



Congresswoman

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Winter 2003

Ambitious Goals for 108th Congress to Match Big Victories in 107th (see p. 3)

How Norton Does it in Congress

“I THINK OF THE DISTRICT AS MY CLIENT. I CAN’T LOSE THIS CASE... I’M ALWAYS ON TRIAL LIKE THE LAWYER I WAS TRAINED TO BE. A LAWYER HAS TO OFFER ZEALOUS ADVOCACY. THAT MAY MEAN THAT YOU NEGOTIATE YOUR WAY THROUGH A PROBLEM, WHICH IS ALWAYS THE BETTER WAY. BUT IT ALSO MEANS THAT YOUR ADVERSARY HAS TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO FIGHT. AND FIGHT HARD. IT MAKES ME A BETTER NEGOTIATOR. GROWING UP IN A CITY THAT WAS PROUD TO BE THE NATION’S CAPITAL, BUT HAD THE AUDACITY TO SEGREGATE ITS SCHOOLS AND MOST OTHER ENTITIES, PUTS THE SPIRIT OF FIGHT IN YOU AT A YOUNG AGE.”

*Excerpt From “First Person Singular,” interview by Cathy Areu Jones
The Washington Post Magazine, 12/08/02*



The Congresswoman discusses D.C. Voting Rights bill with Sen. Joe Lieberman, Senate sponsor.

It’s Tax Time in the City

The Annual Norton Tax Preparation and Information Fair

Saturday, February 15th

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Washington Convention Center
9th & H Streets, NW**

Get Free Help with D.C. & Federal Taxes!

1ST COME, 1ST SERVED

Note Limitations on Forms That Will be Prepared

Only current 1040, 1040-A, 1040-EZ, Itemized Deductions, Earned Income Credit, Child Tax Credit, Child & Dependent Care Credit, Elderly & Disabled Credit, the D.C. Homebuyer Tax Credit, and D.C. forms D40 and D40-EZ. **Bring** W-2’s, Form 1099, documentation such as dependents’ social security cards to support deductions and credits.

What You Can Get

- Save \$\$\$ ♦ D.C.-only \$5,000 Homebuyer credit
- ♦ Earned income and other valuable credits
- ♦ Business tax breaks ♦ E-filing

Please Note! If you have income from rental property, partnerships, small business corporations, estates and trusts, or stocks/bonds sales; or if you are self-employed, please seek assistance from a paid tax preparer.

Urgent Town Meeting

To Decide Next Steps on Voting Rights!

Tuesday, March 4th

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
9th & G Streets, NW**

✓ Hear Challenges

- ♦ Confronting National and Local Challenges to Achieving D.C. Voting Rights
- ♦ Assuring a Firm Legal Foundation

✓ Get Answers

- ▲ **Mayor Anthony Williams**—What the City Can do to Promote Voting Rights
- ▲ **Wade Henderson**, Exec. Dir., Leadership Conference on Civil Rights—What National Allies Can do to Promote Voting Rights
- ▲ **Illir Zherka**, Executive Director, D.C. Vote—What Residents Can do to Achieve Their Voting Rights
- ▲ **Jamin Raskin**, Professor, Washington College of Law—What the Legal Options are

Here’s How to Get to Both Events

Metro: Gallery Place—Yellow, Red & Greens Lines, Metro Center—Orange, Blue & Red Lines

Buses: A2, P6, 42, 80, S4, X2, N4

Parking: Private garages, limited street parking

Homeland Security Jobs Saved — Will Boost D.C. as Permanent Location

Congresswoman Norton never stopped working to keep the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in D.C., even after Virginia seemed the likely choice. Her major arguments:

▲ Proximity to White House,

Congress and federal agencies

▲ Proposed \$250 million, 10 year lease for privately owned site wasteful to taxpayers and denied agency needed flexibility

▲ Federal air and ground security in D.C. best in region

▲ Virginia sites too large, particularly since most DHS employees won't move to headquarters

▲ Major impact on D.C. economy

▲ D.C. location for cabinet agencies required by law

Sniper Terror Demands Passage of Gun Ballistics Safety Act



Norton discusses Gun Ballistics Safety Act with press on Georgia Avenue where D.C. resident Pascal Charlot was killed during the sniper serial attacks. The bill, which she cosponsored, would establish national ballistics fingerprinting.

D.C. Needs Senators

Norton Gets D.C. Coin Bill Through House Twice!

- ❖ 105th Congress (1997-98) – Norton gets Republicans to include D.C. in special bill after D.C. was left out of circulating quarter bill. Four territories ask for and get same treatment.
- ❖ Norton and House allies write circulating quarter bill like 50-state bill to avoid House and Senate rule requiring 2/3 cosponsors for commemorative coins.
- ❖ 106th (1999-2000) and 107th (2001-02) -- The House passes bill twice and sends it to the Senate. House Majority leadership adds Northern Mariana Islands.
- ❖ Senate Banking Committee Chair Phil Gramm blocks bill in 106th Congress and puts “hold” on bill in 107th Congress.
- ❖ 107th Congress – His staff “explains” his opposition by erroneously claiming that the bill needed 67 cosponsors (see above – it did not) and should have included only D.C.
- ❖ Norton gets Majority Leader Daschle to clear bill for passage with every Democratic Senator. Gramm “hold” kills bill.
- ❖ 108th Congress – Allies in House Majority agree to new strategy for passage.

Preempt Rush to War

“I RISE TO EXPRESS MY STRONG OPPOSITION. I GET DIZZY TRYING TO FIGURE WHICH OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S MULTIPLE AND OFTEN CONTRADICTIONARY RATIONALES FOR PREEMPTIVE WAR TO CREDIT. HE BELITTLES MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO WANTED HIM TO GO TO THE U.N. THEN HE GOES THERE, BUT ONLY AFTER AMERICAN AND WORLD OPINION COMPELLED HIM TO GO THERE. THE RESOLUTION FOR THE FIRST TIME ALLOWS AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO GO TO WAR “AS HE DETERMINES TO BE NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.” IT IS SHOCKING TO GIVE AWAY THE LIFE AND DEATH POWER TO DECLARE WAR BESTOWED ON CONGRESS BY THE FRAMERS. AND WHO WILL FIGHT PRESIDENT BUSH'S PREEMPTIVE WARS? TODAY, WE HAVE A VOLUNTEER ARMY WHOSE RACE AND CLASS COMPOSITION SPEAK TO THE ABSENCE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN CIVILIAN SOCIETY. AFRICAN AMERICANS ARE 25% OF THE U.S. ARMY TODAY...ALREADY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE PULLED THE PRESIDENT BACK. THEY WOULD PULL HARDER IF THE AVERAGE SON OR DAUGHTER WERE SUBJECT TO SERVICE. LET THE CONGRESS DO ITS OWN PREEMPTION AND GUIDE OUR NATION BACK TO ITS MOST PRECIOUS PRINCIPLES.”

—Excerpt from Norton Floor Statement on the Iraq Resolution, 10/08/02

West Point Cadet Serving Without a Vote Writes His Commander-in-Chief

As a native-born resident of the District of Columbia . . . I have no voting representative in Congress . . . Two years ago, when I reached my 18th birthday, I registered as a Republican and voted in the 2000 presidential election . . . I appeal to you to uphold the longstanding tradition of our party to advocate voting representation in Congress for the residents of the District of Columbia.

*James N. Rimensnyder
Cadet PFC USCC
U.S. Military Academy*

—Letter placed in Congressional Record by Norton, October 8, 2002

Norton to Build on 107th Congress Victories

Second Session — 2002

- ▲ **Breakthrough On Voting Rights** with the 9-0 Governmental Affairs Committee vote on the Lieberman-Norton No Taxation Without Representation Act that sent the bill to the Senate floor ♦ **Hearings** on the D.C. voting rights bill in both the House and the Senate ♦ **Meeting** of elected, business and labor leaders with Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle.
- ▲ **First Citywide Senate Lobby Day** with more than 250 residents visiting every Senate office.
- ▲ **National D.C. Voting Rights Coalition Formed**, led by the 180 organizations of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.
- ▲ **Norton Gets Certified Apprenticeship Program** for jobs and training in well-paid skilled crafts for D.C. residents on federal construction projects.
- ▲ **Norton Amendment Included** in Homeland Security Bill requiring the new Secretary of Homeland Security to work with the District for planning and coordination to counter terrorism in a new regional Homeland Security Office.
- ▲ **Appropriation Priorities Funded:** \$82 million—\$17 million for the D.C. College Access Act that is already sending 3,000 D.C. students to U.S. public and private colleges, \$15 million to reimburse the District for public safety costs for national demonstrations, and \$50 million for Combined Sewer Overflow.
- ▲ **Crackdown on Immigrant Document Fraud** after Norton gets immigration officials to launch "Operation Card Shark," against illegal document harassment in Adams Morgan.
- ▲ **House Approval of the D.C. Quarter** for the second time (See coin story, p. 2).
- ▲ **Work Beginning on Southeast Federal Center** as a result of a Norton bill that now allows the private sector to develop 44 acres of prime, federal waterfront property.
- ▲ **Brentwood** Post Office official Congressional Hearing in the community and naming bill.

Top 108th Congress Goals

- ▲ Pass Fair Federal Compensation Act for a Treasury Department transfer to contribute to cost of services federal employees use and for other federal burdens.
- ▲ Pass D.C. Budget and Legislative Autonomy bill to allow the District's local, taxpayer-raised budget and laws to go into effect without first coming to Congress. The budget autonomy bill was passed by the House D.C. Subcommittee in 2002 and introduced in the Senate.
- ▲ Extend D.C.-Only \$5,000 Homebuyer Tax Credit and Business Tax Breaks responsible for the turnaround in D.C. population loss and for expanded business construction and activity throughout the city.
- ▲ Make Entire City an Enterprise Zone by extending business tax credits to entire city.
- ▲ Educate the country on D.C. voting rights.
- ▲ Keep Homeland Security Jobs in D.C.
- ▲ Include Norton's Racial Profiling Prohibition Act in the new national Transportation Bill.
- ▲ Complete Black Men and Boys Commission Initiative with an Action Plan for addressing unique problems facing black males and the black family. The Congresswoman founded the 12-member commission chaired by entrepreneur and former Washington Redskin George Starke.
- ▲ Pass Norton's Commission on Security in an Open Society Act to bring together the best minds for guidance on protecting the U.S. from dangerous global terrorism without sacrificing democratic open society values.

Sweet Honey in the Rock Compose D.C. Voting Rights Song

Perform at Warner Theatre

*Give the People
Their Right to Vote!!*

*No Taxation Without Representation
Two hundred years of exploitation
In the capital of this nation!...
Give the people their right to vote!
Someone asked me, was it true?
The voting rights of the District were long overdue?
They couldn't believe it when I said, "yes!"
And then I said, "you ain't heard nothing yet"
We are based in Washington, D.C.
A truly diverse community
Almost six hundred thousand strong
Have been exploited much too long...
Democracy is what we want!
Voting rights is what we need!
Tell your Congress person, it's time to take heed!
Give the people their right to vote!*

**excerpt of lyrics by Nitanju Bolade Casel(c)2001*



The Congresswoman commends Sweet Honey after she spoke on stage about voting rights at the concert.

For D.C. High School Students!



Win Prizes in the Congressional Art Competition!

- ◆ College scholarships
- ◆ Display your artwork in the U.S. Capitol
- ◆ Savings Bonds
- ◆ Gift certificates
- ◆ Many other prizes

Deadline May 5, 2003.

Call 783-5065 or contact your art teacher.

Norton and Alia Akhtar of Georgetown Day, the 2002 D.C. winner.



The Clock is Ticking....

Norton is working to stop the clock with her bill to extend the \$5,000 Homebuyer Tax Credit

... But ...

As of now, it expires December 31, 2003. Don't miss buying now at today's low interest rates while you can still use this federal income tax credit to reduce your taxes. You can use the credit for down payment and closing costs. Call 225-8050 for information.

We want to keep you here!

Party Change Won't Stop D.C. or Norton

“ONLY THE FIRST FOUR OF MY 12 YEARS IN CONGRESS WERE UNDER DEMOCRATIC CONTROL, YET PROGRESS DID NOT CEASE. DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES, CONGRESS AND ITS CONSTITUENTS BENEFIT FROM A THRIVING NATION'S CAPITAL. THE SAME PRINCIPLE APPLIES TO PRESIDENTS. NO PRESIDENT SHOULD END HIS TERM IN WASHINGTON WITHOUT LEAVING A PERSONAL LEGACY FOR THE DISTRICT. THE PRESIDENT DRIVES THE CONGRESSIONAL AGENDA. PRESIDENT BUSH COULD EXERCISE LEADERSHIP ON THE \$400 MILLION ANNUALLY THE DISTRICT NEEDS TO REMEDY THE STRUCTURAL DEFICIT IMPOSED ON IT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. WITH REPUBLICANS IN CONTROL OF ALL THREE BRANCHES, A JOINT PRESIDENTIAL-CONGRESSIONAL STRATEGY IS INDISPENSABLE FOR THE NATION'S CAPITAL. THE DISTRICT MUST NOT BE RELUCTANT TO PURSUE WHAT IT NEEDS.”

Excerpt—Norton Op-Ed, Washington Post, December 8, 2002

Norton & Davis Agree to Eliminate D.C. Subcommittee

Congresswoman Norton called Congressman Tom Davis before he became Government Reform Committee Chair to discuss elimination of the House D.C. Subcommittee. Except for rare federal matters, it is an obsolete duplication of the D.C. City Council. This elimination leaves only two subcommittees, the House and Senate D.C. appropriations subcommittees. The Senate has no D.C. authorizing subcommittee, but folds D.C.

matters into a larger subcommittee, greatly reducing Senate oversight—and now the same will occur in the House.

Davis, a former chair of the D.C. subcommittee, and Norton have long worked together to preserve home rule and promote federal D.C. legislation, such as the D.C. College Access Act and the Revitalization Act. They held hearings only when they both agreed and usually they were the only members to attend.

When in disagreement, they have always worked it out and gotten others to agree. As a senior Government Reform Committee member, she believes that subcommittee elimination preserves the District's interests far more than other options.

“With no House oversight subcommittee, D.C. is one step closer to unobstructed home rule,” she said. “Now let's go after the appropriations subcommittees!”



Capitol Hill Office

2136 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-8050
TTY (202) 225-1904

N.W. District Office

529 14th Street, NW, #900
(Near F St.)
Washington, D.C. 20045
(202) 783-5065

S.E. District Office

2041 MLK Ave., SE, #300
Washington, D.C. 20020
(202) 678-8900

On the World Wide Web
www.norton.house.gov

Congress of the United States
529 14th St., N.W., #900
Washington, D.C. 20045

Official Business



Eleanora Holmes Norton

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Washington, D.C.

**Annual
Norton Official
Events**

- ★ **Tax Preparation & Information Fair**
- ★ **Urgent Town Meeting to Help Decide Next Steps on Voting Rights!**