

District of Columbia Boundary Recission Analysis

This is a static analysis of how a return to pre-1846 diamond-shaped original boundaries of the District of Columbia ("Constitutional Boundaries") would impact various economic indicators of the expanded District of Columbia (DC). The geography modeled is an approximation using data for DC, Arlington, and Alexandria.

Summary

- Expanding the border ("Constitutional Boundaries") would lead to a significant increase in most absolute measures compared to the Current Boundaries of DC.
- Per-person and per-unit measures would rise modestly.

In the following table, dollar-valued measures are reported in source-year nominal terms, and periods differ by metric.

Metric	Current Boundaries	Constitutional Boundaries	Change	Change (%)	Period
Population	689.5k	1.008M	+318.4k	+46.2%	2024
Household income	\$109.9k	\$118.3k	+\$8.4k	+7.7%	2024
Total personal income implied	\$76.67B	\$117.69B	+\$41.03B	+53.5%	2024
Total employment	392.2k	587.9k	+195.7k	+49.9%	2025-12
Total GDP	\$184.30B	\$242.38B	+\$58.08B	+31.5%	2024
Total AGI	\$50.25B	\$73.85B	+\$23.61B	+47.0%	2026
Total combined tax	\$12.82B	\$18.64B	+\$5.82B	+45.4%	2026

Methodology

The Constitutional Boundaries were estimated using a percentage apportionment of current counties. In addition to the District of Columbia (FIPS code 11001), which is equivalent to the Current Boundaries, the Constitutional Boundaries includes all of Arlington County, Virginia (FIPS code 51013) and 50% of Alexandria city, Virginia (FIPS code 51510).

The following data sources and methods were used to calculate each metric. Population is the sum of county-equivalent population bases from the 2020 Census Redistricting File (P.L. 94-171). Household income is based on the 2020-2024 American Community Survey 5-year estimates and is population-weighted across the included geographies. Total personal income is BEA per-capita personal income multiplied by population and summed across geographies. Total employment and GDP are the sum of the included counties' employment and GDP figures. Total employment figures are from the December 2025 LAUS county employment data. Total AGI and combined taxes are estimates from America First Policy Institute's Office of Fiscal and Regulatory Analysis (OFRA) custom-region federal tax baseline outputs built from Tax-Calculator and custom TMD microdata with congressional-district-level population weights mapped to the Constitutional Boundaries.

Sensitivity Analysis

For sensitivity analysis, separate analyses were run where 40% and 60% of Alexandria city were included in the Constitutional Boundaries case. For the cases, results on the main measures show similar results as the standard Constitutional Boundaries estimation that included 50% of Alexandria city:

- Total GDP change: +30.5% to +32.5%
- Total combined tax change: +43.2% to +47.7%
- Population change: +43.9% to +48.5%.

Caveats

This is a static analysis and does not take into account dynamic behavioral effects or policy responses after such a boundary change. Dynamic effects such as migration, business relocation, land use change, agglomeration effects, commuting pattern changes, and tax policy changes could have material long-term impact.

The current analysis combines resident-based measures with workplace-based and production-based measures. LAUS employment is measured by place of residence, QCEW wages are based on employer-reported county employment and payroll records, and BEA county GDP measures goods and services produced in an area. Changes in commuting habits, firm relocation, and the tax policy of the jurisdiction would influence both these types of measures.

The tax and legal framework of the expanded jurisdiction would affect the direction and magnitude of these dynamic effects. Depending on how tax policy, public services, land use rules, transportation systems, and intergovernmental arrangements changed after the boundary adjustment, long-run economic and fiscal effects could be either larger or smaller than the static estimates in this analysis.

References

- U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. (2026, February 5). *Gross domestic product by county and personal income by county, 2024*. <https://www.bea.gov/news/2026/gross-domestic-product-county-and-personal-income-county-2024>.
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (n.d.). *Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*. <https://www.bls.gov/cew/>.
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (n.d.). *Local Area Unemployment Statistics*. <https://www.bls.gov/lau/lauavail.htm>.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2021, August 12). *2020 Census: Redistricting file (Public Law 94-171) dataset*. <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2020/dec/2020-census-redistricting-summary-file-dataset.html>.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2026, January 29). *American Community Survey 5-Year Data (2009-2024)*. <https://www.census.gov/data/developers/data-sets/acs-5year.html>.