



The Center for
Voting and Democracy

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Dear Representative:

We are writing to urge you to help provide Americans living in Washington, D.C., with representation in Congress by co-sponsoring and working to enact H.R. 2043, the DC Fairness in Representation Act (DC FAIR Act).

Residents of the District pay federal income taxes, serve on juries and die in wars to defend American democracy, yet do not have voting representation in the Congress. As we work to extend and secure democracy around the world, the time has come to provide American democracy for Americans living in our nation's capital.

As you may know, Representative Tom Davis introduced the DC FAIR Act in 2005 with Republican and Democratic co-sponsors and the support of the District's City Council and Mayor. The bill would provide Washingtonians with a voting member of the House of Representatives for the first time ever. It does not require a constitutional amendment. It can be enacted through simple legislation.

Together with the No Taxation Without Representation Act (S. 195 and H.R. 398) sponsored by Senator Joe Lieberman and DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, there is growing bipartisan interest in addressing Washington, D.C., voting rights. Members of Congress are tapping into a strong sentiment throughout the country. A national poll conducted by KRC Research in January 2005 showed that 82 percent of Americans believe that D.C. residents deserve full voting representation in Congress.

The DC FAIR Act is an excellent first step. Because it also would give one U.S. House seat to Utah's congressional delegation, some are concerned that the bill would force redistricting in Utah. But recently the congressional Republican delegation from Utah, together with Utah's Governor, embraced making the fourth temporary seat "at-large," something that many states have done in the past (including a U.S. House seat held by our state's Charles "Mac" Mathias in the 1950s) and that eliminates the need for redistricting. For more information about the bill and about DC voting rights, visit www.dcvote.org.

FairVote is a 501(c)3 electoral reform organization that promotes voter turnout, fair representation, inclusive policy and meaningful choices for voters. Our work is guided by the principle that all Americans should have an equal right to vote and we believe that the lack of congressional representation for the District of Columbia is a particularly glaring violation of this principle. We urge you to support this long overdue remedy and make our government more representative of its citizens.

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Please help bring American democracy to people living in America's capital by co-sponsoring the DC FAIR Act (H.R. 2043). Our board chairman – former Congressman John B. Anderson – and other representatives of our organization would be pleased to have a chance to discuss this issue with you or your staff.

Sincerely,

Rob Richie
Executive Director