

## D.C.: Our Nation's Capital



# Live in Washington, D.C.



## About Washington, D.C.

As our nation's capital and a major city on the eastern seaboard, Washington, D.C. is at the center of it all. Home to the highest levels of the **executive, legislative, and judicial** branches of government, D.C. is among the **best and brightest** cities in the country. In addition, the city's **international presence** – including foreign embassies, ambassadors, and diplomats – makes it one of the most **vibrant in the world**.

After the recent, historic election, life in D.C. offers a seat at the center of an **exciting political scene**. Situated on the banks of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, D.C. also boasts endless activities for locals, including **museums, monuments, and historical landmarks**.

Mixing **urban sophistication** with **Southern charm**, the D.C. area combines an easily navigable city with comfortable lifestyles in nearby counties in Virginia (Arlington and Alexandria County) and Maryland (Montgomery and Prince George's County).

The stimulating culture of a diverse metropolitan area is further boosted by the national treasures in the region – the **Smithsonian** museums, the **national monuments**, the **Library of Congress**, and the **White House**, open to all and **free** of charge.

Situated in the heart of downtown D.C., the grassy expanse of the **National Mall** is a center for public gatherings, from picnics, to movie screenings, to festivals and political protests, and a spectacular July 4<sup>th</sup> event. With its four season climate – and famous for millions of cherry blossoms blooming in the spring – D.C. is also a beautiful city to call home.

## Economy

With its proximity to other Eastern cities and its status as a gateway for prominent international visitors, D.C. is a natural hub for **regional transportation** with **two major airports** as well as rail service to other large cities.

Many industries choose to situate their business in the capital and region and employment opportunities run a large gamut, with **aerospace/defense, financial services, and telecommunications** being the largest.

**Political organizations, think tanks, and nonprofits** also choose to set up shop in D.C. in large numbers, for obvious reasons.

### Washington, D.C. Weather

Average Annual Temperature	53.8°
Warmest Month (average)	July (88°)
Coldest Month (average)	January (42°)
Average Annual Rainfall	39.4 inches

### Washington, D.C. Cost of Living (Average)

Average Per Capita Income	\$34,212
Housing (2-bedroom apt.):	\$980-2800
Median house price:	\$332,000
Transportation	Access to a car preferable
Public Transportation	\$1.35
Annual Childcare (preschool)	\$8-11,000

### Major Area Employers

- U.S. Federal Government
- McDonald's
- Lockheed-Martin
- Northrup Grumman
- Verizon

### Cost of Living Calculator

How does the cost of living in D.C. compare to other U.S. cities?



(Check out the CNN Money calculator: <http://cgi.money.cnn.com/tools/costofliving/costofliving.html>).

## Recreation

D.C.'s efficient **metro system** and generally flat terrain foster a **lively cityscape** with opportunities to **dine, learn, shop**, or just take a **jog** through one of the city's many **parks**, like Rock Creek Park, the city's largest.

A plethora of **recreational opportunities** abound, depending on the season, from **hiking** to **rowing** to amateur clubs and leagues.

With professional **baseball, basketball, football, hockey, and soccer teams**, sports fans can attend games year round.

There is also a thriving arts and cultural scene in D.C., home to renowned institutions such as **The Kennedy Center** for the Performing Arts, **Ford's Theater**, and the **National Theatre**.

### Washington, D.C. Quality of Life

Average Commute	33.4 minutes
Recreation	Hiking, rowing, jogging, visiting parks, and much more!

## Work for D.C. Schools

### District Reform Strategy

This is a truly historic time to be working to close the achievement gap in the D.C. Region. With one of the highest-cost yet lowest-performing school systems in the country, Mayor Adrian Fenty petitioned to take over the school district shortly after his election in 2007, appointing **Michelle Rhee**, former founder and head of The New Teacher Project as Chancellor in **June 2007**.

Since her arrival, Rhee has made sweeping changes across the district, touching on **leadership, facilities, infrastructure, community relations, and student support**. She reported on **compelling progress** after one year, focusing on five strategic reform categories:

1. **People**—Recruit and retain the most highly effective and highly compensated educators in the country. Provide these individuals with the support they need to perform their duties successfully.
2. **Schools**—Create school programs that engage students and are compelling to families.
3. **Academic Curriculum**—Implement a rigorous, relevant, college preparatory curriculum that gives all students meaningful options for life.
4. **Data and Central Operations**—Bring accurate data to the fingertips of principals, teachers, students, and parents to inform learning as well as strategic planning.
5. **Parent and Community Engagement**—Partner with parents and community members to improve our communities and schools, and together support the achievement of DC's children.

### D.C. Schools Quick Stats:

# Schools	177
# Students	59,616
# Teachers	4,000
District Total Revenue	\$1.1 billion
Governance Model	Mayoral Control
Superintendent	Michelle Rhee (since June 2007)

### About Washington, D.C. Students:

% Low Income Students	64%
% English Language Learners	6.5%
% African American	84%
% Hispanic	10%
% White	5%
% Asian	2%
% American Indian	<1%
Graduation Rate	58.2%

### Early wins included:

1. **700 principal candidates recruited** to serve DCPS students—an **increase of 350%** over previous year.
2. **Student achievement rewarded** at Barnard, Noyes, and Tyler Elementary Schools with a total of \$600,000 to all staff (principals to custodians). Each of these schools improved student test scores by 20% or more in both reading and mathematics in a single year.
3. First **consistent performance review** process in two decades created for all Central Office staff and implemented by the Office of Human Resources.
4. **\$20 million** in Federal E-Rate funding enabled **key technology investments**.
5. **20% (2,100) more students** took the **PSAT**. 71% of grades 9–11 students took the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) in fall 2007, an increase over 51% during the 2006–2007 school year.

### Results:

Only one year into significant school reform, District of Columbia Public Schools students show clear gains across the board, and their low-income, minority students show the greatest gains of all. Last year, **52 schools increased** their scores in both reading and mathematics; this year, **99 schools** did so. **Nineteen schools doubled and tripled their proficiency rates**. African American and Hispanic students increased their proficiency in reading and in mathematics, closing the achievement gap between Black and Caucasian students by **6 points in reading and 5 points in mathematics**, and between Hispanic and Caucasian students by **5 points in reading and 7 in mathematics**. Elementary schools increased their reading scores by **8 percentage points** and **mathematics proficiency by 11 percentage points**. Secondary schools made **9 percentage point gains** in both reading and mathematics. Ten more schools met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) than last year, and the number of schools with proficiency rates below 20% has been almost cut in half, from 50 to 29.

## District Leadership

**Michelle Rhee** was appointed Chancellor of DC Public Schools in June 2007 by Mayor Adrian Fenty, who was looking for a **change agent** to transform the failing school district. In her previous role as founder and president of **The New Teacher Project (TNTP)**, Rhee had helped large urban districts across the country overcome challenges in **recruiting, training, and supporting** teachers to work in difficult-to-staff schools. TNTP helped place **23,000 teachers** in these districts during her tenure. Rhee's experience in education began as a Teach For America Fellow in Baltimore in 1992, inspiring her work to place effective teachers in the classroom that will drive student achievement. Rhee has a bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a Masters in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

## D.C. Preparatory Academy

**D.C. Preparatory Academy (DC Prep)** was founded in 2003 by a diverse and dedicated group of Washingtonians committed to **dramatically improving public education**. The goal was to create one excellent public charter school and use it as a model to expand into a system of high quality schools throughout the city.

### D.C. Preparatory Academy Quick Stats:

# Schools (current)	2
# New Planned Schools (2008-2009)	1
# New Planned Schools (2009-2010)	2
% Low Income Students	61%

Now entering its sixth year, DC Prep has built an

outstanding early childhood, elementary, and middle school program and demonstrated uncommon success in **student achievement**, **parent satisfaction**, and **organizational development**. With its dual focus on rigorous academics and character development, DC Prep is ensuring that its graduates have the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in competitive high schools and college.

## Washington, D.C. Broad Residents and Alumni

### Margaret Angell

White House Fellow, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Broad Residency Class of 2006-2008  
MBA, Columbia Business School  
MPA, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University  
BA, Economics, Harvard University

### Scott Benson

Broad Resident, Office of Data and Accountability, District of Columbia Public Schools  
Broad Residency Class of 2008-2010  
MBA, Harvard Business School  
BS, Business Administration and Information Systems, University of North Carolina  
Previous Employers: Teach For America; Microsoft; The Home Depot

Current Projects: “Much of my focus now is to create systems that support our Instructional Superintendents, who in turn manage our schools. Although I envision this project morphing over time as we enhance the support we offer, right now I am focused on two primary objectives: 1) creating a secure online community to streamline information sharing and task management, and 2) promoting a data-driven culture by ensuring that the Instructional Superintendents have timely access to the information they need to effectively manage all aspects of their schools.”

Why Washington, D.C.: *A Perspective on Washington, D.C. (From a Bicycle)*

*Shortly after I started working at D.C. Public Schools, I decided to start riding my road bike to work. The seven-mile ride from my apartment to our Central Office not only allowed me to turn a commute into much-needed exercise, but it also took me on a grand tour of our nation’s capital. **Along my daily route across the city, along the Potomac River, and through the National Mall, I passed by many of the tourist magnets – the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the White House, the Smithsonian Museums, and the U.S. Capitol. As I rode past these impressive structures, dodging tourists, legislators, and lobbyists alike, it was impossible not to feel connected to this place – the epicenter of the U.S. government.***

*Now that winter has arrived, the sun sets too early for me to continue biking. I am now relegated to the underground caverns of the Metro, removed from the sights that connected me to this city every day. It’s not that the Metro is inherently bad, but it’s no substitute for being above ground in this city. Fortunately, spring is coming soon, and with it cherry blossoms and my daily bike ride.*

### Allison Fansler

Chief Operating Officer, Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP), Washington, D.C.  
Broad Residency Class of 2007-2009  
MBA, Fuqua School of Business, Duke University  
BA, Spanish, University of Virginia  
Previous Employers: KIPP Foundation; ThinkWave, Inc.; U.S. Department of Treasury

### **Emily Lawson**

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, D.C. Preparatory Academy  
Broad Residency Class of 2005-2007  
MBA, Harvard Business School  
MPA, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University  
BA, Economics, and BA, History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

### **Wendy Scott**

Director of Operations, D.C. Preparatory Academy  
Broad Residency Class of 2008-2010  
MBA, Howard University  
BA, International Relations, University of Pennsylvania  
Previous Employers: Deloitte Consulting; Citigroup; Accenture; PricewaterhouseCoopers

Why Washington, D.C.: *"D.C., the nation's capital, offers a diverse culture and unlimited activities. Its historical influence is uncanny. Its present state is thriving. Its future is infinite."*

## Resources

### Living in Washington, D.C.:

CNN Cost of Living Calculator	<a href="http://cgi.money.cnn.com/tools/costofliving/costofliving.html">http://cgi.money.cnn.com/tools/costofliving/costofliving.html</a>
Craigslist	<a href="http://washingtondc.craigslist.org/">http://washingtondc.craigslist.org/</a>
D.C. Chamber of Commerce	<a href="http://www.dcchamber.org/">http://www.dcchamber.org/</a>
D.C. Government's Resident Resource Center	<a href="http://www.rrc.dc.gov/rrc/cwp/view,a,1186,q,447163,rrcNav_GID,1418,asp">http://www.rrc.dc.gov/rrc/cwp/view,a,1186,q,447163,rrcNav_GID,1418,asp</a>
District of Columbia	<a href="http://www.dc.gov/">http://www.dc.gov/</a>
The Washington Post	<a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com">http://www.washingtonpost.com</a>
The Washingtonian Restaurant Guide	<a href="http://www.washingtonian.com/sections/restaurants/index.html">http://www.washingtonian.com/sections/restaurants/index.html</a>
Washington City Paper	<a href="http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com">http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com</a>
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority	<a href="http://www.wmata.com/">http://www.wmata.com/</a>
Washington Official Tourism Site	<a href="http://www.washington.org/">http://www.washington.org/</a>
Washington Post Going Out Guide	<a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/gog/">http://www.washingtonpost.com/gog/</a>
Wikipedia	<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denver">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denver</a>
Yelp	<a href="http://www.yelp.com/dc">http://www.yelp.com/dc</a>

## Working for D.C. Schools:

Chancellor's Notes	<a href="http://www.k12.dc.us/chancellor/documents/Chancellors_Notes_10-24-08.pdf">http://www.k12.dc.us/chancellor/documents/Chancellors Notes 10-24-08.pdf</a>
DC Preparatory Academy	<a href="http://www.dcprep.org/">http://www.dcprep.org/</a>
DCPS One-Year Progress Report	<a href="http://www.k12.dc.us/0708progressreport/index.htm">http://www.k12.dc.us/0708progressreport/index.htm</a>
DCPS Strategic Plans	<a href="http://www.k12.dc.us/chancellor/schedule_forums.htm">http://www.k12.dc.us/chancellor/schedule_forums.htm</a>
District of Columbia Public Schools	<a href="http://www.k12.dc.us/">http://www.k12.dc.us/</a>
EdWeek	<a href="http://www.edweek.org/ew/news/states/dc/">http://www.edweek.org/ew/news/states/dc/</a>