

New Columbia Statehood Commission
Draft Constitution Comment Log

Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
General				
1	General	The State name should be changed.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the name New Columbia because of its association with the Statehood movement.
2	General	The State name should be kept, because the bill in Congress uses this name.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the name New Columbia because of its association with the Statehood movement.
3	General	There is not enough time to deliberate this, as the timeline is short.	No Action	While the Commission approved an aggressive timeline, modern technology allows us to consider input from all District residents and take advantage of the upcoming national election.
4	General	The 1982 or 1987 constitutions already exist.	No Action	The Commission has drafted a new constitution so that it is contemporaneous with both realities of our current government, including an elected Attorney General, and a new petition to Congress.
5	General	There are too many colonial provisions and too many provisions of the Home Rule Act.	No Action	The Commission drafted the constitution using the guiding principles to attempt to balance maintaining consistency with designing the government of the new state. Certain provisions imposed on Washington, DC by Congress, such as the reserved seats for minority party Councilmembers, have been removed.
6	General	What sort of resources are available to make public aware?	No Action	Working groups are working on this issue right now and will continue to work on this issue.
7	General	If we want democracy, we have to give democracy.	No Action	The Commission agrees that democracy is important.
8	General	How will the State take over the National Guard?	No Action	This issue is currently governed by local law and would continue to be so.
9	General	Thanks for giving us something to work for.	No Action	Thank you for your involvement and dedication. The Commission knows how important statehood is and that the support and input of citizens will help us achieve it.
10	General	Regarding partisan elections throughout, does a candidate need to win a party primary to get on the ballot?	No Action	The primary system would be governed by legislation. The House of Delegates has the power to determine these requirements.
11	General	US Citizenship should be required for all positions specified in the 1987 constitution, including the House of Delegates, Governor, CFO, Public Service Commissioners, and Zoning Commissioner.	No Action	If a person is a registered voter, they are a citizen. Decisions about whether to limit these positions to citizenship are best left to the people by vote or legislation from the House of Delegates.
12	General	Replace gendered pronouns throughout the document.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is amended to removed the pronouns.
13	General	Will the ballot in November be one question or four?	No Action	The Commission will propose language that will be one question. The Board of Elections will have the final decision on exact language that will appear on the ballot.
14	General	This is not a legitimate constitutional convention to design the constitution.	No Action	The Commission approved a public engagement process that allows for input from any and every interested resident. All Commissioners are District-wide elected officials accountable to the voters.
15	General	Publicize the rules of how the days of the constitutional convention will operate.	No Action	The Commission released the public engagement process regarding public testimony with the draft constitution. The details of each convention day were publicized when the program was finalized.
16	General	A second draft of the constitution should be released.	No Action	After voting on these recommended changes, the Commission will release the updated document.
17	General	This constitution will go down in history.	No Action	The Commission agrees. We are working to become the next state, which will be historic.
18	General	We should work collaboratively on community outreach.	No Action	Working groups, specifically the All 8 Wards and Communications Working Groups, are working on this now.
19	General	We have met the three requirements for statehood by having sufficient land, population, and revenue.	No Action	The Commission agrees. Washington, DC deserves the rights of statehood.

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20	General	Will the power come from the people?	No Action	Yes! It is a fundamental American ideal and inherent in the draft constitution that the power derives from the people.
21	General	We should have a republican form of government.	No Action	The draft constitution designs a republican form of government by creating an elected House of Delegates and Governor, as is required for admission by the US Constitution.
22	General	We should establish the borders and have the land from Virginia returned.	No Action	The Commission released proposed boundaries at the first night of the Constitutional Convention. Arlington and Alexandria retroceded to Virginia in 1846 and so are part of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
23	General	The Attorney General should have been made the head of the Legal Advisory Committee.	No Action	Staff from the Attorney General's office was a part of the Legal Advisory Committee.
24	General	The constitution should include a human rights charter.	No Action	Washington, DC currently has a robust human rights charter, which exists in law, that would continue to have effect.
25	General	We should call Wards counties.	No Action	Designations for names can be decided by legislation.
26	General	Pay caps should not be in a constitution, as it limits flexibility.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
27	General	We should not let this opportunity pass us by, even if people have problems with the process or individual aspects of the constitution.	No Action	The Commission agrees. Though it is impossible to design a constitution that will be perfect to every resident, statehood is incredibly important for Washington, DC. The Commission has considered all competing interests during this process.
28	General	Elections should be publically financed.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
29	General	There should be provisions for independent agencies.	No Action	Independent agencies are best created by legislation to allow for flexibility and allow democracy to determine which agencies should be independent.
30	General	We could just write a new constitution after the elections.	No Action	In order to present a complete petition for statehood to the incoming President and Congress at the start of the new year, the constitution needs to be on the November ballot.
31	General	DC is a federal territory and vassal to the US Congress. The DC government is hoarding federal funds that it is using to fund their fraudulent and seceding acts against the United States and US Congress.	No Action	The Commission's goal is to join the United States, not secede from it. While the entirety of Washington, DC is currently a federal territory, Statehood allows the federal tax-paying residents to finally have the right to Congressional representation and local autonomy enjoyed by the rest of the country.
32	General	How will Kendall School and Model Secondary School for the deaf be funded?	No Action	They will be funded in the same way they are now, by current law.
33	General	It would be helpful to explain the rationale behind the decisions made.	No Action	The Commission drafted the constitution based on the principles that we adopted and released.
34	General	A general ethics provision should be added.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
35	General	Planning for statehood should be handled by an elected Commission with 7 Commissioners who serve 4 year terms.	No Action	Every member of the New Columbia Statehood Commission, the Mayor, the Council Chairman, and the three members of the Shadow Congressional delegation, are all District-wide elected officials. The Commission's makeup allows for stability, in accordance with the first guiding principle.
36	General	The Statehood movement has excluded Republican voices, which should be included.	No Action	The Commission agrees that DC Republicans are crucial to the movement, particularly to help win support from Republican members of Congress. The DC GOP has been involved with our Working Groups, and we hope that Republicans both here and across the country will support our right to Congressional representation, self-governance, and local autonomy.

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37	General	You should contact the drafters of Mexico City's constitution.	No Action	The Commission believes it is important to focus most on the needs and input of residents of Washington, DC.
38	General	Rights of the minority should not be able to be overturned by the majority.	No Action	The Commissions agrees. The protected classes that exist in law would continue to be protected.
39	General	There should be no private prisons or halfway houses and a prohibition on private profit from prisoners.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
40	General	A state bank should be created to control resources.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
41	General	Establish the voting age.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
42	General	The Constitution is too long.	No Action	The Commission drafted the constitution to balance the need for stability and an established structure for good government in the first and third principles with the goal of simplifying the constitution in the second principle.
43	General	DC residents should have the same constitutional right to representation as other US citizens.	No Action	The Commission agrees. That is why we and our staff have worked so hard to develop a constitution and statehood petition to submit to the President and Congress next year.
44	General	The constitution in general is too specific and should leave more details to legislation, regulation, and operational policy.	No Action	The Commission drafted the constitution to balance the fourth principle's goal of empowering the legislature and executive to govern with the need for an established structure for good government in the third principle and the goal of simplifying the constitution in the second principle.
45	General	There should be no references to the Home Rule Act in the Constitution.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language has been drafted to remove references where practicable.
46	General	The constitution should affirm the government's authority and obligation to protect the environment and citizen's health and wellbeing.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. Any expansion of rights is best decided by legislation.
47	General	I agree with the approach of a clear and simple constitution that may provide us the rights we need without jeopardizing our approach.	No Action	The Commission agrees and has worked to draft a constitution that balances these important interests.
48	General	"First past the post" voting should be eliminated in favor of alternate vote systems.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
49	General	We should reach out to young people.	No Action	The All 8 Wards and Communications Working Group both have plans to focus on youth outreach.
50	General	The Washington Post should take this on to educate people.	No Action	There has been press coverage throughout the process, but we welcome all efforts to educate Americans about the fight for statehood.
51	General	Comments should be posted online.	No Action	The Commission has posted summary comments online so that everyone can see what issues are receiving input.
52	General	We should pay and fund the statehood delegation.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
53	General	This is a civil rights issue, and people should know that.	No Action	The Commission agrees. Our working groups are currently strategizing how to get the message out.
54	General	We need new people in the statehood fight.	No Action	The Commission agrees. Our working groups are currently strategizing how to get the message out.
55	General	We should establish protections from special interests so they do not overwhelm this process as they did with the 1982 Constitution.	No Action	The plan adopted by the Commission allows for input from every resident.
56	General	As a delegate to the 1982 Constitutional Convention, it was a highly undemocratic process.	No Action	The Commission did not exist in 1982, but we adopted a plan so that every resident could give input and feedback on the constitution.
57	General	Even if we do not have a perfect state, we deserve the rights it brings.	No Action	The Commission agrees. That is why we are fighting for statehood.
58	General	Lack of statehood is big government interference.	No Action	The Commission agrees. That is why we are fighting for local autonomy.
59	General	We should rename office of District government now to call the Mayor Governor and the Chairman Speaker.	No Action	The Commission is focused on creating the positions of Governor and Speaker, but we welcome any ideas that will help us achieve that goal.
60	General	There should be more detail so that each Ward feels included.	No Action	The All 8 Wards Working Group has a plan to reach out to every Ward to make them aware and get them involved.

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61	General	We cannot sacrifice local government for statehood.	No Action	The Commission wants to achieve statehood so that we may have the right to true self-governance and local autonomy.
62	General	Fairness is important, particularly in education.	No Action	The Commission agrees.
63	General	"Taxation without representation" should be the official song of statehood.	No Action	The Commission welcomes the support of the song, and we are glad we were able to hear the song at the Constitutional Convention.
64	General	We should put 3/5 of our taxes in an escrow account until we have representation.	No Action	The Commission welcomes new ideas to help us achieve statehood, but we also must ensure that we comply with federal law.
65	General	We should get veterans and churches involved.	No Action	The All 8 Wards Working Group is designed to get residents involved.
66	General	The Statehood delegation should be made employees of DC government so that other employees can donate their leave to them.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
67	General	We shouldn't limit our ability to grow when creating the boundaries.	No Action	The boundaries adopted by the Commission are necessarily limited by the boundaries of Maryland, Virginia, and the new federal seat of government.
68	General	There should be a right to open data and information, particularly with regard to contracting.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
69	General	Congress treats DC as a colony.	No Action	The Commission agrees. That is why we are working hard for statehood.
70	General	Disenfranchisement of DC residents violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the US is a signatory.	No Action	The Commission agrees. We are fighting to change this.
71	General	We need representatives in Congress to support the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.	No Action	The Commission agrees. We need federal voting representation to fight for the rights of our residents.
72	General	People need to realize that Washington, DC is more than just the Congress and White House.	No Action	The Commission agrees. Washington, DC is home to nearly 700,000 people who want the rights enjoyed by other everyday Americans.
73	General	We need a huge positive vote for statehood.	No Action	The Commission agrees. We need your help and support to get it.
74	General	It is important for people to contact their friends and families with representation to support statehood.	No Action	The Commission agrees. We need your help and support to do that.
75	General	We should not say that we'll make changes later.	No Action	The Commission's main priority is statehood for Washington, DC. If we find that something does not work in our state government, we can and should be able to change it.
76	General	It is important to draft the constitution quickly and precisely.	No Action	The Commission agrees.
77	General	Our rights, including LGBT rights, should not be subject to the whims of Congress.	No Action	The Commission agrees. That is why we are working hard for statehood.
78	General	Our tax dollars should be spent by our locally elected leaders.	No Action	The Commission agrees. That is why we are working hard for statehood.
79	General	People in other states should not have more of a say over DC and DC taxes than we do.	No Action	The Commission agrees. That is why we are working hard for statehood.
80	General	The Boundaries are well-drawn. It demonstrates that Washington, DC is more than Congress and the White House.	No Action	The Commission thanks the Office of Planning for their help and support.
81	General	Taking away voting rights is silencing society.	No Action	The Commission agrees. That is why we are working hard for statehood.
82	General	It is important to build on the previous foundation of statehood efforts.	No Action	The Commission agrees. That is why we looked to the previous constitutions for guidance and have reached out to statehood activists, both long-time and new, for support in achieving our goals.
83	General	The constitution is a competent statement of best practices of the 50 states.	No Action	The Commission looked at practices across the country in drafting the constitution.
84	General	The boundaries should include Trump Hotel.	No Action	The Office of Planning drew the boundaries to remove all residences and maintain the federal seat of government.
85	General	We need to tell the world we oppose bigotry and racism.	No Action	Washington, DC is and will continue to be a city that opposes bigotry and racism, as our laws demonstrate.
86	General	We need national attention around this issue.	No Action	Working groups are working on this issue right now and will continue to work on this issue.

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87	General	This process is undemocratic, and we should just use the 1982 Constitution.	No Action	The plan adopted by the Commission allows for input from every resident.
88	General	With this process, every citizen can provide input.	No Action	The Commission adopted the plan to achieve this goal.
89	General	Washington, DC is the best city in America.	No Action	The Commission agrees - soon, we will be the best State!
90	General	Kids support DC Statehood, too.	No Action	The Commission is grateful for the support of all residents, regardless of age.
91	General	Lawyers, academics, and politicians should not write the constitution.	No Action	The plan adopted by the Commission allows for input from every resident. The Legal Advisory Committee, which consisted of lawyers from private, public interest, and government practice, guided the Commission with their legal and constitutional knowledge and expertise.
92	General	There should be a different system for commenting and discussion, like a wiki page.	No Action	The Commission used the online resources immediately available to us.
93	General	There should be a right to open budgeting.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
94	General	We should discuss abolishing the state income tax and fair taxation.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
95	General	While a radical constitution may be ideal, statehood should be the main goal.	No Action	The Commission's main priority is statehood for Washington, DC, but we have also prioritized the values of the residents.
96	General	Emancipation Day should focus on statehood in the future.	No Action	The Commission is working so that we will celebrate statehood at the next Emancipation Day.
97	General	Even with a conservative constitution, we will still be a progressive city.	No Action	The Commission agrees. Our values will continue in law and our spirit.
98	General	We should engage universities and recruit more millenials.	No Action	Working groups are working on this issue right now and will continue to work on this issue.
99	General	Millenials are watching the process and providing input.	No Action	The Commission is grateful for the support of all residents, regardless of age.
100	General	We should have municipalities instead of Wards.	No Action	Designations for names can be decided by legislation.
101	General	We should not create a constitution and push for statehood at the same time.	No Action	The Commission is following the Tennessee plan for statehood because we believe that residents deserve the rights enjoyed by all other tax-paying American citizens.
102	General	It is important to have a constitution we all want.	No Action	The Commission agrees. Though it is impossible to design a constitution that will be perfect to every resident, statehood is incredibly important for Washington, DC. The Commission has prioritized our values during this process.
103	General	We should give contracting preference to contractors that donate to statehood efforts.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
104	General	We should ask all groups, from sports teams to embassy delegations, to support statehood.	No Action	Working groups are working to gain broad support right now and will continue to work on this issue.
105	General	Statehood is a libertarian cause and should have support from that community.	No Action	The Commission agrees and welcomes the support of every resident and American, regardless of political affiliation.
106	General	Voters should be registered automatically when applying for a license or identification card.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
107	General	Undocumented immigrants should not be eligible to vote.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
108	General	Registered voters who don't vote should be fined based on their income.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
109	General	State-owned property should not be sold without a referendum.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
110	General	State funds should not fund religious or private schools.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
111	General	Residents who must be out at night for their job should be allowed a permit to carry a gun.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.

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112	General	It is absurd that DC must wait on Congress to spend its own money, and it costs us money.	No Action	The Commission agrees. That is why we are working hard for statehood.
113	General	The draft is overly concerned with an easy transition from Home Rule to statehood.	No Action	The Commission believes that a smooth transition from federal district to state is important for the well-being of our residents and our financial health.
114	General	The most important thing when advocating on Capitol Hill for statehood is showing support, so the referendum should only ask that question.	No Action	The Commission is following the Tennessee plan for statehood because we believe that residents deserve the rights enjoyed by all other tax-paying American citizens.
115	General	The constitution should not include changes made to District government in recent years and should not simplify previous constitutions.	No Action	The Commission has drafted a new constitution so that it is contemporaneous with both realities of our current government, including an elected Attorney General, and a new petition to Congress so that it will have the best chance of achieving our goal effectively.
116	General	We should oppose the imposition of charter schools, the SOAR Act, and mayoral control of education.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
117	General	We should delay this process until their can be a lengthier process to draft the constitution.	No Action	The Commission is following the Tennessee plan for statehood because we believe that residents deserve the rights enjoyed by all other tax-paying American citizens.
118	General	The chances of statehood are zero, because it will add two more senators. One hundred is a beautiful number.	No Action	There have been 100 Senators for less than 60 years, and that number can and should change. The Commission believes that the disenfranchisement of the nearly 700,000 residents of Washington, DC is a violation of our fundamental civil rights as tax-paying American citizens and that this is more important than the current number of Senators.
119	General	DC should just become part of Maryland.	No Action	Washington, DC has not been a part of Maryland for more than 200 years. We have our own identity and have earned the right to be our own state.
120	General	Commenting should not have been limited to uploading files and should have been smart-phone friendly.	No Action	The Commission approved a public engagement process that allowed residents a variety of ways to provide input and that we could utilize from the start of the process.
121	General	We should have a vote that calls on Congress to pass a constitutional amendment that repeals the 23rd amendment.	No Action	Upon becoming a state, the 23rd Amendment would apply to the federal seat of government.
122	General	We should be able to choose the new state name democratically.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the name New Columbia because of its association with the Statehood movement.
123	General	Wards 7 and 8 will be treated worse under statehood. There should be more benefits and services, like road repair and traffic reduction, affordable housing, emergency room access, economic development, and better government treatment. Explain how Statehood will benefit Wards 7 and 8.	No Action	Statehood will allow us to have full local control of our budget and revenues, so that we will no longer have to have our laws and appropriations approved by Congress. This will give the state government more flexibility to respond to the needs of residents.
124	General	Marijuana legalization sends the wrong message and is profiting companies. It should end.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
125	General	There is too much of a focus on online outreach.	No Action	The working groups have used online and hard-copy resources to reach out to residents. Working groups will continue to work on this going forward.
126	General	Public safety should be an explicitly stated goal of the government.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
127	General	There should be a constitutional primer to educate people about provisions of other state constitutions.	No Action	Working groups are working to educate the public about the statehood effort.
128	General	The constitution should be specific about police powers.	No Action	Police powers are an inherent state power.
129	General	We should adopt a basic constitution to maximize the chance for passage.	No Action	The Commission agrees and has worked to draft a constitution that will be passed by Congress.

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130	General	This is a terrific effort that is building on the efforts from the 80s.	No Action	The Commission looked to the previous constitutions for guidance in drafting our new constitution.
131	General	Congress should be more concerned with their own districts and not the affairs of Washington, DC.	No Action	The Commission agrees.
132	General	Students should be involved in this process.	No Action	The All 8 Wards working group consists of current students and focuses on outreach.
133	General	As a Republican, we should support equality and not delineate based on geographic location.	No Action	The DC GOP has been involved with our Working Groups, and the we hope that Republicans both here and across the country will support our right to Congressional representation, self-governance, and local autonomy.
134	General	The lawyers seem to be doing an excellent job.	No Action	The Commission appreciates the work and support of the Legal Advisory Committee.
135	General	We should broaden the base of public participation to include all DC residents.	No Action	The Commission agrees. Our working groups are currently strategizing how to get the message out.
136	General	We need to talk to our relatives and friends with representation.	No Action	The Commission agrees. We need your help and support to do it.
137	General	We need to let Congress know we're ready for statehood.	No Action	The Commission agrees. That is why we are using the Tennessee plan.
138	General	We must get this on the new President's desk for a signature in January.	No Action	The Commission agrees. That is why we are working to get this on the November ballot.
139	General	We're the only jurisdiction with that pays federal and local tax but has no local control or input.	No Action	The Commission agrees. That is why we are working hard for statehood.
140	General	We should have given notice to other cities, states, and governments.	No Action	The Commission has focused on the input of Washington, DC residents to draft the constitution. Working groups will work to get support across the country.
141	General	All Wards should have been involved in the process.	No Action	The Commission held meetings across Washington, DC. Throughout the process, we have had residents from all Wards attend events and give feedback.
142	General	There should be a 'no' vote in November until the process is different.	No Action	The Commission hopes that residents will vote for statehood in November.
143	General	Statehood will give people a sense of agency.	No Action	The Commission agrees. That is why we are working hard for statehood.
144	General	We need to pay attention to the future steps in the process.	No Action	The Commission agrees. There is more work to be done after the constitution is drafted.
145	General	We need representation for veterans.	No Action	The Commission agrees. That is why we are working hard for statehood.
146	General	We need a financial analysis of budgetary demands and costs of statehood, including potential expansions of the legislature.	No Action	The exact cost is uncertain, but the Commission believes that finally achieving statehood, Congressional representation, and the right to local control of our laws and budget are well worth the costs.
147	General	There should be an office like the Congressional Budget Office to have an expanded role in budget development and spending oversight.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
148	General	DC should have a member of the House but not two Senators.	No Action	The Commission believes that residents deserve full Congressional representation and statehood, including 2 Senators, as enjoyed by our fellow Americans.
149	General	We should amend the Home Rule Charter to provide for 25 members of the Council.	No Action	The Commission is focused on achieving statehood.
150	General	The November referendum should ask whether DC residents should be exempted from federal income tax until statehood.	No Action	The Commission welcomes new ideas to help us achieve statehood, but we also must ensure that we comply with federal law.
Preamble				
151	All	The Preamble should refer to a "representative form of government" instead of a "republican form of government."	No Action	The language corresponds to the requirements of the US Constitution.

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Bill of Rights				
152	2nd	We shouldn't include the Second Amendment in our constitution.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted.
153	2nd	The phrase "well-regulated militia" should eliminate ambiguities that might threaten reasonable gun laws.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. Language has been added to Article VII, Sec. 2 to direct the Courts that they may interpret provisions of the Constitution differently than federal law.
154	3rd	We shouldn't include the Third Amendment in our constitution.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted.
155	6th	This provision should be limited to felonies.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The language is amended and the phrase "where the potential sentence exceeds 180 days" is added to specify the right to a jury trial.
156	7th	The amount for a case in controversy is too low. This provision should be changed or set a value in controversy higher than \$20 so that a small claims court could continue to exist.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. "Exceed twenty dollars" is changed to say "fall within the jurisdiction of the Superior Court."
157	7th	The end of Section VII should refer to "New Columbia law" rather than the rules of the common law.	No Action	"Common law" refers to non-statutory law, while "New Columbia law" refers to laws passed by the legislature and codified.
158	10th	Strike "within its jurisdiction" from the text of the provision.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The language is struck.
159	All	We should develop a separate Bill of Rights.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted.
160	All	Include a right to privacy, similar to the California Constitution.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted, which includes the right to privacy.
161	All	Include a right to education.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. Any expansion of rights is best decided by legislation.
162	All	Include the following rights: freedom of assembly and expression; freedom of religion and separation of church and state; freedom from discrimination; right to privacy.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted, which includes many of these rights.
163	All	Expand equal protection and include that corporations aren't people.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. Any expansion of rights is best decided by legislation.
164	All	There should be a prohibition of all forms of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. Any expansion of rights is best decided by legislation.
165	All	The right to vote should be enshrined, including provisions to prohibit voter ID laws and to permit formerly incarcerated people to vote and establishing eligibility.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. Any expansion of rights is best decided by legislation.
166	All	Should we have longer list of rights, similar to the 1982 constitution?	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted.
167	All	By incorporating the federal Bill of Rights, we will be beholden to federal interpretations of those provisions.	NCSC Decision	Under the principles of federalism, state courts can interpret state law differently than federal law. To ensure this protection, language has been added to Article VII, Sec. 2 to direct the Courts that they may interpret provisions of the Constitution differently than federal law.
168	All	We could have a provision saying our courts can interpret law differently than the federal bill of rights.	NCSC Decision	The Commission accepts this comment. Language has been added to Article VII, Sec. 2 to direct the Courts that they may interpret provisions of the Constitution differently than federal law.
169	All	Should we retain a bill of rights? What benefit will result?	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. All State constitutions contain a Bill of Rights.
170	All	There should be protections against unreasonable searches and wiretapping and for abortion rights.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. This includes a protection against unreasonable searches. Any expansion of rights is best decided by legislation.
171	All	There should be a section on due process rights.	NCSC Decision	The Bill of Rights includes the right to due process.
172	All	There should be a right to drug use.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted.
173	All	We should have an Equal Rights Amendment and bar discrimination on sex, gender, LGBTQ status, and disability.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. Laws that prevent discrimination will continue.

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Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
174	All	The right to counsel should be guaranteed for criminal, civil, and administrative cases.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted.
175	All	The Bill of Rights should be integrated into the document, not included as a separate list.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted.
176	All	Include enhanced criminal procedure protections and a right against extractive bail and unreasonable sentences.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. Any expansion of rights is best decided by legislation.
177	All	There should be gun regulations, including background checks and limits of high capacity magazines.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. This is best decided by legislation.
178	All	There should be a provision prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, age, class, or sexual orientation.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. Laws that prevent discrimination will continue.
179	All	There should be a right to life.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. Any expansion of rights is best decided by legislation.
180	All	We should not have a Bill of Rights.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. All State constitutions contain a Bill of Rights.
181	All	Returning citizens who served their time in prison should not be denied the right to vote.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. Any expansion of rights is best decided by legislation.
182	All	There should be a prohibition on the death penalty.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. Any expansion of rights is best decided by legislation.
183	All	We should reaffirm the 14th amendment.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the same Rights as drafted. Any expansion of rights is best decided by legislation.
Article I				
184	All	We should include mandatory staggered terms for members of the House of Delegates.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is added to reference the Article VIII transfer provision.
185	All	The House of Delegates should be able to consent to confirm agency heads.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
186	All	We should not use the phrase "By Act" to clarify that actions by the House of Delegates require the Governor's signature or veto override.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment.
187	All	We should clarify that the reservation of seats for the non-majority party has been removed.	No Action	This provision has been removed, as the Commission believes this requirement imposed by Congress is contrary to the principles of democracy.
188	All	Incorporate a legislative speech-and-debate clause into the constitution.	No Action	A legislative speech and debate clause is currently established in law.
189	All	The length of legislative session should be constitutionalized, between 90 and 120 days.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
190	All	Some legislative power should be reserved for the people in an initiative system.	No Action	The constitution provides for an initiative process that allows for laws proposed by citizens.
191	All	There should be an independent redistricting commission and ethics commission.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
192	All	There should be a minimum amount of expenditures by an officer or employee of the State that does not need approval by the House of Delegates.	No Action	The House of Delegates' ability to review contracts corresponds to current law.
193	All	There should be a code of conduct for Delegates.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
194	Sec. 1	The House of Delegates should be authorized to create local government units.	No Action	Nothing in the constitution prohibits the House of Delegates from creating local government units.
195	Sec. 1	The phrase "consistent with the Constitution of the United States" should be deleted, as it unnecessary. All laws must be consistent with the US Constitution.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment. The statement is not incorrect and does not create a confusing standard.

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Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
196	Sec. 2	The number of Delegates is too small. Suggestions on size vary.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
197	Sec. 2	Tie the number of delegates to the number of constituents represented.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
198	Sec. 2	Clarify whether Speaker is elected in Presidential election years and if they are staggered with Governor.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is added to reference the Article VIII transfer provision.
199	Sec. 2	Each delegate should represent 20-25,000 people, rather than establishing a number in the constitution.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
200	Sec. 2	There should be a mandate to always have an odd number of delegates	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment, as the provision would be amendable as the number of Delegates is amendable.
201	Sec. 2	There should be as many At Large members as there are districts.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
202	Sec. 2	Delegates should elect the speaker of the House.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
203	Sec. 2	The legislature should be bicameral.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
204	Sec. 2	More members in the legislature will cost more money.	No Action	The Commission will discuss the composition of the legislature at the public meeting.
205	Sec. 2	The Council and the ANCs should become two chambers.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
206	Sec. 2	The Legislature should be larger but not too large.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
207	Sec. 2	There should be 2 representatives per Ward.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
208	Sec. 2	At Large members should be elected using proportional or semi-proportional voting.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
209	Sec. 2	The House of Delegates should be small.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
210	Sec. 2	More Delegates does not necessarily mean more democracy. People in DC participate in government in myriad ways already, and the Wilson building is accessible within an hour for every resident.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
211	Sec. 2	Though other state legislatures are larger, many are in session for just part of the year, until April or June. Texas meets only every other year.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
212	Sec. 2	A unicameral legislature is more responsive and guards minority rights. A bicameral or larger legislature might make the legislature less responsive to citizen needs.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
213	Sec. 2	The entire House should be elected on proportional representation.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.

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Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
214	Sec. 2	There should be a signature requirement to get on the ballot for Delegate.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
215	Sec. 2	After the 2020 census, the state should be divided into 10 legislative districts and new members can be elected thereafter.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
216	Sec. 2	There should be two chambers: an upper house based on proportional representation and a lower house based on geographical representation.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
217	Sec. 2	Representation does not have to be limited to geography.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
218	Sec. 2	Delegates should be elected by ranked choice/runoff voting in general or in primaries and the top two candidates in the general election.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
219	Sec. 2	There should be a requirement for open primaries.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
220	Sec. 2	Primaries should be abolished entirely in favor of instant runoff general elections.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
221	Sec. 2	All Delegates should be elected in one cycle and the Governor, Speaker, Attorney General and non-Delegate positions should be elected on the other.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
222	Sec. 2	References to "on a partisan basis" should not refer to the requirement of non-majority legislators.	No Action	The requirement for non-majority party legislators does not exist in this constitution. The phrase "on a partisan basis" only means that elections will include political parties. Language is added to clarify the meaning of partisan and nonpartisan.
223	Sec. 2	The minority-party reserved seats should not be eliminated.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment. The Legal Advisory Committee is unaware of any jurisdiction in the country that has such a provision, and it is likely unconstitutional.
224	Sec. 2 & 4	It is not necessary to have various sections regarding the House of Delegate's powers, particularly regarding internal rules.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment.
225	Sec. 2a	Councilmembers should be elected on a nonpartisan basis.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
226	Sec. 2a	There should be no at large delegates.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
227	Sec. 2a3	This section implies that each district will elect 8 representatives, for a total of 64.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The word "one" is added before "from each of the legislative districts."
228	Sec. 2b	There is no specification about when elections shall happen, but it does establish when new officials take office.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
229	Sec. 2d	The phrase "action that amounts to a gross failure to meet the highest standards of personal and professional conduct" may be too vague and should be clarified.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. "Highest" is changed to "applicable."
230	Sec. 2d	A 5/6 majority for removal is too high, as it is functionally 11 of 12 members (as one will be the accused). The US Constitution only requires 2/3 vote.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
231	Sec. 2d	Removal by recall or felony conviction should be the only way to remove a Delegate.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
232	Sec. 2d	What does substantial mean?	No Action	This is best decided by legislation or internal rules of the House of Delegates.
233	Sec. 2e	There should be interim appointment or other provisions for vacancies in the House.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.

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Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
234	Sec. 2e	There is too much detail, suitable for legislation, for vacancies in the House.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
235	Sec. 2e	Vacancy provisions for the Governor, Attorney General, at-large members, and district members should be the same.	NCSC Mark	The Commission partially agrees with this comment. Language for the Governor and Attorney General are aligned, but different Delegate offices require different vacancy fulfillment needs to ensure representation and promote stability.
236	Sec. 2e	Vacancies should be fixed with clear lines of succession and alternates rather than special elections and party committees.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
237	Sec. 2e	Vacancies should be fixed by a special election within 60 days rather than by the party committees.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
238	Sec. 2e	A vacancy for the Speaker should be filled by the legislature and not a party committee.	NCSC Mark	The Commission recommends this change. Language is added to direct the House of Delegates to select an at large member to serve as Speaker until a special election is held.
239	Sec. 2e	The Governor should temporarily appoint someone to a vacated at large seat until the next election.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
240	Sec. 2e	There should be no special elections because they are too costly.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
241	Sec. 2e1	The word "District" should not be capitalized in the first sentence.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment.
242	Sec. 2e2	References to a party's "central committee" is presumptive, and they should not pick successors.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability. The Commission replaces the word "central" with "state."
243	Sec. 2e2	Central committee should be defined.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment. The parties decide their internal structure.
244	Sec. 3	We should use only domicile, not residence.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment.
245	Sec. 3	Why are there exceptions for political convention delegates?	No Action	This is in line with current requirements.
246	Sec. 3	Is it okay to be in the military reserves but not to be called up for 30 days?	No Action	Yes; this is in line with current requirements.
247	Sec. 3	What happens regarding employment for a temporary speaker?	No Action	The qualifications for Speaker do not depend on whether the Speaker is temporary.
248	Sec. 3	The Delegates should have a term limit, with suggestions ranging from 2 to 10 terms.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
249	Sec. 3	Only citizens, and not any organization, should be allowed to donate to campaigns with a \$1,500 limit, and violators should be subject to a felony charge.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
250	Sec. 3	Delegates removed due to a felony conviction should not be eligible to run for any office again.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment. The voters should decide whether to re-elect a candidate.
251	Sec. 3a	There should be a specified minimum age for Delegate, like 18.	No Action	Candidates must be a registered voter, which requires a minimum age.
252	Sec. 3a3	Delegates should have a longer residency requirement, with the lowest suggestion at 2 years.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
253	Sec. 3a3	The residency requirements may not be fair and may prevent some people from serving. Perhaps they could say "lived in the state for at least a year of accumulated time in the last 10 years or 5 years" to accommodate people whose job takes them out of state frequently.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
254	Sec. 3a3	Residency requirements should be before the primary or earlier.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
255	Sec. 3a4	It is not fair to ban outside government jobs but allow other outside work.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.

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Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
256	Sec. 3a4	This should not be a part time job, but only the Speaker has total restrictions on outside income. All Delegates should have a ban on outside employment.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
257	Sec. 3a4	Delegate salary should be raised and paired with a ban on outside employment.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
258	Sec. 3a4	Non-speaker Delegates should be allowed outside employment but have to specify their employment and recuse themselves when business relates to it.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
259	Sec. 3a4	What do the qualifications actually mean?	No Action	It means that members of the House of Delegates who are not the speaker may not be employed in any other public/government role. Exceptions exist for being a delegate to National Conventions or being in the reserves of the US armed forces.
260	Sec. 3a4	If the House is only 13 members, there should be no outside employment allowed.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted for a 21 member, unicameral legislature, with one at large seat for Speaker, four at large seats, and 16 Ward seats, two from each Ward.
261	Sec. 3a4	The text should say "holds no other public office" instead of "holds no office."	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment.
262	Sec. 3a4	The language should be changed so that current ANC's may run for Delegate.	No Action	The qualifications do not prevent a current ANC from running for Delegate. The qualifications for office prevent a person from being a Delegate while simultaneously serving as an ANC.
263	Sec. 3b	This section should include the Governor, Attorney General, and all other members of the House of Delegates.	No Action	The Governor is prohibited from holding outside employment in Article II, Sec. 3(a)(1)(C). The suggestion for the Attorney General and other Delegates contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
264	Sec. 3c	Who is the finder of fact on residency questions?	No Action	This is best decided by legislation or internal rule. Delegates are also subject to the voters.
265	Sec. 4a	All laws should have to be passed by a majority of the members of the House.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
266	Sec. 4a	The House should be able to regulate itself.	No Action	It is important to define the legislative powers of the House of Delegates in regard to differing types of legislation.
267	Sec. 4a3	When does emergency or permanent legislation becomes effective?	No Action	It becomes effective upon passage by the House of Delegates and signature of the Governor.
268	Sec. 4a4	Remove paragraph (B) in the resolutions power.	NCSC Mark	The Commission partially agrees with this comment. The phrase "by the mayor" is stricken.
269	Sec. 4b	Having Acts be published upon becoming law means they will take effect before people know what they are. They should become law upon being adopted and published.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability. Section 4(b) requires that proposed Acts be made promptly available, and the law must be published. This requirement and the doctrine of openness and transparency in Article VII, Section 1 require that laws be published in a timely manner.
270	Sec. 4b	There should be included after the words "public notice" the following: "and comment, comments to be published and addressed."	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
271	Sec. 4e	The Governor should not have a line-item veto on the budget.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
272	Sec. 4f	What is the House's authority to create or abolish offices, especially in relation to the Governor's reorganization authority?	No Action	The House has the authority given to it in the constitution to create or abolish any office, agency, or department. The Governor has the authority given to it in the constitution to reorganize offices and agencies within the executive branch.
273	Sec. 4f	The words "not established in this Constitution" should be added.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The language is added.

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Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
274	Sec. 4f	This authority gives the House too much power.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
275	Sec. 4f	The section violates separation of powers. It should be subject to a vote of the citizens.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
276	Sec. 4g	The Auditor position should be established and required, in line with the 1987 Constitution, and impose duties.	No Action	The Commission does not recommend this change, as the language as drafted allows the House to have flexibility in how it conducts audits.
277	Sec. 4g	The Auditor should be independent in which programs to audit and apply audit procedures the Auditor deems appropriate and should include both the legislative and executive branches.	No Action	The language as drafted allows the House to have flexibility in how audits are conducted. No language prevents the Auditor from applying the Auditor's preferred procedures.
278	Sec. 4g	The Auditor's access to documents should not be "subject to a privilege."	No Action	The language as drafted allows the House to have flexibility in how audits are conducted.
279	Sec. 4g	The words "not belonging to a Delegate, Attorney General, or Governor" at the end in place of "subject to a privilege."	No Action	The language as drafted allows the House to have flexibility in how audits are conducted.
280	Sec. 4g	The Auditor should have access to employees of the State.	No Action	No language prohibits the auditor to have access to employees.
281	Sec. 4g	The executive should be required to acknowledge and respond to audits in writing.	No Action	The language as drafted allows the House to have flexibility in how audits are conducted.
282	Sec. 4g	The Auditor's compensation should not be able to be reduced during the term.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
283	Sec. 4g	Each Auditor should be appointed to a new six-year term, regardless of whether the previous Auditor completed a six-year term.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
284	Sec. 6	Spell out if the Wards will become Legislative Districts or some other map will be used.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The phrase "in accordance with current boundaries" is added to Article VIII, Sec. 1(a).
285	Sec. 6	Legislative districts should be drawn by a non-partisan commission, be contiguous, reasonably compact, follow existing neighborhoods and boundaries where possible, and have equivalent populations.	No Action	This section requires many of these requirements. A decision to create a commission is best decided by legislation.
286	Sec. 6	There should be a section against gerrymandering.	No Action	The requirements established in the second sentence protect against gerrymandering.
287	Sec. 6	There is no reference to current districts.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The phrase "in accordance with current boundaries" is added to Article VIII, Sec. 1(a).
288	Sec. 7	Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) should be abolished in favor of more Delegates.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
289	Sec. 7	ANCs should be created by Act, not constitutionally established.	No Action	The Commission believes all elected officials should be provided for in the constitution.
290	Sec. 7	Clarify that the House may establish whether ANCs can be paid and how many/few there are to be.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
291	Sec. 7	There are no basic qualifications, including residency, for ANCs. They should be the same as the House.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
292	Sec. 7	The House should provide by Act that ANCs should be given timely notice of Executive Branch actions in the area for input.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation. Current law will continue to have effect.
293	Sec. 7	ANC written recommendations should be given great weight during deliberations. When rejected, written reasons must be given.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation. Current law will continue to have effect.
294	Sec. 7	New Columbia should allot funding apportioned by the neighborhood's total population.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
295	Sec. 7	Add that the House should provide for ANC funds and accounts by Act.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
296	Sec. 7	ANC provisions should be changed so that students who regularly move aren't disenfranchised, either by creating an exception for students or having multimember districts.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
297	Sec. 7	ANCs should get a stipend.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.

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Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
298	Sec. 7	All ANC powers should be constitutionalized.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
299	Sec. 7	ANC structure should be constitutionalized.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
300	Sec. 7	ANCs should be expressly limited to an advisory role, and any legislative role should be prohibited.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
301	Sec. 7a	ANCs should not have to collect signatures.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
302	Sec. 7a	Requirements that candidates get 5% of qualified electors will be administratively cumbersome and creates disparities because of the differences between residents and registered voters.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The language is changed to require 25 signatures, in accordance with current practice.
303	Sec. 7a	ANC areas should be drawn based on the decennial census and natural geographic and historic boundaries, not based on the Single Member District concept of equal population, to avoid gerrymandering.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
304	Sec. 7b	The powers of the ANCs are poorly defined because they have no power to legislate and "advising the House" is vague.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
305	Sec. 7b	Advisory Neighborhood Commissions should be able to expend donated funds in addition to public funds.	No Action	Donated funds become public funds.
Article II				
306	Sec. 1	Vest the Governor with the "Chief Executive" power rather than the "executive" power.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment.
307	Sec. 2	The Governor should be elected on a nonpartisan basis.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
308	Sec. 2	Clarify whether Governor is elected in Presidential election years and if they are staggered with Speaker.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The language is changed to say the Governor shall be elected on even years without a presidential election.
309	Sec. 2	The Governor should have a term limit, with suggestions ranging from 2 to 10 terms.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
310	Sec. 2	The Governor should be elected by ranked choice voting in primaries and the top two candidates in the general election.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
311	Sec. 3a	Clarify who determines, and by what process, whether the Governor has forfeited his or her office.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
312	Sec. 3a	The Governor should be replaced by an elected Lieutenant Governor rather than by the Speaker of the House.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
313	Sec. 3a	There should be a specified minimum age for Governor, like 18.	No Action	Candidates must be a registered voter, which requires a minimum age.
314	Sec. 3	Governors removed due to a felony conviction should not be eligible to run for any office again.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment. The voters should decide whether to re-elect a candidate.
315	Sec. 3a1B	The Governor should have a longer residency requirement, with suggestions including 2 years and 4 years.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
316	Sec. 3a1C	The text should say "holds no other public office" instead of "holds no office."	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment.
317	Sec. 3a2	Special elections should be held between 90 and 120 days.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
318	Sec. 3a2	It should say "to fill a vacancy of the Governor's position."	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment. This section applies only to the position of Governor.
319	Sec. 3b	There should be a provision for the Governor to step aside temporarily, as in the US Constitution.	No Action	The last sentence of the section allows for the Governor to step aside for temporary disability or short periods of unavailability without losing the position.
320	Sec. 3c	The sentence that disallows the House from reducing a future Governor's salary should be removed.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment. This prevents punitive salary reductions of an incoming Governor.

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Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
321	Sec. 3c	The newly elected House of Delegates should newly set the salary structure for all elected officials.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
322	Sec. 3c	All elected officials should have their salaries established by the House, including the COO, and changes should not go into effect until the next election.	NCSC Mark	The Commission partially agrees with this comment. The Governor's salary is controlled by Article II, Sec. 3(c). Language is added to Sec. 5 to establish requirements for the Attorney General's salary.
323	Sec. 3d	The Governor does not forfeit office if she does not maintain residency. This should be changed.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language has been added so that the requirements in Article II match those in Article I.
324	Sec. 4	There is too much detail for a Constitution about the duties of the Governor.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
325	Sec. 4	The Governor's appointment power for Agency Heads should be included.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
326	Sec. 4	Strike redundant language concerning the Governor's powers and duties.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language from "and for carrying out" through "all laws of the State of New Columbia" is deleted.
327	Sec. 4	The Governor should be given explicit commander in chief authority over the National Guard.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. A new section is added to include this language.
328	Sec. 4c	The Governor should not supervise and direct boards, commissions, and agencies, particularly if independent agencies aren't established.	No Action	Under the constitution, the House of Delegates may, by Act, create independent agencies. This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
329	Sec. 4c	Boards should retain their powers.	No Action	Boards will continue under the constitution.
330	Sec. 4d	All Acts should have to originate in the House of Delegates.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
331	Sec. 4e	The Governor should not be allowed to delegate pardon power.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Pardon power is added to the list of non-delegable powers.
332	Sec. 4g	The Governor's power to appoint an Administrator and COO does not require confirmation and should.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
333	Sec. 4g	There should not be a requirement to appoint an Administrator and COO. This option should be left to the Governor.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The word may is changed to shall.
334	Sec. 4g	The Chief Operating Officer's salary should be approved by the House of Delegates	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
335	Sec. 4g	The Chief Operating Officer's and Administrator's salaries should not exceed the Governor's.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
336	Sec. 4g	Administrator and Chief Operating Officer should be defined.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment. This allows for flexibility.
337	Sec. 4i	The sentence on compacts should recognize federal limits of Art. I, Sec. 10 by including "subject to federal law."	No Action	Under the principles of federalism, the Governor is already subject to federal law.
338	Sec. 4j	Why not retain the Home Rule Act and 1982 Constitution provisions giving the Council (House) passive review authority for reorganizations?	No Action	That provision contradicts the separation of powers.
339	Sec. 4j	Should the Governor have the power to reorganize executive agencies and offices?	No Action	The Executive has this power under current law, so this power is consistent with the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
340	Sec. 4j	This section gives the Governor the power to reorganize offices within the Executive branch, but the Attorney General is within this branch. The Governor should not be able to reorganize the Attorney General's office and staff.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is added to give the Attorney General personnel powers.
341	Sec. 4k	Does the Governor's pardon power extend to crimes committed before Statehood?	No Action	The laws of the District of Columbia become the laws of the State of New Columbia.
342	Sec. 4l	This section contradicts Article I Sec. 10 of the US Constitution.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The phrase "consistent with federal law" is moved before the words "the Governor."

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343	Sec. 4m	"Planning authority" should be defined.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
344	Sec. 4m	There should be an independent planning authority.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
345	Sec. 4m	The planning authority should not be unlimited. This may discourage cooperation, as some planning will come under the purview of other branches.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The word "primary" is inserted before "planning authority."
346	Sec. 4n	Administration of financial affairs should reside in the legislature.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
347	Sec. 5	The Attorney General will still be elected under law, and the position should not be constitutionalized.	No Action	The Commission believes all elected officials should be provided for in the constitution.
348	Sec. 5	The constitution should include substantive duties of the Attorney General, including the authority to prosecute civil and criminal cases.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language developed in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General is added to include powers of the Attorney General.
349	Sec. 5	The Attorney General should be elected by ranked choice voting in primaries and the top two candidates in the general election.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
350	Sec. 5	The Attorney General should be elected on a nonpartisan basis.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
351	Sec. 5	Consolidate 5(a) and (c) for the Attorney General.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The clauses are combined.
352	Sec. 5	There are no provisions on domiciliary requirements, DC bar membership, forfeiture of office, and vacancies for the Attorney General.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
353	Sec. 5	The Attorney General should have personnel power.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is added to give the Attorney General personnel powers.
354	Sec. 5	The Attorney General's term of office should be 2 years because of its tremendous political power.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
355	Sec. 5	The Attorney General should not be a part of the Executive Branch and should be independent.	No Action	The constitution provides for an independent, elected Attorney General. The constitutional provisions are included within the Executive Branch Article because the Attorney General exercises executive power.
356	Sec. 5	There should be added the following, "All candidates for Attorney General shall promise and commit that they will not be a candidate for any elected public office for the first fifteen years after leaving that position, and No Attorney General or former Attorney General shall not in fact be a candidate for any elected public office. The same requirements shall be imposed on all other attorneys in the Office of the Attorney General." This will remove politics from decisions.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
357	Sec. 5	The Attorney General should be elected on a schedule opposite of the Governor.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
358	Sec. 5b	In case there is a vacancy in the Attorney General, should the House consent to appoint the Chief Deputy?	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
359	Sec. 6	Removal of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is too onerous. The House should not have to give assent to removal for cause.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
360	Sec. 6	The CFO should have to report to the House of Delegates as well as the Governor.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment.
361	Sec. 6	The position of Treasurer should be established, and it could be under the CFO.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
362	Sec. 6	Why is the CFO's term 5 years? It should be 7.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
363	Sec. 6d & e	The text in this section is gray, not black.	NCSC Mark	The text color has been corrected.

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Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
364	Sec. 6d	The CFO should not prepare the budget under the direction of the Governor.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
365	Sec. 6e	Everything before "the Chief Financial Officer shall" should be deleted.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The language is deleted.
366	Sec. 6e	Many of the CFO's duties should be left to statute.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
367	Sec. 6e	Tax duties of CFO belong with Governor, regardless of who handles them now.	No Action	The Chief Financial Officer is appointed by the Governor.
368	Sec. 7	The State Board of Education should be handled by statute.	No Action	The Commission believes all elected officials should be provided for in the constitution.
369	Sec. 7	Clarify whether the State Board of Education's authority extends to universities, public and private.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
370	Sec. 7	Clarify that Governor has ultimate control over public schools, subject to the role of the House.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment.
371	Sec. 7	The State Board of Education should be enlarged and have their powers enumerated.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
372	Sec. 7	The State Board of Education should retain its powers.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
373	Sec. 7	Consider whether there should be a single elected official responsible for statewide education policy.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
374	Sec. 7a	There should not be a reference to the 8 districts in case of a change.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The language is changed to say "one member from each legislative district."
375	Sec. 7a	The State Board of Education should have an established number. Suggestions include at least 17 members and 1/3 the number of the House, with a minimum of 9.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
376	Sec. 7a	It does not say that members of the State Board are elected.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The word elected is added.
377	Sec. 7b	The State Board of Education should have separate powers, including the power of taxation and separate accounts.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
378	Sec. 7b2	The State Board of Education should not have their potential powers limited to those in the Home Rule Act. The last sentence should be deleted to maintain flexibility.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Everything after the semicolon should be deleted.
379	Sec. 7b2	The words "if any" should be struck so that the State Board can adjust statutes based on federal education law.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The language is deleted.
380	Sec. 7b2	If the State Board of Education is not abolished, the Board should not be able to reject policies of the House.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
381	Sec. 7b2	Should not enshrine Mayoral control of State Board of Education in the constitution.	No Action	The constitution creates the State Board of Education to allow for external input.
382	All	The Elections agency should be created in the constitution.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is added to include the elections agency in the constitution.
383	All	The Executive should not have more power than the other branches.	No Action	The constitution includes a separation of powers and checks and balances on the three branches of government.
384	All	The Secretary of State should be constitutionalized and included under the Governor.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
385	All	There should be a code of conduct for all elected officials in this Article.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
Article III				
386	All	The authority to create an intermediate court of appeals or other specialized courts is missing.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The language is changed to create this authority.
387	All	How much will it cost to bring back courts and prisoners?	No Action	The exact cost is uncertain, but the Commission believes that finally achieving statehood, Congressional representation, and the right to local control of our laws and budget are well worth the costs.

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Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
388	All	There should be term and age limits for judges.	No Action	The constitution includes removal provisions that will guide whether a judge should be removed.
389	All	The House of Delegates should not be able to reduce the salary or benefits of any judge.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is added to prevent the reduction of salaries of judges.
390	Sec. 1	Rename the D.C. Court of Appeals the Supreme Court.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
391	Sec. 2	The number of Judges on all Courts should be established, including new intermediate courts.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment. The current constitution allows for flexibility based on need.
392	Sec. 2	Judges should be appointed for a set period of time and then have a retention vote by the people.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
393	Sec. 2	The Attorney General should have the power to appoint judges.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
394	Sec. 2a	Should there be a reference to an Act or Resolution in the section giving the House the power to confirm judicial nominations?	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The phrase "by Resolution" is added.
395	Sec. 2a	The method of appointment, specified duties, and other details of the Judicial Nomination Commission should be included.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is added to include the Judicial Nominations Commission in the constitution.
396	Sec. 2a	The Judicial Nomination Commission should be abolished.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
397	Sec. 2b	Judges should have a life appointment.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
398	Sec. 3	The domicile requirement should be for the term of office.	No Action	This is required under Article III, Sec. 3(b)(4)
399	Sec. 3	Judges cannot be active members of the DC bar, so there should be no requirement for reappointments.	No Action	Judges are able to be judicial members of the bar and would be considered active members.
400	Sec. 3a1	Potential judges should have a longer residency requirement, with the lowest suggestion at 2 years.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
401	Sec. 3a2	Allow membership in the D.C. Bar to count towards a prospective judge's eligibility.	No Action	Article VIII, Section 7 allows this to occur.
402	Sec. 3a2	Does the five year requirement have to be consecutive?	No Action	Yes. Judges should be active members of the bar to be eligible for consideration.
403	Sec. 3b	Clarify the removal process for judges by, for example, assigning removal to something akin to a Judicial Disabilities Commission	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is added to include the Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure and its powers to reappoint or remove judges in the constitution.
404	Sec. 3b5	The phrase "habitual intemperance" should be changed to something contemporaneous.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
405	Sec. 3b5	Strike unnecessary language concerning "mental or physical disability"; should refer to any condition that interferes with the judge's performance of duty.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
406	Sec. 3b5	There should be a code of judicial conduct.	No Action	The current code of judicial conduct would continue.
407	Sec. 3b5	The wording in this section is negative to people with disabilities. "Disability" should be changed to "incapacity" or reference the Code of Judicial Conduct.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The word is changed.
408	Sec. 4	The powers of courts are too detailed. We should delete all after the first sentence.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment.
409	Sec. 5	Rewrite the Chief Judges section to allow for possibility of intermediate courts.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The language is changed to allow for this possibility.
410	Sec. 5	It should include what the Chief Judge's role is.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation or internal rule.

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Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
Article IV				
411	All	There is too much detail for a Constitution about the budget.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability, as these provisions exist in current law. This encourages market stability during the transfer to statehood.
412	All	Should we say whether anyone has standing to sue over an un-balanced budget?	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment.
413	All	Can the state declare bankruptcy? If so, should it be in the constitution?	No Action	Bankruptcy is governed by federal law.
414	All	We should talk about how we raise money as well as how much we raise, to balance between access and user fees.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
415	Sec. 2	The budget should have to be made public before a vote by the House of Delegates.	No Action	Section 2(a) directs the Governor to submit a budget to the House of Delegates and make it available to the public at such time.
416	Sec. 2b	The word "for" should be changed to "proposed by" so that independent agencies may propose budgets that meet their needs.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability, as this phrasing exists in current law.
417	Sec. 2b	The Attorney General, State Board of Education, Chief Financial Officer, and other agencies like that should submit their own budgets.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability. Agencies will submit budgets in line with the current process to make their needs and wishes known, but it would be submitted as part of the Governor's budget to ensure the submission of a balanced budget.
418	Sec. 2c	Budgetary reprogrammings should not be allowed.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability, as this phrasing exists in current law.
419	Sec. 3	It says the House shall adopt the budget but does not give it the power to amend the Governor's submission.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment. The House of Delegates has the power to adopt by Act the budget it deems appropriate, in accordance with current practice.
420	Sec. 3	ANCs should be able to review and vote on the budget.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
421	Sec. 3 and 4	Could Adoption of Budget and Financial Statements be left to legislation?	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability, as this phrasing exists in our current governing document, the Home Rule Charter. This encourages market stability during the transfer to statehood.
422	Sec. 5	The balanced budget requirement is too vague in how it is determined.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability, as this phrasing exists in current law. This encourages market stability during the transfer to statehood.
423	Sec. 5	There should be a provision for limited deficit spending.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
424	Sec. 5	There should not be a mandate for a balanced budget.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability, as this phrasing exists in current law. This encourages market stability during the transfer to statehood.
425	Sec. 6	The House of Delegates should not have the power to approve contracts. This could be phased out.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
426	Sec. 6	The House of Delegates should not have their power to approve contracts limited.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
427	Sec. 6	Strike the phrase "review prior to the contract going into effect" and insert "review and approval" in its place.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The language is changed.
428	Sec. 7	Do various payments to emergency and contingency fund count against the balanced budget?	No Action	Yes, repayments to funds are budgeted items.
429	Sec. 7	Why have emergency and contingency funds?	No Action	This encourages market stability during the transfer to statehood and strengthens our overall financial health.

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Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
430	Sec. 7	There should not be restraints on the replenishment of emergency and reserve funds.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability, as this phrasing exists in current law. This encourages market stability during the transfer to statehood.
431	Sec. 7	The House should be able to change the percentages in this section by Act.	No Action	The current provisions encourage market stability during the transfer to statehood and strengthen our overall financial health.
432	Sec. 7	Do we need to include emergency and contingency reserve funds in the Constitution? The Legislature should be allowed to decide the particulars of the size, use, and replenishment of funds.	No Action	This encourages market stability during the transfer to statehood and strengthens our overall financial health.
Article V				
433	All	There is too much detail for a Constitution about the required conditions for borrowing.	No Action	This encourages market stability during the transfer to statehood.
434	All	The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) recommends that there should be a section that exempts bonds from most taxes.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with the changes and language suggested by the OCFO.
435	All	The OCFO recommends that there should be a section on Legal Investment that allows New Columbia fiduciaries to invest in bonds issued under this Article.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with the changes and language suggested by the OCFO.
436	All	There should be a special tax mechanism to fund environmental goals to create a green city.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
437	Sec. 1	The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) recommends that there should be a definition of "capital projects."	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with the changes and language suggested by the OCFO.
438	Sec. 2	The OCFO recommends that there should be more detail in what provisions the Act shall include, including language authorizing the sale of bonds and the creation of security interests.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with the changes and language suggested by the OCFO.
439	Sec. 2	The OCFO recommends that there should be a requirement to print the Act in a newspaper.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with the changes and language suggested by the OCFO.
440	Sec. 3c	The OCFO recommends that this section should be deleted.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with the changes and language suggested by the OCFO.
441	Sec. 4c	The OCFO recommends that this section should specify how anticipated revenue is calculated.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with the changes and language suggested by the OCFO.
442	Sec. 5	Special taxes should have an end date as a requirement for adoption.	No Action	The phrase 'if necessary' limits the time such a tax may be in effect.
443	Sec. 7	The OCFO recommends that payment of principal, interest, and redemption premiums on general obligation bonds should not be subject to appropriations.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with the changes and language suggested by the OCFO.
444	Sec. 8a	The OCFO recommends that there be added a subsection 5 that explains which obligations and expenditures are not subject to appropriations.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with the changes and language suggested by the OCFO.
445	Sec. 8a1	The OCFO recommends that "for a public purpose" be defined.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with the changes and language suggested by the OCFO.
446	Sec. 8a4	Only the Governor or an independent agency should be allowed to enter into these agreements, not the House of Delegates.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The sentence is amended to read "the House of Delegates may authorize the Governor to enter into..."
447	Sec. 8e1	The OCFO recommends that "department of the executive branch" should be changed to "independent instrumentality of New Columbia."	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with the changes and language suggested by the OCFO.
448	Sec. 9	The debt cap should not be set at 17%	No Action	This encourages market stability during the transfer to statehood.
449	Sec. 9	The OCFO recommends that the 17% limitation should be set in accordance with Section 603(b)(3) of the Home Rule Act.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with the changes and language suggested by the OCFO.
Article VI				
450	All	Election and recall process needs to be strong to hold elected officials accountable.	No Action	The recall provisions in the draft are stronger than in the Home Rule Act because it eliminates the time limit and allows a second recall.

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Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
451	Sec. 1	Citizen initiatives should not be able to amend Constitution.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the constitutional amendment process as drafted, without a citizen's initiative process.
452	Sec. 1	Initiatives should be allowed to cancel appropriated funds.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
453	Sec. 1	Initiatives should be able to raise and appropriate funds.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
454	Sec. 1	Language should be taken from current DC law to prohibit initiatives and referenda that violate the Human Rights Act.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is added to prevent initiatives and referenda that authorize or have the effect of authorizing discrimination.
455	Sec. 1a	Initiatives should also prohibit laws that have the effect of authorizing discrimination.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is added to prevent initiatives that have the effect of authorizing discrimination.
456	Sec. 1b	Referenda should not be allowed on acts prohibiting or having the effect of prohibiting discrimination.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is added to prevent referenda that authorize or have the effect of authorizing discrimination.
457	Sec. 1b	The referendum language is too broad and allows a passionate minority to protect their interests.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
458	Sec. 1b	Referenda should apply to emergency acts and appropriation of funds.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
459	Sec. 1d	Why must the registered voter count be taken at least 30 days before?	No Action	Balloteers need to know how many signatures to collect in order to meet the percentage requirements before election day.
460	Sec. 2	Percentages should apply to total population rather than total registered voters, though only registered voters could sign.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
461	Sec. 2	The signature requirements should be lower.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
462	Sec. 2	ANCs should be able to vote to start an initiative that would then be authorized to go on the ballot.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
463	Sec. 2	Petitioners should be limited to 180 days to collect signatures.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
464	Sec. 2	There should only be a requirement for 5 percent of the total registered voters, no other requirements.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
465	Sec. 3	Should initiatives and referenda be on special election or primary ballots?	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is amended to put initiative and referenda only on statewide general or special elections.
466	Sec. 3	The time limits for initiatives and referenda should be switched.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment.
467	Sec. 5	Measures should take effect within 90 days of certification.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
468	Sec. 7	The recall provision should prevent a recalled official from running for the same job again.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment. The voters should decide whether to re-elect a candidate.
469	Sec. 7	Recalls should not be used for the State Board of Education and ANCs.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is added to limit recalls to officials elected on a partisan basis.
470	Sec. 8	Recalls should be permitted only once per term.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment. New circumstances may arise, and the voters should be able to hold the official accountable.
471	Sec. 8	Recalls filed within a year of failed recalls should not require approval by the elections agency.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment. This provision balances the need for accountability, should new circumstances arise, against the realities of costs of recall elections.
Article VII				
472	All	There should be another constitutional convention before the end of the year.	No Action	In order to submit a complete statehood petition to the new President and Congress in accordance with the Tennessee plan, voters need to have approved the constitution in advance of the submission.

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Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
473	All	The constitution should call for a constitutional convention with delegates within 5 years.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to allow for a transitional constitutional convention on or about the fifth anniversary of statehood.
474	All	The constitution should include what qualifies as a constitutional convention.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to allow for a transitional constitutional convention on or about the fifth anniversary of statehood. The parameters will be established by legislation.
475	All	Voters should be able to call for a constitutional convention by referendum that the legislature must then provide for within 6 months.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to allow for a transitional constitutional convention on or about the fifth anniversary of statehood, as called by the House of Delegates.
476	All	There should be a separation of powers clause preventing employees of one branch from holding functions in another branch.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation. Elected officials are prevented from holding other public office.
477	Sec. 1	There should be a required quarterly publication of the use of public dollars and expenditures.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
478	Sec. 1	It is not clear what effect the "openness and transparency" language is meant to have; it should be clarified or struck.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
479	Sec. 1	We should include a core value of public participation so that all people have a voice.	No Action	This is best decided by legislation.
480	Sec. 3	It is too easy to amend the constitution. It should be 2/3 of the House of Delegates and 2 votes by the Council. Others suggest 60% or 3/4 requirement for passage.	NCSC Mark	The Commission partially agrees with this comment. Language is amended to require a 2/3 vote by the House of Delegates.
481	Sec. 3	The citizens should be able to initiate a constitutional amendment. It should include an option to amend by citizen's initiative or a constitutional convention.	NCSC Decision	The Commission voted to keep the constitutional amendment process as drafted, though there is a provision for a transitional constitutional convention on or about the fifth anniversary of statehood.
482	Sec. 3	Is a ratification referendum mandated? If so, say so.	No Action	Yes. The language in the draft specifies that the constitution may be amended by the House of Delegates only if ratified by a majority of voters in a referendum.
483	Sec. 3a	There should be a requirement of passage by a majority of voters at 2 referenda.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
484	Sec. 4	Is the effective date realistic? What should be separate from constitution?	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. "Upon affirmative vote by the United States Congress" is changed to "upon passage of an Admission Act." Further, "unless otherwise provided therein" is added to the end.
Article VIII				
485	All	The transition provisions should call for immediate elections.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
486	All	Should there be a time frame for new elections post-statehood?	No Action	The Admission Act will allow for the election of Senators and Representatives.
487	All	All offices should be voted on within one year after admission.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
488	All	The constitution should follow the 1982 timeline for new elections of offices after statehood.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
489	All	Current officials should have their terms end on January 3rd after the next general election.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
490	Sec. 1	A new State of New Columbia wouldn't have the authority to abolish the District government or declare itself the heir to District government institutions and proceedings; only Congress could do that.	No Action	By approving the constitution in an Admission Act, Congress would be exercising its authority to abolish the District government and transfer those powers to our new state.
491	Sec. 1	There should be a provision that the shadow delegation become the Senators and Representative of the new state.	No Action	The election of Congressional representation will be governed by the Admission Act passed by Congress.
492	Sec. 1a	This section does not specify that ANCs become ANCs under the new state.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. The language is added.

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Number	Provision	Comments	Category	New Columbia Statehood Commission Comment
493	Sec. 1b	The phrase "same schedule" is vague and should be rewritten to clarify that House members will retain staggered terms.	No Action	The Commission does not agree with this comment. The existing schedule of elections for members of the House of Delegates contains staggered terms.
494	Sec. 1e	Federal members of boards and commissions should be dealt with individually through legislation, not through a broad constitutional provision.	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is added to have positions expire after 90 days unless otherwise provided by law.
495	Sec. 2a	Judge terms should end on January 3rd after the second general election.	No Action	This suggestion contradicts the first guiding principle that the constitution should promote stability.
496	Sec. 3	Court orders under which DC is working need to be carried over.	No Action	Article VII, Section 3 carries over orders.
497	Sec. 4b	The transition provision for District laws should say that New Columbia is adopting the District's laws, not that the laws will "continue in force and effect."	NCSC Mark	The Commission agrees with this comment. Language is amended to say that the laws "shall become the laws of the State of New Columbia and continue in force and effect..."
498	Sec. 9	It is uncertain whether a State of New Columbia could lawfully empower non-residents to vote in its elections.	No Action	This would be handled in the Admission Act passed by Congress.