



About DC Vote

www.dcvote.org

Founded in 1998, DC Vote is an educational and advocacy organization dedicated to securing full voting representation in Congress and full democracy for over 600,000 residents of the District of Columbia.

Americans living in our nation's capital pay full federal taxes, fight and die in wars and serve on juries, yet they are denied voting representation in the House of Representatives and the Senate. While DC residents have a locally-elected mayor and council, all locally passed laws, as well as DC's local budget, must be sent to Congress for review and approval. Congress has repeatedly overruled decisions of the local government. As a result, critical needs of Washingtonians are neglected or decided without the District's vote.

DC Vote is working to end this injustice and to protect DC's local democracy. As the recognized leader and go-to source of information on the DC voting rights movement, we:

- advocate for enactment of critical DC voting rights legislation
- work to prevent congressional interference in DC's local democracy
- organize our supporters to contact members of Congress through call-in days, letter-writing campaigns and face-to-face advocacy
- engage our coalition partners, individual supporters and pro bono lobbyists to educate members of Congress and their staff
- serve as a resource to elected officials, the media and the general public

Our efforts led to the historic Senate passage of the DC Voting Rights Act (H.R.157/S.160) in February, 2009. We continue to research and explore legislation to provide full local democracy and to make Washington, DC the 51st state in the union. With voting representation equal to that of other Americans, DC will be empowered to end congressional interference in local matters, have an equal vote on important national issues and tackle local problems with more resources and greater freedom.

DC Vote is proud to have received a number of awards including:

- In 2010, the Arca Foundation selected DC Vote as the first recipient of the Smith Bagley Memorial Grant, which supports organizations using bold, courageous and creative strategies to advance social change
- Exponent Award from the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, awarded to DC Vote Executive Director Ilir Zherka, 2007
- Inclusion in the 2008–2009 Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington
- Whitney M. Young Jr. Community Service Award from the Greater Washington Urban League, awarded to DC Vote Executive Director Ilir Zherka, 2008
- Ronald H. Brown Foundation Award for Civil Rights Leadership, 2008
- The Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Awards, Special Recognition from the Institute for Policy Studies, 2007
- Top Ten Best Public Policy of 2007, Drum Major Institute