

Nathaniel Gorham

Massachusetts (large state)

Personal Background

You were born in 1738 to a middle-class family in Massachusetts. You received little formal education and worked as an apprentice to a merchant before starting your own business. During the Revolution, British troops destroyed much of your property, but you regained your wealth by raiding shipping as a privateer. You have served in the state legislature, the Continental Congress, and the Governor's Council. You are now a judge.

At the Constitutional Convention, you attend every session. You are easygoing and friendly, and often speak out in debates.

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 slave population should be counted for determining both a state's representation in the national legislature and its taxes.

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

Sign the Constitution? Yes.