

Roger Sherman

Connecticut (medium state)

Personal Background

You were born in Massachusetts in 1723. As a boy, you did a lot of reading when you weren't helping your father with farming. Your father also taught you the cobbler's (shoemaker's) trade. He died when you were a young man, and you moved to Connecticut, where you bought a store and became a county surveyor. You also became a community leader, and you were elected to the colonial legislature. Even though you had not been trained in the law, you became a lawyer and a judge. You served in the Continental Congress, where you were appointed to the committees that drafted the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation. In 1784, you were elected mayor of New Haven.

A respected leader, you are known for your careful reasoning and skill in debate as well as your willingness to compromise.

Views on Issues at the Constitutional Convention

Issue 1: You want a national legislature with two houses. In the lower house, states would be represented by population; and in the upper house, each would have an equal vote.

Issue 2: You oppose counting slaves for determining either representation in the national legislature or the taxes to be paid by a state.

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

Sign the Constitution? Yes.