



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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**Thomas Introduces Resolution Encouraging Delegate Norton to Introduce Legislation Calling on Congress to Admit District as 51<sup>st</sup> State of the Union**

*Washington, DC*—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry “Tommy” Thomas, Jr. introduced a resolution at today’s legislative session encouraging Eleanor Holmes Norton, the District’s Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, to introduce legislation calling on Congress to use its constitutional powers to admit the District of Columbia as the 51<sup>st</sup> State of the Union. All 11 Council colleagues signed on as co-introducers of the resolution, which will be voted on in the next legislative session.

Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution outlines that Congress may admit new states into Union as long as the new states are not within the boundaries of existing states. This section of the Constitution also stipulates that Congress shall have power to dispose of and make rules and regulations for territories or other property belonging to the United States.

In his remarks introducing the resolution, Councilmember Thomas noted the importance of making a strong statement about full representation at this time. He also paid tribute to Julius Hobson, Josephine Butler, and Harry L. Thomas, Sr., each of whom fought for our right to equality.

“Our rights are abridged when Congress imposes its will on local matters and denies us voting representation on federal issues in both houses of Congress,” said Councilmember Thomas, a former member of the DC Statehood Commission. “Statehood would ensure that residents of the District of Columbia enjoy full sovereign rights in state and local matters, voting representation in both houses of the U.S. Congress, and an unrestricted vote for President, like all citizens of the United States.”

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