

Note on Appointed District of Columbia Council Legislation

November 1967 to December 1974

This section of the D.C. Statutes at Large contains legislation enacted by the appointed Columbia Council, which served from November 1967 to December 1974.

Publication Requirement

D.C. Code Section 603 (b) states: ...*the District of Columbia Statutes-at-Large shall ... contain in a separate part each regulation and resolution of the District of Columbia Council in chronological order.*

Organization of the Appointed Council's Documents

The appointed council carried out its powers through regulations and resolutions. These are aggregated by type and year in a file. For example, Regulations 1973 or Resolutions 1969.

There are two ways to find an individual document in the file of a year. The first is the index at its beginning. It lists the law's number, its title and its document page number.

The second is to use your browser's text search, that is, Ctrl F to find a key word or phrase.

Background on the Appointed Council

From 1873 until 1967, three presidentially appointed commissioners administered the District. In 1967, President Lyndon Johnson used his [reorganization powers](#) to abolish the commissioner government. He replaced it with a mayor and council. This was the first time since 1874 that residents had a voice in city government. Though the council members were city residents, they were not elected, but were presidential appointees.

Johnson appointed [Walter E Washington](#) as Mayor. [John Hechinger](#) chaired the nine member council. When Hechinger's term ended, President Nixon appointed [Gilbert Hahn](#) Chairman. He, in turn, was succeeded by [John Nevius](#).

During its term, as Table I shows, the council passed almost 250 regulations and 670 resolutions.

Table I		
Appointed D.C. Council Legislation 1967 -1974		
Year	Regulations	Resolutions
1967	7	29
1968	32	79
1969	25	91
1970	42	83
1971	34	80
1972	32	100
1973	27	113
1974	50	93
Total	249	668

Legislative Scope.

The appointed council did not have the legislative authority the city gained under home rule. However, it used its limited authority to address many important issues. Examples of its legislation include:

- Closing the District's orphanage, Junior Village
- Environmental Protection. Closed several city incinerators and set Anacostia and Potomac water quality standards
- Insurance ratemaking and policy holder protection
- Land use planning. street and alley closings, named DC streets and facilities
- Police – community relations. Organization, conduct, and integration of the force, use of deadly force, trial board reform, recruitment and deployment
- Transportation. Three Sisters Bridge and North Central Freeway decisions, Metrorail's initial funding, architectural design and naming of DC's Metro Stations, Metro's D.C.'s parking facilities. Required motorcycle helmets, adopted modern bicycle regulations

Council Document Restoration Project

When the first Home Rule council took power, it created the D.C. Statutes at Large and directed publication of the appointed council's legislation. However, this did not occur. The documents were sent to the National Archives, where they remain.

In the Spring of 2015, the City Council's Secretary's office, in cooperation with Councilmember David Gross, signed an agreement with the National Archives. Under the agreement, the Council Secretary's staff scanned in the documents for the Council's Statutes at Large website. The scanned documents also will be published on the National Archives site.