

Chapter 272 - A Northern Controlled Congress Admits Kansas As A Free State

Time: January 1861

Southern Departures Hand Senate Control Over To The Republicans

The roster of Southern senators who have resigned or been expelled includes many influential leaders.

Senator	State	Exit Date	How
James Chestnut	SC	Nov 10, '60	Withdrew
James Hammond	SC	Nov 11, '60	Withdrew
John Breckinridge	Ky	Dec 4, '60	Expelled
Waldo Johnson	MO	Jan 10, '61	Expelled
Trustan Polk	MO	Jan 10, '61	Expelled
Albert Brown	Miss	Jan 12, '61	Withdrew
Jefferson Davis	Miss	Jan 21, '61	Withdrew
David Yulee	Fla	Jan 21, '61	Withdrew
Stephen Mallory	Fla	Jan 21, '61	Withdrew
Alfred Iverson	Ga	Jan 28, '61	Withdrew

Their departures further widen the North's voting control in the Senate and open the door to a re-introduction of a bill to admit the Kansas Territory to the Union as a Free State – under the terms of the Wyandotte Constitution.

Time: January 29, 1861

Kansas Is Finally Admitted As A State

A total of four State Constitutions have been written for Kansas since the Territory is first opened.

Kansas Constitutions

Title	Written By	Date
Topeka	Free State Party	December 15, 1855
Lecompton	Pro-Slavery Party	November 7, 1857
Leavenworth	Free State Party	April 3, 1858
Wyandotte	Free State Party	March 29, 1859

The most famous by far is the Lecompton Constitution, codified in November 1857 by the “Bogus Legislature” comprising mostly Pro-Slavery forces residing in Missouri.

For two years, Buchanan tries repeatedly to force Lecompton through the Congress before it finally goes down to defeat in August 1858 – along with the President’s hopes for re-election and the chances of avoiding a fatal North-South schism in the Democrat Party.

The Wyandotte Constitution backtracks sharply from its Leavenworth predecessor which promised to welcome blacks into the state, integrate them into public schools and even vote on the possibility of handing them the right to vote.

While all of those prospects disappear in Wyandotte, at least the prohibition against blacks becoming state residents (present in the initial Topeka version) is voted down by a margin of 10,421 to 5,530.

Ironically after four years of stubborn resistance, Buchanan signs a bill on January 29, 1861 admitting Kansas as the 34th entry into the (collapsing) Union under the Free State Wyandotte Constitution.