

Amendments for a Growing City

In 1790, Congress chose a site along the Potomac River for the nation's capital. The map illustrates the plan for the new city. This site would belong to no State. It would be under the authority of Congress. The image reflects the city's small population at its beginnings. In 1950, Washington, D.C., was home to over 800,000 residents, who could not vote for their President. Document 1 shows the amendment that changed that situation.

Document 1

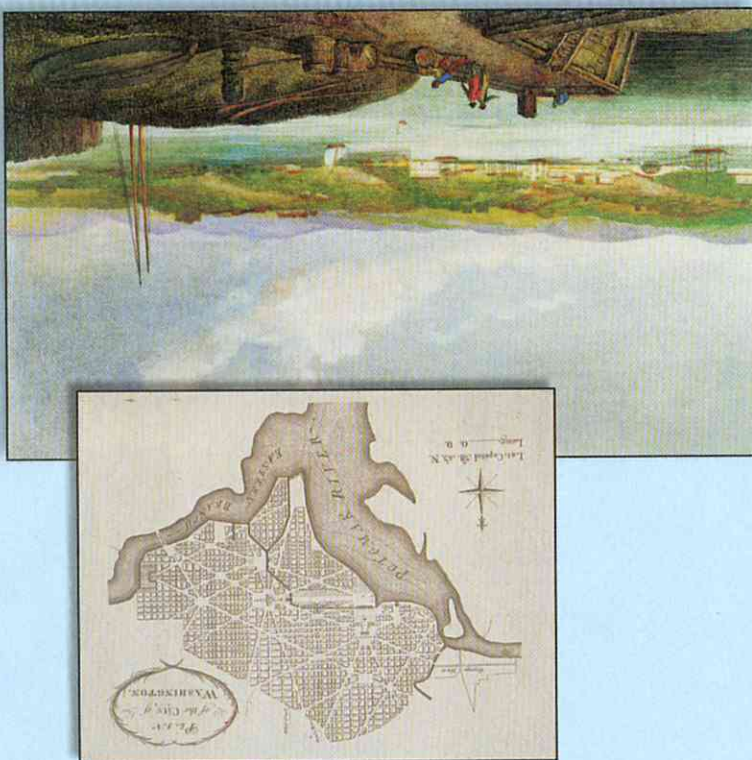
Section 1. The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of Amendment.

Section 2. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

—23rd Amendment

Document 2



—Washington, D.C., circa 1790

Use your knowledge of the Constitution, the amendment process, and Documents 1 and 2 to answer Questions 1–3.

1. What was the purpose of the 23rd Amendment to the Constitution?
 - A. to include voters of Washington, D.C., in all elections
 - B. to include voters of Washington, D.C., in presidential elections
 - C. to include members of Congress, living in Washington, D.C., in presidential elections
 - D. to include members of Congress, living in Washington, D.C., in all elections
2. Why did the Constitution not address the issue of voters in the national capital?
3. **Pull It Together** How does the example of Washington, D.C., help to explain why the Constitution has endured through changing times?

GOVERNMENT ONLINE

To find more primary sources on Washington, D.C., visit PearsonSuccessNet.com