

**Omicron Phi Zeta Chapter and NCNW GET
ENGAGED with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to discuss
DC Statehood**

**BECOMING #51:
UNDERSTANDING DC STATEHOOD**

On Sunday, February 20, 2022, Omicron Phi Zeta Chapter's GET ENGAGED committee partnered with the Washington Section of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) to facilitate a virtual panel discussion about Understanding DC Statehood. Guest panelists included the Honorable Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton; Senior Advisor to Mayor Muriel Bowser - Beverly Perry; President of the NAACP, Washington DC Branch - Akosua Ali; and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, 7E04 - Natasha Dupee (member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Omicron Phi Zeta Chapter).

The panel discussion was moderated by NCNW Immediate Past President Rita Lewis. Questions centered around the historical context of DC Statehood, what DC Statehood could look like, and what's next for DC Statehood. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton kicked off the discussion by stating that "*The majority of the American people, 54%, support DC Statehood and [DC] deserves Statehood because we have a larger population than two states that already have Statehood!*"

Sixty-five participants logged in virtually to the panel to discuss that for more than 200 years, the residents of Washington, DC have been subjected to systemic inequality and denied the full rights of citizenship that residents of other states enjoy - including voting representation in Congress. The District of Columbia is the **only** political and geographical entity within the United States of America whose citizens bear the **responsibilities** of citizenship, including taxation and Selective Service registration, without sharing in the full rights and **privileges** of citizenship.

The district is represented in the House by one delegate -- currently the honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton-- who can **introduce** bills, **vote** on committees and **speak** on the floor but cannot vote on the final passage of legislation. The district has no representation in the Senate.

NAACP President Akousa Ali said, "Denying statehood to the District is egregious, it's modern day voter suppression, it's immoral and it's wrong!" Senior Advisor to the Mayor's office, Beverly Perry is optimistic and says, "*Our biggest obstacle is time – she believes that DC is going to keep both the House and the Senate.*" Congresswoman Norton's closing remarks were also optimistic as she stated that "*DC is not going backward, but that we were moving forward with Statehood!*"



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated
 Omicron Phi Zeta Chapter
 Washington, DC
 In partnership with the Washington Section of
 The National Council of Negro Women, Inc.



Becoming #51: Understanding DC Statehood

Virtual Discussion

Sunday, February 20, 2022
 4:00 pm



Scan QR code to register or
 visit: <https://linktr.ee/0phiZ>

For more information, contact:
 Nickia Jackson
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Guest Panelists



Congresswoman
 Eleanor Holmes Norton
 (D-DC)



Beverly L. Perry
 Senior Advisor
 to Mayor Muriel Bowser



Akosua Ali
 President of the NAACP,
 Washington DC Branch

TODAY'S PANEL

Beverly Perry
 Senior Advisor to Mayor of
 Washington DC, Muriel Bowser

Natasha Dupree
 Advisory Neighborhood
 Commissioner, TDH

Akosua Ali
 President
 NAACP, Washington DC
 Branch

ncnw
 washington section

MODERATOR

Rita Lewis
 Immediate Past President
 The Washington Section,
 National Council of Negro Women, Inc.