



February 2017

DC STATEHOOD IN A TRUMP ADMINISTRATION



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US Congress Statehood Bills Sponsors:

US House (H.R. 317)	133
US Senate (S. 1688)	20

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FROM U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FRANKLIN GARCIA



Greetings,

In November of last year, over 80% of DC residents voted yes for DC Statehood. This year is moving rapidly, and it is more important than ever to spread the message of DC Statehood. I encourage you to talk to your out-of-district friends and family to inform them of the disenfranchisement of DC residents. We have to take a stand and make a case for DC Statehood. In the months ahead we will be rolling out a series of strategies to continue to engage both people in the District, and our allies across the nation, who wish to help us achieve DC Statehood. Please stay engaged.

Franklin Garcia

U.S. Representative District of Columbia

DC STATEHOOD IN A TRUMP ADMINISTRATION



President Donald J. Trump was sworn in on January 20, 2017, and many people are wondering what the future holds for DC statehood with the new administration. Mayor Muriel Bowser and members of the DC Council welcomed the new president during the inauguration parade with a personalized viewing stand that stated "Power concedes nothing without a demand, it

never has and it never will."

The quote originated from Fredrick Douglass, whom the District will be named after once it becomes the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth.

Representative Franklin Garcia says that the only way to push statehood with the Trump Administration is to reach out: "We have to create allies with the Trump administration. This way, we can promote DC statehood and possibly get one step closer to becoming a state."

The Office of Representative Franklin Garcia has already begun

tackling that feat. The Office of Representative Franklin Garcia plans to reach out to President Trump and possibly gain interaction with the administration in reference to DC statehood. The office also plans to visit the new members of congress to gain their support for a new bill similar to H.R. 317, (New Columbia Admission Act), which Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton plans to introduce this month. With the Trump administration already making major changes within one month of being in the White House, statehood advocates hope that one of the changes will

be the republican stance towards dc statehood. "We are optimistic," Representative Franklin Garcia said. "We have been pushing the statehood movement for years, and a new President will not change that. We want him on board with the statehood movement."



Contributing writers for the February 2017 edition were: Franklin Garcia, Deneysa S. Richard, and Karen A. Szulgat.

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

DC LATINO LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



The 2016 General Election has passed, and now community leaders across the nation have begun to organize.

Latinos are a growing demographics. Addressing the rapidly growing number of Latinos who are becoming more engaged in their communities, Representative Franklin Garcia's office is planning a program titled "District Leaders," which aims to expose Latino, and other minority students, to local leadership opportunities. Students throughout the district are encouraged to get involved with the organization DC

Latino Leadership Council, which has programs to help engage Latinos to be civically engaged in their communities. Those interested in being involved can visit: www.dcllcouncil.org, to get more information. The organization was founded by Representative Garcia a few years ago.

Representative Franklin Garcia says that the lack of Latino leadership, and political representation in local politics is something that he hopes changes over time. "It surprises me that Latino leadership, and participation in local politics isn't higher. Latinos have a lot to offer, and with the growth projected in the Latino population, we need to prepare our future leaders."

DC FIGHTS BAN AGAINST MUSLIMS



President Donald Trump has instituted an Executive Order that prevents Muslim refugees from certain countries to enter the United States for 120 days. Although the ban was initially reported to prevent only refugee Muslims from entering the United States, the ban has also been applied to Muslims who have visas or green cards and are considered permanent residents of the country. This ban has also caused many Muslims who were overseas traveling back to the United States be quarantined in airports, or even being sent back to their home countries. Stories of many Muslim immigrants have made headlines after being forcefully denied

entry back into the United States.

In response, people gathered outside of the John A. Wilson building for the "Trump is Against Us, DC Don't Forget Us" protest. Joya of Surge DC said in terms of the protest: "I'm here because I'm standing with my Muslim brothers and sisters, a ban against our brothers and sisters goes against what this country stands for." The Executive Order imposes those from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen with a 90 day ban on travel to the U.S. and placed a 120 day ban on the refugee program.

DC STATEHOOD TODAY SHOW



The local cable television show,

DC Statehood Today is now an award winning show. The show, which highlights local figures and news, won the DCTV Voice Award for Best Public Affairs/ News Program of the Year. The DCTV Voice Awards are held every year, where local programming is nominated for their specific category. DC Statehood Today is hosted by U.S. Representative Franklin Gar-

cia and Deneysa Richard. Notable guests have included former DC Mayor Sharon Pratt, former DC Councilmember Vincent Orange, and Senator Michael D. Brown. Representative Franklin Garcia, who produces the monthly show, says that this show is very important because it highlights something that many news outlets may not cover - DC statehood.



DC REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS



clause that dictates how the district should use funds. The bill also prohibits DC from using local resources from providing or covering abortions.

2017 has already been challenging for the relationship between Congress and the District of Columbia, with several legislations put in place to prevent Home Rule for the District. Congressman Chris Smith (R-N.J.) recently introduced the “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act “ which has a

In response to the bill, DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton proposed an amendment to the House Rules Committee to prevent the bill from including the District of Columbia. Delegate Holmes Norton’s bill has since been rejected, which as a result, leaves the District at the mercy of Congressional interference.

MARCHING AND PROTESTS INTO THE NEW YEAR



The new year began with a “Fit DC Fresh Start 5K” sponsored by DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, with many runners and walkers in attendance. The run/walk was founded in order to promote healthy living into the new year – and beyond. Shortly after the 5K, the District hosted another successful Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Peace Walk and Parade. The peace walk and parade were both held in Ward 8 on Monday, January 17th.

The organizing committee co-chairs, Denise Rolark Barnes and Keith Silver, along with many other committee members worked for months prior to the peace walk and parade to ensure its success. The Chinese Lunar New Year, the year of the Rooster, was celebrated in Chinatown with a Parade and other celebrations organized by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA). The Women’s March on Washington brought thousands of people from across the country on January 21st to protest against the disenfranchisement of women in America, along with the January 27th March for Life, an annual march that supports “pro-life” advocates.



TENAC CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

TENAC (the DC Tenants' Advocacy Coalition) recently celebrated its 25th anniversary marking two and a half decades of fighting for affordable housing in the District of Columbia. The organization serves as an advocate that represents DC residents and their housing rights. Affordable housing is one of the most talked about topics in the District. The rise of developments in DC has contributed to the increased rent prices, causing many residents to lose their homes or relocate elsewhere.

According to TENAC, DC Councilmember Anita Bonds introduced a proposal that would help residents who seek relief in reference to rent payments. Some of the provisions in Councilmember Bonds' proposals would eliminate the two percent annual rent increases, as well as the 30 percent

rent increase allowed on vacant apartments. According to TENAC, "These provisions will help resolve the affordable housing dilemma in DC. But we need solid majority support on the council to ensure enactment."

During the 25th anniversary celebration, Representative Franklin Garcia attended the event on behalf of himself and Senator Michael D. Brown to give remarks on how important affordable housing issues should be to DC residents. "It is important that we take a look at DC housing and ensure proper housing for residents," Rep. Garcia stated. TENAC is a much needed organization, because it gives a voice to those who may not be able to advocate for themselves.

DC OFFICIALS VOW LOYALTY TO DC RESIDENTS



After President Donald Trump announced his plans to prevent federal grants and funds to enter any city if they continue being "Sanctuary Cities" to undocumented immigrants, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser announced her plans to continue her support. In Sanctuary Cities, local officials are not legally obligated to provide information to federal authorities about the undocumented immigrants that reside there.

Mayor Bowser has also set aside \$500,000 in grant funding to provide legal help in DC to immigrants who may face deportation. According to the Mayor,

these provisions will stay in place in spite of President Trump's plans to withdraw federal funding from all sanctuary cities. DC is one of the more than 200 sanctuary cities in the U.S. that will continue to support their undocumented immigrant residents. However, Miami, Florida, has rescinded its continued support as a sanctuary city in order to remain a benefactor of federal funding and grants.

The members of DC Council have also stated support for their undocumented community. On January 27th, the DC Council proposed a Resolution stating the their defiance of President Trump's policies in order to support immigrants in the District. According to the Resolution, which was signed by all 13 Councilmembers, the DC Council plans to "remain committed to our status as a Sanctuary City, and will seek to strengthen those policies to ensure that the District government will not participate in any federal immigration enforcement strategies that endanger the rights and well-being of our residents, workers, and visitors."

IN THE COMMUNITY

(Left to Right) 1. Mayor Bowser’s New Year 5k Walk and Run. 2. (and 3.) Supporters at the MLK DAY Jr. Peace Walk and Parade



(Left to Right) 1. Representative Franklin Garcia attending a 3 Kings Day event. 2. Legislators wait during the CHCI Swearing -In Ceremony. 3. Representative Franklin Garcia and former Councilmember At-Large Vincent Orange.



(Left to Right) 1. Representative Franklin Garcia and Senator Michael D. Brown 2. Representative Garcia and statehood supporters. 3. Representative Franklin Garcia sworn in to serve second term.



(Left to Right) 1. Representative Franklin Garcia at DCTV Voice Awards 2. Representative Franklin Garcia celebrating the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump 3. Representative Franklin Garcia and Ana-Sol Gutierrez at community event.



STATEHOOD LOBBY DAY

Members of the DC Statehood Coalition plan to hold a lobby day on Capitol Hill to spread the message of DC statehood. The lobby day is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15th and participants will visit freshman members of Congress to discuss the latest version of H.R. 317, which will soon be re-introduced by Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton. “This is a great way to get involved in the community while spreading the message of DC statehood” Representative Franklin Garcia stated. “This is just one of the many outreach activities DC statehood activists will have to show that we demand statehood. This lobby day comes at a prime time, with Trump’s administration waging a legislative war on the District.

The lobby day will give new Congress members an outlook into the disenfranchisement faced by more than 680,000 District residents.

If you would like to join lobby day, please contact DC Vote’s Bo Shuff at bshuff@dcvote.org or (202) 462-6000 x119.

DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT UNDER ATTACK

Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah-3rd) has pledged to block the “DC Death With Dignity Act,” which would allow DC residents who suffer from terminal illnesses to medically induce their own deaths. In recent news, citizens outside of the District have been urged to “call their representatives” to give their opinions on many issues happening in the country. In the District, residents lack congressional representation, as they have no voting representative or Senators on Capitol Hill.



DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, and DC Council Chairman Phil Mendleson have joined forces to fight against the injustice of having an elected official outside of DC dictate local policies. Representative Franklin Garcia believes that it is time for Congress to step out of DC’s affairs. “Once again, the local laws of the District of Columbia are at the hands of congressional interference. I thank our DC officials – Delegate Norton, Mayor Bowser, and Chairman Mendleson – for their persistence in defending DC’s right to self-governance.”

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MEET THE DELEGATION

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Watch DC Statehood Today TV Show on
 DCTV: Comcast 95 / RCN 10 / Verizon 10



Check out Senator Brown's radio show: Shadow
 Politics, <https://bbsradio.com/shadowpolitics>

"We're more of a colony, people can vote for me, but I can't vote for them." -Senator Paul Strauss on The Kojo Nnamdi Show

"Our biggest obstacle is people not knowing across the country."
 -Kimberly Perry, Activist

"Quite Strange, quite strange." -Dalai Lama describing DC's lack of voting rights in a democracy

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