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Connecticut, 12–13 April 1939

Introduction

Connecticut was one of three states that did not ratify any of Congress' proposed amendments to the Constitution in 1789–1791. Governor Samuel Huntington received Congress' proposed twelve amendments to the Constitution from President George Washington in early October 1789. On 23 October, the state House of Representatives assigned 27 October to consider the proposed amendments. On that day, the House approved a bill ratifying all but the second amendment dealing with compensation for members of Congress. Supporting all the amendments, the Governor and Council rejected the House bill. Both houses appointed members to a conference committee, but neither house changed its original position. The Council voted that further consideration of the amendments be referred to the legislature at its May 1790 session.

After much debate in the Connecticut legislature, on 16 October 1790, the House agreed to a bill rejecting all the amendments. No further consideration of the amendments is recorded until the legislature symbolically passed a joint resolution on 12–13 April 1939 adopting the first ten amendments to the Constitution. A copy of the resolution was sent to President Franklin D. Roosevelt on 25 April 1939.

House of Representatives Proceedings, Friday, 23 October 1789

Tuesday next is Assigned to take into consideration the Amendments proposed to the Constitution of the United States.

House of Representatives Proceedings, Tuesday, 27 October 1789

After Prayers & Roll Call:

Passed Bill ratifying the first third fourth fifth sixth seventh eight Ninth tenth Eleventh & Twelfth Articles of the Amendments proposed by the Congress of the United States holden at the City of New York on the fourth day of March 1789 to the Constitution of the United States.

House of Representatives Proceedings, Wednesday, 28 October 1789

In the House of Representatives Mr. Dana & Mr. Ingersol are appointed a Committee to confer with such Gentlemen as the Honble Council shall appoint on the differing votes of the Houses on this Bill

Teste. Uriah Tracy Clerk

Council Proceedings, October 1789

John Chester Esqr. is appointed to confer with the Committee, of the House of Representatives, on the differing Votes of the Houses on the within Bill

Teste George Wyllys Secy

Council Proceedings, Thursday, 29 October 1789

On Report of the Comtee. and Reconsideration, this House do, adhere to their first Vote on this Bill

Teste George Wyllys: Secy.

Council Proceedings, Thursday, 29 October 1789

The further Consideration of this Bill is referred to the General Assembly of this State, to be holden at Hartford on the 2d Thursday of May next

Teste George Wyllys Secy

New York Daily Advertiser, 5 November 1789 (excerpt)

Extract of a letter from Stratford; in Connecticut, dated Oct. 31.

“The legislature of Connecticut at their last session which expired on the 29th inst. took up the subject of amendments to the constitution; and a resolve of approbation and ratification of all, except the second article of amendments passed the house of representatives by large majorities. The council voted to postpone their determination upon them till the next session, which was agreed to. . . .”

House of Representatives Proceedings, Monday, A.M., 17 May 1790

Ordered that tuesday afternoon be assigned for Discussing the amendments to [the] Constitution of the United States

Proposed Bill Ratifying Amendments to the Constitution, 18 May 1790

The Congress of the United States begun and holden at the City of New York, on wednesday the fourth of March, AD: 1789 having proposed to the legislatures of the several States certain articles as amendments to the Constitution of the United States;

This Assembly do ratify as part of said constitution the first, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh & twelfth articles proposed as aforesaid—

Passed in the House of Representatives

Teste James Davenport Clerk

House of Representatives Proceedings, Tuesday, P.M., 18 May 1790

Pursuant to the Ordr. of the day—took into consideration the amendments to the Constitution of the United States Ratified by Bill the 2d. 3d. 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th. 8th 9th 10th 11th. & 12th. articles of sd. Amendments & Rejected the 1st. & 2d. Amendment—

House of Representatives Proceedings, Tuesday, P.M., 18 May 1790

Passed bill in form for ratifying certain of the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

Council Proceedings, Friday, 21 May 1790

Dissented to, in the upper House,

Teste George Wyllys Secrety

Council Draft Resolution on Amendments to the Constitution, Friday, 21 May 1790

Whereas the Senate & House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled on Wednesday the fourth of March One Thousand seven hundred & eighty nine two thirds of both Houses concurring proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as amendments to the Constitution of the United States the following Articles all or any of which Articles when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures to be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the said Constitution vizt

[Congress' twelve proposed amendments appear here.]

This Assembly do assent to & ratify as part of the said Constitution all the Articles proposed as aforesaid—

pass'd, in the upper House

Teste George Wyllys Secrety.

House of Representatives Proceedings, Friday, 21 May 1790

Dissented

In the House of Representatives

Test Uriah Tracy Clerk

House of Representatives Proceedings, Friday, P.M., 21 May 1790

Appointed Majr. Phelps & Captn. Swift a Committee of Conference on differing votes on bill passed by this House for ratifying certain amendments to the constitution of the United States

Dissented to bill passed by Govr. & Council for ratifying the amendments to the Constitution of the United States

Council Proceedings, Monday, 24 May 1790

Roger Newberry Esqr. is appointed to confer with such Gentlemen as may be appointed by the House of Representatives on the differing Votes of the Houses on this Bill.—

Teste George Wyllys Secrety

House of Representatives Proceedings, Monday, 24 May 1790

On report of Committee of conference on bill for ratifying the amendments to the Constitution of the United States—on motion ordered that the rule, that this house shall decide, on a report of a Committee of Conference, without debate be dispensed with so far as respects the report of the Committee on said Amendments—

On motion—Ordered, That the consideration of the report of that Committee of Conference on the amendments to the Constitution of the United States be assigned for Tuesday next (being the 25. instt.) in the forenoon.

Council Proceedings, Monday, 24 May 1790

On Report of the Comtee. of Conference and Reconsideration This House do adhere to their first Vote on this Bill

Teste George Wyllys Secrety

House of Representatives Proceedings, Tuesday, A.M., 25 May 1790

Agreeably to order of the day took into consideration the bill for ratifying the amendments to the Constitution of the United States, with report of Committee of conference thereon and on reconsideration adhered to the former vote of this house on the bill.

Draft Bill on Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, 16 October 1790

Resolved by this Assembly that the Articles of the amendment to the Constitution of the United States proposed to the Several State Legislatures by the Congress of the United States at their Session begun and held in the City of New-York on Wednesday the 4th day of March one thousand seven hundred and Eighty nine be, and they are hereby rejected—

Passed in the House of Representatives

Test Le Swift Clerk

House of Representatives Proceedings, Saturday, 16 October 1790

Negatived the articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the United States—

Council Proceedings, October 1790

The further Consideration of this Bill, is referred, to the General Assembly of this State, to be holden at Hartford, on the 2d, Thursday of May next—

Teset George Wyllys Secrety

House of Representatives Proceedings, October 1790

Concurred in the house of Representatives

Test Le Swift Clerk—

*Governor Samuel Huntington to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson
Norwich, Conn., March 1792 (excerpts)*

I am, this day, favour'd, with your letter of the 2nd instant, enclosing . . . the ratification by three fourths of the legislatures of the Several States, of certain Articles in Addition to, & amendment of, the constitution of the United States;

and have the honour to be with the most perfect Respect

*Connecticut General Assembly: Joint Resolution Ratifying the First Ten Amendments
12–13 April 1939*

RESOLUTION RATIFYING ARTICLES OF THE AMENDMENTS
ONE TO TEN, INCLUSIVE, OF THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut:

That Articles one to ten, inclusive, of the Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America be and the same are hereby ratified by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, and

RESOLVED, that certified copies of the foregoing resolution be forwarded by the Governor of the State of Connecticut to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States, the President of the Senate of the United States and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States.

State of Connecticut

House of Representatives

Apr 12 1939

Passed.

State of Connecticut

Senate

Apr 13 1939

Passed.

Certification of Form of Ratification, Hartford, Conn., 24 April 1939

I, Sara B. Crawford Secretary of the State of Connecticut, and keeper of the seal thereof, and of the original record of the Acts and Resolutions of the General Assembly of said State, *do hereby certify* that I have compared the annexed copy of HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 282, RATIFYING ARTICLES OF THE AMENDMENTS ONE TO TEN, INCLUSIVE, OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, with the original record of the same now remaining in this office, and have found the said copy to be correct and complete transcript thereof.

AND I FURTHER CERTIFY, that the said original record is a public record of the said State of Connecticut, now remaining in this office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said State, at Hartford, this twenty-fourth day of April 1939.

*Secretary of the State Sara B. Crawford to President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hartford, Conn., 25 April 1939*

Dear Mr. President:

Pursuant to the direction of His Excellency, Raymond E. Baldwin, Governor of the State of Connecticut, there is sent to you herewith a copy of a Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, ratifying Articles of the Amendments One to Ten, inclusive, of the Constitution of the United States of America.

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