference to the convention, Jon Bouker stated: "If we take it seriously we have to think about what this campaign would look like and how to support it."

Contributing writers for July 2016 edition were: Franklin Garcia, Deneysa S. Richard, Karen A. Szulgit, Clara Fryer, Christian Coello, Tyrone Barber, Matthew Bouldry.

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Members of the DC Statehood Congressional Delegation are: U.S. Senator Paul Strauss, U.S. Senator Michael D. Brown, U.S. Representative Franklin Garcia.

## MISS DC USA WINS MISS USA 2016



The District of Columbia was proudly represented this year in beauty contests, as two strong women now stand as queens of the Miss USA pageant, and the Miss District of Columbia America pageant. Army Reserve officer and IT analyst, Deshauna Barber was crowned Miss USA 2016 on June 5th. The District of Columbia contestant sought to show her strength through her service in the military but also her grace, in competing in the Miss USA pageant. Barber became the first woman to win the pageant while actively serving in the United States Army Reserve. She wishes to better serve the men and women of the US military by using her position to advocate for the support of troops when they return home from service, particularly those suffering from PTSD. Winner of the Miss District of Columbia America pageant, Cierra Jackson, has similar

views on supporting citizens serving in the military. Jackson attended Spelman College where she majored in Political Science and interned at the White House. The focus of her platform is to serve U.S. military service members and their families. Miss District of Columbia Cierra Jackson is a guest of the August DC Statehood Today show, which airs on DCTV, or can be watched on-line at: [www.dc51.us/tvshow](http://www.dc51.us/tvshow). (Photo Credit: Instagram, Miss DC).

## DC AGAINST VIOLENCE

The recent tragic events in the country have sparked a national debate on how Americans should respond to violence. On July 5th, Alton Sterling was shot by a police officer after being arrested in front of a convenience store, and Philando Castile in Minneapolis was shot the following day by an officer during a traffic stop. The similar deaths created an outcry from groups and organizations, such as Black Lives Matter, to protest against police brutality. Following these tragic shootings, shootings of officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge also gained national attention. Many people believed it was a retaliation from the shootings of Sterling and Castile. Here in the District, 27-year-old DNC staffer Seth Rich was shot multiple times while walking home. In response, District residents have held multiple rallies and peace walks to combat the violence occurring throughout the nation. "It's times like these where we need to come together," Representative Franklin Garcia stated. "We need to come together as a nation."



## DC STATEHOOD TODAY SHOW



The August edition of the DC Statehood Today show is now playing on DCTV. The episode includes an interview with newly crowned Miss District of Columbia Cierra Jackson, former DC mayor and current owner of Pratt

Consulting, Sharon Pratt, and DC National Committee Woman, MaryEva Candon. The DC Statehood today show is geared toward providing the public with news and information on DC Statehood. The show can also be viewed online at: [www.dcs1.us/tvshow](http://www.dcs1.us/tvshow).

## IN MEMORIAM — ORLANDO VICTIMS

The June 12th tragedy of Orlando Florida's Pulse Nightclub shooting took the lives of 49 innocent Americans and wounded an additional 53, leaving the country in shock. It was confirmed that the attack specifically targeted member of the LGBTQ community. In the midst of tragedy, many American citizens stood together to act against hate crimes. Among the fallen were friends, family,

and colleagues. We give our sincerest condolences to the victims of the attack of this horrific tragedy, and stand in strong support of the LGBTQ community.



## DC STATEHOOD REPRESENTED IN PARADES

Attending parades is one of the various ways the Delegation interacts with the community. The D.C. Pride parade took place on June 11th in Dupont Circle. The District of Columbia Statehood Delegation attended the event to show support for the LGBTQ community. The parade included dozens of floats and marchers who celebrated the diversity of the District's LGBT community. Community Organizations such as the Gay Men's Chorus, Stoli, and 107.9 were among the crowd of parade goers. The Statehood Congressional Delegation also participated in the 4th of July Palisades, and 4th of July Capitol Hill parade. U.S. Representative Franklin Garcia created a float which featured local singer Royal Height performing his DC Statehood song "Taxation without Representation." Representative Garcia also marched in the Baltimore Pride parade, and the Dominican Day parade in New York City. The Delegation also plans to attend the Fiesta DC Parade scheduled for the end of September on Constitution Avenue.



## DC DEMOCRAT PRIMARY WINNERS

The 2016 DC Democratic Primaries brought some new and some familiar faces to the local and national scene. Ward 4's Councilmember Brandon Todd was one of the incumbent nominees. Former D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray won the nomination for Ward 7 councilmember. Gray was able to use his name recognition to win and become the nominee after winning with 60 percent of the vote. Ward 8 will have a new candidate in the November 8th ballot. Newcomer Trayon White won the Ward 8 nomination with 53 percent of the votes against LaRuby May.

Robert White also took the win in a close competition against At-Large incumbent Councilmember Vincent Orange. DC residents also showed their support at the ballot for US Representative Franklin Garcia, US Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, and Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans, who all run unopposed in the June 14th Democratic Primary. On the national front, Hilary Clinton's support was very strong in the District, winning the nomination with Over 77% of DC Democrats who voted.

## NEW COLUMBIA STATEHOOD COMMISSION HOLDS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION



▼ A new Constitution may help DC residents gain Statehood. The Draft Constitution released on May 6th by the Statehood Commission, was followed by a series of town halls and a constitutional Convention to gain the public's opinion of the initiative. Commission members, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, Senators Paul Strauss, Senator Michael Brown, and Representative Franklin Garcia worked together to gain a solution towards getting D.C. Statehood. Five Working groups were formed to engage DC residents

and allow them to utilize their specific interests and talents for promoting the Advisory Referendum that will appear on the ballot for the General Election on November 8th, 2016. During a series of public meetings, resident had three minutes to present a testimony to the Commission and the public. The youth of the District were also heavily involved in the process. "It's time to get the youth involved" stated a GWU college student. Among many action items, it was decided that the name New Columbia, ratified by voters during a prior Constitutional Convention in 1981 would remain the name of the new state. The Referendum was approved by the DC Council on July 19th. For more information, visit [statehood.dc.gov](http://statehood.dc.gov) or [dc51.us](http://dc51.us).



IN THE COMMUNITY

(Left to Right) 1. Representative Franklin Garcia and DNC supporters 2. Actors Ashley Judd and William Baldwin at DCN DC Statehood Luncheon. 3. The DC Delegation casts their vote during the DNC.



(Left to Right) 1. Representative Garcia at a NAHJ-DC networking event. 2. Representative Garcia on the set of DC Statehood Now! 3. Representative Garcia places Constitutional Convention signs around the community.



(Left to Right) 1. Representative Franklin Garcia at the Palisades parade 2. Representative Garcia at the DNC Send-off 3. Young advocates promote DC Statehood with colorful outfits.



(Left to Right) 1. Representative Franklin Garcia with actor Danny Glover at the Cuban Embassy. 2. Miss District of Columbia poses with Young Democrats at the Unity Brunch. 3. Representative Franklin Garcia with New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio at Dominican Day Parade.



## DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION



The 2016 Democratic National Convention's platform includes DC Statehood. According to the DNC Draft commission, the platform states: "Restoring our democracy also means finally passing statehood for Washington, D.C., so that its citizens have full and equal congressional rights and the right to have the laws and budget of their local government respected without Congressional interference. This would be the first mention of DC Statehood on the DNC platform since 2000.

Senators Paul Strauss, Senator Michael Brown and Representative Franklin Garcia along with a strong contingency of DC Democrats attended the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia to promote DC Statehood. In addition to DC Mayor Muriel Bowser calling for DC Statehood, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton gave a speech at the Convention reminding Americans the need to bring equality to the Nation's Capital. Also, during the DNC Convention in Philadelphia, Hollywood stars hosted an event in support for the DC Statehood, with wide media coverage.

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## STATEHOOD STAND



Interns with the office of U.S. Representative Franklin Garcia took DC Statehood into the community with the "Statehood Stand" The stand is an outreach initiative to spread the word of DC Statehood to communities who may not have been exposed to the movement. The interns first stop was the Model Cities Senior Wellness Center in Northeast. There, the interns gave out fresh fruit, statehood materials and mini DC Flags. The seniors at the center were very appreciative of the visit. "It feels so good to be able to make a difference," says

Tyrone Barber, one of the interns who helped organize the stand. "We are out in the community and spreading the word of DC Statehood," he concluded. The Statehood Stand will move to different areas of the district, including a few metro stations, grocery stores and community centers. The goal is to get out into the community with the DC Statehood Stand at least once a week.

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Did you know you can view this Newsletter on-line? Please visit us at [www.dc51.us](http://www.dc51.us) where you can read and comment on our weekly blog, view current schedule of events, and sign up for our email list.

**MEET THE DELEGATION**

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On July 12, the DC Council unanimously approved an Advisory Referendum on **the State of New Columbia Admission Act Resolution of 2016 (PR 21-839)**, allowing statehood to be on the ballot on **November 8**. District voters will answer one question with four parts:

- Do you want the District to become the 51st state?
- Do you approve the state constitution?
- Do you agree to the boundaries?
- Do you commit to a representative form of government?

**VOTE YES FOR DC STATEHOOD ADVISORY REFERENDUM**

*To be added to our mailing list, please complete and drop off or mail to address above*

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Address	
City, State	
Phone	
Email	