

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2020 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-4-2020

Proposed by Council Members Hawkins and Turner

Introduced by Council Members Hawkins, Turner, Ivey, Glaros, Taveras, Dernoga,
Harrison, Davis, Streeter, Franklin and Anderson-Walker

Date of Introduction February 11, 2020

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 District of Columbia Statehood

3 For the purpose of declaring support for admitting the District of Columbia as the fifty-first State
4 of the United States of America.

5 WHEREAS, this nation is founded on the belief that all people are endowed with certain
6 inalienable rights and that to secure these rights, governments are instituted, deriving their just
7 powers from the consent of the governed; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States is the formal union of states formed by their people and to
9 have the full rights of self-government, one must be a citizen of a state; and

10 WHEREAS, statehood only requires a simple majority vote in each house of Congress and
11 the President's signature and is the only form of self-government that Congress cannot amend or
12 take away; and

13 WHEREAS, as a result, the people of the District of Columbia are the only Americans who
14 bear all of the burdens of citizenship, but who do not enjoy all of the citizenship's benefits and
15 remain effectively a colony; and

16 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia have fought and died in each of
17 America's wars, including the war that created this country; and

18 WHEREAS, no other nation in the entire world denies the right of self-government,
19 including participation in its national legislature, to the residents of its capital and several
20 international human rights organizations have found that the District's lack of voting
21 representation in Congress violates international law; and

22 WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution only sets a maximum size for the "Seat of the

1 Government of the United States," otherwise known as the District of Columbia, and Congress,
2 with the consent of the Commonwealth of Virginia and local residents, reduced the size of the
3 District of Columbia in 1846, when it returned one-third of the District to Virginia; and

4 WHEREAS, Congress in the 1973 District of Columbia Self-Government and Government
5 Re-organization Act, (the "Home Rule Act") has already carved out the federal core of the
6 District, including the White House, Capitol, Supreme Court, Mall and monuments, as the
7 National Capital Service Area and such area can constitutionally be the "Seat of the Government
8 of the United States"; and

9 WHEREAS, District voters have overwhelmingly expressed their desire for statehood by
10 voting in a 2016 advisory referendum in favor of statehood; and

11 WHEREAS, District residents pay the highest federal income tax per capita when
12 compared to residents of any of the 50 states; and

13 WHEREAS, the District has passed 24 consecutive balanced budgets, achieved a "triple A"
14 bond rating in 2018 and maintains enviable cash reserves. Washington, DC adds nearly 900 new
15 residents per month; its \$16 billion local budget is funded by mostly local taxes and fees, the
16 District has clearly proven its ability to self-govern; and

17 WHEREAS, statehood is the simplest and most constitutional way to make the people of
18 the District of Columbia full citizens of the United States of America and is a matter of simple
19 justice:

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince George's County Council urges
21 the Congress to use its powers under Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution and
22 admit the residential and commercial areas of the District of Columbia, minus the National
23 Capital Service Area which shall henceforth be the Seat of the Government of the United States,
24 as the 51st State of the Union.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Council shall transmit signed copies
26 of this Resolution to the Maryland Congressional Delegation, the District of Columbia Delegate
27 to the United States House of Representatives, the Prince George's County Delegation to the
28 Maryland General Assembly, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, and the Chairman of the
29 Council of the District of Columbia, so that they may be apprised of the sentiments of the Prince
30 George's County Council, Maryland on this matter

Adopted this 11th day of February, 2020.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Todd M. Turner
Council Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council