

# Benjamin Franklin

Pennsylvania (large state)

## Personal Background

You were born in Boston in 1706. At 17, you moved to Philadelphia, where you published *The Pennsylvania Gazette* and *Poor Richard's Almanac*. You became known for starting libraries, schools, and hospitals, and also achieved fame as a scientist and inventor. Before the Revolution, you served in Pennsylvania's legislature and represented Pennsylvania and other colonies to the British government in London. After returning to Philadelphia, you served in the Continental Congress, helped draft the Declaration of Independence, and became the new nation's postmaster general. As a representative to France, you helped convince the French government to support the Revolution. In 1785, you became president of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Despite your advanced age and poor health, you faithfully attend sessions of the Constitutional Convention. Your wisdom, humor, and calming influence help delegates resolve bitter disagreements.

## Views on Issues at the Constitutional Convention

**Issue 1:** You believe that states should be represented in the national legislature based on their population. You think that the legislature should have one house.

**Issue 2:** You oppose counting slaves when determining representation in the national legislature or the taxes to be paid by a state.

**Issue 3:** You believe that the national executive should be elected directly by the people.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.