

Oliver Ellsworth

Connecticut (medium state)

Personal Background

You were born in Connecticut in 1745. After graduating from the College of New Jersey, you studied law and became a prosperous lawyer. During the Revolutionary War, you helped supervise Connecticut's war spending. You were also a member of the council of safety, which controlled military affairs for the state.

You are an active participant at the Constitutional Convention. It is your proposal, accepted by the convention, to refer to the government as the "United States" in official documents. Tall and dignified, you sometimes show a sharp temper.

Views on Issues at the Constitutional Convention

Issue 1: You believe all states should have an equal vote in the national legislature. You think the legislature should have one house, but you are willing to compromise on this.

Issue 2: You believe that three fifths of the slaves should be counted for determining the taxes paid by a state.

Issue 3: You believe that the executive should be chosen by special electors who are selected by state legislatures.

Sign the Constitution?

No. You leave the convention before the signing, but you will support ratification.