

QUESTIONS - Natale “Lino” Stracuzzi – (SGP) Delegate to Congress

1. On a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being highest) how important do you think DC Statehood is and why?

**** 5 ****

Over the course of the many years that I have run repeatedly for the office of DC Delegate to the US House of Representatives, I’ve heard one thing over and over again: people are fed up with being disrespected by the Congress that they must fund with their taxes but have no say in. No other citizens in this country are forced to put up with what we must endure on a day-to-day basis: continual assaults upon our rights to make our own laws from members of Congress who would never accept that sort of interference in their own districts. In 2016 alone, there were [25 attempts by Members of Congress](#) to alter or repeal our laws. For over 200 years, our Congressional masters have disabled us with permanent 2nd class citizenship. The only cure for that disabling disease is statehood, now!

2. Name 3 specific things you have done to improve the achievement of DC Statehood?

- 1] I have been an active member of the DC Statehood Green Party for over a decade;
- 2] During that time I have run for office on the DCSGP ticket repeatedly at my own considerable expense; and
- 3] I have been a persistent and vocal advocate for DC Statehood in innumerable debates, forums and other public meetings and gatherings.

3. If elected, what are 3 specific things you will do to advance the DC Statehood Movement?

- 1] I will be full-time lobbyist for statehood and full equal rights for all DC citizens from the minute I am sworn into office.
- 2] I will pursue this goal unencumbered by party allegiances and uncompromised by behind-closed-doors partisan agreements.
- 3] I will work with local organizations like the DC chapter of the League of Women Voters and others that I have forged strong working relationships with over the years to enlist their chapters in other parts of this country to raise awareness across this nation of the injustice that comes with our second-class citizenship status and to support our struggle for equal treatment.

4. Would you risk arrest in support of DC Statehood? Why or why not?

No. I couldn’t afford the attorney.

5. Should the DC Statehood Delegation be paid for their work? Why or why not?

Yes, of course! Subsidizing businesses with the idea of a reward in the end is nothing new. The DC city government has a long history of subsidizing various private enterprises -- like Nationals Park, for example -- with the idea that doing so would provide increased tax revenue to the city. Imagine how this city could profit from full statehood! It’s time to invest in statehood just as we invested in baseball. Let’s pay our Delegation, and, of course, carefully monitor the methods they employ and the results they achieve to ensure that we get full value for our investment.

6. What do you rank as the most important aspect of a lack of DC Statehood and why?

- a. **No voting representation in either House of the United States Congress;**
- b. **Congress’ ability to veto or change our local budget;**
- c. **Congress’ ability to veto or change our local laws;**
- d. **Our inability to appoint or elect our local judges.**

What do you rank as most important of your 5 senses when it comes to your functioning as a fully enabled human being? Just as it is impossible to imagine personhood without any one of them, it is equally impossible to enjoy full citizenship in this country without a permanent end to all of these impediments. There is no reason for compromise and nothing but continued civic inferiority to be gained by doing so. We demand nothing less than full statehood and all that comes with it.