

Congress' powers over the District and its potential paths to statehood have been long standing topics of discussion. The following chart summarizes the two major parties' platform positions over the past 40 years regarding the District of Columbia, including positions on statehood, voting rights for D.C. Congressional representatives, and budgetary and legislative autonomy.

Year	Democratic Platform	Republican Platform
1972	<u>Support</u> : full home rule including authority over its budget and local revenues. Elimination of federal restrictions in local matters and voting representation in Congress.	<u>Support</u> : voting representation in Congress and self-government.
1976	<u>Support</u> : same as 1972.	<u>Support</u> : giving the District voting representation in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and full home rule over local matters.
1980	<u>Support</u> : adopting the District's voting rights but did not mention support for budgetary and legislative autonomy.	No mention.
1984	No mention.	No mention.
1988	<u>Support</u> : statehood.	No mention.
1992	<u>Support</u> : statehood.	<u>Oppose</u> : statehood as inconsistent with the original intent of the Framers of the Constitution and with the need for a federal city as the nation's capital.
1996	<u>Support</u> : "full self-governance, political representation and statehood."	<u>Oppose</u> : statehood for the reason stated in 1992.
2000	<u>Support</u> : autonomy in civic affairs, full political representation and statehood.	<u>Oppose</u> : statehood to respect the design of the Framers of the Constitution that the District should remain independent of any individual state.
2004	No mention.	<u>Oppose</u> : same as 2000. <u>Support</u> : budgetary and legal autonomy to local elected officials.
2008	<u>Support</u> : benefits of full citizenship, democratic self-government and congressional representation.	<u>Oppose</u> : statehood; the District is a special responsibility of the federal government.
2012	<u>Support</u> : full and equal congressional rights and the right to have the laws and budget of a local government without congressional interference; to end taxation without representation.	<u>Oppose</u> : statehood.
2016	<u>Support</u> : statehood.	<u>Oppose</u> : statehood; oppose budget autonomy as "illegal action."

Source: <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/platforms.php>

What is a party platform?

Political party platforms are actual published documents that give candidates a clear political position with which they can campaign. They propose a concrete insight into party positions on issues regarding foreign and domestic policy and priorities.

How are political platforms created?

The national committee for each party--in this case the Democratic National Committee and the Republican National Committee--has a set of directors, policy experts, and committee heads that contribute, debate, and vote on policy positions and priorities. Following that, party delegates, who are citizens selected by these committees to represent their states at national conventions, vote to support or amend platform drafts.

Why is this important for statehood?

Political platforms inform undecided voters. They can be used to decipher a party's goals. Though platforms are not legally binding, elected officials can be held to account by voters and party leaders if they do not follow them.