Delegate candidate questionnaire
2022 Democratic Primary
March 2022

Thank you for your interest in DC for Democracy's questionnaire for candidates running for Delegate in the June 2022 Democratic primary. Candidates are invited to complete the following questions to help voters understand why you are the best choice to be DC’s next Delegate.

Responses should be submitted to dcfordemocracy@gmail.com and are due by Friday, April 8, 2022 at 5:00pm. We will publish the full answers to all responses.

Candidate name: Eleanor Holmes Norton

1. **What are your top three goals as Delegate in the 2023-2024 Congressional term?**
   Continuing the push for D.C. Statehood, expanding DC Home Rule, and removing the remaining anti-home rule riders on D.C.’s budget

2. **In light of obstruction in the U.S. Senate, how do you plan to move forward on DC statehood legislation?**

   The June 2021 Senate hearing on statehood shows the momentum continues to build for our D.C. statehood bill. D.C. statehood now has 54% support nationwide, according to a recent detailed poll, and was expected to grow after the Senate hearing, as it has after the House hearings. I will continue to work with Senate leadership to bring the bill to the Senate floor.

3. **The Senate, which is currently controlled by Democrats, passed a budget that retained the budget riders introduced by Rep. Andy Harris that infringe on DC’s local autonomy. How do you plan to respond to this betrayal by Democratic Senators?**

   I have a hard time reconciling the Senate's strong support for D.C. statehood, which would give D.C. not only voting representation in Congress but also full local
self-government, with a budget that prohibits D.C. from spending its local funds on items voted on by D.C. residents. My longtime allies in the Senate continue to work with my office to remove such riders and will continue to work to have these removed.

4. There is a significant risk of GOP takeover of the U.S. House of Representatives next year, with attendant threats to DC Home Rule. How do you plan to address this threat?

We have not heard such anti-democratic rhetoric from Republicans about the District of Columbia since the early and mid-1990s. Republicans are scared that D.C. has gotten closer to statehood than ever, and their response is, predictably, to try to take away what democracy the nearly 700,000 D.C. residents, a plurality of whom are African Americans, have. I will defeat their efforts, and their efforts will only strengthen our case for statehood.

5. The Southwest development at the Wharf was one of the most significant land transfers from the federal government to the District of Columbia and it spurred a massive economic development project. We now have the prospect of another major land transfer: the RFK stadium site. What lessons have you drawn from the Southwest redevelopment that would guide your approach to the RFK site land transfer?

The Southwest Waterfront development project created thousands of jobs for District residents, generates millions of dollars annually in local tax revenue, created new and improved waterfront parks and docks, and revitalized the southwest quadrant of the city. The transfer of the RFK site will continue the revitalization of underused areas that have been burdened by federal restrictions, even when, as with the Southwest Waterfront, the federal government has no intent to use the land.

6. What are the most significant challenges in transitioning to statehood, and how will you ensure that the DC Government and public are planning for this transition?

I have introduced 22 bills in my Free and Equal DC Series, which would provide DC with elements of statehood to prepare for the transition. Those include:

- The District of Columbia Special Elections Home Rule Act (H.R. 6503) would give D.C. complete authority to set the date of special elections for local offices.
The District of Columbia Government Title Equality Act (H.R. 6459) would redesignate the Mayor of the District of Columbia as the Governor, the D.C. Council as the Legislative Assembly, the D.C. Councilmembers as Representatives, and the Chair of the Council as the Speaker.

The McIntire-Stennis Act District of Columbia Equality Act (H.R. 6362) would make D.C. eligible for forestry research funding in the same manner as states.

The District of Columbia Courts Home Rule Act (H.R. 6253) would give D.C. authority over the operations of the local D.C. courts.

The District of Columbia Transportation Funding Equality Act (H.R. 6166) would make D.C. eligible for funding under two federal transportation programs in the same manner as states.

The District of Columbia Government Accountability Office Home Rule Act (H.R. 6090) would repeal the Government Accountability Office’s authority over D.C.

The District of Columbia Bridges Home Rule Act (H.R. 5979) would repeal a law that makes it a crime for a person in D.C. to block a bridge connecting D.C. and Virginia.

The District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment Home Rule Act (H.R. 5825) would give D.C. the authority to appoint all members of the Board, except when the Board is performing functions regarding an application by a foreign mission with respect to a chancery.

The Commission of Fine Arts District of Columbia Home Rule Act (H.R. 5570) would remove the Commission’s authority over D.C. property and private property in D.C.

The National Capital Planning Commission District of Columbia Home Rule Act (H.R. 5144) would remove the Commission’s authority over D.C. property.

The District of Columbia Zoning Commission Home Rule Act (H.R. 5002) would give D.C. the authority to appoint all members of the Commission.

A bill (H.R. 4368) to permit the U.S. flag to be flown at half-staff in the event of the death of the D.C. Mayor in the same manner as in the event of the death of the governor of a state.

The District of Columbia Clemency Home Rule Act (H.R. 4206) would give D.C. authority to grant clemency to offenders convicted under D.C. law.

The District of Columbia Non-Discrimination Home Rule Act of 2021 (H.R. 4023) would eliminate the applicability of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to D.C.

The District of Columbia Federal Officials Residency Equality Act of 2021 (H.R. 3786) would require U.S. district court judges, the U.S. Attorney and the U.S. Marshals for D.C. to reside in D.C.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act District of Columbia Equality Act of 2021 (H.R. 2452) would amend both laws to make D.C. eligible for the same federal funding as states under both laws.

The District of Columbia Chief Financial Officer Salary Home Rule Act (H.R. 1204) would give D.C. the authority to set the maximum salary for the D.C. CFO.
- The District of Columbia Parole and Supervised Release Act (H.R. 658) would give D.C. the authority to make parole and supervised release determinations for D.C. Code offenders.
- The District of Columbia National Guard Home Rule Act (H.R. 657) would give the D.C. Mayor control over the D.C. National Guard.
- The District of Columbia Police Home Rule Act (H.R. 656) would eliminate the President’s authority to federalize the D.C. police department.
- The District of Columbia Legislative Autonomy Act (H.R. 411) would eliminate the congressional review period for D.C. bills.
- The District of Columbia Prosecutor Home Rule Act of 2021 (H.R. 281) would give D.C. the authority to prosecute all crimes committed under D.C. law.