

David Brearley

New Jersey (small state)

Personal Background

You were born in New Jersey in 1745, and come from an old English family. After attending the College of New Jersey for a time, you chose law as a career. A strong supporter of the Revolution, you were arrested by the British for treason and freed by a group of Patriots. In 1776, you took part in the convention that drafted New Jersey's state constitution. During the Revolutionary War, you became a captain in the militia. In 1779, you were elected chief justice of the New Jersey supreme court. You are active in the Episcopal Church and helped to write its prayer book.

As a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, you faithfully attend the sessions and defend the rights of small states.

Views on Issues at the Constitutional Convention

Issue 1: You firmly believe that all states must have an equal vote in the national legislature. You think that the legislature should have one house.

Issue 2: You believe that three fifths of the slaves should be counted for determining the taxes paid by a state, but not for determining representation in the national legislature.

Issue 3: You believe that the executive should be elected by the national legislature.

Sign the Constitution? Yes.