

Meet the Delegates

George Washington



State: Virginia

Age at Convention: 55

Occupation: Planter and Slave Holder, General of the Continental Army

Committee Assignments: President of the Convention

Convention Contributions: Arrived May 25 and was present through the signing of the Constitution. He spoke only once near the end of the discussions, but records suggest that he had a major influence behind the scenes on the other delegates.

After the Convention: He was elected as the first President of the United States (1788-1796).

Ben Franklin



State: Pennsylvania

Age at Convention: 81

Occupation: Inventor, Publisher, Retired

Committee Assignments: Committee of Economy, Frugality, and Manufactures

Convention Contributions: The oldest delegate and one of the most respected people at the Convention. He rarely spoke, but on several occasions he rose to remind delegates of the importance of their task and urged them to put aside their personal egos for the greater good.

After the Convention: Died in the first year of the new government.

Alexander Hamilton



State: New York

Age at Convention: 30

Occupation: Lawyer, Assistant to Washington during the American Revolution

Committee Assignments: Committee of Rules, Committee of Style

Convention Contributions: His most important contribution was arguing that against the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan by themselves (helping pave the way for the Great Compromise).

After the Convention: A major supporter of efforts to ratify the Constitution. He was one of the authors of the Federalist Papers. Appointed as Secretary of the Treasury under Washington (1789-1796).

James Madison



State: Virginia

Age at Convention: 36

Occupation: Politician

Committee Assignments: Committee of Slave Trade, Committee of Leftovers, Committee of Style

Convention Contributions: Known as the “Father of the Constitution” for his role in the Convention and supporting efforts to ratify the Constitution. He kept detailed notes of the proceedings of the Convention that have helped historians piece together what happened at the Convention. Wrote the Virginia Plan and defended attempts to build a stronger central government.

After the Convention: Supported efforts to ratify the Constitution. He was one of the authors of the Federalist Papers. Served as Virginia's U.S. Representative where he helped pass the Bill of Rights. Served as Secretary of State under Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809). Elected as the fourth President of the United States of America (1809-1817).

Roger Sherman



State: Connecticut (Born in Massachusetts)

Age at Convention: 66

Occupation: Lawyer, Merchant

Committee Assignments: Committee on Assumption of State Debt, Chairman of Committee of Trade, Committee of Leftovers

Convention Contributions: A respected politician who had signed the Declaration of Independence. He debated with James Madison over how states would be represented in Congress. He was influential in passing the Great Compromise, which combined the Virginia Plan and New Jersey Plan.

After the Convention: Wrote in support of ratifying the Constitution. Served as Connecticut's U.S. Representative and U.S. Senator.