

STAND UP! / FREE DC QUESTIONNAIRE
Michael D. Brown, United States Senator (D-Shadow)

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

Five. Statehood affects everything in the District of Columbia. We lose billions in revenue, lack control over our local government and have no voice in our national legislature. This is a basic civil rights issue and without these rights we will never be equal citizens.

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

I have lobbied and gotten co-signers on our statehood bills in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate; I have created a website, Teach Democracy, as a resource for teachers nationwide to teach students about our struggle for equality as part of their civics curriculum and get them involved in our statehood efforts; and I have had more than 20 opinion pieces published nationally about DC statehood to help build national support.

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

I will push for more resources from the city to promote our efforts both locally and nationally; continue to expand my presence on the internet which now reaches more than 400,000 people a year to build support for statehood; and continue my work to organize locally to get more District residents involved in our struggle.

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

I have been arrested, gone to jail and gone to trial standing up for DC rights because protest and resistance are important to our movement.

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

Of course, we should be paid. Not being paid undercuts our credibility and ultimately makes us less effective. Delegations from other territories have been paid and when the delegation was created by the people there was a salary, but members of the DC Council took it away. It should be reinstated.

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.

All these things are important, but the most important is our lack of representation since all else flows from our disenfranchisement. Our local budget, local laws and appointment of judges could be resolved if we had equal representation.