

Chapter 32 -- America Holds Its First Mid-Term Elections



Dates:
1791-1792

Sections:

- Pro-Administration Forces Maintain Their Hold In Congress

Time: 1791-92

Pro-Administration Forces Maintain Their Hold In Congress



A Land Owner Having the Right to Vote

Two new states – Vermont and Kentucky – are admitted to the Union in time to participate at least partially in the Second U.S. Congress. Each are allocated two seats in the House, based on their population counts, and this boosts the total membership from 65 in 1788 to 69 in 1790.

Since the first true “session” in the House doesn’t begin until October 24, 1791, the actual voting is strung out over time, according to the wishes of each state. The earliest election takes place in Vermont on March 4, 1791; the latest in Kentucky, on June 1, 1792.

The results again demonstrate that, despite George Washington’s overwhelming personal popularity, a sizable anti-administration faction continues to exist in the House. It remains, however, in the minority, still nine votes (30-39) shy of the majority.

House Of Representatives Mid-Term Election Of 1790

	# Seats	Pro-Admin	Anti-Admin
1788	65	37	28
1790	69	39	30
Change	+4	+2	+2

Resistance to administration policies centers mainly across the South, where the Anti-Federalist sentiment evident at the 1787 Constitution Convention continues to fester.

House Of Representatives Election Of 1790

Pro-Administration	Total	South	Border	North
1788	37	7	3	27
1790	39	7	4	28
Change	+2	NC	+1	+1
Anti-Administration				
1788	28	16	4	8
1790	30	16	5	9
Change	+2	NC	+1	+1

Note: South (Virginia, N Carolina, S Carolina, Georgia), Border (Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky),
North (NH, Mass, NY, NJ, Penn, RI, Conn, Vermont)

Virginia and Georgia remain most unhappy with the centralization of power at the federal level, and they are joined by the two newly added states of Kentucky and Vermont. The Federalist stronghold resides in the North, especially Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey.

House Of Representatives Election Of 1790

South	# Seats	Pro-Admin	Anti-Admin
Virginia	10	2	8 +1
North Carolina	5	2	3
South Carolina	5	3 +1	2
Georgia	3	0	3
South	23	7	16
Delaware	1	1	0
Maryland	6	3 +1	3
Kentucky	2	0	2 +2
Border	9	4	5
New Hampshire	3	3 +1	0
Massachusetts	8	7 +1	1
Rhode Island	1	1	0
Connecticut	5	5	0
New York	6	4 +1	2
New Jersey	4	4	0
Pennsylvania	8	4	4
Vermont	2	0	2 +2
North	37	28	9
Total	69	39	30