

A Record Number of Voters Support D.C. Statehood

In February 2021, Data for Progress tested support for making Washington D.C. a state following a year that saw multiple historic events — including the insurrection in the U.S. Capitol by a white supremacist mob and the inability for the District’s Mayor to deploy the National Guard — bring renewed visibility to conversations around D.C. statehood. **The poll, commissioned by [Democracy for All 2021 Action](#), shows record-high support for D.C. statehood, with 54% of voters saying they agree with making D.C. a state, the highest level of support documented to date.** Previous Data for Progress [polling](#) showed the momentum behind D.C. statehood, though it still fell short of majority support. Below are takeaways from the groundbreaking poll, along with charts visualizing key findings in the [Appendix](#).

Statehood for D.C. isn’t “just a local issue:” voters from all over the country support making D.C. a state. Clear majorities of voters in urban (57%) and suburban (56%) areas, along with swing states (57%), support making D.C. a state so residents of the District can elect Senators and Representatives with voting power just like they do. About half of voters in rural America also support D.C. statehood.

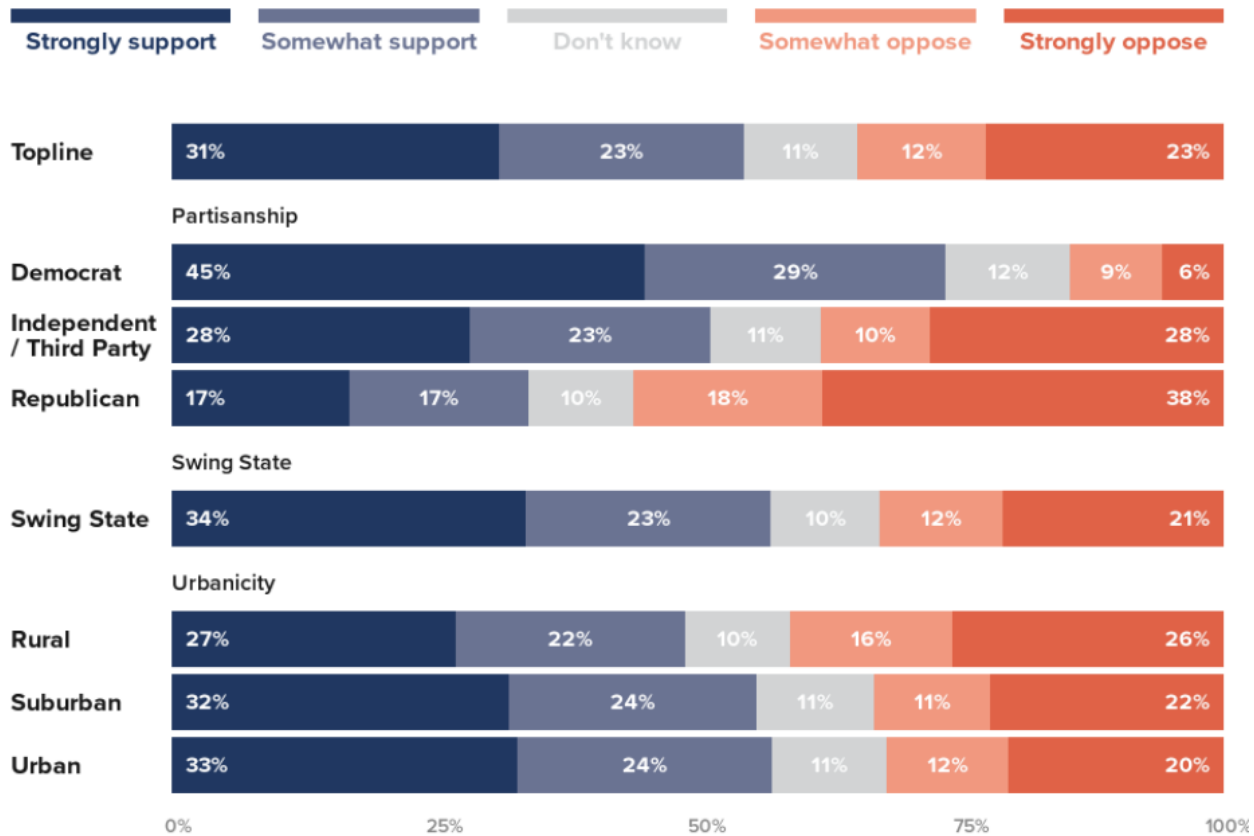
The “taxation without representation” argument is most likely to generate support for D.C. statehood from voters across the country, political spectrum, and backgrounds. Overall, 58% of voters agree D.C. should be made a state when presented with the injustice of taxation without representation, including large majorities of voters in urban (66%), suburban (57%), and rural (55%) America. This argument also resonates with majorities of Democrats (73%) and Independents (55%), and yields the highest share of support (42%) among Republicans. A majority of both men and women, college and non-college educated voters, younger and older voters, as well as Black and white voters, support statehood for D.C. based on this framing.

A majority of voters still agree with D.C. statehood when it goes head-to-head with opponents’ argument that it amounts to a partisan “power grab.” Opponents’ of D.C. statehood generally frame the issue as “a political power grab.” Voters disagree with them, and despite the opposition’s arguments, D.C. statehood retains majority support across all frames tested.

Democrats recognize that statehood for D.C. is a racial justice issue. 78% of Democrats support DC statehood when framed within the context of racial justice. Meanwhile, Republican opposition to statehood is most fierce when racial justice is brought up.

APPENDIX

Would you support or oppose granting statehood to the more than 714,000 people who live in Washington D.C., so they can elect voting Senators and Representatives, just like Americans in every other state?



Feb 19 to Feb 22, 2021 survey of 1526 likely voters

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Methodology

From February 19 to February 22, 2021, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1526 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ± 3 percentage points.

[Questions & Crosstabs](#)