



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

csac.history.wisc.edu > Ratification at a Glance > New Hampshire > New Hampshire
Ratification > Significant Events and Individuals in New Hampshire Politics

New Hampshire Chronology, 1620s–1790

1620s and 1630s

First permanent settlements in New Hampshire.

1641–43

Massachusetts gains control of New Hampshire settlements.

1680

Crown separates New Hampshire from Massachusetts.

1686–89

New Hampshire is absorbed into the Dominion of New England.

1692

New Hampshire re-established as royal colony but shares governor with Massachusetts.

1741

New Hampshire and Massachusetts cease sharing governor.

1765

Stamp Act agent resigns in public ceremony in Portsmouth.

1767

2 July

Governor John Wentworth assumes office.

1774

21 July

First Provincial Congress meets in Exeter and elects two delegates to First Continental Congress.

14–15 December

Raid on Fort William and Mary, Portsmouth, to seize munitions.

1775

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 25 January | Second Provincial Congress meets in Exeter and unanimously approves acts of Congress and elects two delegates to the Second Continental Congress. |
| 21 April–2 May | Third Provincial Congress meets in Exeter and discusses military matters in reaction to outbreak of hostilities in Massachusetts. |
| 17 May–
15 November | Fourth Provincial Congress meets in Exeter and assumes real authority of government and meets in several sessions until dissolved on 15 November. |
| 23 August | Royal governor John Wentworth leaves New Hampshire never to return. |
| 18 October | New Hampshire delegates to Second Continental Congress present instructions asking Congress to advise and direct New Hampshire in establishing a new government. |
| 3 November | Second Continental Congress resolves that the New Hampshire provincial congress take action to establish a government that would “best produce the happiness of the people.” |
| 21 December–
5 January 1776 | Fifth Provincial Congress meets in Exeter and drafts a constitution for the state. |

1776

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 5 January | Constitution adopted and Fifth Provincial Congress becomes House of Representatives. |
| 6 January | House of Representatives elects councillors. |
| 15 June | House of Representatives unanimously instructs New Hampshire delegates to Second Continental Congress to vote for independence. |
| 18 July | Declaration of Independence proclaimed in New Hampshire. |

1777

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| January–March | Towns east of Connecticut River vote to break off from New Hampshire and join Vermont (East Union). |
| 17 November | Articles of Confederation sent to the states for ratification. |
| 27 December | House of Representatives orders Articles of Confederation printed and sent to towns. |

1778

- 4 March House of Representatives approves all thirteen Articles of Confederation.
- 10 June 1778 Constitutional convention convenes to draft a new constitution that was rejected the following year.
- 11 June Vermont Assembly annexes sixteen New Hampshire towns on east bank of Connecticut River.
- 23 June Congressional delegates inform Congress that New Hampshire agreed to all Articles and instructed delegates to sign them.
- 9 July, 8 August New Hampshire delegates sign Articles of Confederation.

1779

- 12 February Vermont Assembly repeals annexation of New Hampshire towns on east bank of Connecticut River (East Union).

1781

- 14 February Vermont Assembly votes to annex New Hampshire towns east of Connecticut River (Second East Union).
- 6 April New Hampshire adopts Impost of 1781.
- 5 June–14 September Constitutional convention drafts a constitution that was submitted to the people.

1782

- 23 January Constitutional Convention meets again and found Constitution was rejected.
- 22 February Vermont Assembly repeals annexations of New Hampshire towns east of Connecticut River (Second East Union).
- 21 August Constitutional Convention meets again and sends revised constitution to towns.
- 31 December Constitutional Convention meets again and further revises constitution.

1783

- 3 June Constitutional Convention meets again and further revises constitution.
- 20 June Legislature sends proposed population amendment altering Article VIII of Articles of Confederation to towns for their consideration; New Hampshire does not adopt the amendment.

31 October	Constitutional Convention declares the constitution to go into effect on 2 June 1784.
1784	
2 January	New Hampshire adopts Impost of 1783.
2 June	New Hampshire constitution goes into effect.
5 November	New Hampshire grants Congress additional commercial power for a limited time.
1785	
23 June	New Hampshire authorizes Congress to regulate trade and commerce and adopts navigation act regulating trade and commerce aimed at British restrictions.
1786	
4 March	Legislature appoints three men to Annapolis Convention; adds two more on 14 June; none attend convention.
15 September	Legislature passes an act making Treaty of Peace (1783) law of land.
20–21 September	Mob attempts to intimidate legislature meeting in Exeter; is defeated by militia.
1787	
17 January	Legislature authorizes New Hampshire's congressional delegates to attend a general convention of the states in Philadelphia in May.
27 June	Legislature appoints John Langdon, John Pickering, Nicholas Gilman, and Benjamin West as delegates to Constitutional Convention.
23 July	John Langdon and Nicholas Gilman first attend Constitutional Convention.
17 September	John Langdon and Nicholas Gilman sign Constitution.
14 December	Legislature calls state ratifying convention for February 1788 to meet in Exeter to consider Constitution.
31 December– 18 February 1788	Election of delegates to state ratifying convention.

1788

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 13–22 February | First session of New Hampshire Convention meets in Exeter. |
| 22 February | Convention adjourns to meet in Concord on 18 June. |
| 18–21 June | Second session of New Hampshire Convention meets in Concord. |
| 21 June | New Hampshire Convention ratifies Constitution, 57 to 47, and proposes twelve recommendatory amendments. |
| 2 July | New Hampshire ratification read in Confederation Congress; Congress appoints committee to put Constitution into operation. |

1790

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 25 January | New Hampshire ratifies eleven amendments to Constitution. |
|------------|---|

1791–92

State constitutional convention to revise state constitution.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. XXVIII: New Hampshire (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2017), lxxx–lxxxiii.