

Democratic Equality for Washington, D.C.! – ERRATUM

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In the original publication of this article, footnote markers in Table 1 were incorrect and not corresponding to the correct footnotes. Below is a replication of Table 1 with the corrected information.

The editorial team apologizes for this error.

Reference

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Table 1
The delegate’s second-class parliamentary powers

Parliamentary Right	Can It Be Exercised by a Member of Congress?	Can It Be Exercised by the D.C. Delegate to the House of Representatives?
Make regular parliamentary motions (e.g., the motion to lay on the table, the motion for previous question)	Yes	Yes
Sponsor and cosponsor legislation	Yes	Yes
Serve as impeachment manager ^a	Yes	Yes
Sit on committees ^b	Yes	Yes
Sit on conference committees	Yes	Yes
Chair committees ^c	Yes	Yes
Vote in committee	Yes	Yes
Debate on the House floor	Yes	Yes
Vote on amendments in Committee of the Whole	Yes	Yes, but with an automatic revote if the delegates’ votes are decisive ^d
Vote on final passage of legislation	Yes	No, pursuant to the U.S. Constitution (art. I, § 2, cl. 1) ^e
Vote for Speaker of the House	Yes	No, pursuant to the U.S. Constitution (art. I, § 2, cl. 5)
Vote to declare the office of Speaker vacant	Yes	No, pursuant to House practice ^f
Make a motion to reconsider	Yes	No, pursuant to House practice
Vote on impeachment	Yes	No, pursuant to House practice
Sign a discharge petition	Yes, and the signature remains valid even if a Member dies or resigns from office	No, pursuant to House practice

Notes:

- a) Delegate Stacey Plaskett (D-VI) served as a manager for the second Trump impeachment.
- b) However, no delegate in the modern era has been appointed to the Appropriations, Rules, or Budget Committees, and “party leaders typically assigned the delegates only to committees relevant to their local constituencies, and not to the power committees or other committees that grapple with broader national issues” (Lewallen and Sparrow 2018, 746).
- c) The last Delegate to chair a standing committee in Congress was William Henry Harrison in 1799 (Cama 2022).
- d) The D.C. Circuit affirmed this arrangement in *Michel v. Anderson*, 14 F.3d 623. A revote without the delegates has happened eight times—three times in the 103rd Congress, once in the 111th Congress, and four times in the 118th Congress (see also Hudiburg 2022, 2–3).
- e) Numerous close votes on the House floor might have had a different outcome were the nonvoting members able to vote. In the 19th Congress, for example, Indian Removal was nearly defeated by a substitute amendment, which garnered a tie vote, 98-98. If that substitute passed, the Trails of Tears may never have occurred (Remini 2006, 120; for other examples, see Mamet 2021, 409n42).
- f) The delegates could not vote on the failed resolution to oust Speaker Joseph Cannon on March 17, 1910, nor on the successful resolution to remove Speaker Kevin McCarthy on October 3, 2023.