

Connecticut's Ratification of the U.S. Constitution

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Connecticut Ratification Convention (1788)

- After the American Revolution, the United States needed a stronger government.
- The Constitution was written in 1787, but states had to vote to approve it.
- In January 1788, Connecticut held a convention in Hartford to decide.

Federalists vs Anti-Federalists

- Federalists (Pro-Ratification)
 - Stronger government helps trade and defense
 - Creates unity across states
 - Includes checks and balances
- Anti-Federalists (Against Ratification)
 - Too much national power
 - States lose control
 - Rights are not clearly protected

Should Connecticut ratify the Constitution?

- Both sides had strong arguments.
 - Federalists believed a stronger national government was needed.
 - Anti-Federalists worried about losing power and rights.

Your Role as a Delegate

You have been assigned a:

- side
- position
- Questions to consider:
 - Why would someone believe this?
 - What concerns or problems shaped this view?
 - What outcome do they want?

Convention + Vote

Each side will present arguments.

- Listen to both sides.
- Decide your vote: Yes or No.
- We will compare our class vote to

Connecticut's real vote: **128-40** in favor of ratification.

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