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

Rhode Island Officeholders, 1786–1790

State Officers

Governor

John Collins (May 1786–May 1790)
Arthur Fenner (first elected April 1790)

Deputy Governor

Daniel Owen (May 1786–May 1790)
Samuel J. Potter (first elected April 1790)

Justices of the Superior Court of Judicature

Elected May 1786

Paul Mumford, Chief
Joseph Hazard
Thomas Tillinghast
Gilbert Devol
David Howell

Elected May 1787

Paul Mumford, Chief
William West
Stephen Potter
Walter Cooke
John Waite (declined)
Simeon Clarke, Jr. (elected in Sept.)

Elected June 1788 and May 1789

Othniel Gorton, Chief
William West
Stephen Potter
Walter Cooke
Simeon Clarke, Jr.

Elected May 1790

Othniel Gorton, Chief
Daniel Owen
Sylvester Robinson
Walter Cooke
Ezekiel Gardner, Jr.

Secretary

Henry Ward

Attorney General

William Channing (elected April 1786)
Henry Goodwin (elected April 1787 and
April 1788)

David Howell (elected April 1789)
Daniel Updike (elected April 1790)

Treasurer

Joseph Clarke

Annapolis Convention Commissioners

Elected June 1786

Jabez Bowen*
Christopher Champlin (declined)
Samuel Ward*

*Did not arrive before adjournment

Delegates to Congress

Elected May 1786

James Mitchell Varnum
Nathan Miller
George Champlin*
Peleg Arnold

Elected May 1787

Peleg Arnold
Jonathan J. Hazard*
Daniel Manton*
Sylvester Gardner*

Elected May 1788 and May 1789

Peleg Arnold
Jonathan J. Hazard
Thomas Holden*
John Gardner (*in 1788)

*Did not take seat in Congress

Continental Loan Officer

William Ellery

Judge, Northwest Territory

James Mitchell Varnum

The Rhode Island Legislature

1786–1790

HOUSE OF MAGISTRATES (ASSISTANTS)

	1786	1787	1788	1789	1790
First	John Mathewson	John Mathewson	John Williams	John Williams	Thomas G. Hazard
Second	Joseph Stanton, Jr.	Joseph Stanton, Jr.	Sylvanus Sayles	Sylvanus Sayles	Peleg Arnold
Third	John Williams	John Williams	James Arnold	James Arnold	James Arnold
Fourth	Richard Searle	Sylvanus Sayles	Caleb Gardner	Caleb Gardner	Caleb Gardner
Fifth	James Arnold	James Arnold	John Cooke	John Cooke	John Cooke
Sixth	William Hammond	William Congdon	William Congdon	James Congdon	James Congdon
Seventh	Gideon Clarke	Caleb Gardner	Joseph W. Tweedy	Joseph W. Tweedy	Thomas Hoxsie
Eighth	Thomas G. Hazard	Thomas G. Hazard	Thomas Coggeshall	Cromel Child	Thomas Holden
Ninth	John Cooke	John Cooke	Thomas Hazard (Prov.)	John Dorrance	Job Watson
Tenth	Oliver Durfee	Oliver Durfee	Thomas Hoxsie	Thomas Hoxsie	John Harris

Alphabetically with years:

James Arnold, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790	John Dorrance, 1789	Thomas Hoxsie, 1788, 1789, 1790
Peleg Arnold, 1790	Oliver Durfee, 1786, 1787	John Mathewson, 1786, 1787
Cromel Child, 1789	Caleb Gardner, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790	Sylvanus Sayles, 1787, 1788, 1789
Gideon Clarke, 1786	William Hammond, 1786	Richard Searle, 1786
Thomas Coggeshall, 1788	John Harris, 1790	Joseph Stanton, Jr., 1786, 1787
James Congdon, 1789, 1790	Thomas Hazard (of Providence), 1788	Joseph W. Tweedy, 1788, 1789
William Congdon, 1787, 1788	Thomas G. Hazard, 1786, 1787, 1790	Job Watson, 1790
John Cooke, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790	Thomas Holden, 1790	John Williams, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789

HOUSE OF DEPUTIES (Town Representatives)

**Speaker of the House*

	1786		1787		1788		1789		1790	
	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.
<i>Barrington</i> Matthew Allen Samuel Allen Vial Allen Joshua Bicknall Josiah Humphry Josiah Humphry, Jr. Nathaniel Martin Ebenezer Tiffany					X X	X	X			
	X	X	X				X	X	X	X
	X	X						X	X	X
				X		X				
<i>Bristol</i> Shearjashub Bourne William Bradford Stephen Smith Samuel Wardwell				X	X		X	X	X	
	X*		X	X*	X	X	X	X*	X	X
	X	X	X							X
<i>Charlestown</i> Robert Congdon Peleg Cross, Jr. Jonathan J. Hazard Jonathan Hazard, Jr. Joseph Hoxsie Stephen Hoxsie Thomas Hoxsie Jonathan Macomber Joseph Stanton, Jr. Lodowick Stanton										X
	X	X	X	X		X		X		
					X			X		
	X	X	X					X		X
	X	X	X						X	
					X	X*	X*		X X*	
				X						
<i>Coventry</i> Benjamin Arnold William Burlingame John Clarke Jeremiah Fenner Job Greene								X		X
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
									X	
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
									X	X

	1786		1787		1788		1789		1790	
	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.
<i>Cranston</i>										
Jeriah Hawkins								X		
Nehemiah Knight			X							
Matthew Manchester	X	X								
William Potter					X	X	X		X	
Stephen Sprague	X									
Peter Stone										X
George Waterman		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Abraham Whipple				X						
<i>Cumberland</i>										
Levi Ballou								X	X	X
Elijah Brown						X	X			
John S. Dexter								X	X	X
John Gould, Jr.	X				X					
John Lapham	X	X	X		X		X			
Roger Sheldon				X						
Stephen Whipple		X	X			X				
<i>East Greenwich</i>										
Job Comstock	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Joseph Fry	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Benjamin Howland										X
James Sweet							X	X	X	X
<i>Exeter</i>										
Christopher Champlin	X									X
Joseph Reynolds	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Charles Tripp										X
Abraham Wilcox, Jr.									X	
Job Wilcox		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Foster</i>										
Christopher Colwell	X	X	X							
Jonathan Hopkins, Jr.					X	X	X	X		
Daniel Howard										X
William Howard					X	X	X	X	X	
William Tyler										X
John Westcott	X	X	X							
John Williams									X	

	1786		1787		1788		1789		1790	
	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.
<i>Glocester</i>										
Seth Hunt	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Timothy Wilmarth							X			
Stephen Winsor	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
<i>Hopkinton</i>										
Ross Coon					X					
Oliver Davis				X				X	X	X
David Nichols				X	X	X	X			
Abel Tanner	X	X	X							
George Thurston						X	X	X	X	X
Thomas Wells II	X	X	X							
<i>Jamestown</i>										
Edward Carr									X	
John Eldred				X	X		X			
John Franklin			X							
John Gardner			X							
Job Hopkins										X
Isaac Howland									X	
John Howland	X						X			
Benjamin Remington					X	X				
Rowland Robinson	X	X		X						
John Weeden								X		
<i>Johnston</i>										
Philip Arnold				X	X	X				
Abraham Belknap	X	X	X							
Andrew Harris	X	X	X							
William B. King								X		
Noah Mathewson							X	X	X	X
William Waterman				X	X	X	X		X	X
<i>Little Compton</i>										
John Davis						X		X	X	X
Fobes Little							X			
Thomas Palmer					X					
William Richmond						X		X		
Nathaniel Searle	X	X	X	X						
George Simmons	X	X	X	X	X		X			
Philip Taylor									X	X

	1786		1787		1788		1789		1790	
	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.
<i>Middletown</i>										
Elisha Allen				X						
Joshua Barker						X	X	X	X	
Pardon Brown									X	
Joseph Coggeshall			X	X	X					
Thomas Coggeshall	X	X	X							
John Gould	X									
William Peckham, Jr.					X					X
James Potter						X	X	X		X
<i>Newport</i>										
Robert N. Auchmuty										X
John L. Boss										X
Francis Brinley										X
George Champlin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Peleg Clarke	X				X	X	X	X	X	X
George Hazard	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Henry Marchant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Daniel Mason	X	X	X	X						
George Sears							X	X	X	
John Topham	X	X	X	X	X					
William Tripp		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>New Shoreham</i>										
Rowse J. Helme					X		X			
Edward Hull	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
William Littlefield	X									
John Sands		X							X	
Ray Sands			X	X						
<i>North Kingstown</i>										
Bowen Card	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
James Congdon	X	X	X	X	X					
Sylvester Gardner						X	X	X	X	X
<i>North Providence</i>										
Elisha Brown							X	X	X	X
Esek Hopkins	X									
Thomas Olney			X	X	X					
Edward Smith	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jabez Whipple						X				

	1786		1787		1788		1789		1790	
	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.
<i>Portsmouth</i>										
Tillinghast Almy								X		X
Burrington Anthony			X	X	X	X	X			
William Anthony, Jr.	X									
Benjamin Brownell	X		X							
Holder Chace									X	
Elijah Cobb	X	X	X	X	X		X			
Job Durfee				X	X	X	X			
Benjamin Hall	X		X		X		X			
Henry Lawton								X	X	X
Robert Lawton								X	X	X
Thomas Potter								X	X	X
<i>Providence</i>										
Welcome Arnold			X	X					X	X*
Amos Atwell										X
William Barton					X	X				
Benjamin Bourne		X	X	X			X	X	X	
Jabez Bowen					X	X	X	X	X	
John Brown	X	X	X							
John I. Clark								X		
Amasa Gray							X	X	X	
John Jenckes	X	X			X	X	X			
Charles Keene	X	X								
Sylvanus Martin										X
Robert Newell										X
Joseph Nightingale			X	X						
Amos Throop					X	X				
Thomas Truman	X									
Nathaniel Wheaton				X						
<i>Richmond</i>										
Thomas James	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
James Sheldon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

	1786		1787		1788		1789		1790	
	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.
<i>Scituate</i>										
James Aldrich					X	X	X	X	X	X
Nathan Bates	X	X	X	X						
Peleg Fisk					X	X	X			
John Harris								X		
Nathaniel Medbury									X	X
Thomas Mowry	X	X	X							
Caleb Westcott				X						
<i>Smithfield</i>										
Job Aldrich									X	X
John Sayles	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Andrew Waterman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Stephen Whipple								X		
<i>South Kingstown</i>										
Rowland Brown									X	X
John Gardner	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Jonathan J. Hazard							X	X	X	X
Samuel J. Potter	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
<i>Tiverton</i>										
Joseph Almy	X	X								
Thomas Durfee			X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Benjamin Howland	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Philip Sisson								X		
<i>Warren</i>										
William Barton	X									X
Benjamin Bosworth										X
Smith Bowen		X	X	X	X					
Robert Carr	X									
Cromel Child		X	X	X	X					
Nathan Miller						X	X	X	X	
Samuel Peirce						X	X	X	X	

	1786		1787		1788		1789		1790	
	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.	May	Oct.
Warwick										
Benjamin Arnold							X		X	
Gideon Arnold	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Moses Arnold								X		X
Joseph Brown										X
Samuel Budlong						X	X			
Jonathan Gorton			X	X	X				X	X
Othniel Gorton	X	X*	X*	X*	X*					
Benjamin Greene							X			
Anthony Holden			X		X	X		X	X	X
Thomas Holden	X	X								
John Low	X	X								
Thomas Rice, Jr.						X		X		
Westerly										
Joseph Noyes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
George Stillman									X	X
Walter White	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
West Greenwich										
Jonathan Comstock										X
Caleb Hall						X	X			
Thomas Joslin	X	X	X	X	X					
William Mathewson		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
William Nichols								X	X	
Jonathan Niles	X									
Benjamin Tillinghast										X
Clerks										
Benjamin Bourne	X									
John S. Dexter		X	X							
Ray Greene										X
Rowse J. Helme			X	X	X	X				
Daniel Updike							X	X	X	

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