

The New Columbia Admission Act

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How would statehood be achieved?

- a. The legislative path toward Statehood is simple. A territory must petition Congress, draft a constitution with a republican form of government, Congress must approve by a simple majority, and the President must sign the bill. Statehood cannot be repealed. Citizens of the District have already voted in support of statehood and drafted and voted for a state constitution in the 1980s.

2. Is DC Statehood constitutional?

- a. YES. The constitution states that the federal district shall not exceed 100 square miles but sets no lower limit in size (Article I, Section 8). Additionally, the Constitution is silent about the location of the federal district and it was left to the Organic Act of 1801 to set the specific location of the city. Provided that no land is taken from a state without its consent then it would be constitutional for New Columbia to become a state while the federal District would remain as a small portion of the current city consisting mainly of the mall, the Capitol, the White House, and military bases.

3. Can the size of the federal district be shrunk?

- a. YES. The size of the District has been changed in the past, most significantly when the Virginia portion was retroceded to the Commonwealth by act of Congress in 1846. DC statehood would require a simple reduction of the size of the federal district to an unpopulated area which includes the Capitol, the Mall, the Smithsonian museums, the White House, some surrounding federal office buildings, and the military installations along the Anacostia River.

4. Can the District afford to be a state?

- a. The District operates as if it were a state presently with the exception of federal control over our court and prison system. In FY07, the District received 25% of its budget from the federal government which as a percentage is less than 5 other states and is on par with 3 other states. Statehood would allow the District to tap other potential revenue stream which Congress presently prevents.

5. Why is statehood important to current District citizens?

- a. Statehood is the route that would give the District citizens (to be named New Columbia) complete autonomy over their local budget and ensure that the people of New Columbia would have full and equal representation in Congress.
- b. District citizens are asked to fulfill all of the responsibilities and requirements of US citizenship yet for over 200 years have been denied the basic rights of citizenship: the right to equal representation and the right to control local affairs.

