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My first vote was by absentee ballot from Peace Corps service in Malaysia to Cook County, Chicago, 1968. Living and teaching in a brand new democracy was a thrilling experience.

DEMOCRACY BORN

Skip to the 80's, raising a family in Lexington, Massachusetts (birthplace of American liberty), I formed the habit of taking my children to the polls. We were always terrifically excited.

In those same years, as a nurse and mother, I ran for and served my community 13 years as a Town Meeting member.
DEMOCRACY IN ACTION.

These days I live on Capitol Hill after retiring from a career in international development and public policy, and now it's my grandchildren - Zadie and Hank- who accompany me to the polls. In 2018, they saw me tear up as I looked at my first DC ballot. "Why are you crying Grandma?" 6 year old Zadie asked. I had already known that DC lacked Voting representation in Congress; but laid bare in black and white on that ballot form, it came as a shock.

DEMOCRACY DENIED

What does the world require of me now? With Zadie and Hank looming large in my thoughts, I've decided to work for our Earth and Democracy. I have joined Third Act, and with

other seniors, we are building a visionary, and innovative movement for DC Statehood – grounded within a joyful, caring, and open-hearted community.

We must educate ourselves and fellow Americans in the historic racial and political injustice of our nonrepresentation and the heavy costs, including economic costs that fact imposes on citizens of DC. NO OTHER democratic country IN THE WORLD deprives its capital's citizens of full representation in their national legislatures – only the USA does this.

Recently, we celebrated Abraham Lincoln's birthday. He piloted the country through the Civil War, preserving the concept of American democracy.

“Four score and seven years ago,” he told an audience at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in November 1863, “our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

Lincoln dated the founding of the nation from the Declaration of Independence rather than the Constitution. In the Declaration, the Founders wrote that they held certain “truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed....”

Maryland's commitment to equal voting rights and justice must include the 700,000 people who live in Washington DC. We cannot remedy this injustice on our own. Unfortunately,

many Americans don't even know PEOPLE ACTUALLY LIVE
IN DC.!! With Maryland's support, together we can build the
case and ensure the votes to make DC Statehood happen.
DEMOCRACY REALIZED