

Warrant for town meeting. 3/24/1788 The town meeting—consisting of free and landholding men—determined whether or not the newly created Constitution of the United States would be adopted in the Town of Portsmouth. PHS #1700.079

State of Rhode Island & Providence Plantations

To the Town Sergeant and Constables of Portsmouth in the County of Newport and State aforesaid. Greeting.

These are to require you the said Sergeant and Constable in the Name of the Governor and Company of the State aforesaid, to set up Notifications in the four or more of the most Publick places of resort in said Portsmouth on or before the 14th day of this instant, to give notice or warning to all the freemen of said Town to meet together at the Dwelling house of John Allen on the 24th day of this instant at ten o'clock in the morning, aforesaid Day, then and there to give their Voices whether the Constitution for the United States agreed on in Philadelphia shall be adopted or negatived.

And also that the sense of the freemen may be taken & known whether the Act which makes the paper currency a tender at par, and also the Act of making void notes & book accounts, be repeated or amendments made.

And likewise to Order a Town law if they feel cause, and also to Act in any other business for the benefit & interest of the Town.

And also you are hereby further required to repair to the usual places of Dwelling of all the freemen & freeholders within the Town, and give them notice of the Meeting aforesaid for purposes aforesaid. Hereof fail not, and give return make of your doing hereof, as you will answer the contrary at your Peril, given under my hand & seal at said Portsmouth the Tenth Day of the Month called March, A.D. 1788 (by order of the General Assembly) and twelfth of American Independence.

Witness, Abram [or Abraham] Anthony, Town Clerk.