

1. Why are you running for Delegate and if (re) elected, what are the three most important things you intend to accomplish? I am running for delegate because I believe my record of service demonstrates that I am positioned to complete the remaining work for full democracy for the District; because I want to continue my work in helping to bring the nation and our city out of today's deep economic crisis; because I want to continue my efforts to address other urgent issues, including two wars and climate change, as well as important local issues, among them Metro, and the Anacostia River; and because I am exhilarated by the opportunity to serve in the Congress addressing the many challenges facing the town where I was born.

(a) Enacting the D.C. Voting Rights Act. Faced with a lethal gun amendment allowing guns to be carried in the streets, among other new dangers, I had to delay the DC Voting Rights Act as we were on the verge of achieving it. The close relationship I have built with Democratic House and Senate leaders as well as with Republicans who support voting rights is enabling me to continue working to achieve the bill this term, if we can, and to continue to pursue the bill that is within our grasp next term, if necessary.

(b) Enacting Budget and Legislative freedom from Congress. I have developed a strategy for achieving, this term, the two other most important rights the District must have from the Congress, budget and legislative autonomy. Getting both is a heavy lift in one Congress. I want to return to Congress to round out what is left to assure that all three legs of the stool are in place.

c) Bolstering the D.C. Economy

The national economic recession has weakened the city's economic resiliency. The city's growth has been disproportionately tied to the good economic picture that characterized the 1900s and the early 2000s. That period however was driven by economic bubbles related first to technology and then to housing, both of which burst dramatically. My House chairmanship will be critical to helping the District make a smooth transition to more stable growth. For example, my work in bringing the Department of Homeland Security means 44,000 additional federal jobs in addition to 38,000 jobs over 10 years of construction. I will continue to bring economic projects that sustain growth, such as my DC Land Transfer act, which is transferring 220 acres of property in wards 6 and 8 for mixed use development.

Also critical to bringing the DC economy back is the remake of Union Station, under my subcommittee's jurisdiction, expanding the station itself, redoing the Mall, and developing the new mixed use neighborhood to be build using air rights over the railroad tracks.

The District's economy derives largely from the federal sector and from tourism, D.C.'s only private sector, also which is federally generated. Thus, I have considerable time on federal tourist attractions, such as museums and other federal attractions free of charge on my bill to revitalize the city's three federally owned golf courses, on the Capital Visitor Center, our newest tourist attraction, with oversight by my subcommittee and on H.R. 1446, my Mall Revitalization Act due on the floor soon.

2. What are the three most important issues facing the District of Columbia in the next decade?

The three most important issues facing the District of Columbia in the next decade are the city's economy, democracy, and affordability.

a) D.C.'s Economy - The city's economy grew over the past two decades because of a favorable national economy, as well as two of my bills that encouraged taxpayer retention and stability. The \$5,000.00 homebuyer credit and D.C. Tag. However, with permanent structural changes underway in the national economy, with the District rapidly spending down its reserves and with no state to back the city in case of further erosion, the District could fluster, as it did in the 1990s. My work as chair of a key economic development committee already shows that I am at work on the challenges to the city's economy and will be to helping the city through the economic transition.

b. Democracy - Even when the city achieves voting rights, legislative autonomy, and freedom from congressional oversight of the city's local budget, the District still will not have full democracy. I have had a legal review and study done by the DC section of the D.C. Bar in preparation for a wholesale revision of the D.C. Charter, which commits many local decisions to the Congress. Charter reform along with budget and legislative autonomy are important ingredients of statehood itself.

c) Affordability - The city's improved economy has brought measured cost of living and society of affordable housing. Leadership will be necessary to help the city retain its economic, racial and ethnic diversity. My work in Congress

on specific bills has already demonstrated that I take this task seriously and I am already making the necessary progress.
See # 3 below

3. What are your qualifications to serve as Delegate?

My qualifications to serve as delegate should be judged by my record of producing critical advances, including legislation for the District, even when I was in the minority. Among the most important are D.C. Tag, which is sending hundreds of students to college, and the \$5,000 home buyer credit, which is allowing thousands of residents to own affordable housing. Both bills also have been primary factors in preventing the outflow of residents and stabilizing the city's economy. After spending most of my service in the minority, my first term in the majority saw an independent group (Power Rankings) rank me 19th most influential and 16th in legislative power in the House, because of my achievements while in the minority and because of bills I had already begun to pass. Among them were the DC Voting Rights Act, my Anacostia Watershed Initiative, which is the first Anacostia River comprehensive clean-up bill; my greening DC legislation, using the federal government's large construction and leasing footprint; and getting UDC, the nation's only urban land grant university permanently included in the Farm bill to receive federal funding for the first time. Now with Democrats in control of Congress and the White House, I have already shown I know how to take advantage of the alignment that is indispensable to moving difficult D.C. matters. I got voting rights through the Senate and

House until a gun amendment delayed the bill. Still, I am developing promising approaches to get the bill done. I have gotten all DC riders eliminated for the first time in the city's history. I have achieved senatorial courtesy allowing me to select the U.S. Attorney, federal judges, and other important federal law enforcement officials, and have chosen to share this responsibility with a 17 member commission I have appointed to advise me on candidates. My work on the new health care legislation in getting DC treated as a state assures that D.C. will no longer \$50 million in local taxpayer dollars annually for health care. As a subcommittee chair of a major economic development subcommittee, I am helping the District get through "The Great Recession". I used my subcommittee chairmanship to get stimulus funds for the District exceeding funds awarded to seven states, including almost a billion that kept the city from doing layoffs last year and millions for city improvements, from bike lanes to bridge and road repair. I have brought and have oversight over the largest economic development project underway in the U.S. today, the Department of Homeland Security Headquarters proceeding in Ward 8, partly funded with stimulus funds, as well as stimulus funding I have secured for 15 major economic projects for upgrading federal buildings. Oversight from the subcommittee I chair enables me to ensure D.C. residents are hired as a result of this funding.

4. Should statehood be the ultimate goal of the movement for D.C. rights?

Statehood is not only the ultimate goal; it is the goal I came close to achieving when two-thirds of House Democrats and even one Republican voted for my statehood bill during my second term. The Senate held a hearing on the bill but did not take the bill to the floor. However, soon thereafter the District became insolvent, and the mayor and City Council asked Congress to pay annually for several city functions, delaying statehood until the city can again pay for all state functions, necessary to qualify for statehood. See # 1 for steps I am taking now, which have important ingredients of statehood.

5. What will you do to help bring about full voting representation in Congress for D.C. citizens?

Not since the city was established in 1801 has the District come as close as we have this term to achieving a vote in Congress. Because the bill was passed by large majorities in the House and Senate, I am already working with congressional leaders on: (1) ways to get the bill through the house this year; (2) a number of strategies for proceeding next year, if necessary, and (3) a town meeting for discussion, feedback and ideas from residents. In addition, I will continue my work with local and national leaders with whom I have been working closely, in order to maintain the momentum we have achieved on voting rights. See also #1 above.

6. If (re)elected, what would you do to increase awareness among those outside the Washington Metro area of the District of Columbia's lack of voting representation?

I would use the invitations I receive from national TV and

radio media to promote voting rights nationally. By repeatedly inviting me as a guest on his show, Stephan Colbert unwittingly has done more to promote DC voting rights than money could have bought. I will continue to speak throughout the country on the denial of our rights.

7. If (re)elected, what will you do to help create and protect affordable housing options and alleviate homelessness?

Affordable Housing has been a major focus of my work in Congress and will remain a special priority in light of the “the Great Recession” that began with a mortgage crisis, and almost surely means that housing will be virtually the last sector to recover. Urged on by the mortgage crisis, I have just gotten the House and Senate to renew my \$5,000 homebuyer credit, which is keeping residents, who most need the subsidy, buying homes in the District. My D.C.- only housing credit was the model for the nationwide \$8,000 homebuyer credit, which expired in April but gave D.C. residents alone a choice of two credits. Each credit had its own set of advantages. Because of the mortgage driven economic recession, the Congress has had to devote disproportionate time to home mortgage issues.

However, until the mortgage crisis, my focus had been on shifting federal housing funds from construction subsidies to tenant rental assistance. My concentration has been on Section 8 tenant based rental assistance, up \$two billion in one year and homeless programs, up by \$one billion. Examples of other affordable housing priorities that I have worked on that have passed the

Congress are: H.R. 2895 that provides increased affordable housing for low income families and those who have lost their homes; H.R. 2427 to strengthen Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac regulations in order to increase mortgage market liquidity; HR 3221 to help homeowners facing foreclosure; HR 3915 to reduce predatory lending and enhance consumer protection; and HR 5818 to prevent neighborhood decline because of foreclosures, including assistance to the District Government to purchase foreclosed properties. I have also had an instrumental role in the eight federal Hope VI housing developments in the District, important for the way they have allowed low and moderate income residents to afford to purchase homes.

8. What would you advocate in order to revitalize the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority?

As a senior member and subcommittee chair on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I have been in the top leadership for Metro, including the 1.5 billion approved by Congress for capital costs. I argued that the U.S. should fund Metro because the federal government could not operate without Metro. It should be noted that this reality was later shown this winter when the federal government, in fact, had to shut down because Metro was snowed under. Using this reality, I am now trying to get operational funds for Metro. Considering that the majority of weekday Metro riders

are federal employees, Congress must share a portion of the full cost of operating this indispensable system. D.C. and regional residents who have already given more there share in fare increases and service cuts.