

Jonathan Dayton

New Jersey (small state)

Personal Background

You were born in New Jersey in 1760. Your father was a storekeeper who was active in politics. You received a good education and graduated from the College of New Jersey in 1776. After college, you immediately entered the Continental Army. You became a captain by the age of 19 and were imprisoned for a time by the British. After the war, you returned home, studied law, and established a law practice. You also served in the state assembly.

At the Constitutional Convention, you faithfully attend convention sessions and take part in debates. You are seen as honest, but sometimes quick-tempered.

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 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 chosen by the national legislature, with each state having one vote.

Sign the Constitution? Yes.