

Edmund Randolph

Virginia (large state)

Personal Background

You were born in Virginia in 1753. After attending college, you studied law. When the Revolution broke out, your father, a Loyalist, moved to England. You then lived with your uncle, Peyton Randolph, a prominent figure in Virginia politics, and became an aide to General Washington. At age 23, you helped adopt Virginia's first state constitution. Continuing your political career, you served as mayor of Williamsburg, as Virginia's attorney general, as a delegate to the Continental Congress, and as governor of Virginia.

Although you favor strengthening the central government, you worry about the national government—particularly the executive—becoming too powerful.

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 two houses.

Issue 2: You believe that three fifths of the slaves should be counted only for determining a state's representation in the national legislature.

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

Sign the Constitution?

No. You are opposed to a one-person executive, which you fear could lead to monarchy.