

# John Rutledge

South Carolina (medium state)

## Personal Background

You were born to a large family in South Carolina in 1739. You studied law in London and then returned to South Carolina, where you practiced law and made a fortune in plantations and slaves. A moderate Patriot, you tried to avoid a complete break with Great Britain in the years leading up to the Revolution. You served in the state legislature and the Continental Congress, and helped to reorganize the government of South Carolina. In 1779, you were elected governor. During the 1780s, you have again served in the state legislature, as a judge on a state court, and in the Continental Congress.

At the Constitutional Convention, you speak often and effectively, arguing for the interests of southern states. Always courteous, you are careful not to offend others.

## Views on Issues at the Constitutional Convention

**Issue 1:** You believe that states should be represented in the national legislature based on their wealth and population. You think that the legislature should have two houses.

**Issue 2:** You believe that slaves should be counted equally with other people in determining a state's representation in the national legislature.

**Issue 3:** You believe that the executive should be elected by the upper house of the national legislature.

**Sign the Constitution?** Yes.