

Summary of Public Comments Received on New Columbia Draft Constitution as of June 20, 2016
New Columbia Statehood Commission

| Number | Constitutional Provision | Comments |
|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| General | | |
| 1 | | The State name should be changed. |
| 2 | | The State name should be kept, because the bill in Congress uses this name. |
| 3 | | There is not enough time to deliberate this, as the timeline is short. |
| 4 | | The 1982 or 1987 constitutions already exist. |
| 5 | | There are too many colonial provisions and too many provisions of the Home Rule Act. |
| 6 | | What sort of resources are available to make public aware? |
| 7 | | If we want democracy, we have to give democracy. |
| 8 | | How will the State take over the National Guard? |
| 9 | | Thanks for giving us something to work for. |
| 10 | | Regarding partisan elections throughout, does a candidate need to win a party primary to get on the ballot? |
| 11 | | 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. |
| 12 | | Replace gendered pronouns throughout the document. |
| 13 | | Will the ballot in November be one question or four? |
| 14 | | This is not a legitimate constitutional convention to design the constitution. |
| 15 | | Publicize the rules of how the days of the constitutional convention will operate. |
| 16 | | A second draft of the constitution should be released. |
| 17 | | This constitution will go down in history. |
| 18 | | We should work collaboratively on community outreach. |
| 19 | | We have met the three requirements for statehood by having sufficient land, population, and revenue. |
| 20 | | Will the power come from the people? |
| 21 | | We should have a republican form of government. |
| 22 | | We should establish the borders and have the land from Virginia returned. |
| 23 | | The Attorney General should have been made the head of the Legal Advisory Committee. |
| 24 | | The constitution should include a human rights charter. |
| 25 | | We should call Wards counties. |
| 26 | | Pay caps should not be in a constitution, as it limits flexibility. |
| 27 | | We should not let this opportunity pass us by, even if people have problems with the process or individual aspects of the constitution. |
| 28 | | Elections should be publically financed. |

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| 29 | | There should be provisions for independent agencies. |
| 30 | | We could just write a new constitution after the elections. |
| 31 | | 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. |
| 32 | | How will Kendall School and Model Secondary School for the deaf be funded? |
| 33 | | It would be helpful to explain the rationale behind the decisions made. |
| 34 | | A general ethics provision should be added. |
| 35 | | Planning for statehood should be handled by an elected Commission with 7 Commissioners who serve 4 year terms. |
| 36 | | The Statehood movement has excluded Republican voices, which should be included. |
| 37 | | You should contact the drafters of Mexico City's constitution. |
| 38 | | Rights of the minority should not be able to be overturned by the majority. |
| 39 | | There should be no private prisons or halfway houses and a prohibition on private profit from prisoners. |
| 40 | | A state bank should be created to control resources. |
| 41 | | Establish the voting age. |
| 42 | | The Constitution is too long. |
| 43 | | DC residents should have the same constitutional right to representation as other US citizens. |
| 44 | | The constitution in general is too specific and should leave more details to legislation, regulation, and operational policy. |
| 45 | | There should be no references to the Home Rule Act in the Constitution. |
| 46 | | The constitution should affirm the government's authority and obligation to protect the environment and citizen's health and wellbeing. |
| 47 | | I agree with the approach of a clear and simple constitution that may provide us the rights we need without jeopardizing our approach. |
| 48 | | "First past the post" voting should be eliminated in favor of alternate vote systems. |
| 49 | | We should reach out to young people. |
| 50 | | The Washington Post should take this on to educate people. |
| 51 | | Comments should be posted online. |
| 52 | | We should pay and fund the statehood delegation. |
| 53 | | This is a civil rights issue, and people should know that. |
| 54 | | We need new people in the statehood fight. |

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| 55 | | We should establish protections from special interests so they do not overwhelm this process as they did with the 1982 Constitution. |
| 56 | | As a delegate to the 1982 Constitutional Convention, it was a highly undemocratic process. |
| 57 | | Even if we do not have a perfect state, we deserve the rights it brings. |
| 58 | | Lack of statehood is big government interference. |
| 59 | | We should rename office of District government now to call the Mayor Governor and the Chairman Speaker. |
| 60 | | There should be more detail so that each Ward feels included. |
| 61 | | We cannot sacrifice local government for statehood. |
| 62 | | Fairness is important, particularly in education. |
| 63 | | "Taxation without representation" should be the official song of statehood. |
| 64 | | We should put 3/5 of our taxes in an escrow account until we have representation. |
| 65 | | We should get veterans and churches involved. |
| 66 | | The Statehood delegation should be made employees of DC government so that other employees can donate their leave to them. |
| 67 | | We shouldn't limit our ability to grow when creating the boundaries. |
| 68 | | There should be a right to open data and information, particularly with regard to contracting. |
| 69 | | Congress treats DC as a colony. |
| 70 | | Disenfranchisement of DC residents violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the US is a signatory. |
| 71 | | We need representatives in Congress to support the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities. |
| 72 | | People need to realize that Washington, DC is more than just the Congress and White House. |
| 73 | | We need a huge positive vote for statehood. |
| 74 | | It is important for people to contact their friends and families with representation to support statehood. |
| 75 | | We should not say that we'll make changes later. |
| 76 | | It is important to draft the constitution quickly and precisely. |
| 77 | | Our rights, including LGBT rights, should not be subject to the whims of Congress. |
| 78 | | Our tax dollars should be spent by our locally elected leaders. |
| 79 | | People in other states should not have more of a say over DC and DC taxes than we do. |
| 80 | | The Boundaries are well-drawn. It demonstrates that Washington, DC is more than Congress and the White House. |
| 81 | | Taking away voting rights is silencing society. |

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| 82 | | It is important to build on the previous foundation of statehood efforts. |
| 83 | | The constitution is a competent statement of best practices of the 50 states. |
| 84 | | The boundaries should include Trump Hotel. |
| 85 | | We need to tell the world we oppose bigotry and racism. |
| 86 | | We need national attention around this issue. |
| 87 | | This process is undemocratic, and we should just use the 1982 Constitution. |
| 88 | | With this process, every citizen can provide input. |
| 89 | | Washington, DC is the best city in America. |
| 90 | | Kids support DC Statehood, too. |
| 91 | | Lawyers, academics, and politicians should not write the constitution. |
| 92 | | There should be a different system for commenting and discussion, like a wiki page. |
| 93 | | There should be a right to open budgeting. |
| 94 | | We should discuss abolishing the state income tax and fair taxation. |
| 95 | | While a radical constitution may be ideal, statehood should be the main goal. |
| 96 | | Emancipation Day should focus on statehood in the future. |
| 97 | | Even with a conservative constitution, we will still be a progressive city. |
| 98 | | We should engage universities and recruit more millenials. |
| 99 | | Millenials are watching the process and providing input. |
| 100 | | We should have municipalities instead of Wards. |
| 101 | | We should not create a constitution and push for statehood at the same time. |
| 102 | | It is important to have a constitution we all want. |
| 103 | | We should give contracting preference to contractors that donate to statehood efforts. |
| 104 | | We should ask all groups, from sports teams to embassy delegations, to support statehood. |
| 105 | | Statehood is a libertarian cause and should have support from that community. |
| 106 | | Voters should be registered automatically when applying for a license or identification card. |
| 107 | | Undocumented immigrants should not be eligible to vote. |
| 108 | | Returning citizens who served their time in prison should not be denied the right to vote. |
| 109 | | Registered voters who don't vote should be fined based on their income. |
| 110 | | State-owned property should not be sold without a referendum. |
| 111 | | State funds should not fund religious or private schools. |
| 112 | | Residents who must be out at night for their job should be allowed a permit to carry a gun. |
| 113 | | It is absurd that DC must wait on Congress to spend its own money, and it costs us money. |

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| 114 | | The draft is overly concerned with an easy transition from Home Rule to statehood. |
| 115 | | The most important thing when advocating on Capitol Hill for statehood is showing support, so the referendum should only ask that question. |
| 116 | | The constitution should not include changes made to District government in recent years and should not simplify previous constitutions. |
| 117 | | We should oppose the imposition of charter schools, the SOAR Act, and mayoral control of education. |
| 118 | | We should delay this process until there can be a lengthier process to draft the constitution. |
| 119 | | The chances of statehood are zero, because it will add two more senators. One hundred is a beautiful number. |
| 120 | | DC should just become part of Maryland. |
| 121 | | Commenting should not have been limited to uploading files and should have been smart-phone friendly. |
| 122 | | We should have a vote that calls on Congress to pass a constitutional amendment that repeals the 23rd amendment. |
| 123 | | We should be able to choose the new state name democratically. |
| 124 | | There should be a prohibition on the death penalty. |
| 125 | | 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. |
| 126 | | Marijuana legalization sends the wrong message and is profiting companies. It should end. |
| 127 | | There is too much of a focus on online outreach. |
| 128 | | Public safety should be an explicitly stated goal of the government. |
| 129 | | There should be a constitutional primer to educate people about provisions of other state constitutions. |
| 130 | | The constitution should be specific about police powers. |
| 131 | | We should adopt a basic constitution to maximize the chance for passage. |
| 132 | | This is a terrific effort that is building on the efforts from the 80s. |
| 133 | | Congress should be more concerned with their own districts and not the affairs of Washington, DC. |
| 134 | | Students should be involved in this process. |
| 135 | | As a Republican, we should support equality and not delineate based on geographic location. |
| 136 | | The lawyers seem to be doing an excellent job. |
| 137 | | We should broaden the base of public participation to include all DC residents. |
| 138 | | We need to talk to our relatives and friends with representation. |
| 139 | | We need to let Congress know we're ready for statehood. |
| 140 | | We must get this on the new President's desk for a signature in January. |

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| 141 | | We're the only jurisdiction with that pays federal and local tax but has no local control or input. |
| 142 | | We should have given notice to other cities, states, and governments. |
| 143 | | All Wards should have been involved in the process. |
| 144 | | There should be a 'no' vote in November until the process is different. |
| 145 | | Statehood will give people a sense of agency. |
| 146 | | We need to pay attention to the future steps in the process. |
| 147 | | We need representation for veterans. |
| 148 | | We need a financial analysis of budgetary demands and costs of statehood, including potential expansions of the legislature. |
| Preamble | | |
| 149 | | The Preamble should refer to a "representative form of government" instead of a "republican form of government." |
| Bill of Rights | | |
| 150 | 2nd | We shouldn't include the Second Amendment in our constitution. |
| 151 | 2nd | The phrase "well-regulated militia" should eliminate ambiguities that might threaten reasonable gun laws. |
| 152 | 3rd | We shouldn't include the Third Amendment in our constitution. |
| 153 | 6th | This provision should be limited to felonies. |
| 154 | 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. |
| 155 | 7th | The end of Section VII should refer to "New Columbia law" rather than the rules of the common law. |
| 156 | 10th | Strike "within its jurisdiction" from the text of the provision. |
| 157 | All | We should develop a separate Bill of Rights. |
| 158 | All | Include a right to privacy, similar to the California Constitution. |
| 159 | All | Include a right to education. |
| 160 | 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. |
| 161 | All | Expand equal protection and include that corporations aren't people. |
| 162 | All | There should be a prohibition of all forms of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment. |
| 163 | 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. |
| 164 | All | Should we have longer list of rights, similar to the 1982 constitution? |

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| 165 | All | By incorporating the federal Bill of Rights, we will be beholden to federal interpretations of those provisions. |
| 166 | All | We could have a provision saying our courts can interpret law differently than the federal bill of rights. |
| 167 | All | Should we retain a bill of rights? What benefit will result? |
| 168 | All | There should be protections against unreasonable searches and wiretapping and for abortion rights. |
| 169 | All | There should be a section on due process rights. |
| 170 | All | There should be a right to drug use. |
| 171 | All | We should have an Equal Rights Amendment and bar discrimination on sex, gender, LGBTQ status, and disability. |
| 172 | All | The right to counsel should be guaranteed for criminal, civil, and administrative cases. |
| 173 | All | The Bill of Rights should be integrated into the document, not included as a separate list. |
| 174 | All | Include enhanced criminal procedure protections and a right against extractive bail and unreasonable sentences. |
| 175 | All | There should be gun regulations, including background checks and limits of high capacity magazines. |
| 176 | All | There should be a provision prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, age, class, or sexual orientation. |
| Article I | | |
| 177 | All | We should include mandatory staggered terms for members of the House of Delegates. |
| 178 | All | The House of Delegates should be able to consent to confirm agency heads. |
| 179 | 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. |
| 180 | All | We should clarify that the reservation of seats for the non-majority party has been removed. |
| 181 | All | Incorporate a legislative speech-and-debate clause into the constitution. |
| 182 | All | The length of legislative session should be constitutionalized, between 90 and 120 days. |
| 183 | All | Some legislative power should be reserved for the people in an initiative system. |
| 184 | All | There should be an independent redistricting commission and ethics commission. |
| 185 | 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. |
| 186 | All | There should be a code of conduct for Delegates. |
| 187 | Sec. 1 | The House of Delegates should be authorized to create local government units. |
| 188 | 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. |
| 189 | Sec. 2 | The number of Delegates is too small. Suggestions on size vary. |
| 190 | Sec. 2 | Tie the number of delegates to the number of constituents represented. |

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| 191 | Sec. 2 | Clarify whether Speaker is elected in Presidential election years and if they are staggered with Governor. |
| 192 | Sec. 2 | Each delegate should represent 20-25,000 people. |
| 193 | Sec. 2 | There should be a mandate to always have an odd number of delegates |
| 194 | Sec. 2 | There should be as many At Large members as there are districts. |
| 195 | Sec. 2 | Delegates should elect the speaker of the House. |
| 196 | Sec. 2 | The legislature should be bicameral. |
| 197 | Sec. 2 | More members in the legislature will cost more money. |
| 198 | Sec. 2 | The Council and the ANCs should become two chambers. |
| 199 | Sec. 2 | The Legislature should be larger but not too large. |
| 200 | Sec. 2 | There should be 2 representatives per Ward. |
| 201 | Sec. 2 | At Large members should be elected using proportional or semi-proportional voting. |
| 202 | Sec. 2 | The House of Delegates should be small. |
| 203 | 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. |
| 204 | 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. |
| 205 | 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. |
| 206 | Sec. 2 | The entire House should be elected on proportional representation. |
| 207 | Sec. 2 | There should be a signature requirement to get on the ballot for Delegate. |
| 208 | Sec. 2 | After the 2020 census, the state should be divided into 10 legislative districts and new members can be elected thereafter. |
| 209 | Sec. 2 | There should be two chambers: an upper house based on proportional representation and a lower house based on geographical representation. |
| 210 | Sec. 2 | Representation does not have to be limited to geography. |
| 211 | 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. |
| 212 | Sec. 2 | There should be a requirement for open primaries. |
| 213 | Sec. 2 | Primaries should be abolished entirely in favor of instant runoff general elections. |
| 214 | 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. |
| 215 | Sec. 2 | References to "on a partisan basis" should not refer to the requirement of non-majority legislators. |

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| 216 | Sec. 2 | The minority-party reserved seats should not be eliminated. |
| 217 | Sec. 2 & 4 | It is not necessary to have various sections regarding the House of Delegate's powers, particularly regarding internal rules. |
| 218 | Sec. 2a | Councilmembers should be elected on a nonpartisan basis. |
| 219 | Sec. 2a | There should be no at large delegates. |
| 220 | Sec. 2a3 | This section implies that each district will elect 8 representatives, for a total of 64. |
| 221 | Sec. 2b | There is no specification about when elections shall happen, but it does establish when new officials take office. |
| 222 | 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. |
| 223 | 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. |
| 224 | Sec. 2e | There should be interim appointment or other provisions for vacancies in the House. |
| 225 | Sec. 2e | There is too much detail, suitable for legislation, for vacancies in the House. |
| 226 | Sec. 2e | Vacancy provisions for the Governor, Attorney General, at-large members, and district members should be the same. |
| 227 | Sec. 2e | Vacancies should be fixed with clear lines of succession and alternates rather than special elections and party committees. |
| 228 | Sec. 2e | Vacancies should be fixed by a special election within 60 days rather than by the party committees. |
| 229 | Sec. 2e | A vacancy for the Speaker should be filled by the legislature and not a party committee. |
| 230 | Sec. 2e | The Governor should temporarily appoint someone to a vacated at large seat until the next election. |
| 231 | Sec. 2e | There should be no special elections because they are too costly. |
| 232 | Sec. 2e1 | The word "District" should not be capitalized in the first sentence. |
| 233 | Sec. 2e2 | References to a party's "central committee" is presumptive, and they should not pick successors. |
| 234 | Sec. 2e2 | Central committee should be defined. |
| 235 | Sec. 3 | We should use only domicile, not residence. |
| 236 | Sec. 3 | Why are there exceptions for political convention delegates? |
| 237 | Sec. 3 | Is it okay to be in the military reserves but not to be called up for 30 days? |
| 238 | Sec. 3 | What happens regarding employment for a temporary speaker? |
| 239 | Sec. 3 | The Delegates should have a term limit, with suggestions ranging from 2 to 5 terms. |
| 240 | 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. |

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| 241 | Sec. 3 | Delegates removed due to a felony conviction should not be eligible to run for any office again. |
| 242 | Sec. 3a | There should be a specified minimum age for Delegate, like 18. |
| 243 | Sec. 3a3 | Delegates should have a longer residency requirement, with the lowest suggestion at 2 years. |
| 244 | 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. |
| 245 | Sec. 3a3 | Residency requirements should be before the primary or earlier. |
| 246 | Sec. 3a4 | It is not fair to ban outside government jobs but allow other outside work. |
| 247 | 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. |
| 248 | Sec. 3a4 | Delegate salary should be raised and paired with a ban on outside employment. |
| 249 | Sec. 3a4 | Non-speaker Delegates should be allowed outside employment but have to specify their employment and recuse themselves when business relates to it. |
| 250 | Sec. 3a4 | What do the qualifications actually mean? |
| 251 | Sec. 3a4 | If the House is only 13 members, there should be no outside employment allowed. |
| 252 | Sec. 3a4 | The text should say "holds no other public office" instead of "holds no office." |
| 253 | Sec. 3b | This section should include the Governor, Attorney General, and all other members of the House of Delegates. |
| 254 | Sec. 3c | Who is the finder of fact on residency questions? |
| 255 | Sec. 4a3 | When does emergency or permanent legislation becomes effective? |
| 256 | Sec. 4a4 | Remove paragraph (B) in the resolutions power. |
| 257 | 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. |
| 258 | Sec. 4b | There should be included after the words "public notice" the following: "and comment, comments to be published and addressed." |
| 259 | Sec. 4e | The Governor should not have a line-item veto on the budget. |
| 260 | Sec. 4f | What is the House's authority to create or abolish offices, especially in relation to the Governor's reorganization authority? |
| 261 | Sec. 4f | The words "not established in this Constitution" should be added. |
| 262 | Sec. 4f | This reorganization authority gives the House too much power. |
| 263 | Sec. 4f | The reorganization section violates separation of powers. It should be subject to a vote of the citizens. |
| 264 | Sec. 4g | The Auditor position should be established and required, in line with the 1987 Constitution, and impose duties. |

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| 265 | 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. |
| 266 | Sec. 4g | The Auditor's access to documents should not be "subject to a privilege." |
| 267 | Sec. 4g | The words "not belonging to a Delegate, Attorney General, or Governor" at the end in place of "subject to a privilege." |
| 268 | Sec. 4g | The Auditor should have access to employees of the State. |
| 269 | Sec. 4g | The executive should be required to acknowledge and respond to audits in writing. |
| 270 | Sec. 4g | The Auditor's compensation should not be able to be reduced during the term. |
| 271 | Sec. 4g | Each Auditor should be appointed to a new six-year term, regardless of whether the previous Auditor completed a six-year term. |
| 272 | 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. |
| 273 | Sec. 6 | Spell out if the Wards will become Legislative Districts or some other map will be used. |
| 274 | Sec. 6 | Legislative districts should be drawn by a non-partisan commission, be contiguous, reasonably compact, follow existing boundaries where possible, and have equivalent populations. |
| 275 | Sec. 6 | There should be a section against gerrymandering. |
| 276 | Sec. 6 | There is no reference to current districts. |
| 277 | Sec. 7 | ANCs should be abolished in favor of more Delegates. |
| 278 | Sec. 7 | ANCs should be created by Act, not constitutionally established. |
| 279 | Sec. 7 | Clarify that the House may establish whether ANCs can be paid and how many/few there are to be. |
| 280 | Sec. 7 | There are no basic qualifications, including residency, for ANCs. They should be the same as the House. |
| 281 | Sec. 7 | The House should provide by Act that ANCs should be given timely notice of Executive Branch actions in the area for input. |
| 282 | Sec. 7 | ANC written recommendations should be given great weight during deliberations. When rejected, written reasons must be given. |
| 283 | Sec. 7 | New Columbia should allot funding apportioned by the neighborhood's total population. |
| 284 | Sec. 7 | Add that the House should provide for ANC funds and accounts by Act. |
| 285 | 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. |
| 286 | Sec. 7 | ANCs should get a stipend. |
| 287 | Sec. 7 | All ANC powers should be constitutionalized. |

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| 288 | Sec. 7a | ANCs should not have to collect signatures. |
| 289 | 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. |
| 290 | Sec. 7a | Advisory Neighborhood Commission 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. |
| 291 | Sec. 7b | The powers of the ANCs are poorly defined because they have no power to legislate and "advising the House" is vague. |
| 292 | Sec. 7b | Advisory Neighborhood Commissions should be able to expend donated funds in addition to public funds. |
| Article II | | |
| 293 | Sec. 1 | Vest the Governor with the "Chief Executive" power rather than the "executive" power. |
| 294 | Sec. 2 | The Governor should be elected on a nonpartisan basis. |
| 295 | Sec. 2 | Clarify whether Governor is elected in Presidential election years and if they are staggered with Speaker. |
| 296 | Sec. 2 | The Governor should have a 2-term limit. |
| 297 | Sec. 2 | The Governor should be elected by ranked choice voting in primaries and the top two candidates in the general election. |
| 298 | Sec. 3a | Clarify who determines, and by what process, whether the Governor has forfeited his or her office. |
| 299 | Sec. 3a | The Governor should be replaced by an elected Lieutenant Governor rather than by the Speaker of the House. |
| 300 | Sec. 3a | There should be a specified minimum age for Governor, like 18. |
| 301 | Sec. 3 | Governors removed due to a felony conviction should not be eligible to run for any office again. |
| 302 | Sec. 3a1B | The Governor should have a longer residency requirement, with suggestions including 2 years and 4 years. |
| 303 | Sec. 3a1C | The text should say "holds no other public office" instead of "holds no office." |
| 304 | Sec. 3a2 | Special elections should be held between 90 and 120 days. |
| 305 | Sec. 3a2 | It should say "to fill a vacancy of the Governor's position." |
| 306 | Sec. 3b | There should be a provision for the Governor to step aside temporarily, as in the US Constitution. |
| 307 | Sec. 3c | The sentence that disallows the House from reducing a future Governor's salary should be removed. |
| 308 | Sec. 3c | The newly elected House of Delegates should set the salary structure for all elected officials. |
| 309 | Sec. 3d | The Governor does not forfeit office if she does not maintain residency. This should be changed. |
| 310 | Sec. 4 | There is too much detail for a Constitution about the duties of the Governor. |
| 311 | Sec. 4 | The Governor's appointment power for Agency Heads should be included. |
| 312 | Sec. 4 | Strike redundant language concerning the Governor's powers and duties. |
| 313 | Sec. 4 | The Governor should be given explicit commander in chief authority over the National Guard. |

Summary of Public Comments Received on New Columbia Draft Constitution as of June 20, 2016
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| Number | Constitutional Provision | Comments |
|--------|--------------------------|--|
| 314 | Sec. 4c | The Governor should not supervise and direct boards, commissions, and agencies, particularly if independent agencies aren't established. |
| 315 | Sec. 4c | Boards should retain their powers. |
| 316 | Sec. 4d | All Acts should have to originate in the House of Delegates. |
| 317 | Sec. 4e | The Governor should not be allowed to delegate pardon power. |
| 318 | Sec. 4g | The Governor's power to appoint an Administrator and COO does not require confirmation and should. |
| 319 | Sec. 4g | There should not be a requirement to appoint an Administrator and COO. This option should be left to the Governor. |
| 320 | Sec. 4g | The COO's salary should be approved by the House of Delegates |
| 321 | Sec. 4g | The COO and Administrator's salaries should not exceed the Governor's. |
| 322 | Sec. 4g | Administrator and COO should be defined. |
| 323 | Sec. 4i | The sentence on compacts should recognize federal limits of Art. I, Sec. 10 by including "subject to federal law." |
| 324 | Sec. 4j | Why not retain the Home Rule Act and 1982 Constitution provisions giving the Council (House) passive review authority for reorganizations? |
| 325 | Sec. 4j | Should the Governor have the power to reorganize executive agencies and offices? |
| 326 | Sec. 4k | Does the Governor's pardon power extend to crimes committed before Statehood? |
| 327 | Sec. 4l | This section contradicts Article I Sec. 10 of the US Constitution. |
| 328 | Sec. 4m | "Planning authority" should be defined. |
| 329 | Sec. 4m | There should be an independent planning authority. |
| 330 | Sec. 4m | The planning authority should not be unlimited. This may discourage cooperation, as some planning will come under the purview of other branches. |
| 331 | Sec. 4n | Administration of financial affairs should reside in the legislature. |
| 332 | Sec. 5 | The Attorney General will still be elected under law, and the position should not be constitutionalized. |
| 333 | Sec. 5 | The constitution should include substantive duties of the Attorney General, including the authority to prosecute civil and criminal cases. |
| 334 | Sec. 5 | The Attorney General should be elected by ranked choice voting in primaries and the top two candidates in the general election. |
| 335 | Sec. 5 | The Attorney General should be elected on a nonpartisan basis. |
| 336 | Sec. 5 | Consolidate 5(a) and (c) for the Attorney General. |
| 337 | Sec. 5 | There are no provisions on domiciliary requirements, DC bar membership, forfeiture of office, and vacancies for the Attorney General. |

Summary of Public Comments Received on New Columbia Draft Constitution as of June 20, 2016
New Columbia Statehood Commission

| Number | Constitutional Provision | Comments |
|--------|--------------------------|--|
| 338 | Sec. 5 | The Attorney General should have personnel power. |
| 339 | Sec. 5 | The Attorney General's term of office should be 2 years because of its tremendous political power. |
| 340 | Sec. 5 | The Attorney General should not be a part of the Executive Branch and should be independent. |
| 341 | 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. |
| 342 | Sec. 5b | In case there is a vacancy in the Attorney General, should the House consent to appoint the Chief Deputy? |
| 343 | Sec. 6 | Removal of the CFO is too onerous. The House should not have to give assent to removal for cause. |
| 344 | Sec. 6 | The CFO should have to report to the House of Delegates as well as the Governor. |
| 345 | Sec. 6 | The position of Treasurer should be established, and it could be under the CFO. |
| 346 | Sec. 6 | Why is the CFO's term 5 years? |
| 347 | Sec. 6d | The CFO should not prepare the budget under the direction of the Governor. |
| 348 | Sec. 6e | Everything before "the Chief Financial Office shall" should be deleted. |
| 349 | Sec. 6e | Many of the CFO's duties should be left to statute. |
| 350 | Sec. 6e | Tax duties of CFO belong with Governor, regardless of who handles them now. |
| 351 | Sec. 7 | The State Board of Education should be handled by statute. |
| 352 | Sec. 7 | Clarify whether the State Board of Education's authority extends to universities, public and private. |
| 353 | Sec. 7 | Clarify that Governor has ultimate control over public schools, subject to the role of the House. |
| 354 | Sec. 7 | The State Board of Education should be enlarged and have their powers enumerated. |
| 355 | Sec. 7 | The State Board of Education should retain its powers. |
| 356 | Sec. 7 | Consider whether there should be a single elected official responsible for statewide education policy. |
| 357 | Sec. 7a | There should not be a reference to the 8 districts in case of a change. |
| 358 | Sec. 7a | The State Board of Education should have at least 17 members. |
| 359 | 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. |
| 360 | Sec. 7b2 | The words "if any" should be struck so that the State Board can adjust statutes based on federal education law. |
| 361 | Sec. 7b2 | If the State Board of Education is not abolished, the Board should not be able to reject policies of the House. |
| 362 | Sec. 7b2 | Should not enshrine Mayoral control of State Board of Education in the constitution. |
| 363 | All | The Elections agency should be created in the constitution. |
| 364 | All | The Executive should not have more power than the other branches. |

Summary of Public Comments Received on New Columbia Draft Constitution as of June 20, 2016
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| Number | Constitutional Provision | Comments |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 365 | All | The Secretary of State should be constitutionalized and included under the Governor. |
| 366 | All | There should be a code of conduct for all elected officials in this Article. |
| Article III | | |
| 367 | All | The authority to create an intermediate court of appeals or other specialized courts is missing. |
| 368 | All | How much will it cost to bring back courts and prisoners? |
| 369 | All | There should be term and age limits for judges. |
| 370 | All | The House of Delegates should not be able to reduce the salary or benefits of any judge. |
| 371 | Sec. 1 | Rename the D.C. Court of Appeals the Supreme Court. |
| 372 | Sec. 2 | The number of Judges on all Courts should be established, including new intermediate courts. |
| 373 | Sec. 2 | Judges should be appointed for a set period of time and then have a retention vote by the people. |
| 374 | Sec. 2 | The Attorney General should have the power to appoint judges. |
| 375 | Sec. 2a | Should there be a reference to an Act or Resolution in the section giving the House the power to confirm judicial nominations? |
| 376 | Sec. 2a | The method of appointment, specified duties, and other details of the Judicial Nominations Commission should be included. |
| 377 | Sec. 2a | The Judicial Nomination Commission should be abolished. |
| 378 | Sec. 2b | Judges should have a life appointment. |
| 379 | Sec. 3 | The domicile requirement should be for the term of office. |
| 380 | Sec. 3 | Judges cannot be active members of the DC bar, so there should be no requirement for reappointments. |
| 381 | Sec. 3a1 | Potential judges should have a longer residency requirement, with the lowest suggestion at 2 years. |
| 382 | Sec. 3a2 | Allow membership in the D.C. Bar to count towards a prospective judge's eligibility. |
| 383 | Sec. 3a2 | Does the five year requirement have to be consecutive? |
| 384 | Sec. 3b | Clarify the removal process for judges by, for example, assigning removal to something akin to a Judicial Disabilities Commission |
| 385 | Sec. 3b5 | The phrase "habitual intemperance" should be changed to something contemporaneous. |
| 386 | Sec. 3b5 | Strike unnecessary language concerning "mental or physical disability"; should refer to any condition that interferes with the judge's performance of duty. |
| 387 | Sec. 3b5 | There should be a code of judicial conduct. |
| 388 | 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. |
| 389 | Sec. 4 | The powers of courts are too detailed. We should delete all after the first sentence. |
| 390 | Sec. 5 | Rewrite the Chief Judges section to allow for possibility of intermediate courts. |

Summary of Public Comments Received on New Columbia Draft Constitution as of June 20, 2016
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| Number | Constitutional Provision | Comments |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 391 | Sec. 5 | It should include what the Chief Judge's role is. |
| Article IV | | |
| 392 | All | There is too much detail for a Constitution about the budget. |
| 393 | All | Should we say whether anyone has standing to sue over an un-balanced budget? |
| 394 | All | Can the state declare bankruptcy? If so, should it be in the constitution? |
| 395 | All | We should talk about how we raise money as well as how much we raise, to balance between access and user fees. |
| 396 | Sec. 2 | The budget should have to be made public before a vote by the House of Delegates. |
| 397 | Sec. 2b | The word "for" should be changed to "proposed by" so that independent agencies may propose budgets that meet their needs. |
| 398 | Sec. 2b | The Attorney General, State Board of Education, Chief Financial Officer, and other agencies like that should submit their own budgets. |
| 399 | Sec. 2c | Budgetary reprogrammings should not be allowed. |
| 400 | Sec. 3 | It says the House shall adopt the budget but does not give it the power to amend the Governor's submission. |
| 401 | Sec. 3 | ANCs should be able to review and vote on the budget. |
| 402 | Sec. 3 and 4 | Could Adoption of Budget and Financial Statements be left to legislation? |
| 403 | Sec. 5 | The balanced budget requirement is too vague in how it is determined. |
| 404 | Sec. 5 | There should be a provision for limited deficit spending. |
| 405 | Sec. 6 | The House of Delegates should not have the power to approve contracts. This could be phased out. |
| 406 | Sec. 6 | The House of Delegates should not have their power to approve contracts limited. |
| 407 | Sec. 6 | Strike the phrase "review prior to the contract going into effect" and insert "review and approval" in its place. |
| 408 | Sec. 7 | Do various payments to emergency and contingency fund count against the balanced budget? |
| 409 | Sec. 7 | Why have emergency and contingency funds? |
| 410 | Sec. 7 | There should not be restraints on the replenishment of emergency and reserve funds. |
| 411 | Sec. 7 | The House should be able to change the percentages in this section by Act. |
| 412 | 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. |
| Article V | | |
| 413 | All | There is too much detail for a Constitution about the required conditions for borrowing. |
| 414 | All | The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) recommends that there should be a section that exempts bonds from most taxes. |

Summary of Public Comments Received on New Columbia Draft Constitution as of June 20, 2016
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| Number | Constitutional Provision | Comments |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 415 | 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. |
| 416 | All | There should be a special tax mechanism to fund environmental goals to create a green city. |
| 417 | Sec. 1 | The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) recommends that there should be a definition of "capital projects." |
| 418 | 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. |
| 419 | Sec. 2 | The OCFO recommends that there should be a requirement to print the Act in a newspaper. |
| 420 | Sec. 3c | The OCFO recommends that this section should be deleted. |
| 421 | Sec. 4c | The OCFO recommends that this section should specify how anticipated revenue is calculated. |
| 422 | Sec. 5 | Special taxes should have an end date as a requirement for adoption. |
| 423 | Sec. 7 | The OCFO recommends that payment of principal, interest, and redemption premiums on general obligation bonds should not be subject to appropriations. |
| 424 | Sec. 8a1 | The OCFO recommends that "for a public purpose" be defined. |
| 425 | Sec. 8a4 | Only the Governor or an independent agency should be allowed to enter into these agreements, not the House of Delegates. |
| 426 | Sec. 8e1 | The OCFO recommends that "department of the executive branch" should be changed to "independent instrumentality of New Columbia." |
| 427 | Sec. 9 | The debt cap should not be set at 17% |
| 428 | Sec. 9 | The OCFO recommends that the 17% limitation should be set in accordance with Section 603(b)(3) of the Home Rule Act. |
| Article VI | | |
| 429 | All | Election and recall process needs to be strong to hold elected officials accountable. |
| 430 | Sec. 1 | Citizen initiatives should not be able to amend Constitution. |
| 431 | Sec. 1 | Initiatives should be allowed to cancel appropriated funds. |
| 432 | Sec. 1 | Initiatives should be able to raise and appropriate funds. |
| 433 | Sec. 1 | Language should be taken from current DC law to prohibit initiatives and referenda that violate the Human Rights Act. |
| 434 | Sec. 1a | Initiatives should also prohibit laws that have the effect of authorizing discrimination. |
| 435 | Sec. 1b | Referenda should not be allowed on acts prohibiting or having the effect of prohibiting discrimination. |
| 436 | Sec. 1d | Why must the registered voter count be taken at least 30 days before? |

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| Number | Constitutional Provision | Comments |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 437 | Sec. 2 | Percentages should apply to total population rather than total registered voters, though only registered voters could sign. |
| 438 | Sec. 2 | The signature requirements should be lower. |
| 439 | Sec. 2 | ANCs should be able to vote to start an initiative that would then be authorized to go on the ballot. |
| 440 | Sec. 2 | Petitioners should be limited to 180 days to collect signatures. |
| 441 | Sec. 3 | Should initiatives and referenda be on special election or primary ballots? |
| 442 | Sec. 3 | The time limits for initiatives and referenda should be switched. |
| 443 | Sec. 5 | Measures should take effect within 90 days of certification. |
| 444 | Sec. 7 | The recall provision should prevent a recalled official from running for the same job again. |
| 445 | Sec. 7 | Recalls should not be used for the State Board of Education and ANCs. |
| 446 | Sec. 8 | Recalls should be permitted only once per term. |
| Article VII | | |
| 447 | All | There should be another constitutional convention before the end of the year. |
| 448 | All | The constitution should call for a constitutional convention with delegates within 5 years. |
| 449 | All | The constitution should include what qualifies as a constitutional convention. |
| 450 | All | Voters should be able to call for a constitutional convention by referendum that the legislature must then provide for within 6 months. |
| 451 | All | There should be a separation of powers clause preventing employees of one branch from holding functions in another branch. |
| 452 | Sec. 1 | There should be a required quarterly publication of the use of public dollars and expenditures. |
| 453 | Sec. 1 | It is not clear what effect the "openness and transparency" language is meant to have; it should be clarified or struck. |
| 454 | Sec. 1 | We should include a core value of public participation so that all people have a voice. |
| 455 | 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. |
| 456 | 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. |
| 457 | Sec. 3a | There should be a requirement of passage by a majority of voters at 2 referenda. |
| 458 | Sec. 4 | Is the effective date realistic? What should be separate from constitution? |
| Article VIII | | |
| 459 | All | The transition provisions should call for immediate elections. |
| 460 | All | Should there be a time frame for new elections post-statehood? |

Summary of Public Comments Received on New Columbia Draft Constitution as of June 20, 2016
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| Number | Constitutional Provision | Comments |
|--------|--------------------------|---|
| 461 | All | All offices should be voted on within one year after admission. |
| 462 | All | The constitution should follow the 1982 timeline for new elections of offices after statehood. |
| 463 | All | Current officials should have their terms end on January 3rd after the next general election. |
| 464 | 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. |
| 465 | Sec. 1 | There should be a provision that the shadow delegation become the Senators and Representative of the new state. |
| 466 | Sec. 1b | The phrase "same schedule" is vague and should be rewritten to clarify that House members will retain staggered terms. |
| 467 | Sec. 1e | Federal members of boards and commissions should be dealt with individually through legislation, not through a broad constitutional provision. |
| 468 | Sec. 2a | Judge terms should end on January 3rd after the second general election. |
| 469 | Sec. 3 | Court orders under which DC is working need to be carried over. |
| 470 | 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." |
| 471 | Sec. 9 | It is uncertain whether a State of New Columbia could lawfully empower non-residents to vote in its elections. |