The Constitution gives Congress the ability
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NAACP President Derrick Johnson told USA TODAY in a phone interview it was an issue of "fairness" for the city's population.

"This has been a question that's been pushed for over 50 years, " he said, even when the district was a majority-Black city. "This goes beyond just race. This goes to the fundamental issue of fair representation for all citizens of the United States. "

Census Bureau data shows that 46. 4% of the district's population is African American, 11. 3% is Hispanic or Latino and 4. 4% is Asian, and the district's population is larger than Wyoming and Vermont.

In a Friday press conference, Pelosi touted Friday's vote as a move "long overdue" that would offer "justice" to the people living in D. C., allowing them equality to Americans across the country.

"The fact is, people in the District of Columbia pay taxes, fight our wars, risk their lives for our democracy. And yet, in this state, in this place, they have no vote in the House or the Senate, about whether we go to war and how those taxes are exacted, " Pelosi said.

In a speech on the House floor, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said the citizens in the nation's capital, which he noted was "historically one of our largest African American cities" had been "disenfranchised and shortchanged for too long. ".

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