

ANC 3F Resolution Supporting Full Voting Representation For
The Citizens Of The District Of Columbia, and Protest Against
the Current Indignity of Taxation Without Representation

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3F
Forest Hills, North Cleveland Park, & Tenleytown
4401-A Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Box 244
Washington, D.C. 20008-2322

WHEREAS, each Commissioner on every Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) in the District of Columbia is a publicly elected official of the District of Columbia government;

WHEREAS, pursuant to DC Code § 1-309.10(f), “each Commission may present its views to any federal or District agency”;

WHEREAS, the members of this Commission, much like their constituents, have long been appalled by the current indignity of taxation without representation, and are each strongly in favor of achieving full voting representation in the United States Congress for all citizens of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, over half a million people living in the District of Columbia, the capital of our democratic Nation, lack direct voting representation in the United States Senate and House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, District of Columbia residents nevertheless pay more than a billion dollars in Federal taxes each year;

WHEREAS, the citizens of the several States enjoy representation in Congress, the legislative body that taxes them (*i.e.*, taxation *with* representation), and the United States citizens of all United States territories *other than* the District of Columbia (*e.g.*, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam) do not have full representation in Congress but neither are they taxed by Congress (*i.e.*, no taxation with no representation), such that the District – our Nation’s Capital – is singular and unique in suffering the great injustice of *taxation without representation*;

WHEREAS, dozens of capital cities in countries around the world allow their citizens to vote the same as other citizens, from Brasilia to Baghdad, Moscow to Monrovia, and the United States stands alone in depriving the residents of its Capital City of the right to vote the same as other citizens;

WHEREAS, our Nation is founded on the principles of “one person, one vote,” “government by the consent of the governed”; and the deeply rooted conviction that “taxation without representation is tyranny”;

WHEREAS, specifically, the Declaration of Independence of July 4, 1776, itself is premised on the conviction that taxation without representation is unjust, so much so that the wrong justifies, by natural human right, the formation of a new Nation, as so declared by the Declaration of Independence;

WHEREAS, that cherished document declared “certain Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among

Men, deriving their just powers from the Consent of the Governed,” and the particular grievances stated to the King of England included, high among them, “imposing Taxes on us without our Consent”;

WHEREAS, the fundamental principle that taxation without representation is violative of all natural rights belonging to civilized persons was pronounced in numerous documents, pamphlets, and resolutions passed by small and large democratically elected bodies throughout the British-American colonies during the 1760s (many in the wake of the Stamp Act), and the 1770s;

WHEREAS, for example, James Otis of Massachusetts stated in his pamphlet of 1764: “ a Parliament without American representatives, though supreme in authority, could have no more right to tax Americans than to make two plus two equal five”;

WHEREAS, principled members of Parliament agreed, such as Lord Camden, who earned the affection of the American people by stating eloquently in 1764: “My position is this—I repeat it—I will maintain it to my last hour—taxation and representation are inseparable. This position is founded on the laws of nature; it is in itself an external law of nature, for whatever is a man’s own is absolutely his own; no man has a right to take it from him without his consent either expressed by himself or representative”;

WHEREAS, the very first intra-Colonial Congress established in 1765 – the “Stamp Act Congress” – the first official stirring of an American Nation, met in order to fervently declare that “it is inseparably essential to the Freedom of a People . . . that no taxes be imposed on them, but with their own Consent, given personally, or by their Representatives. . . . That the only Representatives of the People of these Colonies, are Persons chosen therein by themselves, and that no Taxes ever have been, or can be Constitutionally imposed on them, but by their respective Legislatures”;

WHEREAS, this principle cherished by the first American political leaders – that taxation without representation is violative of all natural rights belonging to civilized persons – has its roots long before the American Revolution in the “English Constitution,” tracing back through the “Glorious Revolution of 1688” to the *Magna Carta* of 1215;

WHEREAS, the *Magna Carta* of 1215 itself states that “no scutage [a feudal tax] . . . shall be imposed on our kingdom, unless by common counsel of our kingdom”;

WHEREAS, for example, American Patriots were widely affected by the writings of political philosopher John Locke, who wrote in 1690 that “If anyone shall claim a power to lay and levy taxes on the people by his own authority and without such consent of the people, he thereby invades the fundamental law of property, and subverts the end of government”;

WHEREAS, this fundamental principle that taxation without representation is unjust and intolerable was one of the primary convictions that sparked the American Revolution and led to the founding of our Nation, *a cause for which thousands of Patriots of all persuasions fought and died*;

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States, adopted 1787, itself grants Congress the power to tax only after establishing the scope of its representation, and either expressly or impliedly recognizes in many passages the linkage of taxation to representation, such that there shall and can be no taxation without representation consistent with the letter and spirit of the U.S. Constitution;

WHEREAS, through the period of the Articles of Confederation, following the adoption and ratification of the United States Constitution, and even following the formation of the federal district in 1790, the United States citizens residing in the area of the District of Columbia voted for members of Congress;

WHEREAS, in 1801 Congress did not specifically provide for the United States citizens of the District of Columbia to have a voting representative in either the House of Representatives or Senate and therefore have been deprived of such representation ever since;

WHEREAS, thereafter, District citizens have protested this deprivation of representation in Congress, in countless public protests, petitions, resolutions, marches, and meetings, being ever vigilant to this day that taxation without representation is tyranny;

WHEREAS, after Congress permitted “Home Rule” in 1973, the District was permitted to have a Delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives, but who has always lacked a full vote, with various degrees of partial voting being provided to her (but typically with the insult that such vote can be nullified upon a tie);

WHEREAS, the District has adopted the phrase “taxation without representation” as its motto, placed on license plates and other places;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has gone so far as to insult the District by forbidding it even to spend any money in support of its quest for full voting representation in Congress, and from time to time ignoring or overriding the democratic will of the people of the District;

WHEREAS, undaunted, the people of the District continue to insist upon their birthright as Americans – to be free from the bondage of taxation without representation – by urging passage of legislation, marching, protesting, meeting, and engaging in other peaceful, non-violent activities;

WHEREAS, since the Civil War, the journey towards full enfranchisement for all Americans marched slowly but steadily forward – for African-American males, then for all women, then for adults between 18-21 years of age, as well as for many other classes of Americans who long suffered the injustice of being deprived a vote for representatives in Congress;

WHEREAS, the story of the enfranchisement of all U.S. citizens 18 and over, consistent with the fundamental “right to vote” recognized by the United States Supreme Court, has one final, unfinished chapter – the enfranchisement *of the people of the District*;

WHEREAS, District of Columbia residents have fought and died to defend our democracy whenever called;

WHEREAS, the fundamental principle on which our Nation was established – that taxation without representation is unjust – is taught to and understood even by the youngest of school children throughout our Nation; and

WHEREAS, these Commissioners and the people of the District continue to insist, with zeal and patriotism, on full voting representation in the U.S. Congress, and nothing less, and sternly protest the current injustice and indignity of taxation without representation,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The United States should and must allow for full voting representation of the citizens of the District of Columbia in the United States Congress, including a proportional number of representatives in the House of Representatives, and two Senators in the United States Senate.
2. Then and only then will the District have full voting participation in the legislative body that passes and imposes federal taxation on the citizens of the District, and anything short of that would perpetrate the intolerable injustice of taxation without representation – the protest against such injustice having been the philosophical catalyst of the founding of our Nation.
3. Unless and until the people of the District receive such full voting representation in Congress, the federal government has no cause to impose any federal tax of any kind on the people of the District. There is a fundamental right to be free from taxation without representation, deeply rooted in the concept of ordered liberty, and so long as there is no representation, there cannot be taxation.
4. ANC 3F is committed to supporting various means of peaceful protest to address the current indignity of taxation without representation, especially by positively supporting full voting representation in Congress.

This Resolution was duly considered and passed by ANC 3F at its public meeting held on February 12, 2007 by a vote of 6-1-0. This Resolution was agreed to and is individually signed by and attested to by each of the Commissioners noted below.

Commissioner Wiss

Commissioner Solomon

Commissioner Gandhi

Commissioner Klibanoff

Commissioner Banta

Commissioner Winstead