General Ratification Chronology, 1786–1791

1786
21 January Virginia calls meeting to consider granting Congress power to regulate trade.
11–14 September Annapolis Convention.
20 September Congress receives Annapolis Convention report recommending that states elect delegates to a convention at Philadelphia in May 1787.
11 October Congress appoints committee to consider Annapolis Convention report.
23 November Virginia authorizes election of delegates to Convention at Philadelphia.
23 November New Jersey elects delegates.
4 December Virginia elects delegates.
30 December Pennsylvania elects delegates.

1787
6 January North Carolina elects delegates.
17 January New Hampshire elects delegates.
3 February Delaware elects delegates.
10 February Georgia elects delegates.
21 February Congress calls Constitutional Convention.
22 February Massachusetts authorizes election of delegates.
28 February New York authorizes election of delegates.
3 March Massachusetts elects delegates.
6 March New York elects delegates.
8 March South Carolina elects delegates.
14 March Rhode Island refuses to elect delegates.
23 April–26 May Maryland elects delegates.
5 May Rhode Island again refuses to elect delegates.
14 May Convention meets; quorum not present.
14–17 May Connecticut elects delegates.
25 May Convention begins with quorum of seven states.
16 June Rhode Island again refuses to elect delegates.
27 June New Hampshire renews election of delegates.
13 July Congress adopts Northwest Ordinance.
6 August Committee of Detail submits draft constitution to Convention.
12 September Committee of Style submits draft constitution to Convention.
17 September Constitution signed and Convention adjourns sine die.
20 September Congress reads Constitution.
26–28 September Congress debates Constitution.
28 September Congress transmits Constitution to the states.
28–29 September Pennsylvania calls state convention.
17 October Connecticut calls state convention.
25 October Massachusetts calls state convention.
26 October  Georgia calls state convention.
31 October  Virginia calls state convention.
1 November   New Jersey calls state convention.
6 November   Pennsylvania elects delegates to state convention.
10 November  Delaware calls state convention.
12 November  Connecticut elects delegates to state convention.
19 Nov–7 Jan 1788 Massachusetts elects delegates to state convention.
26 November  Delaware elects delegates to state convention.
27 Nov–1 Dec  Maryland calls state convention.
27 Nov–1 Dec  New Jersey elects delegates to state convention.
3–7 December Delaware Convention.
4–5 December Georgia elects delegates to state convention.
6 December   North Carolina calls state convention.
7 December   Delaware Convention ratifies Constitution, 30 to 0.
11–20 December New Jersey Convention.
12 December  Pennsylvania Convention ratifies Constitution, 46 to 23.
14 December  New Hampshire calls state convention.
18 December  New Jersey Convention ratifies Constitution, 38 to 0.
25 Dec–5 Jan 1788 Georgia Convention.
31 December  Georgia Convention ratifies Constitution, 26 to 0.
31 Dec–12 Feb 1788 New Hampshire elects delegates to state convention.

1788

9 January  Connecticut Convention ratifies Constitution, 128 to 40.
9 Jan–7 Feb Massachusetts Convention.
19 January South Carolina calls state convention.
1 February  New York calls state convention.
6 February  Massachusetts Convention ratifies Constitution, 187 to 168, and proposes amendments.
1 March    Rhode Island calls statewide referendum on Constitution.
3–27 March Virginia elects delegates to state convention.
24 March   Rhode Island referendum: voters reject Constitution, 2,711 to 239.
28–29 March North Carolina elects delegates to state convention.
7 April    Maryland elects delegates to state convention.
11–12 April South Carolina elects delegates to state convention.
21–29 April Maryland Convention.
26 April   Maryland Convention ratifies Constitution, 63 to 11.
29 April–3 May New York elects delegates to state convention.
12–24 May  South Carolina Convention.
23 May    South Carolina Convention ratifies Constitution, 149 to 73, and proposes amendments.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2–27 June</td>
<td>Virginia Convention.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 June</td>
<td>New Hampshire Convention ratifies Constitution, 57 to 47, and proposes amendments.</td>
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<td>25 June</td>
<td>Virginia Convention ratifies Constitution, 89 to 79.</td>
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<td>27 June</td>
<td>Virginia Convention proposes amendments.</td>
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<td>2 July</td>
<td>New Hampshire ratification read in Congress; Congress appoints committee to report an act for putting the Constitution into operation.</td>
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<td>21 July–4 August</td>
<td>First North Carolina Convention.</td>
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<td>26 July</td>
<td>New York Convention ratifies Constitution, 30 to 27, and proposes amendments.</td>
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<td>2 August</td>
<td>North Carolina Convention proposes amendments and refuses to ratify until amendments are submitted to Congress and to a second constitutional convention.</td>
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<td>13 September</td>
<td>Congress sets dates for election of President and meeting of new government under the Constitution.</td>
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<td>20 November</td>
<td>Virginia requests Congress under the Constitution to call a second constitutional convention.</td>
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<td>30 November</td>
<td>North Carolina calls second state convention.</td>
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<td><strong>1789</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4 March</td>
<td>First Federal Congress convenes.</td>
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<td>1 April</td>
<td>House of Representatives attains quorum.</td>
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<td>6 April</td>
<td>Senate attains quorum.</td>
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<td>30 April</td>
<td>George Washington inaugurated first President.</td>
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<td>8 June</td>
<td>James Madison proposes Bill of Rights in Congress.</td>
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<td>21–22 August</td>
<td>North Carolina elects delegates to second state convention.</td>
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<td>25 September</td>
<td>Congress adopts twelve amendments to Constitution to be submitted to the states.</td>
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<td>21 November</td>
<td>Second North Carolina Convention ratifies Constitution, 194 to 77, and proposes amendments.</td>
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<td><strong>1790</strong></td>
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<td>17 January</td>
<td>Rhode Island calls state convention.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 February</td>
<td>Rhode Island elects delegates to state convention.</td>
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<td>1–6 March</td>
<td>Rhode Island Convention: first session.</td>
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<td>29 May</td>
<td>Rhode Island Convention ratifies Constitution, 34 to 32, and proposes amendments.</td>
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1791
15 December        Bill of Rights adopted.