

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton

Summer 2007

D.C. House Vote Bill Swiftly Moving Through Congress

“The rapid movement of the D.C. voting rights bill through the House and Senate shows that the time has finally come for voting rights and equality for the people of the District of Columbia.”—Congresswoman Norton



- ★ **March 13th** — House Oversight and Government Reform Committee passed 24 – 5
- ★ **March 15th** — House Judiciary Committee passed 21–13
- ★ **April 19th** — Full House passed 241–177
- ★ **May 1st** — S. 1257, D.C. House Voting Rights Act, introduced in Senate
- ★ **May 15th** — Senate Homeland Security & D.C. Committee Hearing
- ★ **May 23rd** — Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing
- ★ **June 13th** — Senate Homeland Security & D.C. Committee passed 9 – 1

Norton discusses D.C.'s vote with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (NV) in his office. Reid later met with her and city officials, and promised to quickly bring the House vote bill to the floor. The Majority Leader said, “Residents of the District of Columbia pay taxes, they serve in the military and they have no right to vote...[The] time has come to change that.” (The Hill, 6/7/07)

New Subcommittee Chair is Moving Local & National Issues Through Congress

In just six months Norton has held 13 hearings on issues of national importance from post-Katrina federal action to the Smithsonian scandal. Her four years of work to get federal agencies to consider locating North of Massachusetts Avenue (NOMA) culminated in her first hearing as chair (*pictured*). She took the subcommittee to NOMA for a site hearing to find out why the General Services Administration had failed to market an area where rents are the lowest in downtown D.C. Norton chose the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management because of its extraordinary impact on economic development and revenue potential in the District of Columbia.



(More on page 2)

Jobs! Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!

10th Annual Norton Job Fair

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where D.C. Residents Get Real Jobs!

Interactive Workshop 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Boost Your Interview Skills ❖ Write a Better Resume
Dress for Success

The Washington Convention Center

Hall C, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW
Use Mt. Vernon Place Entrance

Many Private, Federal & D.C. Employers with Jobs

Must Have Valid D.C. ID—Dress in Business Attire

(Please avoid jeans, sneakers & athletic wear.)

Metro: Mt. Vernon Square/7th St.— Convention Center:

Green & Yellow Lines ❖ Gallery Place: Red Line

Buses: 70, 71, 66, G8, P6

Parking: Private Lots & Street Meters

D.C. Residents Only!

Bring D.C. driver's license or non-driver's identification card, voter registration card or other Proof of D.C. Residency—(Utility bills, pay stubs, leases, etc.)

Bring Resumes

Congresswoman Norton

HOSTS

SEX IN THE CITY

A Frank Discussion on STDs, HIV/AIDS, Relationships and Today's Woman

Third in a series of five town hall meetings to get ideas for legislation for federal and local defeat of HIV/AIDS



Jeannie Jones of WKYS 93.9 FM will lead YOU in a discussion of WOMEN talking to each other about issues that won't be resolved unless WE talk. D.C. men already have had their standing room only

town hall meeting on this subject (*see page 2*). It's time for D.C.'s women to have a conversation among themselves. No program, no experts, just women talking to women about taking their lives and their futures into their own hands.

Hope to see you there.

**Monday, July 16, 2007
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center Pavilion
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW**

Eleanor Holmes Norton, Chair, In Committee

Norton brought money, jobs and projects to D.C. through her Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Subcommittee and other committee work even before becoming chair

- ★ New Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms headquarters ✓ **done**
- ★ Southeast Federal Center conversion to revenue producing mixed use ✓ **underway**
- ★ New Transportation headquarters ✓ **done**
- ★ Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ✓ **done**
- ★ New Homeland Security headquarters, first federal construction in Ward 8 ✓ **underway**
- ★ Poplar Point and D.C. General Hospital site development ✓ **underway**

★ Agencies under committee's jurisdiction

Economic Development Administration, FEMA, Federal Protective Service, General Services Administration, Architect of the Capitol, D.C. courts, the Smithsonian, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Delta Regional Authority, Appalachian Regional Commission, Northern Great Plains.

Upcoming hearings: Greening the Federal Sector ❖ The National Response Plan for Government and Private Sector Coordination for Terrorism and Natural Disasters ❖ Field Hearing in New Orleans on Katrina Anniversary to assess progress.



Norton Remains in the Forefront of Workplace Equal Rights

- ★ Pictured with Congresswoman Norton from left : Rep Carol Shea-Porter (NH), plaintiff Lilly Ledbetter, Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller (CA) at news conference announcing efforts to overturn the Supreme Court's Ledbetter v. Goodyear equal pay decision.
- ★ Norton, a leader on legislation introduced to restore equal pay remedies in Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.
- ★ Norton enforced equal pay remedies as Equal Employment Opportunity Commission chair under President Carter.

Norton Men's Town Hall Meeting Spurs Candid Discussion on Hot Button Issues of HIV/AIDS and SEX

- ★ "Frank Discussion by Men on Sex, STDs, Responsibility and Community," one of a series of five town hall meetings Norton is holding on HIV/AIDS
- ★ Russ Parr of WKYS 93.9, and a co-chair of Norton's Black Men and Boys Commission, moderated a no-holds-barred discussion with the help of Councilmembers Kwame Brown and Harry Thomas Jr., and former MPD Chief Isaac Fulwood, co-chair of the Commission
- ★ Unity Health Care offered free HIV testing

Some of the Recommendations from the Men

- ★ Real men get tested
- ★ More leadership from the faith community
- ★ Need families to act like families and fathers to act like fathers
- ★ Parents must talk to their children about sex



- ★ More sex education programs for boys
- ★ Recruit more black males to guide our kids

HIV/AIDS Town Hall Meeting Goals:

- ★ Promote safe sex, prevention and testing
- ★ Take into the open whispers about homophobia, promiscuity, sex addiction, the down-low, denial and deceit
- ★ Help residents understand that the epidemic is mostly being spread not by marginal individuals, but by residents like all of us, our relatives, friends, and neighbors who do not know their status

- ★ Spark suggestions from residents about removing the stigma and misinformation about HIV/AIDS so citizens themselves can move the epidemic out

Russ Parr, host of the nationally syndicated Russ Parr Morning Show on WKYS FM 93.9, was the "Oprah Winfrey" at the Men's HIV/AIDS Town Hall Meeting, taking his microphone into the audience and challenging men of every age to come to grips with the behaviors that lead to the virus.

Norton Gets Earmark for Eastern Market

Earmarks were severely rationed this year, but Norton pulled \$131,000 for Eastern Market recovery and rebuilding. She is working with the Economic Development Administration, which comes under her subcommittee jurisdiction, and with the city on a larger grant. After the fire, she took key members to inspect the damage and speak with vendors, and commended vendors for continuing to provide service, especially those "who have lost everything."

Next Up: Women's Town Hall Meeting (See page 1.)

Historic Twin D.C. Bills See Congressional Action for the First Time

Most Important in Free and Equal Series to Free D.C. from Congress

★ D.C. subcommittee passed Norton bills to free D.C. budget and legislation from congressional control.

Budget Control

★ D.C. budget autonomy would allow the city to enact its own final local budget without annual congressional oversight and passage, freeing the District from unfair, costly congressional appropriations delays.

★ Completes the work begun by Norton's Mid-year Budget Autonomy, allowing the District to spend its local funds without congressional approval, instead of returning mid-year as part of the federal appropriations supplemental—the first freedom from the federal appropriations process and the most important structural change for the city since passage of the Home Rule Act.

★ The major products from Congress in appropriations are anti-home rule riders.

★ Short of statehood, budget autonomy is the single most important right of a jurisdiction to govern itself.

Legislative Control

★ Legislative freedom would end congressional review of civil and criminal D.C. laws.

★ Present complicated system forces D.C. to pass the same law up to three times to keep the city running.

★ Congress has used the congressional review process to overturn D.C. legislation only three times in 33 years.

Norton Bill to Keep Walter Reed Open

Here with servicemen at Building 18, Norton was the first member of Congress on the scene to inspect Walter Reed facilities immediately following Washington Post revelations about outpatient care at the base. In response to her questions, witnesses at a later hearing indicated that the hospital closing had affected recruitment and retention of medical personnel.



She introduced a bill, later passed in the Iraq supplemental, that bars movement to Bethesda for the foreseeable future. The bill also appropriates \$20 million for renovations and upgrades at Walter Reed and requires funding for maintenance of existing facilities for maximum patient care. "The nation's best and most vital hospital must not be closed in the middle of a shooting war and the war on terrorism," Norton said.

Norton Speaks to National Guard Troops Headed to Iraq

Norton's strong, vocal opposition to the Iraq War has not diminished her avid support of the D.C. National Guard. She joined families and friends at the D.C. Armory to speak to 275th Military Police Company as it left for Iraq.

"The Guard is ready, and always has been, but it is a great deal to expect of you – spouses, sweethearts, children . . . The families of the 275th will be awaiting the return of their loved ones . . . They are ours. We want them back, each and every one of them."

Congresswoman Norton
The Washington Post, 6/10/07

Norton Turns Down Her Plate to Go on Food Stamp Challenge



★ Norton took the challenge to live on \$21 in food stamps for a week, like needy families do all year.

★ Total food and beverage spending limited to \$21 for seven days. No free food from friends, relatives or events.

★ Menu: shredded wheat, six cans of beans (baked, chili and pinto) for lunch and black eyed peas for dinner, two onions, and a large green pepper cooked and added to beans and to peas.

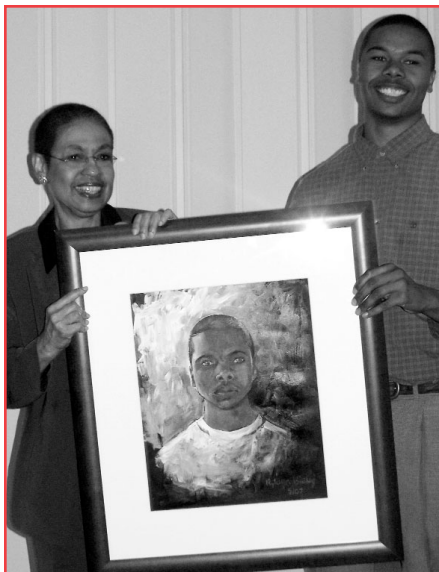
Receipt for Her Challenging Diet

06 / 05 / 2007	000000
#0504 9:28PM	SERV.010001
BAKED BEANS	\$1.59
CHILI BEANS	\$1.99
CHILI BEANS	\$1.99
BLK EYED PEA	\$1.19
PINTO BEANS	\$1.19
PINTO BEANS	\$1.19
SHREDDED WHEAT	\$3.99
0.59 lb @ \$2.49/lb	
GREEN PEPPER	\$1.47
1.85 lb @ \$0.99/lb	
2 ONIONS	\$1.83
CASH	\$16.43


Jamila Johnson, a divorced mother of two young boys, who receives about \$200 a month in food stamps, spoke at the news conference on the Congressional Food Stamp Challenge. Johnson's food stamps alone cannot feed her family. She gets help with groceries from her mother.

★ One third of D.C. children and 10% of residents do not get enough food on their own. Norton is a cosponsor of H.R. 2129, the Feeding America's Families Act of 2007, to increase food stamp benefits and support working families in other ways.

"Essential proteins from fish, chicken and meat are necessary in the American diet, but they would have busted my budget. People cannot live like this." CONGRESSWOMAN NORTON AT NEWS CONFERENCE



D.C. Students Show off their Artistic Talents

Congresswoman Norton congratulates Ryken Bailey, an 11th grade student at Duke Ellington School of the Arts, for winning first place in the D.C. National Congressional Arts Competition. Ryken's self-portrait hangs in the U.S. Capitol for one year. He also won a computer and an arts college scholarship. More than 100 DCPS, charter and private school students, grades 8–12, competed for prizes, including scholarships, U.S. Savings Bonds, gift certificates, and sports tickets. See other winners. 

OTHER WINNERS!

2nd Place:

Pasha Feinberg, 12th Grade,
Georgetown Day School

3rd Place:

Laura Gilbert, 12th Grade,
Georgetown Day School

4th Place:

KeAir King, 8th Grade,
Stuart Hobson Middle School
Kyra Watson, 8th Grade,
Stuart Hobson Middle School

House Passes DCTAG Tuition Bill by Huge 267-100 Vote

"It is difficult to think of congressional legislation that has brought such immediate and positive results so quickly or that is more appreciated by D.C. residents." — Congresswoman Norton

▲ D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Program (DCTAG) — \$10,000 annually for D.C. residents to attend any state college nationwide or \$2,500 to attend private colleges here or in the region.

▲ Many DCTAG students the first in the family to go to college.

▲ TAG has delivered on the federal investment with impressive retention and graduation rates, and doubling college attendance in five years.

▲ The President's FY08 budget adds \$2 million to DCTAG, an indication of

TAG's success.

▲ TAG is helping D.C. reduce the gap between job availability and the skilled labor pool there.

▲ TAG substitutes for a state university system. D.C. has only one open admission state university, UDC, but no state network of colleges as elsewhere in the United States. Norton also got annual HBCU funding for UDC with TAG.

▲ Reach DCTAG at 727-2824 or at www.osse.dc.gov

You Don't Have to be a Kid to Visit Your Capitol

COME ON DOWN!

If you bring . . .

Your family ❖ summer programs ❖ adult organizations ❖ neighborhood associations ❖ social clubs ❖ sororities & fraternities ❖ senior citizen groups ❖ other groups

We will arrange for you to . . .

Tour the Capitol ❖ speak with Congresswoman Norton in her office ❖ see Congress in session ❖ visit a hearing.

Call the 225-8050 or go to www.norton.house.gov for more information.

Taking Constituent Services to Community Sites

Norton kicked off her new **Government to Go** satellite offices— in the District's Latino community first— with a walking tour of Latino businesses, and the opening of **Government to Go** at the Tivoli Giant (*seen here*). Outdoor and community site, roving satellite offices are scheduled throughout the summer in areas where public transportation in reaching Norton's three offices is least available, and where residents, like Latinos, have been least likely to come in to obtain casework services.



lleva servicios de su oficina a sitios de la comunidad

Norton inició un nuevo esfuerzo de asistir a la comunidad latina del distrito con un viaje donde caminó por los negocios latinos y la apertura de una "oficina de satélite" en el supermercado Giant de Tivoli (*véase aquí*). Las oficinas de satélite y al aire libre están planificadas durante el verano en áreas disponible por donde el transporte público no alcanza a las tres oficinas de Norton, y donde han estado lo más residentes, como Latinos, quien han sido menos probable obtener servicios.



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Official Business



Eleanor Holmes Norton

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Job Fair – Tuesday, July 10th