**Ratification of the Constitution by the State of New Jersey; December 18, 1787.** **[(1)](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/ratnj.asp%22%20%5Cl%20%221)**

In Convention of the State of New Jersey

Whereas a convention of Delegates from the following States, vizt. New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, met at Philadelphia for the purpose of deliberating on, and forming a constitution for the United States of America, finished their Session on the seventeenth day of September last and reported to Congress the form which they had agreed upon, in the words following, Vizt

And Whereas Congress on the twenty eighth day of September last unanimously did resolve " that the said report with the Resolutions and letter accompanying the same, be transmitted to the several Legislatures, in order to be submitted to a convention of Delegates, chosen in each State by the People thereof, in conformity to the Resolves of the convention made and provided in that case."

And Whereas the Legislature of this State did on the twenty ninth day of October last Resolve in the words following, Vizt- " Resolved unanimously, That it be recommended to such of the Inhabitants of this State as are entitled to vote for Representatives in General Assembly, to meet in their respective counties on the fourth Tuesday in November next, at the several places fixed by law for holding the annual elections, to choose three suitable persons to serve as Delegates from each County in a State Convention, for the purposes herein before-mentioned, and that the same be conducted agreeably to the mode, and conformably with the Rules and Regulations prescribed for conducting such Elections."

Resolved unanimously, That the Persons so Elected to serve in State Convention, do assemble and meet together on the second Tuesday in December next, at Trenton, in the County of Hunterdon, then and there to take into Consideration the aforesaid [Constitution](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/usconst.asp); and if approved of by them, finally to Ratify the same in behalf and on the part of this State; and make Report thereof to the United States in Congress assembled, in Conformity with the Resolutions thereto annexed."

" Resolved, That the Sheriffs of the respective Counties of this State shall be, and they are hereby required to give as timely Notice as may be, by Advertisements to the People of their Counties of the time, place and Purpose of holding Elections as aforesaid."

And Whereas the Legislature of this State did also on the first day of November last make and pass the following Act, Vizt- "An Act to authorize the People of this State to meet in Convention, deliberate upon, agree to, and ratify the [Constitution of the United States](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/usconst.asp), proposed by the late General Convention. Be it Enacted by the Council and General Assembly of this State, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful for the People thereof, by their Delegates, to meet in Convention, to deliberate upon, and, if approved of by them, to ratify the [Constitution for the United States](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/usconst.asp), proposed by the General Convention, held at Philadelphia, and every Act, matter and clause therein contained, conformably to the Resolutions of the Legislature, passed the twenty-ninth day of October, Seventeen hundred and eighty seven, any Law, Usage or Custom to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding."

Now be it known that we the Delegates of the State of New-Jersey chosen by the People thereof for the purposes aforesaid having maturely deliberated on, and considered the aforesaid proposed [Constitution](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/usconst.asp), do hereby for and on the behalf of the People of the said State of New-Jersey agree to, ratify and confirm the same and every part thereof.

Done in Convention by the unanimous consent of the members present, this eighteenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the twelfth.-In Witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names.

Note, Before the Signing hereof, the following words, viz, " Cession of " were interlined between the fifteenth and sixteenth lines on the second sheet.

JOHN STEVENS President- and Delegate from the County of Hunterdon

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| --- | --- |
| County of Bergen | JOHN FELLPETER ZABRISKIECORNELIUS HENNION |
| Essex | JOHN CHETWOODSAMUEL HAYDAVID CRANE |
| Middlesex | JOHN NEILSONJOHN BEATTYBENJAMIN MANNING |
| Monmouth | ELISHA LAWRENCESAMUEL BREESEWILLIAM CRAWFORD |
| Somersett | JNo WITHERSPOONJACOB R HARDENBERGHFRED: FRELINGHUYSEN |
| Burlington | THOMAS REYNOLDSGEO. ANDERSONJOSHUA M. WALLACE |
| Gloucester | RD HOWELSANDW HUNTERBENJAMIN WHITALL |
| Salem | WHITTEN CRIPPSEDMUND WETHERBY |
| County of Cape-May | JESSE HANDJEREMIAH ELDREDGEMATTHEW WHILLDIN |
| Hunterdon | DAVID BREARLEYJOSHUA CORSHON |
| Morris | WILLIAM WINDESWILLIAM WOODHULLJOHN JACOB FAESCH |
| Cumberland | DAVD POTTERJONATHAN BOWENELI ELMER |
| Sussex | ROBERT OGDENTHOMS ANDERSONROBT HOOPS |

Attest. SAML W. STOCKTON Secy.

(1) Reprinted from Documentary History of the Constitution Vol. II (1894) pp. 46, 61-64.