

# Robert Yates

New York (large state)

## Personal Background

You were born in New York in 1738. After being educated in New York City, you studied law and became a lawyer in Albany, New York. During the Revolution, you helped to draft the first constitution for New York State. You served on the state supreme court, where some people criticized you for your fair treatment of Loyalists.

You are a supporter of the rights of states. At first, you expected that the Constitutional Convention would simply improve the Articles of Confederation. You are concerned that the convention may go too far in forming a strong central government.

## Views on Issues at the Constitutional Convention

**Issue 1:** You 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 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 the national legislature.

## Sign the Constitution?

No. You quit the convention when it becomes clear that it will form a powerful new national government instead of simply revising the Articles of Confederation.