

**AMERICAN BAPTIST  
RESOLUTION ON D.C. STATEHOOD**

As Christians we believe that all persons are God's children, created in God's image (Genesis 1:27) and loved by God (I John 2:1, 4:14), and therefore all persons should be treated as of equal worth and value. We also believe that every person has a right to dignity, to citizenship and to participation in the political processes of his or her nation. We believe that as Christians we bear responsibility for justice toward all persons (Philippians 2:4).

Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States, has a population of over 500,000 persons but its residents have no voting representation in Congress. These residents pay the same federal income taxes and social insurance taxes as citizens of the fifty states, and at a per capita rate higher than forty-nine states, but they have no representation in determining how these tax dollars will be spent. The residents of Washington, D.C. have fought and died in all of our nation's wars, and during the Vietnam War had a per capita death rate higher than forty-seven states, but they have no legislators with an opportunity to vote on whether the U.S. enters a war.

Citizens residing in Washington, D.C. are taxed without representation and are shut out of our nation's decision making. They have a delegate in the House of Representatives with voice but no vote. They cannot rectify this situation themselves. It is up to Congress to give the District of Columbia a full voice in the affairs of our nation.

Statehood would assure these disenfranchised residents of voting representation in Congress. In 1980, the voters of Washington, D.C. approved an initiative to petition Congress for statehood, and in 1982 they approved a draft state constitution. There is no federal constitutional prohibition against statehood for Washington, D.C. Statehood can become a reality if the House and Senate pass the legislation and the President signs it.

Therefore, the General Board of American Baptist Churches, USA expresses its support for legislation that grants statehood to the District of Columbia and urges that it be enacted.

Adopted by the General Board of the American Baptist Churches - December 1988  
140 For, 10 Against, 13 Abstentions  
Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1998  
Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 2002  
(General Board Reference # 8170:12/88)

---

**POLICY BASE**

**American Baptist Policy Statement on Human Rights**

As American Baptists we declare the following rights to be basic human rights, and we will support programs and measures to assure the rights:

9. The right to human dignity, to be respected and treated as a person, and to be protected against discrimination without regard to age, sex, race, class, marital status, income, national origin, legal status, culture, or condition in society;
11. The right of citizenship in a nation, to participate in the political process, to form political parties, to have a voice in decisions made in the political arenas...