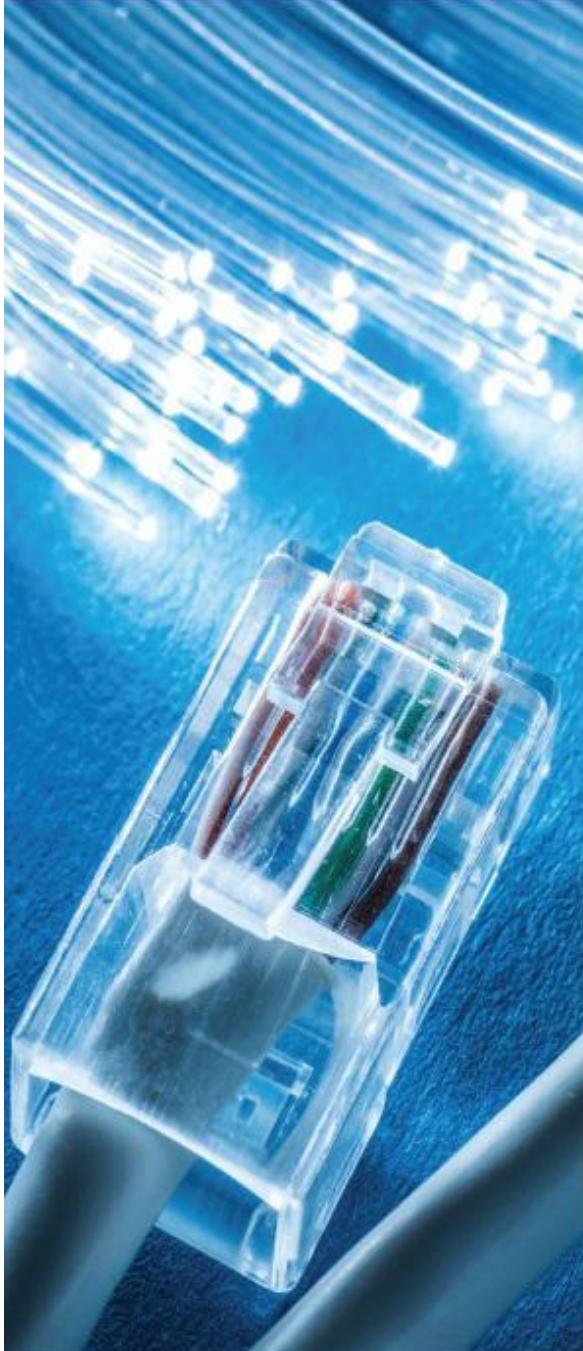


PA Townships **Value Relationship** with Cable Industry



The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors salutes a longstanding working relationship with BCAP that has benefited millions of our commonwealth's citizens.

PSATS members have had successful partnerships with the commonwealth's cable companies for decades. The result has been a Pennsylvania-born technology that continues to provide entertainment, education, and communications services for generations of our state's citizens and businesses.

If there was ever a template for blending technology providers with local government, our 70-year-old working relationship with BCAP members is it.

PSATS looks forward to continuing and growing its partnership with broadband cable companies in the years ahead to deliver services to ALL Pennsylvanians!



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Congressional Democrats argue people paying federal taxes should have federal representation, so the District of Columbia should be a state. Seems fair.

Congressional Republicans say Democrats just want two more senators – [D.C. voter registration is 76 percent Democratic, 6 percent Republican](#) – to improve their tenuous Senate control. And you know they do. Democrats could say, “Yeah, well, Republicans grabbed four Senators by making the Dakota Territory two states back in 1889.” And Republicans could say, “I know you are but what am I.”

Point is, we’re off again on an issue reflecting our politics: ultra-partisan, mostly meaningless, pandering to the base of one party or the other, in this case Democrats to the left. [The U.S. House last week voted 216-208 for D.C. statehood](#). All nine Pennsylvania Democrats voted for it, all nine Pennsylvania Republicans against it. That’s right in step. No Republican voted for it. No Democrat voted against it. Current thinking? Don’t think past party talking points.

The White House and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer are pushing it. Yet it appears to have no shot in the Senate unless Dems bust up filibuster rules that require 60 votes to pass most bills. And if they do that, [GOP Leader Mitch McConnell](#) promises a “scorched-earth” response. So, what we have here looks familiar: wheel-spinning and divisiveness.

Democrats say statehood is about “taxation without representation,” fairness and civil rights. Republicans grab the Constitution and say the Founding Fathers never intended D.C. to be a state. But they also say it’s too small, though Wyoming and Vermont have fewer people, and falsely warn it would be the only state that doesn’t have a car dealership. (Not making that up. Possible autophile and GOP Georgia [U.S. Rep. Jody Hice said it](#). But a quick Google search shows a dozen dealerships in the district.)

Still, pandering, blustering and car-loving aside, D.C. statehood presents constitutional issues beyond the headlines. The Constitution (Art. 1, Sec. 8) created a federal district (D.C.) as the national seat of government. The 23rd Amendment, adopted in 1961, gave that district three Electoral College votes, the same it would have as a small state.

Just-passed legislation creates a state, “Washington, Douglass Commonwealth,” with two Senators and one House member. And it maintains a portion of D.C. as a federal district -- an area including the Supreme Court, Capitol and White House – to comply with the Constitution. But those three electoral votes present a problem, according to Congress’ own think tank, the nonpartisan [Congressional Research Service \(CRS\)](#).

In a 2019 report to Congress, the CRS said D.C. statehood “might be incompatible with the 23rd Amendment.” And, “a court would likely find” the amendment would continue to provide the federal district three electoral votes. Theoretically, that means the new state gets three electoral votes, and residents of the new district, say a president and his or her family, gets three electoral votes, doubling Washington’s electoral clout.

[predictably split on party lines](#)

Give the headquarters of national politics the same number of electoral votes as Iowa, Arkansas, Utah and Nevada currently have? Hard to see anyone wanting that. So, repeal the amendment? Good luck. Requires two-thirds vote in the House and Senate, and approval of three-fourths (38) of the 50 state legislatures. Only one amendment ever has been repealed: the 18th Amendment (Prohibition) in 1933.

Democrats argue their legislation can skirt this issue. Republicans say it cannot. And when I seek comment from our senators, Republican Pat Toomey and Democrat Bob Casey, I get a sample of the partisan divide. Toomey: "Granting D.C. statehood via legislation is likely unconstitutional...would also require repeal of the 23rd Amendment, which this legislation does not and cannot do... (it's a) naked political ploy to add two more Democratic seats in the Senate." Casey: "The residents of Washington, D.C., pay more in federal taxes, per capita, than any state, yet have no voting representative in Congress. This legislation would finally end the disenfranchisement of more than 700,000 people living in the District -- a plurality of whom are Black."

Some Republicans say if D.C. wants federal representation beyond its House Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, it should become part of Maryland. But polling and referendums suggest Maryland doesn't want D.C., and D.C. doesn't want to join Maryland. [Recent national polling on DC statehood shows nearly an even divide](#). So, three questions need honest answers.

Is statehood a national priority for the good of democracy, or a political priority for the good of Democrats? Would Democrats push it if D.C.'s voter registration was flipped, and the GOP stood to gain two senators? And is this for real or the Democratic version of "We'll build a great wall and Mexico will pay for it?" – John Baer's column in *Harrisburg Patriot-News*



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