

1) Why are you running for Shadow Representative, and if (re)elected, what are the three most important things you intend to accomplish?

Having been active in the movement for marriage equality, I became frustrated watching Senator Bob Bennett from Utah – a Senator from halfway across the country – attempt to add an amendment to stop marriage here in our city. I was in the city council chambers the day we won marriage equality – the day our elected officials, the people we voted for, passed this law. And so it hit me, why is it that we still don't have a vote in the House or the Senate? I have of course always known that we didn't, but why is that still the case when we have a Democrat in the White House, a strong Democratic majority in the House, and at one point even a super majority in the Senate? Listening to conservatives in Congress pledge to overturn our marriage laws, the limits of our homerule status truly hit home with me. From this frustration spawned my interest in the position and ultimately the decision to run.

If elected, the following are the three most important things I intend to accomplish:

1. Elevate the profile of the U.S. "Shadow" Representative position. In speaking to DC voters, most have not heard of the position, let alone the incumbent. In order for me, or anyone else, to be successful in this position, the officeholder must have an increased presence throughout the city, and fight to gain the backing and respect of our city's other elected officials. If DC doesn't take this position seriously, how can we expect anyone else to?

Numbers two and three go hand in hand... in the short-term voting rights in the U.S. House of Representatives, and in the long-term, statehood.

2) What are your qualifications to serve as Shadow Representative?

I currently serve as the Speaker and Congressional Affairs Manager for the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, an organization that brings thousands of students to Washington annually to learn about civics and further their leadership potential. Working with members of Congress, Senators and their staffs on a daily basis, I have the experience to be an effective advocate on the Hill.

Among my other relevant career experiences, I have worked on a successful congressional campaign (Dan Maffei, D-NY), produced the 11p.m. newscast for an NBC affiliate in upstate New York, interned in the Washington office of U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, and served as President of the Hamilton College Democrats.

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

Absolutely. I believe strongly that our city deserves a voting representative in the U.S. House of Representatives for a whole host of reasons, but statehood is the ultimate goal. In addition to the guaranteed representation in the House and Senate that statehood would provide us, it would also end the paternalistic relationship our city has with Congress. We should be making our own laws without congressional interference.

4) If (re)elected, what two steps would you take in the short term to build momentum for the movement for D.C. rights?

The first thing we need is an increased and sustained presence on Capitol Hill. A few weeks back I participated in the DC Emancipation Day lobbying effort that DC Vote organized. This is exactly what the "Shadow" Representative should be organizing on an ongoing basis.

Along with increased lobbying efforts I also want to build on an idea that our current "Shadow" representative has developed, a PAC. Mr. Panetta established a PAC that we can use to fight off members of Congress who are opposing us on voting rights. But I want to take it to the next level... according to the last filing with the FEC, the PAC has less than \$200 cash on hand, rendering it functionally useless. I managed the call time for a successful non-incumbent House candidate who raised over \$2.3 million dollars... I know how to fundraise, and I will bring that skill to the table as "Shadow" Representative.

5) If (re)elected, what would you do to build more active support from D.C. residents for the movement for D.C. rights?

My first step would be to engage a segment of our city's population that to date has largely been written off: young people. I would work hard to reach young people; everyone from young professionals new to the area, to local high school students. Young people want to get involved, but they often don't know how to take the first step. I want to reach out to the youth of our city and give them a role to play.

And on this, I have a lot of experience. As mentioned earlier, I currently manage congressional and speaker affairs for the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, an organization that brings thousands of high school students to Washington annually to harness their passion for civic involvement. I have personally brought in everyone from Majority Whip James Clyburn and Senator Diane Feinstein to former House Speaker Dennis Hastert and former Senator Rick Santorum. I mention these last two names as proof that while I'm as liberal and progressive as they come, I also know how to reach

across the aisle and work with people who I passionately disagree with. Which, quite frankly, is something we need to do if we're going to make progress on voting rights.

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?

If elected, one of my goals is to broaden the movement to make it a national issue. Bringing fresh ideas to the fight, I want to build a coalition of cities from across the country to support the cause. The issues the District faces are similar to the issues other metropolitan areas face, and if DC gains a vote in Congress, these cities will benefit from the increased urban population representation. In building relationships with the leaders of other cities, I hope to recruit the leaders of these cities to lobby their representatives and senators to give DC representation, creating a win-win situation.

7) Present your vision for the national campaign for D.C. rights in the fifty states.

I think it's important for me to be honest and realistic about my goals over the next two years. If I am able to raise the profile of this position, reengage our city about the importance of this issue (specifically youth), increase our presence on the Hill and build a coalition of cities throughout the country in support of our representation in Congress, I will be very satisfied.

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