

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 2

By: Young

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution supporting Washington, D.C.; urging Congress; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, people living on the land that was eventually designated as the District of Columbia were provided the right to vote for representation in Congress when the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1788; and

WHEREAS, the Organic Act of 1801 placed D.C. under the exclusive authority of Congress and abolished residents' congressional and presidential voting rights, which were not granted to them again until the 1961 passage of the 23rd Amendment; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Census data estimates that as of 2021, the District of Columbia's population of approximately 689,545 residents is comparable to the populations of Wyoming (576,851), Vermont (643,077), Alaska (733,391), and North Dakota (779,094); and

WHEREAS, D.C. residents are denied full representation in Congress, but share all responsibilities of U.S. citizenship, pay more federal taxes than residents of 22 states, serve on federal

1 juries, and have defended the U.S. as Armed Forces members in every
2 war since the War for Independence; and

3 WHEREAS, D.C. residents endorse statehood and passed a District-
4 wide referendum on Nov. 8, 2016, which favored statehood by 86%; and

5 WHEREAS, no other democratic nation denies the right of self-
6 government, including participation in its national legislature, to
7 the residents of its capital; and

8 WHEREAS, Congress repeatedly interferes with D.C.'s limited
9 self-government by enacting laws that affect expenditure of tax
10 revenue, bar the usage of locally raised revenue, thus violating the
11 principle that state and local governments are best suited to
12 represent the will of their citizens; and

13 WHEREAS, despite D.C. passing consecutive balanced budgets since
14 fiscal year 1997, it still faces the possibility of being shut down
15 yearly because of congressional deliberations over the federal
16 budget; and

17 WHEREAS, D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and Delaware U.S.
18 Senator Tom Carper introduced in the 117th Congress H.R. 51 and S.
19 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, that would provide D.C. all
20 the rights of citizenship as taxpaying American citizens, including
21 two Senators and at least one House member; and

22 WHEREAS, The United Nations Human Rights Committee has called on
23 Congress to address D.C.'s lack of political equality, and the
24 Organization of American States has declared the disenfranchisement

1 of D.C. residents a violation of its charter agreement, to which the
2 U.S. is a signatory.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
4 OF THE 59TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

5 THAT the Oklahoma Senate supports admitting Washington, D.C.,
6 into the Union as a state of the United States of America.

7 THAT the Oklahoma Senate urges Congress to enact federal
8 legislation granting statehood to the people of Washington, D.C.

9 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to members of
10 Oklahoma's Congressional delegation.

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