



Questionnaire for 2016 General Election
Council Position Sought: US (Shadow) Representative
Candidate Name: Franklin Garcia

The New Columbia Statehood Commission has proposed a Statehood Initiative that calls for an Advisory Referendum that includes approval of a new Constitution and boundaries to be adopted by the DC Council. If you had designed the Statehood Initiative, would it be different in any way, and if so, how?

There are a few things that can improve, which I advocated for, and did not end up in this process. I am however pleased to see that we are discussing DC Statehood with a broader audience, sometimes even reaching the national level. Everyone should continue to engage in the process and try to improving it, wherever there is room to do that. I do hope that ultimately, whatever process or language makes it to the ballot, is supported by a huge majority. I believe we can improve on any process, once a state, if we see that things are not ideal. DC has waited more than 215 years for equality, and Statehood for our residents is due now. I plan to support this measure and encourage ALL DC voters to vote "YES" on this Advisory Referendum. It would be a travesty to vote down a measure that calls for making us the 51st State. Franklin Garcia.