

Town Meeting vote on adoption of United States Constitution. Portsmouth Freemen vote 12 to 60 to not adopt
May 24th, 1788

The Nays have it 60 to 12. Portsmouth Freemen vote against adopting the Constitution in 1788. This vote reflects the overwhelming statewide vote of 2,708 against and 231 for the adoption of the Constitution. Rhode Islanders were concerned about war debt repayment and "paper money" issues as well as waiting for the adoption of the Bill of Rights. Rhode Island finally became the 13th state in 1790.

Agreeable to an Act of the General Assembly passed at the session Held in February AD 1788 the underwritten is the Names of the persons who gave their voices aloud in open Town Meeting of the Freemen of Portsmouth in the County of Newport & State of Rhode Island & Held on the 24th day of March AD 1788 whether the proposed Constitution as agreed in Philadelphia should be adopted or Negatived. The question being being [sic] put in yeas & nays-----

Yeas

Alexander Thomas - yea
Holder Chase - yea
Giles Lawton, Jr. - yea
Reuben Taylor - yea
Andrew McCorrie - yea
Pardon Sisson - yea
Robert Barker - yea
Henry T. Shearman - yea
Eaton (?) Barker - yea
Tillinghast Almy - yea
John Thurston - yea
Henry Lawton - yea

Nays

Thomas Brownell - nay
Jonathan Cornell - nay
David Gifford - nay
Christopher Shearman - nay
Gideon Durfee - nay
Elisha Coggeshall - nay
Clark Cornell - nay
Richard Sisson - nay
Wm. Hall - nay
George Sisson Blacksmith - nay
Benjamin Hall - nay
Giles Slocum, Jr. - nay
Joseph Brownell, - nay
John Tallman - nay
Jonathan Freeborn - nay
Benjamin Brownell - nay
George Sisson - nay
Jonathan Davenport - nay
Restcom Sanford - nay
Wm. Lawton - nay
Wm. Burrington - nay

Benjamin Fish - nay
Gideon Dennis - nay
George Lawton - nay
Joseph Brownell Jun. - nay
Burrington Anthony - nay
Thos. Shaw - nay
Elishah Cobb - nay
Job Sisson - nay
Samuel Hicks - nay
George Brownell - nay
George Hall - nay
Joseph Sisson - nay
Cook Willcock - nay
James Cook - nay
Christopher Shearman Jun - nay
Joseph Shearman - nay
Steven Brownell - nay
Peleg Lawton - nay
Joseph Kirby - nay
John Sanford - nay
Gidenon Shearman - nay
Caleb Shearman - nay
Robt Cani (?) - nay
John Anthony - nay
Job Cornell - nay
Peleg Manchester - nay
Nathan Brownell - nay
William Burrington Jun - nay
Stephen Slocum - nay
Peleg Shearman - nay
William Brightman - nay
Oliver Brownell
Sal, (?) Shearman - nay
Sal, (?) Albro - nay
Thos. Brownell Jun - nay
James Greenman - nay
Walter Cornell - nay
Thos. Cory - nay
George Cook - nay
Yeas 12
& nays 60

I hereby certify that the above & forgoing is a true copy of (cross outs) the names of each & every freeman & freeholder ye/yea or nay as they respectively give their voices in Town Meeting aforesaid And also that it is a true copy of the Original (on file - cross over)
W -(?) Abraham Anthony town Clerk
This is the original and (?) a copy of a certificate that went to Genl Assembly
(signed) W(?) A Anthony Ton Ck