
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4004

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Street, Macri, Mena, Reed, Pollet, Nance, Reeves, Slatter, Fitzgibbon, Farivar, Stearns, Cortes, Ramel, Santos, Doglio, Berry, Duerr, Taylor, Alvarado, Callan, Peterson, Entenman, Senn, Ryu, Goodman, Ormsby, Fosse, Simmons, and Stonier

Read first time 01/10/24. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 TO THE HONORABLE JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Since the ratification of the Constitution of the United
9 States on June 21, 1788, the Congress of the United States has had
10 the power to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever,
11 over such district (not exceeding 10 miles square) as may, by cession
12 of particular states, and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat
13 of the government of the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, The seat of the government of the United States was
15 accepted by the Congress of the United States on July 16, 1790, and
16 transferred from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the District on
17 December 1, 1800, in accordance with the *Residence Act of 1790*, and
18 was organized into the District of Columbia under the entire control
19 of the Congress of the United States for every purpose of government
20 on February 27, 1801, in accordance with the *District of Columbia*
21 *Organic Act of 1801*, through which the residents ceased to be
22 considered citizens of a state, no longer entitled to all the rights,
23 guaranties, and immunities of the Constitution of the United States

1 including, but not limited to: The right to appoint at least three
2 electors in the electoral college for president and vice president of
3 the United States, the right to elect two senators and at least one
4 representative in the Congress of the United States, and the right to
5 self-govern and ratify proposed amendments to the Constitution of the
6 United States, despite continuing to pay federal taxes, serve in the
7 military, and share all other responsibilities of citizenship of the
8 United States; and

9 WHEREAS, A Twenty-Third Amendment to the Constitution of the
10 United States was proposed by the Congress of the United States on
11 June 16, 1960, and ratified by a sufficient number of states on March
12 29, 1961, granting the district constituting the seat of government
13 of the United States the right to appoint a number of electors of
14 president and vice president equal to the whole number of senators
15 and representatives in Congress to which the District would be
16 entitled if it were a state, but in no event more than the least
17 populous state; and

18 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States granted a delegate to
19 the House of Representatives from the District of Columbia, who shall
20 have a seat in the House of Representatives, with the right of
21 debate, but not of voting, on September 22, 1970, in accordance with
22 the *District of Columbia Delegate Act*, (after previously establishing
23 the position on February 21, 1871 and repealing the position on June
24 20, 1874); and

25 WHEREAS, Enactment of the *District of Columbia Home Rule Act* by
26 the Congress of the United States on December 24, 1973, and
27 ratification of the *Charter Referendum* by a majority of the voters of
28 the District of Columbia on May 7, 1974, reorganized the District of
29 Columbia by granting limited powers of local self-government to an
30 elected 13-member council of the District of Columbia and an elected
31 mayor of the District of Columbia to relieve Congress of the burden
32 of legislating upon essentially local District matters; however, the
33 Congress of the United States granted no local control over the
34 judiciary and reserved the right, at any time, to exercise its
35 constitutional authority as legislature for the District, by enacting
36 legislation for the District on any subject, whether within or
37 without the scope of legislative power granted to the council,
38 including legislation to amend or repeal any law in force in the
39 District; and

1 WHEREAS, Historically, the Congress of the United States and the
2 president of the United States have interfered with the District of
3 Columbia's local self-government and Home Rule by enacting
4 resolutions disapproving, amending, and repealing actions of the
5 council of the District of Columbia and the mayor of the District of
6 Columbia — including cases concerning the location of chanceries on
7 December 20, 1979, sexual assault reform on October 1, 1981, schedule
8 of heights on March 12, 1991, and a revised criminal code on March
9 20, 2023; and by imposing budget riders that control and limit the
10 use of locally raised tax revenue, including cases concerning
11 reproductive health services, cannabis use, and statehood advocacy;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, On multiple occasions, a majority of the voters of the
14 District of Columbia have approved initiatives and referendums
15 expressing their desire for statehood, most recently on November 8,
16 2016, through which 85.69 percent of voters (1) agreed that the
17 District should be admitted to the union as the State of Washington,
18 D.C., (2) approved the Constitution of the State of Washington, D.C.,
19 (3) approved the proposed boundaries between the State of Washington,
20 D.C. and the federal enclave, and (4) agreed that the State of
21 Washington, D.C. shall guarantee an elected representative form of
22 government; and

23 WHEREAS, Other state and territorial legislatures in the United
24 States have introduced, debated, and passed resolutions that support
25 admitting Washington, D.C. into the union as a state of the United
26 States of America; and

27 WHEREAS, Despite the Constitution of the United States
28 establishing that new states may be admitted by the Congress into
29 this union, and despite the United States House of Representatives
30 passing the *Washington, D.C. Admission Act* on June 26, 2020, and
31 again on April 22, 2021, which would declare Washington, D.C. to be a
32 state of the United States of America, and is declared admitted into
33 the Union on an equal footing with the other states in all respects
34 whatever, the Congress of the United States has yet to grant full
35 statehood to the approximately 700,000 people of Washington, D.C.;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, The state of Washington supports admitting Washington,
38 D.C. into the union as a state of the United States of America; and

39 WHEREAS, The state of Washington opposes efforts by the Congress
40 of the United States and the president of the United States that

1 interfere with local self-government and Home Rule — including
2 federal laws disapproving, amending, and repealing actions of the
3 council of the District of Columbia and the mayor of the District of
4 Columbia as well as federal budget riders that control and limit the
5 use of locally raised tax revenue;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
7 Congress of the United States and the president of the United States
8 enact federal legislation granting statehood to the people of
9 Washington, D.C.

10 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
11 transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the
12 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
13 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
14 State of Washington.

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