

RESOLUTIONS REPORT TO THE CONVENTION

The Committee on Resolutions of the 192nd Annual Session (2026) of the Missouri Baptist Convention submits this report to the Convention.

Resolutions Recommended for Adoption:

The Committee on Resolutions recommends that the Convention adopt the following resolutions:

Resolution No. 1: Courtesy Resolution to Express Appreciation

WHEREAS, the officers, committees, and staff of the Executive Board of the Missouri Baptist Convention have, through their preparation, labor, and spirit, contributed to a successful convention;

WHEREAS, the members of the Local Arrangement Committee, along with the Director of Missions and staff of the St. Louis Metro Baptist Association, have made every effort to make our stay in this area comfortable;

WHEREAS, the St. Charles Convention Center and the Embassy Suites Hotel have assisted with preparations and have made their excellent facilities and competent staff available in hosting this meeting; be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the 192nd Annual Session of the Missouri Baptist Convention meeting in St. Charles, Missouri, October 26-27, 2026, express our grateful appreciation to the staff of the Executive Board and to the officers and committees of the Missouri Baptist Convention for an excellent and orderly program and for their leadership in these convention sessions; be it further

RESOLVED, that we express our sincere appreciation to the members of the Local Arrangements Committee, and to the Director of Missions and staff of the St. Louis Metro Baptist Association, whose thorough preparation and hospitality have contributed greatly to the comfort and convenience of the messengers and visitors of the convention; be it finally

RESOLVED, that we thank the St. Charles Convention Center and the Embassy Suites Hotel for their hospitality and help during this session of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Resolution No. 2: Supporting Compassion and Care for Women, Children, Babies (Born and Unborn) and Families of Missouri

WHEREAS, the Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC), a network of more than 1,700 cooperating Southern Baptist churches throughout Missouri that work together to carry out the Great Commission, affirms the inherent God-given right to life of children, born and unborn, as the MBC affirmed in Section XVIII, The Family, of *The Baptist Faith & Message 2000* (adopted June 14, 2000, and amended June 14, 2023), that “Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord” (Genesis 1:26-28 and Psalm 127:3), and

WHEREAS, the people of Missouri have repeatedly chosen, through their duly elected representatives in the legislative and executive bodies, to establish state laws that defend families in various ways, some of which have protected innocent life in the womb, protected women from the immense harm of abortion, and protected innocent children from damaging transgender surgeries and hormonal treatments that would have changed their God-given gender; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Constitutional Amendment 3 would begin the first step of reversing and repealing the pro-abortion Article 1, Section 36, now in our Missouri Constitution that allows abortion on demand all 9 months of pregnancy; and

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WHEREAS, the 2026 Constitutional Amendment 3 would protect babies from abortion on demand and protect children from debilitating transgender procedures; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Constitution Amendment 3 would allow our life-affirming laws to stay in place and give the legislature back the ability to protect our families by protecting babies, moms, and children; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's historic reversal of Roe v. Wade on June 24, 2022, giving Missouri and her sister states the full authority to completely prohibit abortion within their borders; and the United States Supreme Court's historic decision on June 18, 2025, determining that states can ban and regulate gender-affirming care and that these protections for children do not violate the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause; and

WHEREAS, Missouri Baptists have spoken in love and compassion for women and the protection of innocent lives from abortion and for the protection of children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we will continue to speak in support of saving all those we can now and to continue our effort to save all babies, children, moms and families. We do this work through our faith and commitment to be a voice and example of Christ's love through our churches now and over the last 50+ years; be it further

RESOLVED, that the Missouri Baptist Convention on October 26-27, 2026, in St. Charles, Missouri, strongly supports the 2026 Constitutional Amendment 3 with the language put forth by the duly elected legislators of Missouri to change the Missouri Constitution back to one that values and cherishes life from the moment of conception; be it finally

RESOLVED, that we vow to continue our work in love and compassion through our churches in communities across Missouri to reach out in a Christ like manner to share Christ with women and families in need and work with our legislators to protect and nurture all families as defined by God.

Resolution No. 3: On Affirming the Southern Baptist Convention's Resolution on Sports Betting

WHEREAS, Scripture warns that "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (1 Tim 6:10) and teaches that we cannot serve both God and money (Matt 6:24); and

WHEREAS, Southern Baptists have a long-standing history of opposing gambling in its various forms; and

WHEREAS, the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Dallas, Texas, June 10-11, 2025, adopted the resolution "On the Harmful and Predatory Nature of Sports Betting," condemning sports betting in all its forms; and

WHEREAS, the rapid expansion of legalized sports betting continues to exploit young adults, the poor, and those prone to addiction, bringing harm to individuals, families, and communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Missouri Baptist Convention meeting in St. Charles, Missouri, October 26-27, 2026, affirm and commend the 2025 Southern Baptist Convention resolution "On the Harmful and Predatory Nature of Sports Betting"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our opposition to gambling, and specifically sports betting, as harmful, predatory, and incompatible with biblical principles of stewardship, work, and integrity; and be it further

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RESOLVED, That we encourage Missouri Baptist pastors and churches to teach biblically about gambling and to offer compassionate support and counseling to those struggling with gambling addiction; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we call upon Missouri Baptists and all followers of Christ to repent where needed and to refuse to participate in the sin of gambling.

DISPOSITION OF RESOLUTIONS

The Committee on Resolutions took the following actions respecting disposition of resolutions submitted by messengers to the Convention, the subject matters of which are addressed in the resolutions recommended for adoption:

Resolution submitted by Bill Gernenz, messenger from First Baptist Church of Eldon, on the Damaging and Deceitful Nature of Sports Betting, see Resolution No. 3.

Resolution submitted by Susan Klein, messenger from Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Holts Summit, on Supporting Compassion and Care for Women, Children, Babies (Born and Unborn) and Families of Missouri, see Resolution No. 2.

RESOLUTIONS NOT REPORTED OUT

The Committee on Resolutions does not recommend the following resolutions submitted by messengers to the Convention:

Resolution submitted by Raymond Shreckengost, messenger from First Baptist Church of Gideon, on Christians Publicly Denouncing the Evil of Islam.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on Resolutions

Jonathon Woodyard, First Baptist Church, Bolivar

Beth Atchison, Crossway Baptist Church, Springfield

Rich Bitterman, Cedar Ridge Baptist Church, Galena

Aaron Lumpkin, Church of the Redeemer, Saint Louis

Eric Turner, Prince Avenue Baptist Church, Hannibal