

George Read

Delaware (small state)

Personal Background

You were born in Maryland in 1733, and grew up in Delaware. After studying law in Philadelphia, you returned to Delaware and became a lawyer. In 1765, you began a career in the colonial legislature that lasted more than a decade. As a delegate to the Continental Congress, you supported colonial rights, but were the only signer of the Declaration of Independence to vote against independence. You served on the state legislative council and presided over the Delaware constitutional convention. After a narrow escape from the British during the war, you served as president of Delaware and are now a judge.

At the Constitutional Convention, you attend sessions faithfully and defend the rights of small states. However, you also argue for a strong executive.

Views on Issues at the Constitutional Convention

Issue 1: You strongly 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 slaves should be counted only for determining a state's representation in the national legislature.

Issue 3: You believe that the executive should be chosen by electors selected by the people.

Sign the Constitution? Yes.