

**8101:3/88**

**AMERICAN BAPTIST  
RESOLUTION ON CITIZENSHIP IN ELECTIONS**

Christians ought to be among the most concerned and informed of all citizens. Church members should be encouraged to take active roles in political affairs; should help to develop informed public opinion on important local, state, national, and international issues; should judge candidates for office by their stands on important issues, past performances, and integrity rather than by their personal appearances, campaign slogans or race, gender, or religious affiliations.

In any election we call upon our members to study issues and party platforms and choose candidates only after prayerful and mature reflection. We ask our people to refrain from name-calling and appeals to prejudice, and to voice their concern that the central issues should not be obscured and bypassed in the fanfare of an extravagant, superficial campaign.

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Adopted by the American Baptist Convention - 1956  
Affirmed as an American Baptist Churches Resolution by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1982  
Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - March 1988  
(General Board Reference # - 8101:3/88)

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**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 these rights:

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, to be secure from fear of deportation or expulsion, to emigrate and to have political asylum;

**American Baptist Policy Statement A Statement by American Baptists Concerning Freedom**

...action by Christians must express itself in the fearless utterance of personal conviction; the development of personal character resistant to hysteria; the assumption of responsibility in political life; the support of free and democratic institutions.

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