



# CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

csac.history.wisc.edu > Ratification at a Glance > Massachusetts > Significant Events and Outcomes Associated with Massachusetts > The Role of John Hancock in the Massachusetts Convention

## Rufus King to Henry Knox Boston, 3 February 1788

Hancock has committed himself in our favor, and will not desert the cause—Saturday's Centinel will give you an Idea of his Plan; the Federalists are united in that system, & as Adams has joined us on this Plan, we are encouraged to think our success is probable—Gerry keeps close at Cambridge and his Adherents have made no motion for his recall—Mr. Hancock's propositions were yesterday committed to a committee of two Members from each County, they meet Today and we hope favorably from their Deliberations a majority being Federalists.

The final Question will probably be taken in 5. or 6 days—

[P.S.] You will be astonished when you see the list of names, that such an Union of men has taken place on this Question—Hancock will hereafter receive the universal support of Bowdoins Friends, and we tell him that if Virginia does not unite, which is problematical that he is considered as the only fair candidate for President—

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. VII: Massachusetts [4] (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2001), 1571–72.