



THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

DELEGATE DEMOGRAPHICS

- 55 total
- No delegates from RI
- Most were wealthy
- All males
- All white
- 40/55 had served in the Confederation Congress
- More than half were officers in the Continental Army
- 7 former governors
- 7 plantation owners (about half owned slaves)
- 8 business leaders
- 33 lawyers
- Half graduated from college
- Eight had signed the Declaration of Independence
- Average age was 42 (youngest 26 ; oldest 81)

**Notable absences: Patrick Henry; Thomas Jefferson; John Adams; Samuel Adams; John Hancock

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“I confess that I do not entirely approve of this Constitution at present, but Sir, I am not sure I shall never approve it: For having lived long, I have experienced many Instances of being oblig’d, by better Information or fuller Consideration, to change Opinions even on important Subjects, which I once thought right, but found to be otherwise. It is therefore that the older I grow the more apt I am to doubt my own Judgment and to pay more Respect to the Judgment of others.”

“On the whole, Sir, I cannot help expressing a Wish, that every Member of the Convention, who may still have Objections to it, would with me on this Occasion doubt a little of his own Infallibility, and to make manifest our Unanimity, put his Name to this Instrument.”

QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of Franklin’s key points?
2. When in your life did you have to compromise?
 - a. What it successful?
 - b. What did you gain?
 - c. What did you have to give up?