

Federal Compromise

Both state and national sovereignty preserved. Flexible balance of power between the levels. Protections for individuals come later in the Bill of Rights.

Connecticut Compromise

Two legislative chambers, one based on population, one on equality across states.

3/5 Compromise

Representation in the House to be based on population, counting all "free Persons" and "three fifths of all other Persons."

*We the People
of the United States, in
Order to form
a more perfect
Union...*

The Constitution

RATIFICATION

Vigorous Debate

Central issues:

- national power
- states' rights
- individual liberties

Federalist
Papers

Anti-
Federalist
Papers

Constitution
ratified (1788)

First Congress
convenes;
George Washington
sworn into office
(1789)

Bill of Rights
ratified (1791)

The New Jersey Plan

State sovereignty

State law is supreme

Unicameral legislature;
one vote per state

Extraordinary majority to pass laws

Congressional power to regulate
commerce and tax

Multiple executive

No national judiciary

All states required to pass amendments

The Constitution

People are sovereign

National law is supreme

Bicameral legislature; equal votes in Senate;
representation by population in House

Simple majority to pass laws in Congress;
presidential veto

Congressional power to regulate
commerce and tax

Strong executive

Federal court system

Amendment process is complex