

# James Madison

Virginia (large state)

## Personal Background

You were born in Virginia in 1751 to a family of wealthy planters. Sickly as a youth, you received an excellent education from private tutors and private schools. After graduating from college, you returned to Virginia. You embraced the Patriot cause and became very politically active. You helped draft Virginia's constitution, you served in the House of Delegates, and you represented Virginia in the Continental Congress. You wrote extensively about problems with the Articles of Confederation, and you were influential in the movement to call a Constitutional Convention

At the convention, you work tirelessly for a strong central government. Although you are not a great speaker, you speak more than 150 times. You are the single most influential delegate, and your detailed journal is the best record of the convention.

## Views on Issues at the Constitutional Convention

**Issue 1:** You strongly believe that states should be represented in the national legislature on the basis of 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 that the executive should be chosen by the national legislature. You firmly oppose having the executive elected directly by the people.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.