



SAMPLE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

These are presented as examples of letters on the three main issues we're focusing on this Spring – supporting DC statehood, eliminating the filibuster, and passing the For the People Act.

When you write your own letters, on any topic, remember to use your own words. What makes letters to the editor so popular and so powerful are the fact that individuals who care about a particular topic are sharing their own thoughts and their own points of view. Editors want to publish letters that are original.

(SAMPLE) Supporting DC Statehood

SUBJECT: Make democracy a priority with D.C. statehood

On January 6, right-wing extremists attacked the Capitol and turned the District of Columbia into a war zone. The nation watched as D.C. was powerless to defend itself because it lacked the powers of a state. Americans whose home was the site of a deadly insurrection had no say in how to respond to it.

This is just the most recent example of the vast inequities that exist for D.C.'s 712,000 residents — a population greater than that of Wyoming or Vermont – tax-paying citizens who have no voting representation in Congress.

The issue of statehood for D.C. is about more than security. It is also about racial justice. D.C.'s population is majority Black and people of color. It would be the only state with a plurality of Black residents.

In 2019, the House passed H.R. 51, the D.C. statehood bill, and we now have the opportunity to pass it in the Senate. The majority of American voters support D.C. statehood, yet Republican Senators continue to oppose it. Senators Tillis and Burr have no excuse for continuing to suppress democratic representation for D.C. Passing the D.C. Statehood bill is an important first step in healing our broken democracy.

(196 words)

(SAMPLE) Eliminating the Filibuster

SUBJECT: We must eliminate the filibuster

In his first few months as Senate Minority Leader, Mitch McConnell has given us a preview of how Republicans will behave for the next four years. They appear primed to use the filibuster to stop democratic reforms. They



used it to block civil rights legislation in the 60s. They used it to block background checks for gun sales in 2013. And they've indicated they're ready to block voting rights and other critical democratic protections in 2021.

The filibuster allows a minority to block legislation. At least 60 votes are required to stop a filibuster, although only 51 votes are required to pass a bill. The filibuster was not part of the founders' original vision of the Senate, and it is not mentioned in the Constitution.

Voters sent Democrats to Congress and the White House with the promise of bold relief. It's time to act on that promise. The best chance of keeping a minority from permanently controlling the levers of power is by passing big, bold democracy reforms -- and the only way to do that is to allow majority rule. In order to pass the legislation our country needs, we must eliminate the filibuster.

(195 words)

(SAMPLE) Passing the For the People Act

SUBJECT: Making democracy a priority

The American people have found themselves at a crossroads. After historic voter turnout in 2020, Republican-led state legislatures have proposed over 260 bills to suppress voting and make it harder to vote. Just last week our own General Assembly put forward a bill that would make it harder to vote in North Carolina.

The right to vote is sacred in a democracy. We need to expand and protect that right, not restrict it.

We now have a bill in Congress that will do just that, at the federal level, and protect voters in every state.

The For the People Act is a comprehensive democracy reform bill that will get big money out of politics, end gerrymandering, combat corruption, and secure our elections, as well as protect voting rights, and more. Lawmakers and voters from all parties should welcome these reforms. Yet Republicans in the Senate have forcefully opposed it.

The bill has passed the House and is now in the Senate. I call on Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr to do what's right for the people of North Carolina and what will strengthen democracy for all Americans. Senators, protect our fragile democracy and support the For The People Act.

(200 words)