



## Reintegration of the District of Columbia into the State of Maryland through a second retrocession would be enormously beneficial.

### Benefits to Maryland

- **Economic Growth.** The economy of the District of Columbia is approximately \$186 Billion (<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/DCNGSP>). D.C. also has the highest GDP per capita in the United States, at \$263,220, far surpassing any state. Merging DC into Maryland would grow MD's economy by 36%. Maryland would have the fourteenth largest economy of any state, just behind and competitive with Virginia. This growth could help solve Maryland's substantial budgetary problems.
- **Historic Reunification.** The District of Columbia was ceded from Maryland and Virginia. The one third of the District that came from Virginia fell back or retroceded in 1846-1847 through a simple act of Congress and with the acceptance of the voters and the state government in Richmond. These parts of Alexandria and all of Arlington, County, Virginia, are a success story for both jurisdictions and for the state of Virginia as a whole. This success can be repeated in the 7<sup>th</sup> State.
- **Politically Empowering.** Maryland presently has eight congressional districts and ten electoral college votes. If Maryland and D.C. were to merge, then DC would become Maryland's ninth congressional district, and the state would gain a vote in the electoral college. Maryland would become an even more politically significant state.
- **Acquisition of Incredibly Valuable Assets.** As part of the merger Maryland and the District could negotiate the acquisition of poorly managed federal land. The Baltimore Washington Parkway, FBI Headquarters, and the newly developed RFK site should be in, owned, or controlled by the State of Maryland and Douglass County, MD not by the U.S. Department of Interior.



**Washingtonians do not have senators, nor a voting member of the House of Representatives, but they are constantly subjected to the whims of Congress and the President. They also live in a city that is too expensive to manage. Let's fix this together. Let's rejoin Maryland through a second retrocession.**

### **Benefits to Washington, DC**

- **Voting Rights and Self-Determination.** Washingtonians were legally disenfranchised by the Organic Act of 1801. The only way they have ever gained their complete voting rights and self-determination equivalent to United States citizens in any other city or county in the U.S. is through the process of retrocession. The pursuit of 51<sup>st</sup> statehood has failed, repeatedly. Now the federal government is threatening to take over the District. Leaders in Annapolis, the District of Columbia, and in Congress are starting to see a unified path forward that has been right in front of them along.
- **Economies of Scale and Lower State Taxes in DC and In Maryland.** The size of D.C.'s annual budget, with a population in just excess of 700,000, amazingly surpasses \$22 Billion. One of the primary reasons why D.C.'s government is disproportionate is approximately two thirds of D.C.'s Government is tasked to provide government functions that are consistent with what state governments do, not what city governments do. Many of these responsibilities would not be required if D.C. were with Maryland. Economies of scale could be achieved that should result in lower taxes in DC and in Maryland.

### **Benefits to the United States**

- **Bipartisan Improvement of Democracy in America.** Our democracy is polarized and dysfunctional. Over 700,000 residents in our Nation's Capital lack representation in Congress. No other nations' capital subjugates its residents like this. A second retrocession would require bipartisanship. It's not the Democrat party choice, 51<sup>st</sup> Statehood, which would alter the flag and create two more Democrat Senators as a power grab. It's also not the Republican choice which is to further subjugate Washingtonians because they're mostly Democrats. The first retrocession worked. The citizens of Arlington, Virginia, and Old Town Alexandria, have statehood. Merging D.C. into Maryland is the fairest and bipartisan way to provide statehood to Washingtonians.