



Don't Miss Small Business Fair! — See page 4.

Congresswoman

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Winter 2006

2005 Good Year for D.C. But Not for U.S.

Congressional D.C. Budget Oversight Mid-year Removed

Next to statehood and voting rights, budget autonomy is D.C.'s most important goal. The Senate is poised to pass the Norton Mid-year Budget Autonomy bill already passed by the House. This big gain is the most important change since home rule was granted in 1973. **THE BENEFIT:** D.C. will spend its own money within broad limits instead of coming to

Congress to get prior approval in the mid-year annual congressional supplemental. **NEXT STEP:** Go for the annual appropriation by getting Congress to pass the D.C. Budget Autonomy Act, sponsored by Norton and Rep. Tom Davis.

INSIDE:

D.C. Gun Laws Saved!
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**Homebuyer Credit Saved
from Expiring
Keep Buying in D.C.!**
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U.S. 2005 Legacy: War, Budget Cuts & Big Deficits



Norton led successful efforts by House Minority Members that restored some cuts to school lunch programs. While eating lunch at Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School, Norton told the students about the importance of some of the programs that Congress considered for cuts.

See page 3 for residents' views on the war and budget priorities →

Annual Norton Tax Preparation & Information Fair

Free! For D.C. Residents Only — First Come - First Served

Saturday, February 11, 2006

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

Professionals Will Prepare Your D.C. and Federal Tax Forms

Washington Convention Center

801 Mount Vernon Place, NW, L Street Entrance (between 7th and 9th Streets)

Get Your Rapid Refund at No Cost

COME IF YOU FILE 1040, 1040-A, 1040-EZ, DC D40 and D40-EZ 2005 forms only. Get the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Child & Dependent Care Credit, Elderly & Disabled Credit, Education Credit, D.C. Homebuyer Tax Credit.

BRING W-2's, Forms 1099 and 1098, itemized deductions, social security cards for you, your spouse and dependents to support deductions and credits, blank check for direct deposits.

The Government May Owe You!

- ◆ Earned Income Tax Credit Refunds
- ◆ Norton \$5,000 Homebuyer Credit
- ◆ Other Valuable Credits that mean cash in your pocket

**No Need to Pay for a Rapid Refund—
We E-file directly with IRS**

It's quick, easy, accurate—and Free!! IRS confirmation of your return in 48 hours. Refund in half the time of a paper filer. Go to <http://www.irs.gov/efile> for more information.

Metro:
Mt. Vernon Square/
7th St.—Convention Center
Green & Yellow Lines
Buses: 70, 71, 66, G8, P6
**Parking: Private Lots
& Street Meters**

A Free Service from Congresswoman Norton to the only American Citizens who Pay Taxes Without Representation

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.

Saving D.C. Gun Safety Laws & Getting Mid-year Budget Autonomy Top Norton's 2005 Victories

First D.C. Budget Autonomy Bill. Norton's Semi-annual Budget Autonomy bill is D.C.'s first budget freedom from the congressional appropriations process. *See page 1.*

Stopped Gun Law Repeal—Again. The NRA tried and failed for the fourth time to get Congress to repeal D.C.'s gun safety laws. This time Norton and D.C. had to beat back two different measures to bring more guns to D.C. streets--total repeal and a narrower rider for loaded shotguns and rifles that posed a special threat to children.

Renewed Tax Credits for D.C. Home-buyers and Businesses. *See page 4.*

40% Increase in Transportation Funds. Despite many cuts in the long-awaited transportation reauthorization bill (SAFETEA-LU), D.C. received a 40% hike. Also funds for extra projects, among them: South Capitol Street and 11th Street bridges and the Metro Branch Trail.

First Federal Racial Profiling Provision. Grants to encourage strong racial profiling laws and enforcement.

Reagan National Fully Open. Norton legislation for the return of general aviation (charter and small plane service) bears fruit. Norton kept pushing until the Administration agreed to get the planes flying again.

First Anacostia River Provisions. Important sections of Norton's comprehensive bill to clean up the Anacostia River were passed by the House in the Water Resources Development Act. The Army Corps of Engineers must help the region develop a 10-year comprehensive action plan for restoration of the Anacostia and its tributaries. The plan by D.C., Maryland and Virginia will help Norton with the bill's \$250 million price tag.

Appropriations Committee Changes Good for D.C. Norton successfully fought for the best deal for D.C. when the House Appropriations Committee eliminated three subcommittees, including D.C. She got D.C. included with the Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, HUD, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies, a large subcommittee that means less interference with home rule. However, she worked to retain the Senate D.C. Appropriations Subcommittee because of its tradition of respect for home rule and provisions that help the city.

Norton Bill Names Federal Courthouse Annex for Distinguished African American Judge. *See page 3.*

Extra Federal Funds for D.C. Despite tense divisions and cuts, Norton got extra funding for D.C. projects and organizations. Among them: \$1 million for Washington Hospital Center's Bioterrorism Preparedness Program and \$1.3 million for the Capital Area Food Bank.

Secure TRAINS Amendments Move. Spurred by security risks to Metro, rail, and Union Station, and the refusal of the federal government to reroute toxic cargo freight here, Norton got passage of two important amendments from her Secure TRAINS Act. The Department of Homeland Security must: (1) Develop security best practices for mass transportation operators, and (2) Produce a national plan for passenger and employee awareness to prevent and respond to terrorist acts on public transportation.

D.C. Voting Rights Progress at Home and Abroad. *See page 3.*

Relief for Postal Workers. At Norton's urging, the Postal Service hastened installation of new equipment to address lack of ventilation and air conditioning at the V Street facility, withheld for fear of spreading anthrax. Afterwards, Norton inspected the facility and met with employees and management.

Norton a Leader of Rosa Parks Commemoration Here. As a result of Norton's work with the Congressional Black Caucus, Parks became the first woman to lie in honor in the Capitol Rotunda. *See page 3.*

Leader on Federal Court Judges to Guard Rights. Norton, a constitutional lawyer, leads Congressional Black Caucus evaluations of federal judicial nominees. Her investigations of John

Roberts and Samuel Alito led the CBC to oppose their confirmations.

Guantanamo Follow-up Trip. After reports of inhumane treatment, Norton made a second visit to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in 2005, following a trip in 2004, to see if conditions had improved. Those reports had led her to publish a *Washington Post* op-ed.

Not Too Late to Get Medicare Prescription Drug Plan

Over 21 million seniors started coverage January 1st

- Sign up until May 15, 2006 without a penalty.
- All seniors eligible regardless of income, but plan is voluntary.
- Some residents, such as government employees, have decided not to sign up because their plans are better for them.
- Automatic enrollment for residents who receive Medicaid or Supplemental Social Security.

Contact the D.C. Health Insurance Counseling Project at the D.C. Office on Aging at (202) 739-0668, 1-800-MEDICARE, or visit www.medicare.gov to determine which plan is best for you.

Norton Gets \$650,000 for Whitman Walker

Norton made a special effort to get a significant, special \$650,000 appropriation for the Whitman Walker Clinic because of the clinic's major budget crisis. D.C. has one of the highest HIV-AIDS rates and Congress keeps the city from spending its own local funds on needle exchange. The disease now strikes as many women as men in Wards 7 and 8.

D.C. Land Transfer & Full Budget Autonomy Major 2006 Goals

Budget Autonomy Closer This Year. Now that D.C. can spend its own money without coming to Congress mid-year, Norton will press her Budget Autonomy Act for the annual budget. *See page 1.*

D.C. Federal Contribution – Key to Lowering D.C. Taxes and Preventing Fiscal Crisis. Government Reform Chairman Tom Davis (VA) has promised Norton a hearing on the Fair Federal Compensation Act of 2005, cosponsored by the entire regional delegation. The bill provides an annual federal contribution of \$800 million, with cost of living increases, to partially compensate D.C. for costly federal mandates, such as the commuter tax ban. A major GAO report says the cause of D.C.'s struc-

tural deficit is federal, not local, improving the bill's chances.

Land Transfer Bill Soon to Senate. A valuable bill to transfer the D.C. General Hospital and Poplar Point sites will partially compensate for the federally imposed structural deficit. House passage of the D.C. Real Property Act, cosponsored by Norton and Davis, is almost certain. **Important new Norton Amendment:** D.C. must use training programs for employing residents and recruit disadvantaged small businesses on all projects.

Lead Free Water Act for D.C. & the Nation. The 2003 D.C. lead water crisis led Norton to reintroduce the Lead Free Drinking Water Act with major

Senate sponsors. She will press passage of at least some provisions to end the special vulnerability of children and pregnant women to lead.

Public Transportation Security. Norton, a member of the Homeland Security Committee, and the lead sponsor of the Secure TRAINS Act, will press her \$3.4 billion bill for rail and local mass transit security for such basics as decontamination and surveillance equipment. Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (CA) stood with Norton at a major news conference urging enactment.

Action on D.C. Commission on Black Men and Boys Action Plan. *See page 4.*

You Can Still Speak Out on the War and National Priorities at www.norton.house.gov (Contact Me Page)

Many residents attended Norton's Speak Out on Iraq, regardless of their views, and on U.S. spending priorities. They also answered a Speak Out Survey on the next steps on the Iraq War and on what U.S. domestic priorities should be in the wake of continuing tax breaks going mostly to corporations and the wealthy, cuts in vital domestic programs and mounting deficits. Here are the responses. We need yours to help the Congresswoman speak out for you!

What Should Be Next U.S. Steps on the War?

Speak Out Attendees' Answers—What Are Yours?

Withdraw troops and end the war at the earliest possible date.	51%
Establish timetables and leave within how many months/years?	40%
Residents' Answers: three months, six months, eight months, one year, two years	
Stay as long as necessary to help Iraqis stabilize their government and handle insurgents	9%



WAMU-FM Radio Host Kojo Nnamdi was the moderator at Norton's Emergency Speak Out on the War and Our National Spending Priorities. See D.C. answers left.

What Should U.S. Spending Priorities Be?

Are Your Priorities the Same as Speak Out Attendees?

Priority	Issue Area
1st	Fund Medicaid Benefits
2nd	No Medicaid Child Cuts
3rd	Fund Welfare & Child Care
4th	Fund Child Support
5th	Fund Food Stamps
6th	Fund Low-Income Heating
7th	Fund Foster Care
8th	Fund Student Loans
9th	No Alaska ANWR Oil Drilling

Don't forget to respond with your priorities and your views on the war. Sign up for Norton E-News at www.norton.house.gov

Norton Got D.C. National Guard to Do Honors for Rosa Parks in the Rotunda



Norton far left, views Rosa Parks coffin in Capitol Rotunda before presiding at nationally-televised D.C. memorial service at Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. See page 2.

Voting Rights Progress

Three Majority Members Join Norton's Call for D.C. Voting Rights

Dear Colleague,

The Government Reform Committee held hearings on the four separate and different bills we introduced for congressional voting rights for D.C. citizens. A recent national poll shows remarkably strong evidence of support, regardless of political party, region, ethnicity, age, gender or religion.

82% of Americans

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, TOM DAVIS,
DANA ROHRBACHER, RALPH REGULA

More International Votes for D.C.'s Vote

International backing of D.C. now at 90 countries. Congresswoman Norton got Eastern and Western European support for her equal voting rights resolution after being named one of 12 members of a House and Senate congressional delegation to the 55 nation Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In 2004, she got similar support from the Organization of American States (OAS). D.C. resident, Tim Cooper of Worldrights, assists Norton's work for international support.

President Signed Norton Bill Naming Federal Court Annex for Judge William B. Bryant Just Before He Died

Why Norton Wanted Annex Named for Judge Bryant

- ▲ First African American to serve as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court in D.C.
- ▲ First Black Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia.
- ▲ Won important federal and Supreme Court cases as a distinguished lawyer when the D.C. Bar Association did not admit blacks or allow African Americans to use the Bar law library.
- ▲ Graduate of the D.C. public schools.

"We appreciate the challenges you faced in the two-year endeavor to honor our dear friend. News of the bill's passage brings bittersweet comfort as we grieve for the man who inspired us with his commitment to equal justice under the law."

EXCERPT FROM LETTER TO NORTON FROM CHIEF JUDGE THOMAS F. HOGAN, 11/15/05

Black Men and Boys Commission Plan Coming in 2006

Future of the Black Family Depends on Overcoming Neglect of Black Males

The Plan will build on the hearings of the Commission on Black Men and Boys, founded by Congresswoman Norton, composed of 12 D.C. African American men, and on a Government Reform hearing on the Commission's work. The Plan will be submitted to the Mayor and City Council in a formal presentation. See below for a challenge Norton is presenting to the Commission.

A Challenge to Black America from a Black Columnist

It is time to blow the whistle on the nitwits who have so successfully promoted a values system that embraces murder, drug-dealing, gang membership, misogyny, child abandonment and a sense of self so diseased that it teaches children to view the men in their orbit as niggaz and the women as hoers.

However this madness developed, it's time to bring it to an end...

I understand that jobs are hard to come by for many people, and that many schools are substandard, and that racial discrimination is still widespread. But those are not good reasons for committing cultural suicide...

This has to start with a commitment to protect and nurture all of the community's children. That may seem at the moment like a task worthy of Sisyphus because it will require overcoming what...[has been] described as "the sins of the fathers who have cursed their sons by their abandonment and neglect."

From *Blowing the Whistle on Gangsta Culture* by
Bob Herbert, *New York Times*, 12/22/05

What Do You Think? Go to www.norton.house.gov (Contact Me Page) to comment. We'll select some of your responses to post on our web site.

\$5,000 Homebuyer & Business Tax Credits Extended Through 2006

After a year-long fight, Norton got the House and Senate to continue the \$5,000 D.C. Homebuyer Credit and business tax incentives through the end of 2006.

These incentives, first passed in 1997, stopped the huge exodus of taxpayers of the 70s and 80s and attracted many new businesses and jobs.

This latest extension brings relief to prospective homebuyers caught by gentrification and rising prices in the hot D.C. housing market.

Among the business tax incentives: a 20% deduction on the first \$15,000 of wages paid every D.C. resident employed.



Norton congratulates Jermaine Wilson (on the right) at a congressional ceremony where he won the grand prize of the national Afterschool Youth Essay Competition. Also attending was Charles Mann, former Washington NFL Pro. Wilson attended the after-school program run by Mann, who testified at a Government Reform Committee hearing on Black Men and Boys.

D.C. Tuition Bill Funded—Keep Going to College!

D.C.'s Tuition Assistance Grants (D.C. TAG):

- \$10,000 yearly to help D.C. students go to college.
- 6,500 D.C. students now at 150 colleges in D.C. and U.S.
- Bill also got UDC annual Historically Black College and University funding.
- Bill compensates a city without a university system.

Small Businesses Can Access Capital at Norton Small Business Fair!!

On the Spot Applications and Advice for Bank and SBA Loans!!

- ✓ How to Get a Commercial Business Loan Instead of a Consumer Loan for Your Business
- ✓ How to Buy the Space You Are Renting
- ✓ How to Get on the GSA Schedule for Government Procurement
- ✓ One-on-one Advice From Federal Government Contracting Officers, Bank Loan Officers and SBA Specialists

And Much More!!

Tuesday, May 2, 2006 — 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Washington Convention Center

801 Mount Vernon Place, NW

Use Main Entrance (Mount Vernon Place, between 7th and 9th Streets)

Free! For D.C. residents and businesses only

Limited seating ♦ Pre-registration requested by April 25th to guarantee seat.

Call 783-5065 to register ♦ On-site registration 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Hold This Date!



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Norton Tax Fair – Saturday, February 11th