

Statehood Commission Records

An inventory of Statehood Commission at DC Public Library

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English

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Stage

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Summary Information

Repository:	Stage
Title:	Statehood Commission Records
ID:	048
Date [inclusive]:	1788-1994
Physical Description:	22 linear feet;51 boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	English

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Biographical / Historical

In 1979 a Statehood Initiative was presented to D.C. residents for a vote to approve legislation that would begin a concerted effort to make the District a state. The Statehood Initiative won approval on November 4, 1980 and became the first public referendum passed in the City's history. The final enabling legislation, D.C. Law 3-171, as amended D.C. Code Sec. 1-115(b) (1987)), provided for the creation of two commissions -- the D.C. Statehood Commission and the D.C. Compact Commission. The Statehood Commission was to "educate, promote, and advance the proposition of statehood for the District of Columbia in the District and elsewhere." The Compact Commission was given the responsibility to conduct a "full and complete study of the necessary and appropriate legislative and administration action" to achieve statehood. The two commissions consisted of three commissioners from each of the eight wards in the District who were appointed by the D.C. City Council.

One of the more important provisions of the Initiative called for a Constitutional Convention and the writing of a Constitution for the State of New Columbia On November 4, 1981 forty-five delegates were elected to a Constitutional Convention to serve two or three-year terms. The convention delegates drafted a constitution by May 29, 1982, which was subsequently adopted by a majority vote of D.C. citizens on November 2, 1982. In 1985 after the three-year term of the Constitutional Convention expired, the two Commissions became one.

As part of its mandate to "educate, promote, and advance" statehood, the Commission engaged in a number of activities throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s. Among others things, it designed a curriculum for public schools, established training sessions for D.C. teachers, testified before Congress on statehood legislation, and established a Statehood Resource Center. Congress did not vote on the D.C. Statehood bill, which was originally introduced by Walter Fauntroy as H.R. 51 in 1987, until November 1993. The bill was defeated by a vote of 277 to 153. The Commission's budget was dramatically decreased and activities were severely curtailed after the defeat.

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Scope and Contents

Materials in this collection consist of records of the D.C. Statehood/Compact Commission ("Commission") from 1978 through 1994 that document its activities to promote and educate the public on statehood as well as research on methods for achieving statehood in the District. The records include correspondence, reports, clippings, press releases, financial materials, meeting minutes, legislative testimony and bills, Commission publications, pamphlets, brochures, articles, speeches, memorabilia, videos, audiotapes, and photographs. Significant items, activities, and topics covered by the records include: Commission activities supporting the Constitutional Convention; testimony and public relations materials involving the Commission's efforts to promote statehood legislation in the U.S. Congress; legal and other research regarding campaigns in other states to achieve statehood; articles, and writings on the issue of D.C. statehood; public relations and educational activities undertaken by the Commission such as the Peace Train, Liberty Bell Train, the "New Columbia: 51st State of the Union" videotape, Statehood survey, and public school curriculum guide.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Stage

Custodial History

The Records of the Statehood Commission were donated to the Library by Ned Sloan, Chair of the Commission.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Associations, institutions, etc
- Statehood (American politics)

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Administrative, 1986-1994

Scope and Contents

This series contains files that document the daily administration of the Commission. Included in the files are time and effort reports, by-laws; resolutions, memoranda reporting on Commission activities; mailing and contact lists, Commission stationary, and Commission logo. Of particular significance are contract records, request for proposals solicited by the Commission, and proposals from contractors in response to those requests. A majority of the materials regarding contracts is from the Harrison Institute, which contracted to provide public relations services and conduct legal research for the Commission. The materials are arranged alphabetically by topic and then chronologically by date.

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RFP CI-1-88 - David Apter response for public relations campaign, 1988	Box 4	Folder 15
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Series 2: Financial, ca. 1978-1995

Scope and Contents

Financial records of the Commission are contained in this series, including annual budget and appropriation materials, invoices, payment vouchers, revenue and expense statements, and treasurer reports. Folders are arranged alphabetically by topic then chronologically by date.

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Series 3: Meetings, 1978-1995

Scope and Contents

Included in this series are meeting minutes, agenda, and background materials for regular and special meetings of the Commission from December 11, 1978 through January 5, 1995. Related materials include recordings of the meetings in the Audiovisual Series (9/19/86 through 5/5/88). Folders are arranged chronologically by date of meeting.

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Meeting minutes/agendas/background materials, December 3 1987 - April 20 1988	Box 14	Folder 1
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Meeting minutes/agendas/background materials, October 6 1988 - December 19 1988	Box 16	Folder 1
Meeting minutes/agendas/background materials, December 15 1988 - May 4 1989	Box 17	Folder 1
Meeting minutes/agendas/background materials, May 4 1989 - December 15 1989	Box 18	Folder 1
Meeting minutes/agendas/background materials, March 23 1990 - January 5 1995	Box 19	Folder 1

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Series 4: Topics, 1788, 1941, 1968, 1980-1993

Scope and Contents

This series consists of correspondence, memoranda, reports, handwritten notes, clippings, publications, statements, pamphlets, brochures, newsletters, lists, and bibliographies covering a variety of topics and activities of interest to the Commission. Of particular significance are materials regarding the D.C. Statehood Constitutional Convention, Democratic and Republican conventions, Statehood Constitution, activities by Shadow Senator Jesse Jackson, and state government reorganization. Folders are arranged alphabetically by topic and then chronologically by date.

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Waiving residency requirement for teachers, Undated	Box 26	Folder 23
"Washington View" Volume 3 #1, 1991	Box 26	Folder 24
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Series 5: Legislative Matters, 1986-1994

Scope and Contents

Records in this series include briefing books, congressional testimony and statements, house and conference reports, executive summaries, bills, background papers, appropriation acts, correspondence, and memoranda. Much of the materials relate to H.R. 51, statehood legislation introduced in Congress in 1987, including briefing book drafts and originals, internal memoranda from the House District Committee, testimony, and opposition statements. Other significant materials consist of testimony before D.C. City Council on budgets and Congressional testimony supporting statehood before the House Subcommittee on Fiscal Affairs and Health in 1987. Folders are arranged alphabetically by topic and then chronologically with materials related to specific house and senate bills (i.e., H.R. 51, S118) appearing first.

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H.R. 51 - Briefing book issues, Undated	Box 27	Folder 18
H.R. 51 - Briefing book originals/statement, Undated	Box 28	Folder 1
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H.R. 51 - House District Committee Internal Memoranda, Undated	Box 28	Folder 4
H.R. 51 - Executive Summary of by Republican Study Committee, September 4 1987	Box 28	Folder 5
H.R. 51 - Section by section outline, Undated	Box 28	Folder 6
H.R. 51 - Statement opposition - Thomas J. Bliley Jr., May 20 1987	Box 28	Folder 7
H.R. 51 - Strategy for the Passage of, 1988	Box 28	Folder 8
H.R. 51 - Testimony Before House Committee on the District of Columbia - Stephen Markman, April 17 1987	Box 28	Folder 9
H.R. 51 - Markup - House Committee on the District - Subcommittee on Fiscal Affairs, May 5 1987	Box 28	Folder 10
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H.R. 51 - Oversight hearing - opening statements of Walter Fauntroy, March 26 1987	Box 28	Folder 17
H.R. 52, 1989	Box 28	Folder 18
H.R. 325, Undated	Box 28	Folder 19
H.R. 1629 - Bill to adopt Statehood Constitution, 1987	Box 28	Folder 20

H.R. 3861 - Bill to provide for Admission of the State of New Columbia, 1983	Box 28	Folder 21
H.R. 4718 - D.C. Statehood Bill Background paper, June 1992	Box 28	Folder 22
H.R. 4776 - Conference report, 1988	Box 28	Folder 23
S898 - A Bill to Provide for the Admission of the State of New Columbia, 1993	Box 28	Folder 24
S1118 - A Bill to Provide Mayor, City council and Nonvoting delegate, 1965	Box 28	Folder 25
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CRS report for Congress - shadow representatives in Congress, June 16 1993	Box 29	Folder 4
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Testimony regarding H.R. 2482 - House Committee on D.C - Judiciary and Education Subcommittee - Jo Butler, November 14 1991	Box 32	Folder 11
Testimony regarding economics of statehood - House Committee on D.C. - Robert D. Ebel, September 30 1986.	Box 32	Folder 12

Testimony supporting statehood before House Committee on D.C. - Subcommittee on Fiscal Affairs and Health - Marion Barry, March 26 1987	Box 32	Folder 13
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Testimony supporting statehood before House Committee on D.C. - Subcommittee on Fiscal Affairs and Health - James Dyke, March 26 1987	Box 32	Folder 15
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Series 6: Clippings and Press Releases, 1978--1987

Scope and Contents

This series contains clippings and press releases regarding statehood activities and issues. Most of the clippings were compiled by clipping services and public relations firms engaged by the Commission. The folders are arranged chronologically by date of the clipping or press release.

Title/Description	Instances	
Clippings, 1978-1990	Box 32	Folder 21
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Series 7: Public Relations, 1987-1993

Scope and Contents

As part of its mission to educate and promote statehood, the Commission developed, with the help of public relations (PR) experts, press packages, publicity events, and educational materials. Specific items and topics of interest in this series include the Fifty Stars slide show, Liberty Bell Train event, the New Columbia: 51st State of the Union speakers kit, and "Action News (the Commission newsletter)." Educational materials developed for the general and public school students, include, "Facts You May Not Know About D.C. and Statehood," "Fifty-One Stars: A Test," "Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Statehood Economic Issues," and "One-Month Daily Curriculum: National Rainbow Coalition for D.C. Statehood Campaign." Also included are editorials, letters to the editor, radio and T.V. reports, public relations reports, correspondence, brochures and booklets on statehood. Much of the materials were the product of Apter & Associates, a public relations firm engaged by the Commission to conduct PR activities. Related materials in other series include the video, New Columbia: 51st State of the Union. Folders are arranged alphabetically by topic and then chronologically by date.

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"New Columbia: 51st State of the Union" - Maguire-Reeder Award, 1988-1989	Box 36	Folder 1
"New Columbia: 51st State of the Union" - Speakers kit, 1988-1989	Box 36	Folder 2
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What is the Statehood/Compact Commission, 1979	Box 38	Folder 21

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Series 8: Research, 1948-1993

Scope and Contents

This series contains research compiled largely for the Commission's Resource Center for research in reference. The research consists of scholarly articles and papers, U.S. congressional reports and legislation, correspondence, memoranda, and governmental reports compiled by Commission staff regarding territories that sought admission as states. The majority of the research focuses on efforts in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico to achieve statehood. The series also contains research focusing generally on statehood and research strategies for the Commission to undertake. Folders are arranged alphabetically by subject or state and then chronologically.

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Series 9: Correspondence, 1987-1994

Scope and Contents

Single letters of importance, correspondence with Congress, a correspondence log, as well as general correspondence are included in this series. Single letters appear first and are arranged alphabetically by subject or name of correspondents; the remainder of the correspondence is arranged chronologically. Single letters include, among others, a letter sent to community leaders requesting their help in promoting the 1990 elections for shadow senators and representatives, a letter to Congressman Romano L. Mazzoli answering questions about statehood for non-federal parts of the district; a letter from the Commission congratulating Jesse Jackson on his election as shadow senator; and various letters to educators and schools about the Statehood education kit.

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Community leader letter, May 19 1989	Box 45	Folder 8
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Series 10: Articles, 1965-1994

Scope and Contents

This series consists of scholarly and popular articles, reports, booklets, texts of speeches, and other writings, the majority of which discuss statehood for the District but also cover the statehood process, Washington, D.C politics, and other related topics. The writings are arranged alphabetically by title.

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"Argument Paper for Statehood for D.C." - Ann-Marie Agostinelli, May 2 1988	Box 46	Folder 5
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"Briefing Report to Congressional Requester" - D.C. Financial Status - General Accounting Office, June 1994	Box 46	Folder 7
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"Commercial Office Buildings in Washington, 1989	Box 46	Folder 9
"Congressional Politics and Local Autonomy in Washington, March 13 1989	Box 46	Folder 10
"Constitutionality of D.C. Statehood" Peter Raven-Hansen - George Washington Law Review, November 1991	Box 46	Folder 11
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"The Economic Vitality of the Proposed State of New Columbia: The Federal and Payment; The Commuter Tax Scare: Tourism and "High Tech", Undated	Box 46	Folder 13
"Federal and Local Interests in the Nation's Capital" - Charles W. Harris, 1994	Box 46	Folder 14
"The 51st (fifty-first) State: Towards Statehood for the District of Columbia:" Greater Washington Americans for Democratic Action - Clint Hockenberry, October 1984	Box 46	Folder 15

"Financial Implications of Statehood for D.C." Financial Research Associates, September 1986	Box 46	Folder 16
"Fiscal Prospects for the State of New Columbia" - Brimmer and Company, September 11 1986	Box 47	Folder 1
The Five Negro Presidents" - J.A. Rogers, 1965	Box 47	Folder 2
"The Future of the District of Columbia: Home Rule" - Philip G. Schrag, 1990	Box 47	Folder 3
"Gut Feelings Toward to the City of Washington and the District of Columbia: Changes Over Time" - Janice H. Hopper (D.C. Statehood Commissioner), Undated	Box 47	Folder 4
"History of Apportionment", Undated	Box 47	Folder 5
"Increased Self-Government for the District of Columbia, December 17 1986	Box 47	Folder 6
"Human Services in Adams Morgan" - Adams Morgan ANC, Undated	Box 47	Folder 7
If You Favor Freedom - Statehood Commission, October 1986	Box 47	Folder 8
"In the American Tradition: An Analysis of the Proposed Constitution of the State of New Columbia" - Arnold and Porter, April 1986	Box 47	Folder 9
Jesse Jackson. We are Campaigning to Build a New Democratic Majority and Rebuild America, November 2 1991	Box 47	Folder 10
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"King and Revolution" - Reflections Vincent Harding, 1983	Box 47	Folder 12
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"Statehood?" Washington Post Magazine, July 4 1993	Box 47	Folder 15
"A Qualitative Research Assessment of How Some Americans View the Political Future of the Nation's Capital" - Edward M. Myers, September 1 1994	Box 47	Folder 16
Republican National Convention calendar, August 14 1998	Box 47	Folder 17
"Rivlin report: D.C. Shortchanged" - The Washington Post, December 21 1990	Box 47	Folder 18
"Statehood and Territories" - Congress and the Nation, 1960s	Box 47	Folder 19
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Statehood Call: Voice of the Statehood Party, March 22 1981	Box 47	Folder 22
"Statehood for the District of Columbia" - National Academy for Public Administration, 1990	Box 47	Folder 23

"Statehood for New Columbia" - edited by James Forman, 1993	Box 47	Folder 24
State Government [various articles on government organization], 1979, 1985-1986	Box 47	Folder 25
The Statehood Papers: Articles on D.C. Statehood by Sam Smith - published by Progressive Review, 1970-1991	Box 47	Folder 26

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Series 11: Memorabilia, 1976-1991

Scope and Contents

During the struggle for statehood, the Commission and other organizations working for statehood created a variety of promotional materials some or which are contained in this series. A sample of these Items include "March for D.C. Statehood" fliers, "The Facts About D.C. Statehood" brochure, "Mend the Crack in the Liberty Bell, D.C. Statehood Now!" bumper sticker, the "D.C. Statehood Now" button, poems, songs, the D.C. Statehood tote bag, and the Flag for New Columbia. Items in this series are arranged alphabetically by title.

Title/Description	Instances	
200 Years of History in Cleveland Park, Undated	Box 48	Folder 7
Camera, Undated	Box 48	Folder 8
Centennial Celebration Western-Ellington, 1990	Box 48	Folder 9
Citizens for New Columbia - promotional items, Undated	Box 48	Folder 10
D.C. Statehood Commission folder, Undated	Box 48	Folder 11
D.C. Statehood Commission stationary, Undated	Box 48	Folder 12
"D.C. Statehood Now" button, Undated	Box 48	Folder 13
D.C. Statehood tote bag, Undated	Box 48	Folder 14
Duke Ellington School of the Arts - Annual Spring Dance Concert program, May 25-26 1990	Box 48	Folder 15
"The Facts About D.C. Statehood", Undated	Box 48	Folder 16
Flag for New Columbia story, Undated	Box 48	Folder 17
"Jobs, Undated	Box 48	Folder 18
March for D.C. Statehood flyers, January 1991	Box 48	Folder 19
Charles Noble Mason - "An Evening of Appreciation", April 9 1988	Box 48	Folder 20
"Mend the Crack in the Liberty Bell; D.C. Statehood Now!" bumper sticker, Undated	Box 48	Folder 21
Peace Train flyer, Undated	Box 48	Folder 22
Poems and songs, Undated	Box 48	Folder 23

"Progressive Alternative in District Politics" [Statehood Party brochures], Undated	Box 48	Folder 24
Singham Memorial tribute, 1991	Box 48	Folder 25
"Socialist for President Margaret Wright 1976-The People's Party" bumper sticker, 1976	Box 48	Folder 26
Statehood Coalition poster, Undated	Box 48	Folder 27
Statehood Coalition - "D.C. Statehood Now!" brochure, Undated	Box 48	Folder 28
Statehood petition [blank], Undated	Box 48	Folder 29
"The Struggle for Self-Determination: From D.C. to El Salvador" flyer, Undated	Box 48	Folder 30
"Support D.C. Statehood" bumper sticker, Undated	Box 48	Folder 31
Vote for D.C. State Constitution, Undated	Box 48	Folder 32
"Welcome to Washington: The Last Colony" flyer, 1988	Box 48	Folder 33

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Series 12: Jo Butler Materials, 1978-1993

Scope and Contents

Josephine Butler was a key figure in the statehood movement and Chair of the D.C. Statehood Commission for many years. Materials about or from her are contained in this series. They include her biography, a campaign poster, correspondence, awards, resumes, working files, and resignations. Folders are arranged alphabetically by title.

Title/Description	Instances	
Adams Morgan/Lanier Heights Historical Research Survey, 1982-1987	Box 49	Folder 1
Awards, Undated	Box 49	Folder 2
Biography, Undated	Box 49	Folder 3
Birthday cards, Undated	Box 49	Folder 4
Campaign Finance Office, 1984	Box 49	Folder 5
Campaign Poster, Undated	Box 49	Folder 6
Candidate petition, Undated	Box 49	Folder 7
Correspondence, 1978-1984	Box 49	Folder 8
Hansib Community Award, 1989	Box 49	Folder 9
Resignation, 1993	Box 49	Folder 10
Resignation from ANC, 1987	Box 49	Folder 11
Resumes, Undated	Box 49	Folder 12

Working Files, 1988-1991	Box 49	Folder 13
Working Files, 1988-1991	Box 49	Folder 14
Working Files, 1988-1991	Box 49	Folder 15
Working Files, 1988-1991	Box 49	Folder 16
Working Files, 1988-1991	Box 49	Folder 17

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Series 13: Audiovisual, 1986-1994

Scope and Contents

This series consists of audiotapes of Commission meetings; two videotapes titled "In the Public Eye: D.C. Statehood," and "New Columbia: 51st State of the Union;" and two photographs -- one unidentified and the other regarding the Statehood Now Demonstration. The materials are arranged alphabetically by title.

Title/Description	Instances	
36 Audiotapes of Statehood/Compact Commission Meeting, September 19 1986 - May 5 1988	Box 50	Folder 1
25 Audiotapes of Statehood/Compact Commission Meeting, May 5 1988 - December 15 1988	Box 51	Folder 1
Videotape - Joia Jefferson "In the Public Eye: D.C. Statehood", July 26 1994	Box 51	Folder 2
Joia Jefferson - "In the Public Eye: D.C. Statehood", July 26 1994	Box 51	Folder 3
Statehood Now Demonstration photo, Undated	Box 51	Folder 4
Unidentified photo (related to Adams Morgan Lanier Heights Survey), Undated	Box 51	Folder 5

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