Admission of States to the Union: A Historical Reference Guide

Updated December 5, 2023
Admission of States to the Union: A Historical Reference Guide

The Constitution allows Congress to admit “New States ... into this Union.” By ratifying the Constitution in 1787-1790, the 13 original states—which declared independence from Great Britain in 1776 and initially united under the Articles of Confederation—joined the new federal government. An additional 37 states joined between 1791 (Vermont) and 1959 (Alaska and Hawaii). Each star on the national flag represents one of the 50 states.

This report provides historical information about each state’s journey to statehood with a focus on the role of Congress. A chronology describes selected events for each state such as the formation of a territorial government; federal legislation that enabled residents to prepare for statehood; the drafting and adoption of a state constitution; and federal legislation that admitted the new state into the Union. Citations point, in general, to primary legislative sources such as the Congressional Record, House Journal, and Senate Journal.

The five tables in this report summarize key information across all 50 states: admission order and date, territorial law (if any), enabling law (if any), admission law, and the outcome of state-level ratification or referendum votes (if any).

This report does not address the history of a territory before its acquisition by the United States, policy or legal questions related to statehood, potential future action by Congress, the status of current U.S. territories, or statehood-related proposals that have not become law.
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Introduction

Overview

The Constitution allows Congress to admit “New States ... into this Union.”\textsuperscript{1} Congress has exercised this power 37 times since 1791, most recently in 1959.

The 13 original colonies, which declared independence from Great Britain in 1776 and initially united under the Articles of Confederation, joined the new federal government by ratifying the Constitution in 1787-1790. Vermont was the next state to join the Union, in 1791, followed by Kentucky in 1792.

As the United States expanded across North America, many regions were organized as territories, beginning with the Northwest Territory.\textsuperscript{2} Tennessee, in 1796, was the first state to join the Union following a period of territorial government (as the Southwest Territory). Six states joined the Union without first being organized as a territory: California, Kentucky, Maine, Texas, Vermont, and West Virginia.

The 1912 admission of Arizona and New Mexico completed the Lower 48 contiguous states stretching from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west. Alaska and Hawaii both achieved statehood in 1959, taking the nation to its current count of 50 states—each represented by a star on the national flag.\textsuperscript{3}

About This Report

This report provides selected historical information about each state’s journey to statehood with a focus on the role of Congress.

For each state, a chronology (in the form of a bulleted list) describes selected events in the history of its admission (see “Statehood Timelines”). These events may include acquisition of the region by the U.S. government, the creation of a territorial government,\textsuperscript{4} federal legislation that enabled residents to prepare for statehood, the drafting of a state constitution, any state-level referendum or ratification votes related to statehood, federal legislation to admit the new state into the Union, and a presidential proclamation to make its admission official. A shaded box for each state provides key dates and United States Statutes at Large citations, when applicable.

Some states took similar paths to admission, though, in general, those paths have varied considerably. Although this report focuses on Congress’s role in the admission of states, the statehood timelines do not describe every legislative action taken during the admission process, and they generally omit proposals or bills that did not become law.\textsuperscript{5} Moreover, the timelines do not typically discuss the details of legislative measures, such as conditions Congress may have

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\textsuperscript{1} Article IV, Section 3, Clause 1.

\textsuperscript{2} Congress, operating under the Articles of Confederation, established the Territory of the United States North West of the River Ohio in 1787. It included all or part of six future states: Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. See the “Ohio” timeline for details.

\textsuperscript{3} 4 U.S.C. §§1-2.

\textsuperscript{4} Many territories were created out of existing territories, and territorial boundaries changed over time. Illinois Territory, for example, was initially part of the Northwest Territory and then part of Indiana Territory. For simplicity, the timelines in this report generally omit territorial affiliations before legislation that created a separate and distinct territory that would later achieve statehood.

\textsuperscript{5} For example, the “Hawaii” timeline does not include multiple attempts to achieve statehood before 1959.
placed on a state’s admission; actions taken by territorial legislatures or governors; or the wording of ballot questions related to statehood.

This report includes five tables summarizing key information from the individual timelines:

- **Table 1** shows the dates and order of admission for each state.
- **Table 2** describes legislation that established territorial governments, if any.
- **Table 3** describes enabling legislation that allowed territories to prepare for statehood, if any.
- **Table 4** describes legislation that admitted states to the Union, if any.
- **Table 5** describes popular or convention votes on statehood or related matters, such as ratification of a state constitution in preparation for admission, if any.

With the exception of the information provided in **Table 1**, available information on the states varies according to the specific path to statehood for each state. The availability of this information for each state is noted in the tables.

In general, this report does not discuss the history or status of a territory before its acquisition by the United States, nor does it address policy or legal questions related to statehood, potential future action by Congress, or the status of current U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.  

**Sources, Compilations, and Additional Resources**

Many footnotes in this report point to primary legislative sources such as the *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States* (the *House Journal*) and the *Journal of the Senate of the United States of America* (the *Senate Journal*). Also cited are the *Congressional Record* and two of its predecessor publications: *The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States* (the *Annals of Congress*) and the *Congressional Globe*.  

Some citations point to multivolume compilations of historical documents, such as *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*;  
*The Territorial Papers of the United States*;  
and *The Federal and State Constitutions, Colonial Charters, and Other Organic Laws of the States, Territories, and Colonies Now or Heretofore Forming the United States of America*.  

In addition, this report cites secondary sources such as scholarly books and journal articles, as well as reference materials such as encyclopedias and research guides.

Almost all of the primary sources and compilations cited in this report are available online. The Library of Congress’s *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation* collection contains congressional and legal records for 1774 to 1875. Other freely available repositories include the

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8 Bibliographic information is available from the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Center for the Study of the American Constitution at https://csac.history.wisc.edu.


10 Seven volumes, edited by Francis Newton Thorpe and printed by GPO, 1909.

American Presidency Project database, maintained by the University of California, Santa Barbara;\(^{12}\) the Government Publishing Office’s (GPO’s) GovInfo website;\(^ {13}\) HathiTrust’s database of historical books and government publications;\(^ {14}\) the Law Library of Congress website;\(^ {15}\) LLMC Digital’s collection of historical legal materials;\(^ {16}\) and Yale Law School’s Avalon Project collection.\(^ {17}\) Subscription-only databases, such as ProQuest Congressional, also contain relevant content such as legislative documents.

Additional information about territories and statehood is available in reference resources such as *Prestatehood Legal Materials: A Fifty-State Research Guide, Including New York City and the District of Columbia*\(^ {18}\) and *The Uniting States: The Story of Statehood for the Fifty United States*.\(^ {19}\)

Members and congressional staff can contact CRS for assistance locating research materials, including materials about a specific state.

**Summary Tables**

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<th>Admission Date</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>January 2, 1788</td>
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<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>January 9, 1788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>February 6, 1788</td>
</tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>April 28, 1788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>May 23, 1788</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>June 25, 1788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>July 6, 1788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>November 21, 1789</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>May 29, 1790</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>March 4, 1791</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>June 15, 1836</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

\(^ {12}\) Available at [https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu](https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu).

\(^ {13}\) Available at [https://www.govinfo.gov](https://www.govinfo.gov).

\(^ {14}\) Available at [https://www.hathitrust.org](https://www.hathitrust.org).

\(^ {15}\) Available at [https://www.loc.gov/research-centers/law-library-of-congress](https://www.loc.gov/research-centers/law-library-of-congress).

\(^ {16}\) Available at [https://llmc.com](https://llmc.com).

\(^ {17}\) Available at [https://avalon.law.yale.edu](https://avalon.law.yale.edu).


\(^ {19}\) Three volumes, edited by Benjamin F. Shearer (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004).
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<tr>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>December 28, 1846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>May 29, 1848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>September 9, 1850</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
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<td>Kansas</td>
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<td>38</td>
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<td>39</td>
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<td>40</td>
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<td>41</td>
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<td>46</td>
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<td>47</td>
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<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
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**Notes:** Admission date for the 13 original states indicates the date states ratified the U.S. Constitution. For other states, admission date indicates the date that their admission became effective. In some cases, this differs from the date of presidential approval listed in Table 4 (e.g., if admission was finalized by a presidential proclamation authorized by the admission law, or if the admission law specified a specific date to take effect).

### Table 2. Territorial Acts

Enacted legislation that established a territorial government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State (Territory, if Name Diffs)</th>
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<td>62 H.R. 38</td>
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<td>March 27, 1822</td>
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<td>3 Stat. 654</td>
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<td>Apr. 25, 1900</td>
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<td>May 3, 1800</td>
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<td>May 26, 1864</td>
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<td>May 25, 1854 35-13</td>
<td>May 30, 1854</td>
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<td>12 Stat. 239 36 S. 562</td>
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Notes: N/A means no territorial legislation was enacted (i.e., the 13 original states plus six states moved directly to statehood without an intervening period of territorial government). Final votes on passage are listed. Two vote tallies are listed if the question was divided. No vote count is listed when a vote tally was not recorded (e.g., a measure was passed by voice vote). The effective date of legislation may differ from its date of presidential approval. Bills and resolutions are presented with the Congress number preceding the bill citation (e.g., H.R. 1 during the 50th Congress would appear as 50 H.R. 1). No bill or resolution number is listed for legislation that was not identified in the record by number. The names of territories are noted in parentheses if they differ from the eventual name of the state. Many territories were created out of existing territories, so territorial boundaries differed at times from future state boundaries.

a. Votes marked with “a” are based on the vote tally in the Congressional Record or predecessor publication, with no vote count listed in the House Journal or Senate Journal.
b. Votes marked with “b” are based on the vote tally in the House Journal or Senate Journal, with the Congressional Record or predecessor publication listing a different vote count.

### Table 3. Enabling Acts

Enacted legislation that allowed residents to prepare for statehood

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<th>Senate Passage</th>
<th>Presidential Approval</th>
<th>Citation(s)</th>
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**Sources:** Annals of Congress, Congressional Globe, Congressional Record, House Journal, Senate Journal, U.S. Statutes at Large.

**Notes:** N/A means no enabling legislation was enacted ahead of final legislation to admit the state to the Union. Some enabling acts involved multiple future states. Only final votes on passage are listed. Two vote tallies are
listed if the question was divided. No vote count is listed when a measure was passed by voice vote. The effective date of legislation may differ from the date of presidential approval. Bills and resolutions are presented with the Congress number preceding the bill citation (e.g., H.R. 1 during the 50th Congress would appear as 50 H.R. 1). No bill or resolution number is listed for legislation not identified in the record by number.

a. Votes marked with “a” are based on the vote tally in the Congressional Record or predecessor publication, with no vote count listed in the House Journal or Senate Journal.

b. Votes marked with “b” are based on the vote tally in the House Journal or Senate Journal, with the Congressional Record or predecessor publication listing a different vote count.

c. Citations marked with “c” are combined enabling and admission acts, and appear in both Table 3 and Table 4.

Table 4. Admission Acts

Enacted legislation that admitted a state into the Union

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<th>Senate Passage</th>
<th>Presidential Approval</th>
<th>Citation(s)</th>
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<td>Dec. 14, 1819</td>
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<td>Aug. 21, 1911</td>
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<td>California</td>
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<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>Aug. 19, 1911</td>
<td>Aug. 18, 1911</td>
<td>Aug. 21, 1911</td>
<td>37 Stat. 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>53-9</td>
<td></td>
<td>62 S.J.Res. 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>50 S. 185b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>83 H.J.Res. 121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>June 14, 1906</td>
<td>June 13, 1906</td>
<td>June 16, 1906</td>
<td>34 Stat. 267b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>59 H.R. 12707b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Feb. 12, 1859</td>
<td>May 18, 1858</td>
<td>Feb. 14, 1859</td>
<td>11 Stat. 383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>114-103</td>
<td>35-17</td>
<td></td>
<td>35 S. 239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>50 S. 185b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>May 30, 1796</td>
<td>May 31, 1796</td>
<td>June 1, 1796</td>
<td>1 Stat. 491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Dec. 16, 1845</td>
<td>Dec. 22, 1845</td>
<td>Dec. 29, 1845</td>
<td>9 Stat. 108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>141-57a</td>
<td>31-14</td>
<td></td>
<td>29 H.J.Res. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>Dec. 13, 1893</td>
<td>July 10, 1894</td>
<td>July 16, 1894</td>
<td>28 Stat. 107b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>53 H.R. 352b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>House Passage</td>
<td>Senate Passage</td>
<td>Presidential Approval</td>
<td>Citation(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
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<td>-------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>Feb. 14, 1791</td>
<td>Feb. 12, 1791</td>
<td>Feb. 18, 1791</td>
<td>1 Stat. 191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>50 S. 185&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>Dec. 10, 1862</td>
<td>July 14, 1862</td>
<td>Dec. 31, 1862</td>
<td>12 Stat. 633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>96-55</td>
<td>23-17</td>
<td></td>
<td>37 S. 365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>May 11, 1848</td>
<td>May 19, 1848</td>
<td>May 29, 1848</td>
<td>9 Stat. 233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30 H.R. 397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>July 8, 1890</td>
<td>June 27, 1890</td>
<td>July 10, 1890</td>
<td>26 Stat. 222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29-18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>51 H.R. 982</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Notes: N/A means no admission act (i.e., one of the 13 original states). Some admission acts involved multiple states. An admission act may have preceded a presidential proclamation formally admitting the state, and/or the effective date of admission may have differed from the date of presidential approval; see Table 1 for each state’s effective date of admission. Only final votes on passage are listed. Two vote tallies are listed if the question was divided. No vote count is listed when a vote tally was not recorded (e.g., a measure was passed by voice vote). Bills and resolutions are presented with the Congress number preceding the bill citation (e.g., H.R. 1 during the 50<sup>th</sup> Congress would appear as 50 H.R. 1). No bill or resolution number is listed for legislation not identified in the record by number.

a. Votes marked with “b” are based on the vote tally in the House Journal or Senate Journal, with the Congressional Record or predecessor publication listing a different vote count.

b. Citations marked with “c” are combined enabling and admission acts, and appear in both Table 3 and Table 4.

c. Votes marked with “a” are based on the vote tally in the Congressional Record or predecessor publication, with no vote count listed in the House Journal or Senate Journal.

### Table 5. Referendum Votes

State-level referendums, ratifications, and other statehood-related votes, including both popular votes and votes by delegates elected to a convention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Referendum Question or Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Vote (Yes-No)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>“Shall Alaska immediately be admitted into the Union as a State?”</td>
<td>Aug. 26, 1958</td>
<td>40,452-8,010</td>
<td>Earlier statehood referendum held Oct. 8, 1946; state constitution ratified Apr. 24, 1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Amendment to state constitution</td>
<td>Dec. 12, 1911</td>
<td>14,963-1,980</td>
<td>Congress required amendment as condition for admission; state constitution ratified Feb. 9, 1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Referendum Question or Type</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Vote (Yes-No)</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Opinion of statehood</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 1835</td>
<td>1,942-908</td>
<td>Several counties allowed opinion on statehood to be recorded on territorial election ballot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Nov. 13, 1849</td>
<td>12,061-811</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>July 1, 1876</td>
<td>15,443-4,062</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>Ratification of U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>Jan. 9, 1788</td>
<td>128-40</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to state convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>Ratification of U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>Dec. 7, 1787</td>
<td>30-0</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to state convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>May 6, 1839</td>
<td>2,071-1,958</td>
<td>Earlier statehood referendum held May 1, 1837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Ratification of U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>Dec. 31, 1787</td>
<td>26-0</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to state convention; ratification formalized Jan. 2, 1788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>“Shall Hawaii immediately be admitted into the Union as a State?”</td>
<td>June 27, 1959</td>
<td>132,773-7,971</td>
<td>Earlier statehood referendum held Nov. 5, 1940; state constitution ratified Nov. 7, 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Nov. 5, 1889</td>
<td>12,398-1,773</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Aug. 3, 1846</td>
<td>9,492-9,036</td>
<td>Earlier state constitution rejected Apr. 7, 1845 and Aug. 4, 1845; earlier referendum Apr. 1, 1844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Oct. 4, 1859</td>
<td>10,421-5,530</td>
<td>Earlier state constitution rejected Aug. 2, 1858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Opinion of statehood</td>
<td>July 28, 1790</td>
<td>24-18</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to Ninth Kentucky Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Referendum Question or Type</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Vote (Yes-No)</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>“Should Maine separate from Massachusetts?”</td>
<td>July 26, 1819</td>
<td>17,091-7,132</td>
<td>Earlier votes on separation held in 1792, 1797, 1807, and 1816 (twice)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>Ratification of U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>Apr. 26, 1788</td>
<td>63-11</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to state convention; ratification formalized Apr. 28, 1788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Ratification of U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>Feb. 6, 1788</td>
<td>187-168</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to state convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Oct. 5-6, 1835</td>
<td>6,752-1,374</td>
<td>Later, on Dec. 15, 1836, a second state convention known as the &quot;Frostbitten Convention&quot; unanimously approved the conditions of the enabling act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Oct. 13, 1857</td>
<td>30,055-571</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Oct. 1, 1889</td>
<td>24,676-2,274</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>June 2, 1866</td>
<td>3,938-3,838</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Sept. 7, 1864</td>
<td>10,375-1,284</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>Ratification of U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>June 21, 1788</td>
<td>57-47</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to state convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Ratification of U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>Dec. 18, 1787</td>
<td>38-0</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to state convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>Amendment to state constitution</td>
<td>Nov. 7, 1911</td>
<td>34,897-22,831</td>
<td>Congress required amendment as condition for admission; state constitution ratified Jan. 21, 1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Ratification of U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>July 26, 1788</td>
<td>30-27</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to state convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Referendum Question or Type</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Vote (Yes-No)</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>Ratification of U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>Nov. 21, 1789</td>
<td>194-77</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to second state convention; first convention voted Aug. 2, 1788 to demand amendments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Oct. 1, 1889</td>
<td>27,441-8,107</td>
<td>Earlier referendum on dividing Dakota Territory held Nov. 8, 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Sept. 17, 1907</td>
<td>180,333-73,059</td>
<td>Indian Territory voted Nov. 7, 1905 on constitution for separate state of Sequoyah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Nov. 9, 1857</td>
<td>7,195-3,215</td>
<td>Earlier referendum on statehood held June 1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Ratification of U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>Dec. 12, 1787</td>
<td>46-23</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to state convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>Ratification of U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>May 29, 1790</td>
<td>34-32</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to state convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>Ratification of U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>May 23, 1788</td>
<td>149-73</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to state convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Oct. 1, 1889</td>
<td>70,131-3,267</td>
<td>Earlier referendum on dividing Dakota Territory held Nov. 8, 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>“Is it your wish if, on taking the enumeration, there should prove to be less than sixty thousand inhabitants, that the Territory shall be admitted as a State in to the Federal Union with such less number or not?”</td>
<td>Sept. 15, 1795 to Nov. 15, 1795</td>
<td>6,504-2,562</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Annexation and ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Oct. 13, 1845</td>
<td>7,664-430 (annexation), 7,527-536 (ratification)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Nov. 5, 1895</td>
<td>31,305-7,607</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to state convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>Ratification of U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>Jan. 10, 1791</td>
<td>105-4</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to state convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Referendum Question or Type</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Vote (Yes-No)</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Ratification of U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>June 25, 1788</td>
<td>89-79</td>
<td>Vote of delegates to state convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Oct. 1, 1889</td>
<td>40,152-11,879</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>March 26, 1863</td>
<td>28,321-572</td>
<td>Earlier vote on statehood Oct. 24, 1861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>March 13, 1848</td>
<td>16,759-6,384</td>
<td>Earlier state constitution rejected Apr. June 1847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>Ratification of state constitution</td>
<td>Nov. 5, 1889</td>
<td>6,272-1,923</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Various; see citations in the “Statehood Timelines” section for details.

Notes: N/A means no referendum or similar vote was located. In general, if multiple votes occurred as part of the statehood process (e.g., an initial referendum on whether to seek admission and a subsequent ratification vote on the state constitution), the final vote is described in the table (in this example, ratification of the state constitution) and the earlier vote (in this example, the initial referendum) is mentioned in the “Notes” column.

Statehood Timelines

Alabama

- **September 3, 1783**: United States acquires part of the future Alabama from Great Britain in the Treaty of Paris. Additional territory is later acquired in the Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819.\(^{20}\)

- **January 17, 1817**: Senator Charles Tait of Georgia reports, from a select committee, a bill that would create a new territorial government in the eastern part of the Mississippi Territory. He also reports a separate bill to prepare the western part of the territory for statehood.\(^{21}\)

- **February 21, 1817**: Senate passes the bill creating the Alabama Territory without a recorded vote.\(^{22}\)


• **March 3, 1817**: House passes the Alabama Territory bill without a recorded vote. President James Madison signs “[a]n Act to establish a separate territorial government for the eastern part of the Mississippi territory,” creating the Alabama Territory.

• **December 11, 1818**: Senate receives a petition from Alabama territorial officials “praying admission into the Union” as a state and refers it to a select committee.

• **December 18, 1818**: Senator Tait reports from the select committee a bill enabling Alabama to “form a constitution and state government” and join the Union.

• **January 12, 1819**: Senate passes the Alabama statehood bill without a recorded vote.

• **February 19, 1819**: House passes an amended version of the enabling act without a recorded vote.

• **February 23, 1819**: Senate concurs in the House’s amendments to the enabling act without a recorded vote.

• **March 2, 1819**: President James Monroe signs “[a]n Act to enable the people of the Alabama territory to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such state into the Union on an equal footing with the original states.”

• **July 5, 1819**: Delegates gather in Huntsville to write a state constitution for Alabama.

• **August 2, 1819**: Delegates at the Huntsville convention finalize and sign a state constitution for Alabama.

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24 3 Stat. 371.


30 3 Stat. 489.

31 *Journal of the Convention of the Alabama Territory Begun July 5, 1819* (Huntsville, AL: John Boardman, 1819), pp. 3-4.

• **December 8, 1819**: Senate adopts a joint resolution declaring Alabama admitted into the Union, without a recorded vote.\(^{33}\) House adopts the resolution without a recorded vote.\(^{34}\)

• **December 14, 1819**: President Monroe signs the admission resolution into law, establishing “[t]hat the state of Alabama shall be one, and is hereby declared to be one, of the United States of America.”\(^ {35}\)

**Alaska**

• **October 18, 1867**: United States purchases Alaska from Russia.\(^ {36}\)

• **May 17, 1884**: President Chester A. Arthur signs “[a]n act providing a civil government for Alaska,” which creates the District of Alaska.\(^ {37}\)

• **April 4, 1911**: Delegate James Wickersham of Alaska introduces 62 H.R. 38,\(^ {38}\) which would grant territory status to Alaska.\(^ {39}\)

• **April 24, 1912**: House amends 62 H.R. 38 and passes it without a recorded vote.\(^ {40}\)

• **July 24, 1912**: Senate amends 62 H.R. 38 and passes it without a recorded vote.\(^ {41}\)

• **August 17, 1912**: Senate adopts conference report on 62 H.R. 38 without a recorded vote.\(^ {42}\)

• **August 20, 1912**: House agrees to conference report on 62 H.R. 38 without a recorded vote.\(^ {43}\)

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33 *Senate Journal*, 16\(^{th}\) Cong., 1\(^{st}\) sess. (December 8, 1819), p. 21; *Annals of Congress*, vol. 35, 16\(^{th}\) Cong., 1\(^{st}\) sess. (December 8, 1819), p. 20-21.

34 *House Journal*, 16\(^{th}\) Cong., 1\(^{st}\) sess. (December 8, 1819), p. 22; *Annals of Congress*, vol. 35, 16\(^{th}\) Cong., 1\(^{st}\) sess. (December 8, 1819), p. 710.

35 3 Stat. 608.


38 Throughout this report, bills and resolutions are presented with the Congress number preceding the bill citation. In this instance, 62 H.R. 38 is H.R. 38 during the 62\(^{nd}\) Congress.


40 *House Journal*, 62\(^{nd}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (April 24, 1912), pp. 598-599; *Congressional Record*, vol. 48, part 6 (April 24, 1912), pp. 5260-5303.

41 *Senate Journal*, 62\(^{nd}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (July 24, 1912), p. 479; *Congressional Record*, vol. 48, part 10 (July 24, 1912), pp. 9535-9540.

42 *Senate Journal*, 62\(^{nd}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (August 17, 1912), pp. 559-560; *Congressional Record*, vol. 48, part 11 (August 17, 1912), pp. 11164-11165.

• **August 24, 1912:** President William Howard Taft signs 62 H.R. 38 into law, establishing a territorial government for Alaska.\textsuperscript{44}

• **October 8, 1946:** Alaska voters back statehood, 9,630 to 6,822, in a referendum.\textsuperscript{45}

• **November 8, 1955:** A constitutional convention called by the Territorial Legislature holds its first meeting at the University of Alaska, just outside Fairbanks.\textsuperscript{46}

• **February 5, 1956:** Delegates vote 54-0 to adopt a state constitution for Alaska.\textsuperscript{47}

• **April 24, 1956:** Alaska residents vote 17,477 to 7,180 in favor of ratifying the new state constitution.\textsuperscript{48}

• **June 7, 1957:** Representative Leo W. O’Brien of New York introduces 85 H.R. 7999, a bill for “the admission of the State of Alaska into the Union.”\textsuperscript{49}

• **May 28, 1958:** House votes 210-166 to pass 85 H.R. 7999.\textsuperscript{50}

• **June 30, 1958:** Senate votes 64-20 to pass 85 H.R. 7999.\textsuperscript{51}

• **July 7, 1958:** President Dwight Eisenhower signs 85 H.R. 7999 into law, admitting Alaska as a state pending a referendum vote.\textsuperscript{52}

• **August 26, 1958:** Alaskans approve statehood in a three-part referendum. On the question, “Shall Alaska immediately be admitted into the Union as a State?” the vote is 40,452 to 8,010.\textsuperscript{53}

• **January 3, 1959:** President Eisenhower issues Proclamation No. 3269, “Admission of the State of Alaska into the Union,” concluding the statehood process.\textsuperscript{54}

### Arizona

Arizona: 48\textsuperscript{th} State

\textsuperscript{44} 37 Stat. 512.


\textsuperscript{49} House Journal, 85\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (June 7, 1957), p. 512; Congressional Record, vol. 103, part 7 (June 7, 1957), p. 8564.

\textsuperscript{50} House Journal, 85\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (May 28, 1958), pp. 408-409; Congressional Record, vol. 104, part 7 (May 28, 1958), pp. 9756-9757.

\textsuperscript{51} Senate Journal, 85\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (June 30, 1958), p. 435; Congressional Record, vol. 104, part 10 (June 30, 1958), p. 12650.

\textsuperscript{52} 72 Stat. 339.

\textsuperscript{53} Alaska Division of Elections, Statehood Election: Final Results of Special Referendum Election, at https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/Archive/58STATE/1958-statehood.pdf.

\textsuperscript{54} 73 Stat. c16.
April 25, 1854: The United States buys part of the land that will become Arizona from Mexico in the Gadsden Purchase, adding to land acquired in 1848 by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.\(^{55}\)

March 12, 1862: Representative James M. Ashley of Ohio reports 37 H.R. 357, a bill to create a territorial government for Arizona, from the House Committee on Territories.\(^{56}\)

May 8, 1862: House passes 37 H.R. 357 without a recorded vote, after rejecting a motion to table the bill.\(^{57}\)

February 20, 1863: Senates passes 37 H.R. 357 on a 25-12 vote.\(^{58}\)

February 24, 1863: President Abraham Lincoln signs 37 H.R. 357 into law, creating the Territory of Arizona.\(^{59}\)

January 14, 1910: Representative Edward L. Hamilton of Michigan introduces 61 H.R. 18166, which would enable Arizona and New Mexico to write constitutions in preparation for statehood.\(^{60}\)

January 17, 1910: House suspends the rules and passes 61 H.R. 18166 without a recorded vote.\(^{61}\)

June 16, 1910: Senate amends 61 H.R. 18166, then passes it on a 65-0 vote.\(^{62}\)

June 18, 1910: House passes Senate-amended version of 61 H.R. 18166 without a recorded vote.\(^{63}\)

June 20, 1910: President William Howard Taft signs 61 H.R. 18166 into law, enabling Arizona and New Mexico to write constitutions and form state governments.\(^{64}\)

October 10, 1910: Delegates gather in Phoenix to write a state constitution for Arizona.\(^{65}\)

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57 The House Journal reported the vote on tabling the bill as 72-50, while the Congressional Globe reported the vote as 72-52. See House Journal, 37th Cong., 2nd sess. (May 8, 1862), pp. 657-659, and Congressional Globe, 37th Cong., 2nd sess. (May 8, 1862), pp. 2023-2030.
59 12 Stat. 664.
64 36 Stat. 557.
December 9, 1910: Delegates vote 40-12 to adopt a state constitution for Arizona.66

February 9, 1911: Arizona voters ratify the state constitution by a vote of 12,534 to 3,920.67

August 15, 1911: President Taft vetoes H.J.Res. 14, a joint resolution to admit Arizona and New Mexico as states, objecting to the provision of Arizona’s constitution that allows voters to recall judges.68

August 17, 1911: Senator William A. Smith of Michigan reports S.J.Res. 57 from the Senate Committee on Territories. This joint resolution would admit Arizona and New Mexico as states, but it would first require Arizona to remove judicial recall from its state constitution.69

August 18, 1911: Senate debates and passes S.J.Res. 57 on a 53-9 vote.70

August 19, 1911: House debates and passes S.J.Res. 57 without a recorded vote.71

August 21, 1911: President Taft signs S.J.Res. 57 into law, admitting New Mexico and Arizona as states once certain conditions have been met, including the amending of Arizona’s constitution to exempt judicial officers from recall.72

December 12, 1911: Arizona voters amend the state constitution to remove judicial recall, by a 14,963 to 1,980 vote, meeting President Taft’s demand.73

February 14, 1912: President Taft issues a proclamation admitting Arizona as the 48th state.74

Arkansas

April 30, 1803: The United States acquires the land that will become Arkansas from France in the Louisiana Purchase.75

December 16, 1818: House convenes a select committee to consider whether to create a separate territorial

Arkansas: 25th State
Arkansas Territory created July 4, 1819 (3 Stat. 493)
Arkansas admitted June 15, 1836 (5 Stat. 50)

73 Voters would restore the provision in November 1912. See David R. Berman, Arizona Politics and Government: The Quest for Autonomy, Democracy, and Development (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1998), p. 35.
74 37 Stat. 1728.
government for the “Arkansaw Country” (also spelled “Arkansas Country”) within the existing Missouri Territory.76

- **December 21, 1818:** Representative George Robertson of Kentucky reports a bill from the select committee creating a new territory.77

- **February 20, 1819:** House passes the bill to establish Arkansas Territory without a recorded vote on final passage, following days of debate and several close votes on amendments and procedural motions related to slavery in the territory.78

- **March 1, 1819:** Senate passes the Arkansas Territory bill without a recorded vote on final passage, following a 19-14 vote to defeat a motion to recommit with instructions to report the bill back with an antislavery amendment.79

- **March 2, 1819:** President James Monroe signs the law “establishing a separate territorial government in the southern part of the territory of Missouri.” The new territory, which will come into existence on July 4, 1819, is spelled “Arkansaw” in the statute, though “Arkansas” becomes the standard spelling.80

- **August 1, 1835:** During territorial elections, several Arkansas counties allow voters to express an opinion of statehood on their ballots. The *Arkansas Advocate* newspaper reports the tally as 1,942 in favor and 908 opposed.81

- **January 4, 1836:** Delegates gather in Little Rock to write a new state constitution for Arkansas.82

- **January 30, 1836:** Delegates at the Little Rock convention vote 46-4 to adopt the Arkansas state constitution.83

- **March 10, 1836:** Senate votes 22-17 to refer the Arkansas state constitution to a select committee.84

- **March 22, 1836:** Senate select committee reports out 24 S. 178, a bill admitting Arkansas as a state.85

- **April 4, 1836:** Senate votes 31-6 to pass 24 S. 178.86

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80 3 Stat. 493.


83 *Journal of the Proceedings of the Convention Met to Form a Constitution ... for the People of Arkansas*, p. 51.


• **June 13, 1836**: House votes 143-50 to pass 24 S. 178.\(^87\)
• **June 15, 1836**: President Andrew Jackson signs 24 S. 178 into law, admitting Arkansas into the Union.\(^88\)

### California

- **February 2, 1848**: The United States acquires California from Mexico in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.\(^89\)
- **June 3, 1849**: Bennet Riley, the U.S. Army officer serving as governor of California, calls a convention with the purpose of “forming a State constitution or a plan for Territorial government.”\(^90\)
- **September 1, 1849**: Convention delegates begin to gather in Monterey.\(^91\)
- **September 5, 1849**: Convention delegates vote, 28-8, to draft a constitution and seek statehood for California rather than organize a territorial government.\(^92\)
- **October 13, 1849**: Convention delegates sign a state constitution for California.\(^93\)
- **November 13, 1849**: California residents ratify the state constitution by a vote of 12,061 to 811.\(^94\)
- **January 29, 1850**: Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky proposes what becomes the Compromise of 1850, a legislative package that includes California’s admission to the Union as a free state, in response to growing tensions between the North and South.\(^95\)
- **February 13, 1850**: President Zachary Taylor transmits the California state constitution to Congress.\(^96\)
- **March 25, 1850**: Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois reports 31 S. 169, a bill to admit California as a state, from the Senate Committee on Territories.\(^97\)

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\(^{88}\) 5 Stat. 50.


\(^{96}\) *House Journal*, 31\(^{st}\) Cong., 1\(^{st}\) sess. (February 13, 1850), pp. 529-530; *Senate Journal*, 31\(^{st}\) Cong., 1\(^{st}\) sess. (February 13, 1850), pp. 148; *Congressional Globe*, 31\(^{st}\) Cong., 1\(^{st}\) sess. (February 13, 1850), pp. 347-350 and 355.

\(^{97}\) *Senate Journal*, 31\(^{st}\) Cong., 1\(^{st}\) sess. (March 25, 1850), p. 234; *Congressional Globe*, 31\(^{st}\) Cong., 1\(^{st}\) sess. (March 25, 1850), p. 592.

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- **August 13, 1850:** Senate debates and passes 31 S. 169 on a 34-18 vote.\(^98\)
- **September 7, 1850:** House debates and passes 31 S. 169 on a 150-56 vote.\(^99\)
- **September 9, 1850:** President Millard Fillmore signs 31 S. 169 into law, admitting California as the 31st state.\(^100\)

### Colorado

- **February 2, 1848:** The United States acquires part of the land that will become Colorado from Mexico in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, adding to land acquired in the 1803 Louisiana Purchase and the 1845 annexation of Texas.\(^101\)
- **April 3, 1860:** Senator James S. Green of Missouri reports 36 S. 366, which would create a new territory, from the Senate Committee on Territories.\(^102\)
- **February 4, 1861:** Senate passes 36 S. 366 to create the Colorado Territory without a recorded vote, after also considering the names “Jefferson” and “Idaho.”\(^103\)
- **February 18, 1861:** House amends 36 S. 366, then passes it on a 90-44 vote.\(^104\)
- **February 26, 1861:** Senate votes 26-18 to pass the House-amended version of 36 S. 366.\(^105\)
- **February 28, 1861:** President James Buchanan signs 36 S. 366 into law, creating the Colorado Territory.\(^106\)
- **December 8, 1873:** Following attempts to admit Colorado that President Andrew Johnson vetoed in 1866 and 1867,\(^107\) Delegate Jerome B. Chaffee of Colorado introduces 43 H.R. 435, a bill to “enable the people of Colorado to form a

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\(^100\) 9 Stat. 452.


\(^104\) House Journal, 36th Cong., 2nd sess. (February 18, 1861), pp. 345-348; Congressional Globe, 36th Cong., 2nd sess. (February 18, 1861), pp. 1003-1005.

\(^105\) Senate Journal, 36th Cong., 2nd sess. (February 26, 1861), pp. 313-314; Congressional Globe, 36th Cong., 2nd sess. (February 26, 1861), pp. 1205-1206.

\(^106\) 12 Stat. 172.

constitution and State government, and for the admission of the said State into the Union on an equal footing with the original states."\(^{108}\)

- **June 8, 1874:** House votes to suspend the rules and pass 43 H.R. 435.\(^{109}\)
- **February 24, 1875:** Senate debates and amends 43 H.R. 435, then passes it.\(^{110}\)
- **March 3, 1875:** House concurs in Senate amendments with a 164-76 vote to suspend the rules and pass the bill.\(^{111}\)
- **March 3, 1875:** President Ulysses S. Grant signs 43 H.R. 435 into law.\(^{112}\)
- **December 20, 1875:** Delegates gather in Denver to write a state constitution for Colorado.\(^{113}\)
- **March 14, 1876:** Colorado convention delegates vote 30-0 to approve the state constitution.\(^{114}\)
- **July 1, 1876:** Colorado residents vote 15,443 to 4,062 in favor of ratifying the new state constitution.\(^{115}\)
- **August 1, 1876:** President Grant issues a proclamation admitting Colorado as the 38th state.\(^{116}\)

**Connecticut**

- **April 23, 1662:** King Charles II grants a royal charter to the “Governor and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut in New-England, in America.”\(^{117}\)
- **July 4, 1776:** Connecticut joins 12 other colonies in declaring independence from Great Britain.\(^{118}\)
- **July 9, 1778:** Connecticut signs the Articles of Confederation.\(^{119}\)

\(^{108}\) *House Journal*, 43rd Cong., 1st sess. (December 8, 1873), p. 80; *Congressional Record*, vol. 2, part 1 (December 8, 1873), p. 89.

\(^{109}\) The *House Journal* reported the vote as 170-66, while the *Congressional Record* reported the vote as 171-66. See *House Journal*, 43rd Cong., 1st sess. (June 8, 1874), pp. 1132-1133, and *Congressional Record*, vol. 2, part 5 (June 8, 1874), pp. 4691-4692.

\(^{110}\) The *Senate Journal* reported the vote as 43-13, while the *Congressional Record* reported the vote as 42-12. See *Senate Journal*, 43rd Cong., 2nd sess. (February 24, 1875), pp. 337-339, and *Congressional Record*, vol. 3, part 3 (February 24, 1875), pp. 1671-1690.


\(^{112}\) 18 Stat. 474.


\(^{114}\) *Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention ... for the State of Colorado*, p. 708.


\(^{116}\) 19 Stat. 665.

\(^{117}\) *Thorpe, Federal and State Constitutions*, vol. 1, pp. 529-536.


**May 14-September 17, 1787:** Connecticut’s three delegates participate in the Constitutional Convention.\(^{120}\)

**January 9, 1788:** Connecticut’s convention ratifies the Constitution, 128-40.\(^{121}\)

### Delaware

**August 24, 1682:** James, Duke of York, gives the land that will become Delaware to William Penn, who had acquired Pennsylvania the prior year from the Duke’s brother, King Charles II.\(^{122}\)

**1704:** A new legislature holds its first meeting in New Castle, though the three counties continue to share a governor with neighboring Pennsylvania and do not formally adopt the name “Delaware” until 1776.\(^{123}\)

**July 4, 1776:** Delaware joins 12 other colonies in declaring independence from Great Britain.\(^{124}\)

**May 5, 1779:** Delaware signs the Articles of Confederation.\(^{125}\)

**May 14-September 17, 1787:** Delaware’s five delegates participate in the Constitutional Convention.\(^{126}\)

**December 7, 1787:** Delaware’s convention ratifies the Constitution by a 30-0 vote, making it the first state to join the new federal government.\(^{127}\)

### Florida

**February 22, 1819:** The United States acquires Florida from Spain in the Adams-Onis Treaty.\(^{128}\)

**Florida: First State**

- Delaware ratified Constitution December 7, 1787

**Florida: 27th State**

- Florida Territory created March 30, 1822 (3 Stat. 654)
- Florida admitted March 3, 1845 (5 Stat. 742)

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\(^{124}\) *Journals of the Continental Congress*, vol. 5 (July 4, 1776), pp. 510-516.


• **February 6, 1822:** Senator William Smith of South Carolina reports from the Senate Judiciary Committee a bill to establish a territorial government in Florida.129

• **March 8, 1822:** Senate passes Florida Territory bill without a recorded vote.130

• **March 27, 1822:** House passes an amended version of the Florida Territory bill.131 Senate concurs in House amendments without a recorded vote.132

• **March 30, 1822:** President James Monroe signs the law “for the establishment of a territorial government in Florida.”133

• **May 1, 1837:** In a referendum on statehood, Florida residents vote 2,214 to 1,274 in favor of seeking admission to the Union.134

• **December 3, 1838:** Delegates to a convention convened by the Florida Territory’s Legislative Council gather in St. Joseph to write a state constitution.135

• **January 11, 1839:** Delegates vote 55-1 to approve the Florida state constitution.136

• **May 6, 1839:** Florida voters ratify the new state constitution by a vote of 2,071 to 1,958.137

• **January 7, 1845:** Representative Aaron V. Brown of Tennessee reports 28 H.R. 497, a bill to admit Florida and Iowa as states, from the House Committee on Territories.138

• **February 13, 1845:** House votes 144-48 to pass 28 H.R. 497.139

• **March 1, 1845:** Senate votes 36-9 to pass 28 H.R. 497.140

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131 The **Annals of Congress** states that the “question on the passage of the bill was…carried without opposition,” while the **House Journal** does not describe the vote. See **House Journal, 17th Cong., 1st sess.** (March 27, 1822), p. 404 and **Annals of Congress, vol. 39, 17th Cong., 1st sess.** (March 27, 1822), p. 1379.


133 3 Stat. 654.


136 **Journal of the Proceedings of a Convention ... to Form a Constitution for the People of Florida,** p. 117.

137 Dodd, **Florida Becomes a State**, pp. 69-70; Robert Raymond Reid, “Proclamation of President of the Constitutional Convention,” in Dodd, **Florida Becomes a State**, p. 340; Reid, “Statement of the Votes For and Against the Constitution,” in Dodd, *Florida Becomes a State*, pp. 376-378.

138 **House Journal, 28th Cong., 2nd sess.** (January 7, 1845), p. 177; **Congressional Globe, 28th Cong., 2nd sess.** (January 7, 1845), p. 104.

139 The **House Journal** reported the vote as 144-48, while the **Congressional Globe** reported the vote as 145-46. See **House Journal, 28th Cong., 2nd sess.** (February 13, 1845), pp. 375-381, and **Congressional Globe, 28th Cong., 2nd sess.** (February 13, 1845), pp. 282-286.

140 **Senate Journal, 28th Cong., 2nd sess.** (March 1, 1845), pp. 232-233; **Congressional Globe, 28th Cong., 2nd sess.** (March 1, 1845), pp. 377-383.
• **March 3, 1845:** President John Tyler signs 28 H.R. 497 to admit Florida and Iowa as states. Florida’s admission is immediate, whereas Iowa’s admission is delayed until December 1846 due to a dispute over its borders.141

**Georgia**

• **June 9, 1732:** King George II grants a royal charter for the colony of Georgia.142

• **July 4, 1776:** Georgia joins 12 other colonies in declaring independence from Great Britain.143

• **July 24, 1778:** Georgia signs the Articles of Confederation.144

• **May 14-September 17, 1787:** Georgia’s four delegates participate in the Constitutional Convention.145

• **December 31, 1787:** Georgia’s convention votes 26-0 to ratify the Constitution.146

• **January 2, 1788:** Georgia’s convention delegates sign a deed formally ratifying the Constitution.147

**Hawaii**

• **July 7, 1898:** The United States annexes the Republic of Hawaii.148

• **December 6, 1899:** Senator Shelby M. Cullom of Illinois introduces S. 222, a bill to create a territorial government for the Hawaiian islands.149

• **March 1, 1900:** Senate amends and passes S. 222 without a recorded vote.150

• **April 6, 1900:** House amends and passes S. 222 by a 120-28 vote.151

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141 5 Stat. 742. See the “Iowa” timeline for details on its admission process.


143 *Journals of the Continental Congress*, vol. 5 (July 4, 1776), pp. 510-516.

144 *Journals of the Continental Congress*, vol. 11 (July 24, 1778), p. 716.


147 Elliot, *Debates*, vol. 1, pp. 323-324.


149 *Senate Journal*, 56th Cong., 1st sess. (December 6, 1899), p. 29; *Congressional Record*, vol. 33, part 1 (December 6, 1899), p. 89.

150 *Senate Journal*, 56th Cong., 1st sess. (March 1, 1900), p. 170; *Congressional Record*, vol. 33, part 3 (March 1, 1900), pp. 2438-2449.

151 The *House Journal* did not report the vote, but it appears in the *Congressional Record*. See *House Journal*, 56th Cong., 1st sess. (April 6, 1900), p. 443, and *Congressional Record*, vol. 33, part 4 (April 6, 1900), pp. 3851-3866.
• **April 25, 1900**: Senate approves conference report on 56 S. 222 without a recorded vote.\textsuperscript{152}

• **April 27, 1900**: House approves conference report on 56 S. 222 by a 138-54 vote.\textsuperscript{153}

• **April 30, 1900**: President William McKinley signs 56 S. 222 into law, creating the Territory of Hawaii.\textsuperscript{154}

• **November 5, 1940**: Hawaii Territory voters back statehood, 46,174 to 22,428, in a plebiscite that asked, “Do you favor statehood for Hawaii?”\textsuperscript{155}

• **April 3, 1950**: Delegates to a convention convened by the territorial legislature gather in Honolulu to draft a state constitution.\textsuperscript{156}

• **July 22, 1950**: Delegates at the Honolulu convention vote 60-1 to adopt a state constitution.\textsuperscript{157}

• **November 7, 1950**: Hawaii residents vote 82,788 to 27,109 in favor of ratifying the state constitution.\textsuperscript{158}

• **January 9, 1959**: Senator James E. Murray of Montana introduces 86 S. 50, a bill to admit Hawaii as a state. The latest effort followed decades of debate and unsuccessful attempts to achieve statehood, but the bill is introduced less than a week after Alaska is admitted as the 49\textsuperscript{th} state.\textsuperscript{159}

• **March 11, 1959**: Senate passes 86 S. 50 on a 76-15 vote.\textsuperscript{160}

• **March 12, 1959**: House passes 86 S. 50 on a 323-89 vote.\textsuperscript{161}

• **March 18, 1959**: President Dwight Eisenhower signs 86 S. 50 into law.\textsuperscript{162}

• **June 27, 1959**: Hawaii voters endorse statehood in a three-part referendum. The vote is 132,773 to 7,971 on the question, “Shall Hawaii immediately be admitted into the Union as a State?”\textsuperscript{163}

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\textsuperscript{152} Senate Journal, 56\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (April 25, 1900), pp. 304-305; Congressional Record, vol. 33, part 5 (April 25, 1900), pp. 4648-4651.

\textsuperscript{153} House Journal, 56\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (April 27, 1900), p. 512; Congressional Record, vol. 33, part 5 (April 27, 1900), pp. 4766-4767.

\textsuperscript{154} 31 Stat. 141.


\textsuperscript{157} Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of Hawaii, vol. 1, p. 139.

\textsuperscript{158} U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, *State Constitution of Hawaii*, committee print, 85\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess., March 28, 1957, p. iii.

\textsuperscript{159} Senate Journal, 86\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (January 9, 1959), p. 26; Congressional Record, vol. 105, part 1 (January 9, 1959), p. 228.

\textsuperscript{160} Senate Journal, 86\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (March 11, 1959), p. 175; Congressional Record, vol. 105, part 3 (March 11, 1959), p. 3890.

\textsuperscript{161} House Journal, 86\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (March 12, 1959), p. 284; Congressional Record, vol. 105, part 3 (March 12, 1959), pp. 4038-4039.

\textsuperscript{162} 73 Stat. 4.

• **August 21, 1959**: President Eisenhower issues Proclamation 3309, “Admission of the State of Hawaii Into the Union,” formally admitting Hawaii as the 50th state.\(^{164}\)

**Idaho**

\begin{itemize}
  \item **June 15, 1846**: The United States acquires the Oregon Country, including the land that will become Idaho, following a period of joint occupation with Great Britain.\(^{165}\)
  
  \item **February 11, 1863**: Representative James M. Ashley of Ohio reports 37 H.R. 738, a bill to create a new territorial government, from the House Committee on Territories.\(^{166}\)
  
  \item **February 12, 1863**: House amends and passes 37 H.R. 738.\(^{167}\)
  
  \item **March 3, 1863**: Senate amends 37 H.R. 738, naming the new territory “Idaho” instead of “Montana,” then passes it on a 25-12 vote.\(^{168}\) House concurs in Senate changes to 37 H.R. 738 by a vote of 65-33.\(^{169}\) President Abraham Lincoln signs 37 H.R. 738 into law, creating the Territory of Idaho.\(^{170}\)
  
  \item **April 2, 1889**: Idaho’s territorial governor calls a constitutional convention.\(^{171}\)
  
  \item **July 4, 1889**: Delegates meet in Boise to begin writing a state constitution.\(^{172}\)
  
  \item **August 6, 1889**: Delegates at the Boise convention vote 51-0 to adopt a state constitution for Idaho.\(^{173}\)
  
  \item **November 5, 1889**: Voters in Idaho ratify the state constitution by a 12,398 to 1,773 margin.\(^{174}\)
\end{itemize}

\(^{164}\) 73 Stat. c74.


\(^{166}\) The *Congressional Globe* reported the bill number as H.R. 626. See *House Journal*, 37th Cong., 3rd sess. (February 11, 1863), p. 369, and *Congressional Globe*, 37th Cong., 3rd sess. (February 11, 1863), pp. 884-885.


\(^{170}\) 12 Stat. 808.


• **January 13, 1890:** Representative Isaac S. Struble of Iowa introduces 51 H.R. 4562, a bill “to provide for the admission of the State of Idaho.”

• **April 3, 1890:** House passes 51 H.R. 4562 by a 129-1 vote.

• **July 1, 1890:** Senate passes 51 H.R. 4562 without a recorded vote.

• **July 3, 1890:** President Benjamin Harrison signs 51 H.R. 4562 into law, admitting Idaho as the 43rd state.

### Illinois

- **September 3, 1783:** The United States acquires the land that will become Illinois from Great Britain in the Treaty of Paris.

- **December 31, 1808:** Delegate Jesse B. Thomas of Indiana reports a bill to divide the Indiana Territory into two territories, from a select committee appointed to examine the issue.

- **January 18, 1809:** House votes 69-37 to pass the bill dividing Indiana Territory.

- **January 31, 1809:** Senate passes the Indiana Territory bill without a recorded vote.

- **February 3, 1809:** President Thomas Jefferson signs the bill to split the Indiana Territory, creating the Illinois Territory effective March 1, 1809.

- **January 23, 1818:** Delegate Nathaniel Pope of Illinois reports a bill allowing Illinois Territory residents to write a constitution and form a state government in preparation for admission to the Union, from a select committee appointed to review the territorial government’s petition seeking statehood.

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177 *Senate Journal*, 51st Cong., 1st sess. (July 1, 1890), p. 411; *Congressional Record*, vol. 21, part 7 (July 1, 1890), p. 6834.


183 2 Stat. 514.

• April 6, 1818: House passes the Illinois bill without a recorded vote.\textsuperscript{185}

• April 14, 1818: Senate passes an amended version of the Illinois bill without a recorded vote.\textsuperscript{186}

• April 15, 1818: House concurs in Senate amendments to the Illinois bill without a recorded vote.\textsuperscript{187}

• April 18, 1818: President James Monroe signs the Illinois enabling legislation into law.\textsuperscript{188}

• August 3-26, 1818: Delegates meet in Kaskaskia and draft a state constitution for Illinois.\textsuperscript{189}

• November 20, 1818: Representative Richard C. Anderson Jr. of Kentucky reports a joint resolution admitting Illinois to the Union, from a select committee appointed to review the state constitution.\textsuperscript{190}

• November 23, 1818: House passes the resolution admitting Illinois to the Union on a 117-34 vote.\textsuperscript{191}

• December 1, 1818: Senate passes the Illinois statehood resolution without a recorded vote.\textsuperscript{192}

• December 3, 1818: President Monroe signs into law the resolution admitting Illinois as the 21\textsuperscript{st} state.\textsuperscript{193}

Indiana

• September 3, 1783: The United States acquires the land that will become Indiana from Great Britain in the Treaty of Paris.\textsuperscript{194}

Indiana: 19\textsuperscript{th} State

Indiana Territory created July 4, 1800 (2 Stat. 58)
Enabling law enacted April 19, 1816 (3 Stat. 289)
Indiana admitted December 11, 1816 (3 Stat. 399)

\textsuperscript{185} House Journal, 15\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (April 6, 1818), p. 428; Annals of Congress, vol. 32, 15\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (April 6, 1818), p. 1681.

\textsuperscript{186} Senate Journal, 15\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (April 14, 1818), pp. 357-358; Annals of Congress, vol. 31, 15\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (April 14, 1818), p. 365.

\textsuperscript{187} House Journal, 15\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (April 15, 1818), pp. 466-467; Annals of Congress, vol. 32, 15\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (April 15, 1818), p. 1738.

\textsuperscript{188} 3 Stat. 428.


\textsuperscript{190} House Journal, 15\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (November 20, 1818), p. 25; Annals of Congress, vol. 33, 15\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (November 20, 1818), pp. 297-298.

\textsuperscript{191} House Journal, 15\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (November 23, 1818), pp. 30-31; Annals of Congress, vol. 33, 15\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (November 23, 1818), pp. 305-311.

\textsuperscript{192} Senate Journal, 15\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (December 1, 1818), p. 43; Annals of Congress, vol. 33, 15\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (December 1, 1818), p. 32.

\textsuperscript{193} 3 Stat. 536.

• **March 20, 1800**: Representative William Craik of Maryland reports a bill to divide the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio (Northwest Territory) into two parts.  

• **March 31, 1800**: House passes the Northwest Territory bill without a recorded vote.  

• **April 21, 1800**: Senate amends and passes the Northwest Territory bill without a recorded vote.  

• **May 3, 1800**: House agrees to a compromise version of the Northwest Territory bill without a recorded vote.  

• **May 5, 1800**: Senate agrees to the compromise version of the Northwest Territory bill without a recorded vote.  

• **May 7, 1800**: President John Adams signs the bill to split the Northwest Territory, creating Indiana Territory in the west effective July 4, 1800.  

• **January 5, 1816**: Delegate Jonathan Jennings of Indiana reports a bill enabling Indiana to write a constitution and form a state government in preparation for admission to the Union.  

• **March 30, 1816**: House passes the Indiana bill on a 108-3 vote.  

• **April 13, 1816**: Senate passes an amended version of the Indiana bill without a recorded vote.  

• **April 15, 1816**: House agrees to the Senate’s amendments to the Indiana bill without a recorded vote.  

• **April 19, 1816**: President James Madison signs the Indiana enabling act.  

• **June 10-29, 1816**: Delegates meet in Corydon and draft a state constitution for Indiana.

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200 2 Stat. 58.  


205 3 Stat. 289.  

• **December 2, 1816**: Senate appoints a select committee to investigate whether additional legislation is necessary to complete Indiana’s admission as a state.\(^{207}\)

• **December 4, 1816**: Senator Jeremiah Morrow of Ohio reports from the select committee a resolution declaring Indiana admitted to the Union.\(^{208}\)

• **December 6, 1816**: Senate amends and passes the Indiana statehood resolution without a recorded vote.\(^{209}\)

• **December 9, 1816**: House passes Indiana statehood resolution.\(^{210}\)

• **December 11, 1816**: President Madison signs the resolution admitting Indiana as the 19\(^{th}\) state.\(^{211}\)

### Iowa

- **April 30, 1803**: The United States acquires the land that will become Iowa from France in the Louisiana Purchase.\(^{212}\)

- **March 14, 1838**: Senator Thomas Morris of Ohio introduces S. 269, a bill to create a new Iowa Territory.\(^{213}\)

- **June 1, 1838**: Senate passes S. 269 without a recorded vote.\(^{214}\)

- **June 6, 1838**: House amends S. 269 before passing it on a 118–51 vote.\(^{215}\) Senate passes the House-amended bill without a recorded vote, following a 33–6 vote against tabling the bill.\(^{216}\)

- **June 12, 1838**: President Martin Van Buren signs S. 269 into law, creating the Iowa Territory effective July 3, 1838.\(^{217}\)

- **April 1, 1844**: Iowa Territory voters, by a margin of 6,976 to 4,181, support calling a convention to write a state constitution.\(^{218}\)

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\(^{207}\) Senate Journal, 14\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (December 2, 1816), p. 5; Annals of Congress, vol. 30, 14\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (December 2, 1816), pp. 9–10.

\(^{208}\) Senate Journal, 14\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (December 4, 1816), pp. 27–28; Annals of Congress, vol. 30, 14\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (December 4, 1816), p. 18.

\(^{209}\) Senate Journal, 14\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (December 6, 1816), pp. 33–34; Annals of Congress, vol. 30, 14\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (December 6, 1816), pp. 20–21.

\(^{210}\) The House Journal did not report a specific vote count, while the Annals of Congress reported that the vote was unanimous. See House Journal, 14\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (December 9, 1816), p. 44, and Annals of Congress, vol. 30, 14\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (December 9, 1816), p. 254.

\(^{211}\) 3 Stat. 399.


\(^{213}\) Senate Journal, 25\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (March 14, 1838), pp. 290-291; Congressional Globe, 25\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (March 14, 1838), p. 239.

\(^{214}\) Senate Journal, 25\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (June 1, 1838), pp. 440-441. The Congressional Globe did not report passage of the bill.

\(^{215}\) House Journal, 25\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (June 6, 1838), pp. 1042-1044; Congressional Globe, 25\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (June 6, 1838), p. 432.

\(^{216}\) Senate Journal, 25\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (June 6, 1838), pp. 448-449; Congressional Globe, 25\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (June 6, 1838), pp. 434-435.

\(^{217}\) 5 Stat. 235.

• **October 7-November 1, 1844:** Delegates meet in Iowa City and draft a state constitution.\(^{219}\)

• **March 3, 1845:** President John Tyler signs 28 H.R. 497, a bill to admit Florida and Iowa as states.\(^{220}\) However, Iowa’s admission is made conditional on the territory accepting “truncated boundaries” for the state. Iowa voters twice—on April 7, 1845, and August 4, 1845—reject ratification of a state constitution with those borders.\(^{221}\)

• **May 4-19, 1846:** Delegates meet in Iowa City and draft a second state constitution, with modified boundaries.\(^{222}\)

• **August 3, 1846:** Iowa voters ratify their new constitution by a vote of 9,492 to 9,036.\(^{223}\)

• **August 4, 1846:** President James K. Polk signs into law the compromise over Iowa’s borders, resolving the dispute and clearing the way for statehood.\(^{224}\)

• **December 17, 1846:** Representative Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois reports 29 H.R. 557, a bill to admit Iowa as a state, from the House Committee on Territories.\(^{225}\)

• **December 21, 1846:** House passes 29 H.R. 557 without a recorded vote.\(^{226}\)

• **December 24, 1846:** Senate passes 29 H.R. 557 without a recorded vote following a 40-2 vote to reject an amendment.\(^{227}\)

• **December 28, 1846:** President Polk signs 29 H.R. 557 into law, admitting Iowa into the Union.\(^{228}\)

### Kansas

• **April 30, 1803:** The United States acquires part of the land that will become Kansas from France in the Louisiana Purchase, with additional

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219 *Journal of the Convention for the Formation of a Constitution for the State of Iowa, Begun and Held at Iowa City, on the First Monday of October, Eighteen Hundred and Forty-Four* (Iowa City, IA: Jesse Williams, 1845), pp. 3 and 211.

220 5 Stat. 742; see the “Florida” timeline for additional details on this legislation.


222 *Journal of the Convention for the Formation of a Constitution for the State of Iowa, Begun and Held at Iowa City, on the First Monday of May, Eighteen Hundred and Forty-Six* (Iowa City, IA: Abraham M. Palmer, 1846), pp. 23 and 109; James Alton James, *Constitution and Admission of Iowa Into the Union* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Press, 1900), pp. 33-34.


224 9 Stat. 52; James, *Constitution and Admission of Iowa Into the Union*, pp. 37-39.


228 9 Stat. 117.
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territory acquired in 1845 in the annexation of Texas.229

- **December 14, 1853:** Senator Augustus Caesar Dodge of Iowa introduces 33 S. 22, a bill to create a new Nebraska Territory.230

- **January 31, 1854:** Representative William A. Richardson of Illinois reports 33 H.R. 236, a bill creating new territorial governments for Kansas and Nebraska, from the House Committee on Territories.231

- **March 3, 1854:** Senate votes 37-14 to pass 33 S. 22, which as amended would create two new territories, Kansas and Nebraska.232

- **May 22, 1854:** House passes an amended version of 33 H.R. 236 on a 113-100 vote, in lieu of voting on the Senate-passed 33 S. 22.233

- **May 25, 1854:** Senate passes 33 H.R. 236 on a 35-13 vote.234

- **May 30, 1854:** President Franklin Pierce signs 33 H.R. 236 into law, creating the Kansas and Nebraska territories and repealing the 1820 Missouri Compromise, which would have barred slavery in the new territories. Instead, the Kansas-Nebraska Act leaves residents of the two territories “perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way.”235

- **February 2, 1858:** President James Buchanan recommends that Congress admit Kansas under a pro-slavery state constitution drafted in Lecompton amid years of violence in the territory between anti- and pro-slavery factions. Faced with opposition in the House, the law signed by President Buchanan on May 4, 1858, requires a “fair and free” vote by Kansans on the Lecompton Constitution as a condition of statehood. Kansas voters overwhelmingly reject the Lecompton Constitution in an August 2, 1858 referendum.236

- **July 5, 1859:** Delegates gather in Wyandotte to draft a new state constitution, the territory’s fourth constitutional convention following gatherings in Topeka in 1855, Lecompton in 1857, and Leavenworth in 1858.237

- **July 29, 1859:** The Wyandotte convention votes 34-13 to adopt a new, anti-slavery state constitution.238

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230 *Senate Journal, 33rd Cong., 1st sess.* (December 14, 1853), p. 44; *Congressional Globe, 33rd Cong., 1st sess.* (December 14, 1853), p. 44.


238 Harry G. Larimer (ed.), *Kansas Constitutional Convention: A Reprint of the Proceedings and Debates of the* (continued...)
Among the events leading to Kansas's admission to the Union are:

- **October 4, 1859**: Kansas voters ratify the Wyandotte Constitution by a vote of 10,421 to 5,530.239
- **February 15, 1860**: Representative Galusha A. Grow of Pennsylvania introduces H.R. 23, a bill to admit Kansas to the Union.240
- **April 11, 1860**: House votes to pass H.R. 23.241
- **January 21, 1861**: Senate amends H.R. 23 and passes it by a 36-16 vote.242
- **January 28, 1861**: House votes 119-41 to suspend the rules and take up H.R. 23, then agrees to the Senate’s amendments without a recorded vote.243
- **January 29, 1861**: President Buchanan signs H.R. 23 into law, admitting Kansas as the 34th state.244

### Kentucky

- **December 31, 1776**: Virginia’s General Assembly establishes Kentucky County in the western part of the commonwealth.245
- **November 1, 1780**: Virginia’s General Assembly splits Kentucky into multiple counties and subsequently refers to the area as the District of Kentucky.246
- **July 3, 1788**: Congress, still operating under the Articles of Confederation, decides to postpone a decision on statehood for Kentucky until the new federal government convenes in 1789.247
- **December 18, 1789**: Virginia’s General Assembly enacts a law “concerning the erection of the district of Kentuckey [sic] into an independent state,” clearing the way for Kentucky to secede from Virginia and enter the Union on its own.248

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244 12 Stat. 126.

245 William Waller Hening (ed.), *The Statutes at Large: Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia, From the First Session of the Legislature, in the Year 1619*, vol. 9 (Richmond, VA: J&G Cochran, Printers, 1821), pp. 257-261.


• **July 28, 1790:** Delegates gathered in Danville vote 24-18 that “it is expedient for, and the will of, the good people of the District of Kentucky that the same be erected into an Independent State.”

• **December 8, 1790:** President George Washington asks Congress to consider Kentucky’s application for statehood.

• **December 14, 1790:** Senate creates a committee to consider Kentucky statehood.

• **January 3, 1791:** Senator Philip Schuyler of New York reports the committee’s recommendation that Kentucky be granted statehood.

• **January 4, 1791:** Senate committee assigned to consider Kentucky statehood reports a bill admitting Kentucky to the Union.

• **January 12, 1791:** Senate passes the Kentucky bill without a recorded vote.

• **January 28, 1791:** House passes the Kentucky bill without a recorded vote.

• **February 4, 1791:** President Washington signs into law the act declaring that on June 1, 1792, Kentucky will “be received and admitted into this Union, as a new and entire member of the United States of America.”

• **April 2, 1792:** Delegates gather in Danville to write a state constitution.

• **April 19, 1792:** Delegates in Danville adopt a state constitution for Kentucky.

• **June 1, 1792:** Kentucky joins the Union as the 15th state.

**Louisiana**

• **April 30, 1803:** Robert Livingston and James Monroe sign the Louisiana

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249 Letter from George Muter, President of the Ninth Kentucky Convention, to George Washington, President of the United States of America, October 4, 1790, at https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-06-02-0250.

250 Washington, “Second Annual Address to Congress” (December 8, 1790), American Presidency Project (University of California, Santa Barbara), at https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/203719.


256 1 Stat. 189.


258 Journal of the First Constitutional Convention of Kentucky, p. 22.

March 21, 1804: The Senate rejects several of the House’s changes to the Louisiana bill.  
March 21, 1804: The House requests a conference committee with the Senate to resolve differences over the Louisiana bill.  
March 23, 1804: House votes 51-45 to pass a compromise version of the Louisiana bill, followed by a 15-9 vote in the Senate.  
March 26, 1804: President Thomas Jefferson signs the act splitting the Louisiana Purchase into two areas: the Territory of Orleans, including the city of New Orleans, and the District of Louisiana, covering the bulk of the land acquired from France.  
December 27, 1810: Representative Nathaniel Macon of North Carolina introduces a bill that would enable Orleans Territory residents to draft a constitution and form a state government in preparation for statehood.  
January 15, 1811: House passes the Orleans Territory bill by a 77-36 vote.

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269 2 Stat. 283. The District of Louisiana will later become the Louisiana Territory and, in 1812, the Missouri Territory. See the “Missouri” timeline for details.  
• **February 7, 1811:** Senate passes an amended version of the Orleans Territory bill by a 22-10 vote. 272
• **February 13, 1811:** House agrees to the Senate’s amendment by a 69-45 vote. 273
• **February 20, 1811:** President James Madison signs the act enabling Orleans Territory to prepare for statehood. 274
• **November 4, 1811:** A constitutional convention begins in New Orleans. 275
• **January 22, 1812:** Delegates to the New Orleans convention sign a state constitution for Louisiana. 276
• **March 16, 1812:** Representative John Dawson of Virginia introduces a bill to admit Louisiana as a state. 277
• **March 20, 1812:** House votes 79-23 to pass the Louisiana statehood bill. 278
• **April 1, 1812:** Senate passes an amended version of the Louisiana statehood act without a recorded vote. 279
• **April 6, 1812:** House agrees to the Senate-amended version of the admission act without a recorded vote. 280
• **April 8, 1812:** President Madison signs the act admitting Louisiana into the Union, which will take effect on April 30. 281
• **April 30, 1812:** Louisiana becomes the 18th state.

**Maine**

• **October 7, 1691:** A new charter for the Massachusetts Bay colony enlarges it to include Maine, among other places. Maine will remain part of Massachusetts for more than a century. 282

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274 2 Stat. 641.
281 2 Stat. 701.
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- **June 19, 1819:** Massachusetts consents to Maine’s separation and statehood, pending the outcome of a referendum vote and other steps.\(^{283}\)

- **July 26, 1819:** Mainers vote in favor of separating from Massachusetts, 17,091 to 7,132. It is the sixth in a series of votes on the subject going back to 1792.\(^{284}\)

- **October 11-29, 1819:** Delegates gather in Portland to write a new Maine constitution.\(^{285}\)

- **December 6, 1819:** Maine voters ratify the new state constitution by 9,040 to 796.\(^{286}\)

- **December 21, 1819:** Representative John Holmes of Massachusetts reports, from a select committee, a bill to admit Maine as a state.\(^{287}\)

- **January 3, 1820:** House passes an amended version of the Maine statehood bill without a recorded vote.\(^{288}\)

- **February 18, 1820:** Senate amends and passes the Maine statehood bill without a recorded vote on final passage.\(^{289}\)

- **March 3, 1820:** House and Senate agree to a compromise version of the Maine statehood bill, which is then passed by the House and Senate without recorded votes.\(^{290}\) President James Monroe signs the bill, which will take effect on March 15, 1820.\(^{291}\)

- **March 15, 1820:** Maine becomes the 23rd state. Its admission is paired with the admission of Missouri as a slave state as part of the Missouri Compromise.\(^{292}\)

## Maryland

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\(^{291}\) 3 Stat. 544.

\(^{292}\) See the “Missouri” timeline for additional information.
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June 20, 1632: King Charles I grants the charter for the colony of Maryland to Cecil Calvert.293

July 4, 1776: Maryland joins 12 other colonies in declaring independence from Great Britain.294

March 1, 1781: Maryland signs and ratifies the Articles of Confederation.295

May 14-September 17, 1787: Maryland’s five delegates participate in the Constitutional Convention.296

April 28, 1788: Maryland’s convention formally ratifies the Constitution, following a 63-11 vote on April 26.297

Massachusetts

March 4, 1629: A charter is given to the “Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England” by King Charles I.298

October 7, 1691: A new charter, given by King William and Queen Mary, enlarges Massachusetts “to include the old colony of Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth Colony, Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket, Maine, and parts of Nova Scotia.”299

July 4, 1776: Massachusetts joins 12 other colonies in declaring independence from Great Britain.300

July 9, 1778: Massachusetts signs and ratifies the Articles of Confederation.301

May 14-September 17, 1787: Massachusetts’s four delegates participate in the Constitutional Convention.302

February 6, 1788: Massachusetts’s convention ratifies the Constitution by a vote of 187-168.303


Michigan

- **September 3, 1783:** The United States acquires the land that will become Michigan from Great Britain in the Treaty of Paris. 304
- **December 14, 1804:** Senator Thomas Worthington of Ohio reports, from a committee on the subject, a bill that would divide the Indiana Territory into two separate territories. 305
- **December 24, 1804:** Senate amends and passes the Indiana Territory bill without a recorded vote. 306
- **January 7, 1805:** House passes an amended version of the Indiana Territory bill without a recorded vote. 307
- **January 8, 1805:** Senate passes the House-amended territorial bill without a recorded vote. 308
- **January 11, 1805:** President Thomas Jefferson signs the act to split the Indiana Territory in two, creating the Michigan Territory as of June 30, 1805. 309
- **October 5-6, 1835:** Michigan’s constitution, drafted by a convention meeting in Detroit from May 11 to June 24, 1835, is adopted by a vote of 6,752 to 1,374. 310
- **March 22, 1836:** Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri reports 24 S. 177, a bill that would establish the northern border of Ohio and admit Michigan as a state, from a select committee studying the issue. 311
- **April 2, 1836:** Senate votes to pass 24 S. 177. 312
- **June 13, 1836:** House passes 24 S. 177 without a recorded vote on final passage, following a 153-45 procedural vote. 313
- **June 15, 1836:** President Andrew Jackson signs 24 S. 177 into law, admitting Michigan as a state on the condition that it accept newly defined borders. 314

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309 2 Stat. 309.


314 5 Stat. 49.
Under the proposed compromise, Michigan would cede the disputed city of Toledo to Ohio but acquire much of the Upper Peninsula.\textsuperscript{315} 

- **September 26-30, 1836:** Delegates elected to a state convention vote 28-21 to reject the congressional compromise over Michigan’s borders.\textsuperscript{316} 
- **December 14-15, 1836:** Delegates elected to a second state convention, known as the “Frostbitten Convention,” vote unanimously to accept Congress’s conditions for statehood.\textsuperscript{317} 
- **December 29, 1836:** Senator Felix Grundy of Tennessee reports 24 S. 81, a bill to admit Michigan as a state, from the Senate Judiciary Committee.\textsuperscript{318} 
- **January 5, 1837:** Senate votes 25-10 to pass 24 S. 81.\textsuperscript{319} 
- **January 25, 1837:** House votes 132-43 to pass 24 S.81.\textsuperscript{320} 
- **January 26, 1837:** President Jackson signs 24 S. 81 into law, admitting Michigan to the Union.\textsuperscript{321} 

**Minnesota**

- **October 20, 1818:** The United States acquires part of the land that will become Minnesota from Great Britain, adding to territory obtained in the Treaty of Paris (1783) and the Louisiana Purchase (1803).\textsuperscript{322} 
- **February 23, 1848:** Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois introduces 30 S. 152, a bill to create the Minnesota Territory.\textsuperscript{323} 
- **January 19, 1849:** Senate passes an amended version of the Minnesota Territory bill without a recorded vote.\textsuperscript{324}

\textsuperscript{318} Senate Journal, 24\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (December 29, 1836), p. 72; Congressional Globe, 24\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (December 29, 1836), p. 59. 
\textsuperscript{319} Senate Journal, 24\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (January 5, 1837), pp. 93-94; Congressional Globe, 24\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (January 5, 1837), p. 73. 
\textsuperscript{320} House Journal, 24\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (January 25, 1837), pp. 284-285; Congressional Globe, 24\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (January 25, 1837), p. 125. 
\textsuperscript{321} 5 Stat. 144. 
\textsuperscript{323} Senate Journal, 30\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (February 23, 1848), p. 187. The bill’s introduction does not appear in the Congressional Globe. 
\textsuperscript{324} Congressional Globe, 30\textsuperscript{th} Cong. (January 19, 1849), 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess., pp. 298-299. The bill’s passage does not appear in the Senate Journal.
• **February 28, 1849:** House passes an amended version of the Minnesota Territory bill without a recorded vote.\(^{325}\)

• **March 1, 1849:** Senate accepts most of the House’s amendments to the Minnesota Territory bill, but rejects one on a 30-18 vote.\(^{326}\)

• **March 3, 1849:** House votes 107-70 to accept the Senate’s version of 30 S. 152.\(^{327}\) President James K. Polk signs the Minnesota Territory bill into law.\(^{328}\)

• **December 24, 1856:** Delegate Henry Rice of Minnesota introduces 34 H.R. 642, a bill authorizing Minnesota Territory residents to hold a constitutional convention in preparation for statehood.\(^{329}\)

• **January 31, 1857:** House votes 97-75 to pass an amended version of 34 H.R. 642.\(^{330}\)

• **February 21, 1857:** Senate votes 47-1 to pass an amended version of 34 H.R. 642.\(^{331}\)

• **February 25, 1857:** Senate reconsiders its amendment and votes 31-22 to approve the House-passed version.\(^{332}\)

• **February 26, 1857:** President James Buchanan signs the Minnesota enabling act into law.\(^{333}\)

• **July 13-August 29, 1857:** Elected delegates assemble in St. Paul to draft the state constitution, but the Democratic and Republican parties are so divided that two separate conventions are held and two constitutions are drafted. Eventually, a conference committee drafts a compromise document.\(^{334}\)

• **October 13, 1857:** Minnesota voters ratify the new state constitution, 30,055 to 571.\(^{335}\)

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\(^{325}\) *House Journal*, 30\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (February 28, 1849), pp. 558-559; *Congressional Globe*, 30\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (February 28, 1849), p. 617.

\(^{326}\) *Senate Journal*, 30\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (March 1, 1849), pp. 288-289; *Congressional Globe*, 30\(^{th}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (March 1, 1849), pp. 635-637.


\(^{328}\) 9 Stat. 403.

\(^{329}\) *House Journal*, 34\(^{th}\) Cong., 3\(^{rd}\) sess. (December 24, 1856), p. 163; *Congressional Globe*, 34\(^{th}\) Cong., 3\(^{rd}\) sess. (December 24, 1856), p. 201.


\(^{331}\) *Senate Journal*, 34\(^{th}\) Cong., 3\(^{rd}\) sess. (February 21, 1857), p. 237; *Congressional Globe*, 34\(^{th}\) Cong., 3\(^{rd}\) sess. (February 21, 1857), p. 814.

\(^{332}\) *Senate Journal*, 34\(^{th}\) Cong., 3\(^{rd}\) sess. (February 25, 1857), p. 252; *Congressional Globe*, 34\(^{th}\) Cong., 3\(^{rd}\) sess. (February 25, 1857), p. 877.

\(^{333}\) 11 Stat. 166.


\(^{335}\) *Minnesota Constitution 1858*. 
• **January 26, 1858:** Senator Douglas reports 35 S. 86, a bill “for the admission of the State of Minnesota into the Union,” from the Senate Committee on Territories.\textsuperscript{336}

• **April 7, 1858:** Senate votes 49-3 to admit Minnesota as a state.\textsuperscript{337}

• **May 11, 1858:** House votes to admit Minnesota as a state.\textsuperscript{338} President Buchanan signs 35 S. 86 into law, and Minnesota became a state.\textsuperscript{339}

**Mississippi**

• **September 3, 1783:** The United States acquires the land that will become Mississippi from Great Britain in the Treaty of Paris.\textsuperscript{340}

• **February 23, 1798:** Senator James Ross of Pennsylvania reports, from a committee looking into the area south and west of Georgia, a bill to establish a new Mississippi Territory.\textsuperscript{341}

• **March 5, 1798:** The Senate passes the Mississippi Territory bill, 20\textsuperscript{-}8.\textsuperscript{342}

• **March 27, 1798:** The House passes an amended version of the Mississippi Territory bill without a recorded vote.\textsuperscript{343}

• **March 29, 1798:** The Senate agrees to the House amendments without a recorded vote.\textsuperscript{344}

• **April 7, 1798:** President John Adams signs the Mississippi Territory bill into law.\textsuperscript{345}

• **January 17, 1817:** Senator Charles Tait of Georgia reports, from a select committee studying the issue, a bill that would enable the western part of the Mississippi Territory to prepare for statehood.\textsuperscript{346}

\textsuperscript{336} Senate Journal, 35\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (January 26, 1858), p. 133; Congressional Globe, 35\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (January 26, 1858), p. 405.

\textsuperscript{337} Senate Journal, 35\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (April 7, 1858), p. 326; Congressional Globe, 35\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (April 7, 1858), pp. 1511-1516.

\textsuperscript{338} The vote was reported as 157-39 in the House Journal and 157-38 in the Congressional Globe. See House Journal, 35\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (May 11, 1858), p. 777, and Congressional Globe, 35\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (May 11, 1858), pp. 2057-2061.

\textsuperscript{339} 1 Stat. 285.


\textsuperscript{341} Senate Journal, 5\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (February 23, 1798), p. 445; Annals of Congress, vol. 7, 5\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (February 23, 1798), p. 511.

\textsuperscript{342} Senate Journal, 5\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (March 5, 1798), p. 449; Annals of Congress, vol. 7, 5\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (March 5, 1798), p. 515.

\textsuperscript{343} House Journal, 5\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (March 27, 1798), p. 240; Annals of Congress, vol. 8, 5\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (March 27, 1798), p. 1318.

\textsuperscript{344} Senate Journal, 5\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (March 29, 1798), p. 465; Annals of Congress, vol. 7, 5\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (March 29, 1798), p. 533.

\textsuperscript{345} 1 Stat. 549.

\textsuperscript{346} Senate Journal, 14\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (January 17, 1817), p. 123; Annals of Congress, vol. 30, 14\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (January 17, 1817), p. 71. The eastern part of Mississippi Territory became the Alabama Territory.
• **January 31, 1817:** Senate passes an amended version of the Mississippi Territory enabling bill without a recorded vote.  

• **February 26, 1817:** House amends and passes the Mississippi Territory enabling bill without a recorded vote.

• **February 27, 1817:** Senate concurs in the House’s amendments without a recorded vote.

• **March 1, 1817:** President James Madison signs the enabling act for Mississippi statehood.

• **July-August 1817:** Forty-eight delegates meet to form a constitutional convention.

• **August 15, 1817:** The delegates approve the final draft of the Mississippi Constitution.

• **December 3, 1817:** Senator James Barbour of Virginia reports, from a select committee studying the issue, a resolution to admit Mississippi as a state. It passes the Senate without a recorded vote.

• **December 8, 1817:** The House passes the resolution “on the admission of the state of Mississippi into the Union” without a recorded vote.

• **December 10, 1817:** President James Monroe signs the resolution into law and Mississippi becomes the 20th state.

### Missouri

• **April 30, 1803:** The United States acquires the land that will become Missouri from France in the Louisiana Purchase. It will become part of the Louisiana Territory, while the land that will become Louisiana is governed as the Orleans Territory.

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350 3 Stat. 348.


352 Ibid.


355 3 Stat. 472.

• November 14, 1811: Representative John Rhea of Tennessee reports, from a select committee, a bill on the Louisiana Territory’s government.357

• April 9, 1812: House passes the Louisiana Territory bill without a recorded vote.358

• May 19, 1812: Senate passes an amended version of the Louisiana Territory bill without a recorded vote.359

• May 21, 1812: House amends and passes the Senate-amended version of the Louisiana Territory bill without a recorded vote.360 Senate then approves the House-amended version without a recorded vote.361

• June 4, 1812: President James Madison signs the act reorganizing the government of Louisiana Territory and giving it a new name: Missouri Territory.362

• February 13, 1819: Representative James Tallmadge of New York proposes gradual emancipation in Missouri as a condition for statehood, setting off a sectional controversy over slavery. The eventual resolution, known as the Missouri Compromise, includes the admission of Maine as a free state, the admission of Missouri as a slave state, and the prohibition of slavery in the remainder of the Louisiana Purchase north of Missouri’s southern boundary (36° 30’ north latitude).363

• March 1, 1820: House passes a bill, by a vote of 91 to 82, enabling Missouri to prepare a state constitution and government.364

• March 2, 1820: Senate amends and passes the Missouri enabling bill without a recorded vote on final passage.365 House agrees to the Senate’s amendments by votes of 90-87 and 134-42 after the question was divided.366

• March 6, 1820: President James Monroe signs the act enabling Missouri residents to write a constitution and form a state government.367


362 2 Stat. 743.


367 3 Stat. 545.
• **June 12, 1820:** Delegates gather in St. Louis to draft a state constitution.368

• **July 17, 1820:** Delegates at the St. Louis convention vote 39-1 to approve a new state constitution, which they sign two days later.369

• **February 26, 1821:** Representative Henry Clay of Kentucky reports, from a joint committee appointed to consider Missouri statehood, a resolution granting conditional admission to Missouri. The House approves the resolution by a vote of 87 to 81.370

• **February 28, 1821:** Senate approves the resolution for conditional admission of Missouri by a 28-14 vote.371

• **March 2, 1821:** President Monroe signs the resolution granting statehood to Missouri, on the condition that its legislature agree the state constitution “shall never be construed to authorize the passage of any law, and that no law shall be passed in conformity thereto, by which any citizen … shall be excluded from the enjoyment of any of the privileges and immunities to which such citizen is entitled under the constitution of the United States.”372

• **August 10, 1821:** President Monroe issues a proclamation admitting Missouri as the 24th state.373

**Montana**

• **June 15, 1846:** United States acquires part of the land that will become Montana from Great Britain in the Oregon Treaty, adding to land acquired from France in 1803 via the Louisiana Purchase.374

• **December 14, 1863:** Representative James M. Ashley of Ohio introduces H.R. 15, a bill to create a new Territory of Montana.375

• **March 17, 1864:** House amends and passes H.R. 15 without a recorded vote.376

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368 *Journal of the Missouri State Convention* (St. Louis, MO: I.N. Henry and Co., 1820), p. 3.


372 3 Stat. 645.

373 3 Stat. 797.


March 31, 1864: Senate amends 38 H.R. 15 and votes 29-8 to pass it.\textsuperscript{377}

May 19, 1864: Senate votes 26-13 to approve a compromise version of 38 H.R. 15.\textsuperscript{378}

May 20, 1864: House votes 102-26 to approve a compromise version of 38 H.R. 15.\textsuperscript{379}

May 26, 1864: President Abraham Lincoln signs 38 H.R. 15 into law, creating the Montana Territory.\textsuperscript{380}

December 12, 1887: Senator Charles F. Manderson of Nebraska introduces 50 S. 185, a bill to admit southern Dakota Territory as the State of Dakota and create a new Territory of Lincoln in northern Dakota Territory.\textsuperscript{381}

April 19, 1888: Senate votes 26-23 to pass an amended version of 50 S. 185 that would create a State of South Dakota and a new Territory of North Dakota.\textsuperscript{382}

January 18, 1889: Houses votes 145-98 to pass an amended version of 50 S. 185. This new version would clear the way to admit Montana, New Mexico, Washington, and—depending on the results of a referendum on division—either a combined state of Dakota or separate states of North Dakota and South Dakota.\textsuperscript{383}

February 20, 1889: House and Senate agree to a compromise version of 50 S. 185 that allows the creation and admission of four new states: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington. Both chambers pass the bill without recorded votes.\textsuperscript{384}

February 22, 1889: President Grover Cleveland signs 50 S. 185, enabling statehood for Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington.\textsuperscript{385}

July 4, 1889: Delegates gather in Helena to write a state constitution for Montana.\textsuperscript{386}

August 17, 1889: Delegates to the Helena convention vote 61-2 to adopt the new Montana state constitution.\textsuperscript{387}

\textsuperscript{377} Senate Journal, 38\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (March 31, 1864), p. 290; Congressional Globe, 38\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (March 31, 1864), pp. 1361-1364.

\textsuperscript{378} Senate Journal, 38\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (May 19, 1864), pp. 455-456; Congressional Globe, 38\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (May 19, 1864), pp. 2347-2351.

\textsuperscript{379} House Journal, 38\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (May 20, 1864), pp. 680-681; Congressional Globe, 38\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (May 20, 1864), pp. 2385-2386.

\textsuperscript{380} 13 Stat. 85.

\textsuperscript{381} Senate Journal, 50\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (December 12, 1887), p. 33; Congressional Record, vol. 19, part 1 (December 12, 1887), p. 22.

\textsuperscript{382} Senate Journal, 50\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 1\textsuperscript{st} sess. (April 19, 1888), pp. 695-696; Congressional Record, vol. 19, part 4 (April 19, 1888), pp. 3139-3140.

\textsuperscript{383} House Journal, 50\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (January 18, 1889), pp. 290-298; Congressional Record, vol. 20, part 1 (January 18, 1889), pp. 951-952.

\textsuperscript{384} House Journal, 50\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (February 20, 1889), pp. 561-570; Senate Journal, 50\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (February 20, 1889), pp. 357-366; Congressional Record, vol. 20, part 3 (February 20, 1889), pp. 2104 and 2116.

\textsuperscript{385} 25 Stat. 676.

\textsuperscript{386} Proceedings and Debates of the Constitutional Convention Held in the City of Helena, Montana, July 4\textsuperscript{th}, 1889, August 17\textsuperscript{th}, 1889 (Helena, MT: State Publishing Co., 1921), p. 13.

\textsuperscript{387} Proceedings and Debates of the Constitutional Convention Held in the City of Helena, p. 971.
Admission of States to the Union: A Historical Reference Guide

- **October 1, 1889**: Montana voters ratify the new state constitution, 24,676 to 2,274.388
- **November 8, 1889**: President Benjamin Harrison issues a proclamation admitting Montana as the 41st state.389

**Nebraska**

- **April 30, 1803**: United States acquires the land that will become Nebraska from France in the Louisiana Purchase.390
- **December 14, 1853**: Senator Augustus Caesar Dodge of Iowa introduces 33 S. 22, a bill to create a new Nebraska Territory.391
- **January 31, 1854**: Representative William A. Richardson of Illinois reports 33 H.R. 236, a bill creating new territorial governments for Kansas and Nebraska, from the House Committee on Territories.392
- **March 3, 1854**: Senate votes 37-14 to pass 33 S. 22, which as amended would create two new territories, Kansas and Nebraska.393
- **May 22, 1854**: House passes an amended version of 33 H.R. 236 on a 113-100 vote, in lieu of voting on the Senate-passed 33 S. 22.394
- **May 25, 1854**: Senate passes 33 H.R. 236 on a 35-13 vote.395
- **May 30, 1854**: President Franklin Pierce signs 33 H.R. 236 into law, creating the Kansas and Nebraska territories and repealing the 1820 Missouri Compromise that would have barred slavery there. Instead, the Kansas-Nebraska Act leaves residents of the two territories “perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way.”396

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389 26 Stat. 1551.
391 Senate Journal, 33rd Cong., 1st sess. (December 14, 1853), p. 44; Congressional Globe, 33rd Cong., 1st sess. (December 14, 1853), p. 44.
• **December 14, 1863**: Representative James M. Ashley of Ohio introduces H.R. 14½, a bill to enable the people of Nebraska to write a constitution and form a state government. 397

• **March 17, 1864**: House passes H.R. 14½ without a recorded vote. 398

• **April 14, 1864**: Senate passes H.R. 14½ without a recorded vote. 399

• **April 19, 1864**: President Abraham Lincoln signs the Nebraska enabling act into law. 400

• **June 2, 1866**: Following an abortive constitutional convention in 1864, Nebraska voters ratify a state constitution written by the territorial legislature, 3,938 to 3,838. 401

• **December 5, 1866**: Senator Benjamin Wade of Ohio introduces S. 456, a bill to admit Nebraska as a state. 402

• **January 9, 1867**: Senate votes 24-15 to pass an amended version of S. 456. 403

• **January 15, 1867**: House votes 103-55 to pass an amended version of S. 456. 404

• **January 16, 1867**: Senate votes 28-14 to accept the House’s version of S. 456. 405

• **January 30, 1867**: President Andrew Johnson vetoes S. 456, the Nebraska statehood act. He objected to its requirement that “there shall be no denial of the elective franchise, or of any other right, to any person, by reason of race or color” in Nebraska. 406

• **February 8, 1867**: Senate overrides President Johnson’s veto of S. 456 by a 31-9 vote. 407

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400 13 Stat. 47.


- **February 9, 1867**: House overrides President Johnson’s veto of 39 S. 456 by a 120-44 vote, enacting it into law.408
- **March 1, 1867**: President Johnson issues a proclamation admitting Nebraska as the 37th state.409

**Nevada**

- **February 2, 1848**: The United States acquires the land that will become Nevada from Mexico in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.410
- **February 14, 1861**: Senator James S. Green of Missouri reports 36 S. 563, a bill creating the Nevada Territory, from the Senate Committee on Territories.411
- **February 26, 1861**: Senate amends 36 S. 563 and passes it without a recorded vote.412
- **March 1, 1861**: House votes to pass 36 S. 563.413
- **March 2, 1861**: President James Buchanan signs 36 S. 563, creating the Nevada Territory.414
- **February 8, 1864**: Senator James R. Doolittle of Wisconsin introduces 38 S. 96, a bill that would enable Nevada residents to write a constitution and form a state government, followed by its admission as a state.415
- **February 24, 1864**: Senate amends and passes 38 S. 96 without a recorded vote.416
- **March 17, 1864**: House passes 38 S. 96 without a recorded vote.417
- **March 21, 1864**: President Abraham Lincoln signs 38 S. 96 into law.418

**Nevada: 36th State**

Nevada Territory created March 2, 1861 (12 Stat. 209)
Enabling and admission law enacted March 21, 1864 (13 Stat. 30)
Nevada admitted October 31, 1864 (13 Stat. 749)

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413 The *House Journal* reports the vote as 92-52, while the *Congressional Globe* reports the vote as 91-52. See *House Journal*, 36th Cong., 2nd sess. (March 1, 1861), pp. 450-452, and *Congressional Globe*, 36th Cong., 2nd sess. (March 1, 1861), p. 1334.

414 12 Stat. 209.


418 13 Stat. 30.
- **July 4, 1864**: Delegates gather in Carson City to write a state constitution for Nevada.\(^{419}\)
- **July 27, 1864**: Delegates at the Carson City convention vote 19-2 to approve the state constitution.\(^{420}\)
- **September 7, 1864**: Nevada voters ratify the state constitution, 10,375-1,284.\(^{421}\)
- **October 31, 1864**: President Lincoln issues a proclamation admitting Nevada as the 36\(^{th}\) state.\(^{422}\)

### New Hampshire

- **September 18, 1679**: King Charles II appoints a government for the “Province of New-Hampshire.”\(^{423}\)
- **July 4, 1776**: New Hampshire joins 12 other colonies in declaring independence from Great Britain.\(^{424}\)
- **July 9, 1778**: New Hampshire signs the Articles of Confederation.\(^{425}\)
- **May 14-September 17, 1787**: Two of New Hampshire’s four delegates participate in the Constitutional Convention.\(^{426}\)
- **June 21, 1788**: New Hampshire’s convention ratifies the Constitution by a 57-47 vote, achieving Article VII’s nine-state threshold for implementation.\(^{427}\)

### New Jersey

- **April 17, 1702**: Queen Anne establishes British royal control over New Jersey.\(^{428}\)
- **July 4, 1776**: New Jersey joins 12 other colonies in declaring independence from Great Britain.\(^{429}\)

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\(^{422}\) 13 Stat. 749.


\(^{424}\) *Journals of the Continental Congress*, vol. 5 (July 4, 1776), pp. 510-516.


\(^{426}\) Farrand, *Records*, vol. 3, p. 557.


\(^{428}\) “The Queen’s Acceptance of the Surrender of Government” and “Surrender from the Proprietors of East and West New Jersey, of Their Pretended Right of Government to Her Majesty,” in Thorpe, *Federal and State Constitutions*, vol. 5, pp. 2584-2590.

\(^{429}\) *Journals of the Continental Congress*, vol. 5 (July 4, 1776), pp. 510-516.
• **November 26, 1778**: New Jersey signs the Articles of Confederation.430
• **May 14-September 17, 1787**: Five of New Jersey’s seven delegates participate in the Constitutional Convention.431
• **December 18, 1787**: New Jersey’s convention votes 38-0 to ratify the Constitution, making it the third state to join the new federal government.432

New Mexico

• **December 29, 1845**: The United States acquires part of the land that will become New Mexico through the annexation of Texas, with additional territory to come in the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the 1854 Gadsden Purchase.433
• **January 29, 1850**: Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky proposes what becomes the Compromise of 1850, a legislative package that includes organizing a territorial government for New Mexico and settling the Texas-New Mexico border.434
• **August 5, 1850**: Senator James A. Pearce of Maryland introduces 31 S. 307, a bill to settle the northern and western borders of Texas.435
• **August 9, 1850**: Senate amends and passes 31 S. 307 by a vote of 30 to 20.436
• **September 6, 1850**: House votes 108-97 to pass an amended version of 31 S. 307, adding language to create the New Mexico Territory.437
• **September 9, 1850**: Senate endorses the House’s amendment to 31 S. 307 on a 31-10 vote.438 President Millard Fillmore signs 31 S. 307 into law, creating the New Mexico Territory.439

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439 9 Stat. 446.
• **January 14, 1910:** Representative Edward L. Hamilton of Michigan introduces H.R. 18166, which would enable Arizona and New Mexico to write constitutions in preparation for statehood.\(^{440}\)

• **January 17, 1910:** House suspends the rules and passes H.R. 18166 without a recorded vote.\(^{441}\)

• **June 16, 1910:** Senate amends H.R. 18166, then passes it on a 65-0 vote.\(^{442}\)

• **June 18, 1910:** House passes Senate-amended version of H.R. 18166 without a recorded vote.\(^{443}\)

• **June 20, 1910:** President William Howard Taft signs H.R. 18166 into law, enabling Arizona and New Mexico to form constitutions and state governments.\(^{444}\)

• **October 3, 1910:** Delegates gather in Santa Fe to write a state constitution for New Mexico.\(^{445}\)

• **November 21, 1910:** Delegates to the Santa Fe convention vote 79-18 to adopt a state constitution.\(^{446}\)

• **January 21, 1911:** New Mexico voters ratify the state constitution by a vote of 31,742 to 13,399.\(^{447}\)

• **August 15, 1911:** President Taft vetoes H.J.Res. 14, a joint resolution to admit Arizona and New Mexico as states, objecting to the provision of Arizona’s constitution that allows voters to recall judges.\(^{448}\)

• **August 17, 1911:** Senator William A. Smith of Michigan reports S.J.Res. 57 from the Senate Committee on Territories. This joint resolution would admit Arizona and New Mexico as states but would first require Arizona to remove judicial recall from its state constitution.\(^{449}\)

• **August 18, 1911:** Senate debates and passes S.J.Res. 57 on a 53-9 vote.\(^{450}\)

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\(^{442}\) *Senate Journal,* 61st Cong., 2nd sess. (June 16, 1910), pp. 452-453; *Congressional Record,* vol. 45, part 8 (June 16, 1910), pp. 8225-8237.

\(^{443}\) *House Journal,* 61st Cong., 2nd sess. (June 18, 1910), p. 803; *Congressional Record,* vol. 45, part 8 (June 18, 1910), pp. 8485-8487.

\(^{444}\) 36 Stat. 557.


\(^{446}\) *Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of the Proposed State of New Mexico,* p. 252.


\(^{450}\) *Senate Journal,* 62nd Cong., 1st sess. (August 18, 1911), p. 185; *Congressional Record,* vol. 47, part 4 (August 18, 1911), pp. 4118-4141.
• **August 19, 1911:** House debates and passes 62 S.J.Res. 57 without a recorded vote.  
  
• **August 21, 1911:** President Taft signs 62 S.J.Res. 57 into law, admitting New Mexico and Arizona as states once certain conditions have been met, including a vote on a change to the New Mexico constitution’s amendment process.  
  
• **November 7, 1911:** New Mexico voters approve the congressionally-proposed constitutional amendment by a vote of 34,897 to 22,831.  
  
• **January 6, 1912:** President Taft issues a proclamation formally admitting New Mexico as the 47th state.

New York

• **September 8, 1664:** English forces capture New Amsterdam, renaming it New York, during the Second Anglo-Dutch War. The Treaty of Breda in 1667 confirms English control of the New Netherland colony.  
  
• **July 15, 1776:** New York, after earlier abstaining, informs the Continental Congress that it joins its 12 fellow colonies in declaring independence from Great Britain.  
  
• **July 9, 1778:** New York signs the Articles of Confederation.  
  
• **May 14-September 17, 1787:** New York’s three delegates participate in the Constitutional Convention.  
  
• **July 26, 1788:** New York’s convention ratifies the Constitution by a 30-27 vote, making it the 11th state to join the new federal government.

North Carolina

• **March 24, 1663:** King Charles II grants a charter to eight men, later known as the “Lords Proprietors,”

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452 37 Stat. 39.


454 37 Stat. 1723.


456 *Journals of the Continental Congress*, vol. 5 (July 4 and July 15, 1776), pp. 516 and 560.


to create the Carolina colony.\textsuperscript{460} In the early 18\textsuperscript{th} century, the colony splits into North and South Carolina.\textsuperscript{461}

- **July 25, 1729:** Seven of the Lords Proprietors sell North Carolina to King George II.\textsuperscript{462}
- **July 4, 1776:** North Carolina joins 12 other colonies in declaring independence from Great Britain.\textsuperscript{463}
- **July 21, 1778:** North Carolina signs and ratifies the Articles of Confederation.\textsuperscript{464}
- **May 14-September 17, 1787:** Five delegates from North Carolina participate in the Constitutional Convention.\textsuperscript{465}
- **August 2, 1788:** North Carolina’s ratification convention votes 184-83 to demand amendments to the Constitution, including a declaration of rights.\textsuperscript{466}
- **November 21, 1789:** At a second convention, North Carolina delegates vote 194-77 to ratify the Constitution and join the new government as the 12\textsuperscript{th} state.\textsuperscript{467}

**North Dakota**

- **April 30, 1803:** The United States acquires part of the land that will become North Dakota from France in the Louisiana Purchase, with additional territory acquired in 1818 from Great Britain.\textsuperscript{468}
- **February 14, 1861:** Senator James S. Green of Missouri reports 36 S. 562, a bill to create the Territory of Dakota, from the Senate Committee on Territories.\textsuperscript{469}
- **February 26, 1861:** Senate passes an amended version of 36 S. 562 without a recorded vote.\textsuperscript{470}
- **March 1, 1861:** House passes 36 S. 562 without a recorded vote.\textsuperscript{471}

\textbf{North Dakota: 39\textsuperscript{th} State}

| Dakota Territory created March 2, 1861 (12 Stat. 239) |
| Enabling and statehood law enacted February 22, 1889 (25 Stat. 676) |
| North Dakota admitted November 2, 1889 (26 Stat. 1548) |

\textsuperscript{463} \textit{Journals of the Continental Congress}, vol. 5 (July 4, 1776), pp. 510-516.
\textsuperscript{464} \textit{Journals of the Continental Congress}, vol. 11 (July 21, 1778), p. 709.
\textsuperscript{469} \textit{Senate Journal}, 36\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (February 14, 1861), p. 228; \textit{Congressional Globe}, 36\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (February 14, 1861), p. 897.
\textsuperscript{470} \textit{Senate Journal}, 36\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (February 26, 1861), pp. 316-317; \textit{Congressional Globe}, 36\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (February 26, 1861), pp. 1207-1208.
\textsuperscript{471} \textit{House Journal}, 36\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (March 1, 1861), p. 452; \textit{Congressional Globe}, 36\textsuperscript{th} Cong., 2\textsuperscript{nd} sess. (March 1, 1861), pp. 1334-1335.
• **March 2, 1861:** President James Buchanan signs 36 S. 562, creating the Territory of Dakota.472

• **November 8, 1887:** Dakota Territory voters endorse splitting the territory into northern and southern entities, with 37,784 voting in favor of division and 32,913 voting against division.473

• **December 12, 1887:** Senator Charles F. Manderson of Nebraska introduces 50 S. 185, a bill to admit the southern Dakota Territory as the State of Dakota and create a new Territory of Lincoln in northern Dakota Territory.474

• **April 19, 1888:** Senate votes 26-23 to pass an amended version of 50 S. 185 that would create a State of South Dakota and a new Territory of North Dakota.475

• **January 18, 1889:** House votes 145-98 to pass an amended version of 50 S. 185. This new version would clear the way to admit Montana, New Mexico, Washington, and—depending on the results of a referendum on division—either a combined state of Dakota or separate states of North Dakota and South Dakota.476

• **February 20, 1889:** House and Senate agree to a compromise version of 50 S. 185 that allows the creation and admission of four new states: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington. Both chambers pass the bill without recorded votes.477

• **February 22, 1889:** President Grover Cleveland signs 50 S. 185, enabling statehood for Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington.478

• **July 4, 1889:** Delegates gather in Bismarck to write a state constitution for North Dakota.479

• **August 17, 1889:** Delegates to the Bismarck convention vote 40-23 to adopt a state constitution for North Dakota.480

• **October 1, 1889:** North Dakota voters ratify the state constitution, 27,441 to 8,107.481

472 12 Stat. 239.


478 25 Stat. 676.


480 Journal of the Constitutional Convention for North Dakota, pp. 399-400.

481 Laws Passed at the First Session of the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota (Bismarck, ND: Tribune, 1890), p. 15.
• **November 2, 1889:** President Benjamin Harrison issues a proclamation admitting North Dakota.\(^{482}\)

Ohio

• **September 3, 1783:** The United States acquires the land that will become Ohio from Great Britain in the Treaty of Paris.\(^{483}\)

• **July 13, 1787:** Congress, operating under the Articles of Confederation, passes the Northwest Ordinance, establishing the Territory of the United States North West of the River Ohio (often shortened to “the Northwest Territory”).\(^{484}\)

• **July 21, 1789:** With the Constitution in effect, the House passes a bill, without a recorded vote, to keep the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 in effect.\(^{485}\)

• **August 4, 1789:** The Senate amends and passes the Northwest Ordinance bill without a recorded vote.\(^{486}\)

• **August 5, 1789:** House agrees to the Senate’s amendments on the Northwest Ordinance bill without a recorded vote.\(^{487}\)

• **August 7, 1789:** President George Washington signs the act to keep the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 in effect.\(^{488}\)

• **April 2, 1802:** Representative William B. Giles of Virginia introduces a bill enabling residents in the eastern part of the Northwest Territory to write a constitution and form a state government.\(^{489}\)

• **April 9, 1802:** House passes the Northwest Territory enabling bill on a 47-29 vote.\(^{490}\)

• **April 28, 1802:** Senate passes an amended version of the Northwest Territory enabling bill on a 16-6 vote.\(^{491}\)

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\(^{482}\) 26 Stat. 1548.


\(^{488}\) 1 Stat. 50.


• **April 29, 1802:** House passes the Senate-amended version of the Northwest Territory enabling bill without a recorded vote.\(^{492}\)

• **April 30, 1802:** President Thomas Jefferson signs the act, enabling residents in the eastern part of the Northwest Territory to write a constitution and form a state government.\(^{493}\)

• **November 1, 1802:** Delegates gather in Chillicothe to write a state constitution.\(^{494}\)

• **November 29, 1802:** Delegates at the Chillicothe convention approve a state constitution for Ohio.\(^{495}\)

• **February 19, 1803:** President Jefferson signs an act to enforce federal law in the new state of Ohio. However, it does not explicitly enact Ohio’s admission as a state.\(^{496}\)

• **March 1, 1803:** Ohio marks its admission as the 17th state.\(^{497}\) This statehood date is retroactively established 150 years later by P.L. 83-204.\(^{498}\)

• **January 13, 1953:** Representative George H. Bender of Ohio introduces 83 H.J.Res 121, resolving that “the State of Ohio, shall be one, and is hereby declared to be one, of the United States of America, and is admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, in all respects whatever”—with an effective date of March 1, 1803.\(^{499}\)

• **May 19, 1953:** House adopts 83 H.J.Res. 121 without a recorded vote.\(^{500}\)

• **August 1, 1953:** Senate adopts 83 H.J.Res. 121 without a recorded vote.\(^{501}\)

• **August 7, 1953:** President Dwight Eisenhower signs 83 H.J.Res. 121 into law.\(^{502}\)


\(^{493}\) 2 Stat. 173.

\(^{494}\) *Journal of the Convention of the Territory of the United States North-west of the Ohio, Begun and Held at Chillicothe, on Monday the First Day of November, A.D. One Thousand Eight Hundred and Two, and of the Independence of the United States the Twenty-Seventh* (Chillicothe, OH: N. Willis, 1802), p. 3.

\(^{495}\) *Journal of the Convention of the Territory of the United States North-west of the Ohio*, p. 45.


\(^{497}\) “The date of March 1, 1803 was when the Ohio legislature met for the first time,” according to National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Center for Legislative Archives, *200th Anniversary of Ohio Statehood*, at https://www.archives.gov/legislative/features/ohio-statehood.

\(^{498}\) 67 Stat. 407.


\(^{502}\) 67 Stat. 407.
Oklahoma

- **April 30, 1803:** The United States acquires territory from France that includes a portion of the land that will become the state of Oklahoma through the Louisiana Purchase.\(^{503}\)

- **1820s:** The U.S. government sets aside land in the current states of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska to form an “Indian Country” (or “Indian Territory”). Many American Indians are relocated to this territory through various actions, including the Indian Removal Act, passed by Congress in 1830 (4 Stat. 411).\(^{504}\)

- **December 29, 1845:** Through the annexation of Texas, the United States obtains additional lands, known as the Oklahoma Panhandle, that will later comprise the seventh county of the Oklahoma Territory.\(^{505}\)

- **February 2, 1848:** Representatives of the United States and Mexico sign the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, through which Mexico officially recognizes the annexation of Texas that occurred nearly three years prior.\(^{506}\)

- **December 9, 1889:** Senator Orville Platt of Connecticut introduces S. 895, a bill to create the Oklahoma Territory.\(^{507}\)

- **February 13, 1890:** Senate amends and passes S. 895 without a recorded vote.\(^{508}\)

- **April 21, 1890:** House passes, without a recorded vote, a compromise version of the Oklahoma Organic Act (S. 895) to form the Territory of Oklahoma from the western portion of the Indian Territory.\(^{509}\)

- **April 23, 1890:** Senate agrees to the conference report on S. 895 by a vote of 50-5.\(^{510}\)

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\(^{507}\) Senate Journal, 51st Cong., 1st sess. (December 9, 1889), p. 31; *Congressional Record*, vol. 21, part 1 (December 9, 1889), p. 123.

\(^{508}\) Senate Journal, 51st Cong., 1st sess. (February 13, 1890), p. 118; *Congressional Record*, vol. 21, part 2 (February 13, 1890), p. 1279.


• **May 2, 1890:** President Benjamin Harrison signs the Oklahoma Organic Act into law, formally creating the Territory of Oklahoma.\(^{511}\)

• **November 7, 1905:** The people of the remaining Indian Territory vote to approve a constitution written by delegates to create the state of Sequoyah—separate from the newly formed Oklahoma Territory—by a vote of 56,279 to 9,073.\(^{512}\)

• **December 1905-January 1906:** Bills are introduced in the House (59 H.R. 79) and the Senate (59 S. 3680) “to provide for the admission of the State of Sequoyah into the Union,” but both bills are tabled.\(^{513}\)

• **January 22, 1906:** Representative Edward Hamilton of Michigan introduces a bill (59 H.R. 12707) enabling the people of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory to form a constitution and state government and be admitted into the Union as one state.\(^{514}\)

• **June 13, 1906:** Senate passes a compromise version of 59 H.R. 12707 without a recorded vote.\(^{515}\)

• **June 14, 1906:** House passes the compromise version of 59 H.R. 12707 without a recorded vote.\(^{516}\)

• **June 16, 1906:** President Theodore Roosevelt signs the enabling bill.\(^{517}\)

• **November 20, 1906-September 16, 1907:** Elected delegates from the Oklahoma and Indian Territories convene the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention to draft a state constitution.\(^{518}\)

• **July 16, 1907:** Eighty-six delegates to the convention sign an amended version of the Oklahoma state constitution.\(^{519}\)

• **September 17, 1907:** The people of the Oklahoma and Indian Territories vote in favor of ratifying the state constitution, by a vote of 180,333 to 73,059.\(^{520}\)

• **November 16, 1907:** President Roosevelt issues Presidential Proclamation 780, admitting Oklahoma as the 46th state.\(^{521}\)

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\(^{511}\) 26 Stat. 81.


\(^{517}\) 34 Stat. 267.

\(^{518}\) Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of the proposed state of Oklahoma: held at Guthrie, Oklahoma, November 20, 1906 to November 16, 1907 (Muskogee, OK: Muskogee Ptg Co., 1907), pp. 5 and 467.


\(^{521}\) “Presidential Proclamation 780 of November 16, 1907,” by President Theodore Roosevelt, declaring the state of (continued...)
Oregon

- **October 20, 1818:** U.S. envoys Albert Gallatin and Richard Rush sign a convention with Great Britain agreeing to jointly occupy the Oregon Territory.522

- **June 15, 1846:** Secretary of State James Buchanan signs the Oregon Treaty with Great Britain, allowing the United States to acquire all land in the Oregon Territory south of the 49th parallel.523

- **February 9, 1848:** Representative Caleb B. Smith of Indiana reports H.R. 201, a bill to create a territorial government in Oregon, from the House Committee on Territories.524

- **August 2, 1848:** House passes an amended version of the Oregon Territory Act (30 H.R. 201).525

- **August 12, 1848:** Senate agrees to the House version of the Oregon Territory Act, voting 31-23 and 29-25 after the question was divided.526

- **August 14, 1848:** President James Polk signs the Oregon Territory Act, creating the Oregon territory.527

- **June 1857:** The eligible voters of the Oregon Territory support statehood in a referendum by a vote of 7,617 to 1,679.528

- **August 17-September 18, 1857:** Elected territorial delegates convene at the courthouse in Salem to draft a state constitution.529

- **September 18, 1857:** The convention delegates approve the draft constitution by a vote of 35-10.530

- **November 9, 1857:** The Oregon Territory’s electorate approves the state constitution by a vote of 7,195 to 3,215.531

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522 8 Stat. 248.


527 9 Stat. 323.


529 Carey, Oregon Constitution, p. 27.

530 Carey, Oregon Constitution, p. 397.

531 Carey, Oregon Constitution, p. 27.
• **April 5, 1858:** Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois reports 35 S. 239, a bill to admit Oregon into the Union, from the Senate Committee on Territories. 532

• **May 18, 1858:** Senate passes 35 S. 239 by a vote of 35-17. 533

• **February 12, 1859:** House passes 35 S. 239 by a vote of 114-103. 534

• **February 14, 1859:** President James Buchanan signs 35 S. 239, admitting Oregon into the Union as the 33rd state. 535

### Pennsylvania

- **1681:** King Charles II grants a charter to William Penn to create a colony in a portion of present-day Pennsylvania. 536
- **July 4, 1776:** Pennsylvania joins 12 other colonies in declaring independence from Great Britain. 537
- **July 9, 1778:** Pennsylvania’s delegates sign and ratify the Articles of Confederation. 538
- **May 14-September 17, 1787:** Pennsylvania’s eight delegates participate in the Constitutional Convention. 539
- **December 12, 1787:** Pennsylvania convention ratifies the Constitution by a vote of 46-23. 540

### Rhode Island

- **July 15, 1663:** King Charles II grants a charter to create the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. 541
- **July 4, 1776:** Rhode Island joins 12 other colonies in declaring independence from Great Britain. 542

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537 *Journals of the Continental Congress*, vol. 5 (July 4, 1776), pp. 510-516.


539 *Farrand, Records*, vol. 3, pp. 557-558.


542 *Journals of the Continental Congress*, vol. 5 (July 4, 1776), pp. 510-516.
• **July 9, 1778:** Delegates of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations sign and ratify the Articles of Confederation.\(^{543}\)

• **May 14-September 17, 1787:** Rhode Island does not send delegates to participate in the Constitutional Convention.\(^{544}\)

• **May 29, 1790:** Rhode Island’s convention ratifies the Constitution by a vote of 34-32, after a number of failed attempts.\(^{545}\)

### South Carolina

- **March 24, 1663:** King Charles II grants a charter to eight men, later known as the “Lords Proprietors,” to create the Carolina colony.\(^{546}\) In the early 18th century, the colony would split into North and South Carolina.\(^{547}\)

- **July 25, 1729:** Seven of the Lords Proprietors sell South Carolina to King George II.\(^{548}\)

- **July 4, 1776:** South Carolina joins 12 other colonies in declaring independence from Great Britain.\(^{549}\)

- **July 9, 1778:** South Carolina signs and ratifies the Articles of Confederation.\(^{550}\)

- **May 14-September 17, 1787:** Four of South Carolina’s five delegates participate in the Constitutional Convention.\(^{551}\)

- **May 23, 1788:** South Carolina convention ratifies the Constitution by a vote of 149-73.\(^{552}\)

### South Dakota

- **April 30, 1803:** The United States acquires part of the land that will become South Dakota from France in the Louisiana Purchase, with

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\(^{543}\) *Journals of the Continental Congress*, vol. 11 (July 9, 1778), p. 677.

\(^{544}\) *Farrand, Records*, vol. 3, p. 557.


\(^{549}\) *Journals of the Continental Congress*, vol. 5 (July 4, 1776), pp. 510-516.


\(^{551}\) *Farrand, Records*, vol. 3, p. 559.

\(^{552}\) *Elliot, Debates*, vol. 1, p. 325; *Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, vol. 27, pp. 393-397.
additional territory acquired in 1818 from Great Britain.553

- **February 14, 1861:** Senator James S. Green of Missouri reports 36 S. 562, a bill to create the Territory of Dakota, from the Senate Committee on Territories.554
- **February 26, 1861:** Senate passes an amended version of 36 S. 562 without a recorded vote.555
- **March 1, 1861:** House passes 36 S. 562 without a recorded vote.556
- **March 2, 1861:** President James Buchanan signs 36 S. 562, creating the Territory of Dakota.557
- **November 8, 1887:** Dakota Territory voters endorse splitting the territory into northern and southern entities, with 37,784 voting in favor of division and 32,913 voting against division.558
- **December 12, 1887:** Senator Charles F. Manderson of Nebraska introduces 50 S. 185, a bill to admit southern Dakota Territory as the State of Dakota and create a new Territory of Lincoln in northern Dakota Territory.559
- **April 19, 1888:** Senate votes 26-23 to pass an amended version of 50 S. 185 that would create a State of South Dakota and a new Territory of North Dakota.560
- **January 18, 1889:** Houses votes 145-98 to pass an amended version of 50 S. 185. This new version would clear the way to admit Montana, New Mexico, Washington, and—depending on the results of a referendum on division—either a combined state of Dakota or separate states of North Dakota and South Dakota.561
- **February 20, 1889:** House and Senate agree to a compromise version of 50 S. 185 that allows the creation and admission of four new states: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington. Both chambers pass the bill without recorded votes.562
- **February 22, 1889:** President Grover Cleveland signs 50 S. 185, enabling statehood for Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington.563

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557 12 Stat. 239.
559 *Senate Journal*, 50th Cong., 1st sess. (December 12, 1887), p. 33; *Congressional Record*, vol. 19, part 1 (December 12, 1887), p. 22.
562 *House Journal*, 50th Cong., 2nd sess. (February 20, 1889), pp. 561-570; *Senate Journal*, 50th Cong., 2nd sess. (February 20, 1889), pp. 357-366; *Congressional Record*, vol. 20, part 3 (February 20, 1889), pp. 2104 and 2116.
563 25 Stat. 676.
• **July 4, 1889:** Delegates gather in Sioux Falls to write a state constitution for South Dakota.\(^{564}\)

• **August 5, 1889:** Delegates to the Sioux Falls convention vote 72-0 to adopt a state constitution for South Dakota.\(^{565}\)

• **October 1, 1889:** South Dakota voters ratify the state constitution, 70,131 to 3,267.\(^{566}\)

• **November 2, 1889:** President Benjamin Harrison issues a proclamation admitting South Dakota as the 40\(^{th}\) state.\(^{567}\)

### Tennessee

- **September 3, 1783:** Great Britain cedes territory, including the land that will become the state of Tennessee, to the United States in the Treaty of Paris.\(^{568}\)

- **December 22, 1789:** North Carolina General Assembly agrees to cede its western lands to the U.S. government.\(^{569}\)

- **April 2, 1790:** Congress accepts the western lands ceded by North Carolina to the newly-formed federal government.\(^{570}\)

- **April 7, 1790:** Senate forms a select committee to “bring in a bill for the government of the territory of the United States south of the river Ohio.”\(^{571}\)

- **April 9, 1790:** Senate select committee reports “A bill for the government of the territory of the United States south of the river Ohio.”\(^{572}\)

- **April 27, 1790:** Senate passes the bill without a recorded vote.\(^{573}\)

- **April 29, 1790:** House passes an amended version of the bill without a recorded vote.\(^{574}\)

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\(^{564}\) *Journal of the Constitutional Convention of South Dakota* (Sioux Falls, SD: Brown & Saenger, 1889), p. 3.

\(^{565}\) *Journal of the Constitutional Convention of South Dakota*, pp. 161-162.

\(^{566}\) *Official Vote of South Dakota by Counties From October, 1889, to November, 1914* (Sioux Falls, SD: Mark D. Scott Print, 1914), p. 5.

\(^{567}\) 26 Stat. 1549.


\(^{570}\) 1 Stat. 106.

\(^{571}\) *Senate Journal*, 1\(^{st}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (April 7, 1790), p. 130; *Annals of Congress*, vol. 2, 1\(^{st}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (April 7, 1790), p. 998.

\(^{572}\) *Senate Journal*, 1\(^{st}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (April 9, 1790), p. 130; *Annals of Congress*, vol. 2, 1\(^{st}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (April 9, 1790), vol. 2, p. 999.

\(^{573}\) *Senate Journal*, 1\(^{st}\) Cong., 2\(^{nd}\) sess. (April 27, 1790), p. 132. The vote does not appear in the *Annals of Congress*.

May 4, 1790: Senate rejects the House-amended version of the territorial bill without a recorded vote.\(^{575}\)

May 5, 1790: House agrees to the Senate-passed version of the territorial bill without a recorded vote.\(^{576}\)

May 26, 1790: President George Washington signs the bill to organize the western lands ceded to the federal government by North Carolina into the “territory of the United States, south of the river Ohio” (often shortened to “the Southwest Territory”).\(^{577}\)

September 15-November 15, 1795: A census conducted in the Southwest Territory polls free adult males on the following question: “Is it your wish if, on taking the enumeration, there should prove to be less than sixty thousand inhabitants, that the Territory shall be admitted as a State in to the Federal Union with such less number or not?” Those polled affirmed the population’s desire to join the Union by a vote of 6,504 to 2,562. Voters also agree to hold a Constitutional Convention, should the census count a minimum of 60,000 inhabitants.\(^{578}\)

November 28, 1795: Governor William Blount calls for the election of delegates to a constitutional convention.\(^{579}\)

January 11, 1796: Elected delegates convene a constitutional convention in Knoxville.\(^{580}\)

February 6, 1796: The convention unanimously approves the state constitution drafted during the convention.\(^{581}\)

May 18, 1796: Senator Rufus King of New York reports a statehood bill from committee.\(^{582}\)

May 26, 1796: Senate passes an amended version of the statehood bill by a vote of 15-8.\(^{583}\)


\(^{577}\) 1 Stat. 123.


\(^{582}\) Senate Journal, 4\(^{th}\) Cong., 1\(^{st}\) sess. (May 18, 1796), p. 264; Annals of Congress, vol. 5, 4\(^{th}\) Cong., 1\(^{st}\) sess. (May 18, 1796), p. 97.

• **May 30, 1796**: House passes an amended version of the bill without a recorded vote.\(^{584}\)

• **May 31, 1796**: Senate agrees to the House version of the bill without a recorded vote.\(^{585}\)

• **June 1, 1796**: President Washington signs the bill, bringing Tennessee into the Union as the 16\(^{th}\) state.\(^{586}\)

### Texas

• **April 30, 1803**: The United States acquires northern portions of the land that will become the state of Texas from France via the Louisiana Purchase.\(^{587}\)

• **March 1-17, 1836**: Fifty-nine delegates representing settlements in Texas meet in Washington-on-the-Brazos for a general convention to draft a declaration of independence from Mexico and form a government for the independent Republic of Texas.\(^{588}\)

• **March 2, 1836**: The delegates to the general convention sign the Texas Declaration of Independence.\(^{589}\)

• **March 16, 1836**: The delegates in Washington-on-the-Brazos finalize and adopt a constitution for the Republic of Texas.\(^{590}\)

• **April 21, 1836**: The Republic of Texas wins independence from Mexico after defeating Mexican forces in a final battle along the San Jacinto River.\(^{591}\)

• **September 1836**: Eligible voters ratify the Republic’s constitution and vote 3,277 to 91 in favor of Texas joining the United States.\(^{592}\)

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586 1 Stat. 491.


589 “Texas Declaration of Independence.”


• March 3, 1837: The U.S. government officially recognizes the Republic of Texas when President Andrew Jackson appoints Alcée Louis La Branche as Chargé d’Affaires in Houston.593

• January 25, 1845: House passes a joint resolution (28 H.J.Res. 46) to annex Texas by a vote of 120-98.594

• February 27, 1845: Senate passes an amended version of the annexation resolution following a preliminary vote of 27-25.595

• February 28, 1845: House passes the Senate version of the resolution.596

• March 1, 1845: President John Tyler signs the joint resolution to annex Texas to the United States.597

• July 4, 1845: A special convention of delegates elected by the people of the Republic of Texas meet to consider the joint resolution offered by the U.S. Congress to annex the Republic. The delegates vote to accept the U.S. government’s offer of annexation and membership into the Union.598

• July 4-August 28, 1845: Delegates meet in Austin to draft a state constitution.599

• August 28, 1845: Delegates sign the new Texas state constitution.600

• October 13, 1845: In a popular referendum, Texas voters approve annexation by a vote of 7,664 to 430 and approve the state constitution by a vote of 7,527 to 536.601

• December 10, 1845: House Committee on Territories reports a joint resolution, 29 H.J.Res. 2, “for the admission of the State of Texas to the Union.”602

• December 16, 1845: House approves the joint resolution to admit Texas to the Union.603


595 Senate Journal, 28th Cong., 2nd sess. (February 27, 1845), pp. 220-221; Congressional Globe, 28th Cong., 2nd sess. (February 27, 1845), p. 362.


599 Journals of the Convention, assembled at the city of Austin on the Fourth of July, 1845, for the purpose of framing a constitution for the State of Texas (Austin, TX: Miner & Cruger, 1845).

600 Journals of the Convention, pp. 366-367.


• **December 22, 1845**: Senate passes the joint resolution to admit Texas.  
• **December 29, 1845**: President James K. Polk signs the resolution admitting Texas into the Union as the 28th state.

**Utah**

• **February 2, 1848**: The United States, through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, acquires from Mexico the land that will become Utah.

• **January 29, 1850**: Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky proposes what will later become the Compromise of 1850. While not part of his original proposal, the eventual legislative package includes organizing a territorial government for Utah.

• **May 8, 1850**: The “Senate Select Committee of Thirteen” reports S. 225, a bill that would admit California to statehood, create territorial governments for New Mexico and Utah, and revise the borders of Texas.

• **August 1, 1850**: Senate passes an amended version of the bill with no recorded vote on final passage. It is now a narrower piece of legislation that would create the Territory of Utah.

• **September 7, 1850**: The House passes the Utah Territory bill by a vote of 97-85.

• **September 9, 1850**: President Millard Fillmore signs the Utah Territory bill into law. It is one of five bills that make up the Compromise of 1850.

• **September 6, 1893**: Delegate Joseph L. Rawlins of Utah introduces a bill for Utah’s admission to the Union (53 H.R. 352). It is the latest in decades of attempts by Utah to secure statehood.

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604 The *Congressional Globe* records the vote to adopt the resolution as 31-14, but the *Senate Journal* does not record a vote. Instead, the *Senate Journal* records a vote of 31-13 to read the bill for a third time. *Senate Journal*, 29th Cong., 1st sess. (December 22, 1845), p. 64; *Congressional Globe*, 29th Cong., 1st sess. (December 22, 1845), p. 92.

605 9 Stat. 108.


• **December 13, 1893:** House Committee on Territories reports the bill favorably with amendments. The House agrees to the amendments and passes the bill without a recorded vote.614  
• **July 10, 1894:** The Senate passes the Utah bill without a recorded vote.615  
• **July 16, 1894:** President Grover Cleveland signs the Utah Enabling Act into law.616  
• **November 1894:** Eligible voters in Utah select 107 delegates to a constitutional convention.617  
• **March 4-May 8, 1895:** The delegates meet in Salt Lake City to write the state constitution.618  
• **May 8, 1895:** The delegates approve the constitution by a vote of 99 to 0.619  
• **November 5, 1895:** Utah’s eligible voters approve the constitution 31,305 to 7,607.620  
• **January 4, 1896:** President Cleveland issues a proclamation of statehood, and Utah is admitted to the Union as the 45th state.621

**Vermont**

• **July 20, 1764:** King George III, in a King-in-Council order, declares the Connecticut River is the border between New York and New Hampshire, leaving the disputed territory known as the New Hampshire Grants inside the borders of New York.622  
• **January 15, 1777:** Delegates meeting in Westminster declare the New Hampshire Grants are a “free and independent state.”623

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615 *Senate Journal*, 53rd Cong., 2nd sess. (July 10, 1894), p. 283; *Congressional Record*, vol. 26, part 7 (July 10, 1894), p. 7251.  
621 29 Stat. 876.  
• July 2-8, 1777: Delegates meet in Windsor and write a constitution for the “Commonwealth or State of Vermont.”

• August 20-21, 1781: Congress, operating under the Articles of Confederation, says it will consider admitting Vermont as a state only after settlement of its borders. During this period, Vermont “existed in something of a political netherworld, not really a state, and not really an independent country.”

• October 28, 1790: Vermont agrees to settle land claims and its border dispute with New York.

• January 10, 1791: Delegates in Bennington vote 105-4 to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

• February 9, 1791: President George Washington sends to Congress copies of “authentic documents, expressing the consent of the Legislatures of New York and of the territory of Vermont, that the said territory shall be admitted to be a distinct member of our Union.” Senate and House each refer the papers to a select committee for consideration.

• February 10, 1791: Senator Rufus King of New York reports from the Senate select committee a bill admitting Vermont “as a new and entire member of the United States of America.”

• February 12, 1791: Senate passes the Vermont bill without a recorded vote.

• February 14, 1791: House passes the Vermont bill without a recorded vote.

• February 18, 1791: President Washington signs the Vermont bill, making its admission effective on March 4.

• March 4, 1791: Vermont becomes the 14th state.


627 “An Act directing the payment of thirty thousand Dollars to the State of Newyork, and declaring what shall be the Boundary line between the State of Vermont and State of Newyork—and declaring certain grants therein mentioned, extinguished,” in Acts and Laws, Passed by the Legislature of the State of Vermont, at their session at Castleton, the second Thursday of October, 1790 (Windsor, VT: Alden Spooner, 1790), pp. 9-10.


633 1 Stat. 191.

Virginia

- **April 10, 1606**: King James I grants a charter to the Virginia Company to create a colony in “that part of America commonly called Virginia.”

- **July 4, 1776**: Virginia joins 12 other colonies in declaring independence from Great Britain.

- **July 9, 1778**: Virginia signs the Articles of Confederation.

- **May 14-September 17, 1787**: Seven of Virginia’s 10 delegates participate in the Constitutional Convention.

- **June 25, 1788**: Virginia’s convention ratifies the Constitution by a vote of 89-79.

Washington

- **October 20, 1818**: U.S. envoys Albert Gallatin and Richard Rush sign a convention with Great Britain agreeing to jointly occupy the Oregon Territory. This area includes land that will become the state of Washington.

- **June 15, 1846**: Secretary of State James Buchanan signs the Oregon Treaty with Great Britain, allowing the United States to acquire all land in the Oregon Territory south of the 49th parallel.

- **November 25-28, 1852**: Forty-four delegates meet in Monticello, at the mouth of the Cowlitz River in the Oregon Territory, to draft and sign a memorial petitioning Congress to divide the Oregon Territory and create the separate territory of Columbia.

- **January 25, 1853**: Representative Charles Stuart of Michigan reports, from the House Committee on Territories, a bill (32 H.R. 348) to establish a new Columbia Territory.

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636 *Journals of the Continental Congress*, vol. 5 (July 4, 1776), pp. 510-516.


640 8 Stat. 248.


• **February 10, 1853**: House passes 32 H.R. 348, amended to change the new territory’s name to Washington.644

• **March 2, 1853**: Senate passes 32 H.R. 348 without a recorded vote.645 President Millard Fillmore signs it into law.646

• **December 12, 1887**: Senator Charles F. Manderson of Nebraska introduces 50 S. 185, a bill to “provide for the division of Dakota into two States and to enable the people of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington to form constitutions and State governments and to be admitted into the Union.”647

• **April 19, 1888**: Senate votes 26-23 to pass an amended version of 50 S. 185 that would enable the Washington Territory to create a constitution, form a state government, and join the Union.648

• **January 18, 1889**: The House votes 145-98 to pass an amended version of 50 S. 185. This new version would clear the way to admit Montana, New Mexico, Washington, and—depending on the results of a referendum on division—either a combined state of Dakota or separate states of North Dakota and South Dakota.649

• **February 20, 1889**: The House and Senate agree to a compromise version of 50 S. 185 that allows the creation and admission of four new states: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington. Both chambers pass the bill without recorded votes.650

• **February 22, 1889**: President Grover Cleveland signs 50 S. 185, enabling statehood for Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington.651

• **July 4-August 22, 1889**: Seventy-five delegates convene a Constitutional Convention in the Territorial Capitol Building in Olympia to draft a state’s constitution for Washington.652

• **October 1, 1889**: Eligible voters approve the state constitution, by a vote of 40,152 in favor and 11,879 opposed.653

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644 The *House Journal* reported the vote as 129-29, while the *Congressional Globe* reported the vote as 128-29. See *House Journal*, 32nd Cong., 2nd sess. (February 10, 1853), pp. 268-270, and *Congressional Globe*, 32nd Cong., 2nd sess. (February 10, 1853), p. 555.


646 10 Stat. 172.

647 *Senate Journal*, 50th Cong., 1st sess. (December 12, 1887), p. 33; *Congressional Record*, vol. 19, part 1 (December 12, 1887), p. 22.


650 *House Journal*, 50th Cong., 2nd sess. (February 20, 1889), pp. 561-571; *Senate Journal*, 50th Cong., 2nd sess. (February 20, 1889), pp. 357-366; *Congressional Record*, vol. 20, part 3 (February 20, 1889), pp. 2104 and 2116.

651 25 Stat. 676.


November 11, 1889: President Benjamin Harrison issues a proclamation declaring Washington’s admission into the Union as the 42nd state.654

West Virginia

April 17, 1861: Delegates to a Virginia state convention adopt an Ordinance of Secession to repeal Virginia’s 1788 ratification of the Constitution and secede from the Union.655

May 13-15, 1861: Delegates from a number of counties in western Virginia assemble for the First Wheeling Convention to consider action on the Ordinance of Secession, and resolve to work to defeat passage of the ordinance. The delegates agree that if voters approve the ordinance, delegates from the western counties will elect delegates to a Second Wheeling Convention, to be convened on June 11, 1861.656

May 23, 1861: Virginia’s eligible voters ratify the Ordinance of Secession by a vote of 125,950 to 20,373.657

June 11-25, 1861: Delegates from Virginia’s western region meet in the Second Wheeling Convention to form Virginia’s “Restored Government” and officially declare allegiance to the Union.658

July 1861: The U.S. government recognizes the Restored Government as Virginia’s legitimate governing body and allows representatives from the region to fill seats in Congress vacated when Virginia adopted its secession ordinance.659

August 6-21, 1861: The Second Wheeling Convention reconvenes. On August 20, the convention approves a proposal to create a new state of “Kanawha.”660

654 26 Stat. 1552.
• **October 24, 1861:** Eligible voters approve the “Ordinance to Provide for the Formation of a New State out of a Portion of the Territory of this State,” by a vote of 18,408 to 781.661

• **November 26, 1861-February 20, 1862:** Delegates meet in Wheeling to write the constitution for the new state of Kanawha. They change the name of the new state to West Virginia.662

• **February 18, 1862:** Delegates to the Constitutional Convention unanimously approve the state constitution.663

• **May 13, 1862:** The General Assembly of the Restored Government of Virginia passes an “Act of the Reorganized Government of Virginia Granting Permission for Creation of New State.”664

• **May 29, 1862:** Senator Waitman T. Willey of Virginia665 presents a petition to the U.S. Senate for the admission of West Virginia to the Union.666

• **June 23, 1862:** The Senate Committee on Territories reports a bill (37 S. 365) providing for the admission of West Virginia into the Union.667

• **July 14, 1862:** Senate passes an amended version of the bill that includes an amendment to provide for gradual emancipation of slaves in West Virginia. The Senate approves, by a vote of 23 to 17, West Virginia’s statehood on the condition that it makes the necessary amendment to the state constitution.668

• **December 10, 1862:** House passes the West Virginia statehood bill.669

• **December 31, 1862:** President Abraham Lincoln signs the West Virginia statehood bill.670

• **February 12-20, 1863:** West Virginia’s Constitutional Convention reconvenes and approves the emancipation amendment on February 17, by a vote of 54 to

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662 *Debates and Proceedings of the First Constitutional Convention of West Virginia, 1861-1863*, 3 vols. (Huntington, WV: Gentry Brothers, [1939]).


669 The *Congressional Globe* reports the vote as 96-55, while the *House Journal* reports the vote as 96-57. See *Congressional Globe*, 37th Cong., 2nd sess. (December 10, 1862), p. 59, and *House Journal*, 37th Cong., 2nd sess. (December 10, 1862), pp. 58-59.

zero. The convention approves the amended constitution the next day, 52 to zero.  

- **March 26, 1863:** Eligible voters ratify the revised state constitution by a vote of 28,321 to 572.  
- **April 20, 1863:** President Lincoln issues a proclamation admitting West Virginia into the Union.  
- **June 20, 1863:** West Virginia is admitted into the Union as the 35th state, 60 days after the presidential proclamation.

**Wisconsin**

- **September 3, 1783:** The United States acquires the land that will become Wisconsin in the Treaty of Paris.
- **January 21, 1836:** Senator John M. Clayton of Delaware introduces 24 S. 92, a bill to create the Wisconsin Territory.  
- **March 29, 1836:** Senate passes 24 S. 92 without a recorded vote.  
- **April 8, 1836:** House passes an amended version of 24 S. 92 without a recorded vote.  
- **April 11, 1836:** Senate concurs in two of the House’s three amendments and sends 24 S. 92 back to the House without a recorded vote.  
- **April 14, 1836:** House insists on its remaining amendment, sending 24 S. 92 back to the Senate without a recorded vote.

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673 13 Stat. 731.

674 13 Stat. 731.


• **April 18, 1836**: Senate accepts the House version of 24 S. 92 without a recorded vote.681

• **April 20, 1836**: President Andrew Jackson signs 24 S. 92, creating the Wisconsin Territory as of July 3, 1836.682

• **January 13, 1846**: Delegate Morgan L. Martin of Wisconsin introduces 29 H.R. 105, a bill that would enable Wisconsin residents to write a constitution and form a government ahead of statehood.683

• **June 9, 1846**: House amends and passes 29 H.R. 105 without a recorded vote.684

• **June 10, 1846**: House votes to reconsider its vote to pass 29 H.R. 105, then amends and passes it without a recorded vote.685

• **August 5, 1846**: Senate passes 29 H.R. 105 without a recorded vote.686

• **August 6, 1846**: President James K. Polk signs 29 H.R. 105, enabling Wisconsin residents to write a constitution and form a state government.687

• **October 5, 1846**: Delegates gather in Madison to write a state constitution.688

• **December 16, 1846**: The Madison convention adjourns after completing work on a state constitution.689

• **April 6, 1847**: Wisconsin voters reject ratification of the state constitution, 20,233 to 14,119.690

• **December 15, 1847**: Delegates gather in Madison for a second constitutional convention.691

• **February 1, 1848**: Delegates at the second Madison convention approve a new state constitution by a vote of 60 to 1.692

• **March 13, 1848**: Wisconsin voters ratify the new state constitution, 16,759 to 6,384.693


682 5 Stat. 10.


685 The House’s initial vote on reconsideration was recorded in the *House Journal* as 127-45 and in the *Congressional Globe* as 125-45. See *House Journal*, 29th Cong., 1st sess. (June 10, 1846), pp. 936-938, and *Congressional Globe*, 29th Cong., 1st sess. (June 10, 1846), pp. 952-953.


687 9 Stat. 56.

688 *Journal of the Convention to Form a Constitution for the State of Wisconsin: Begun and Held at Madison, on the Fifth Day of October, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-Six* (Madison, WI: Beriah Brown, 1847), p. 3.


April 13, 1848: Representative Caleb B. Smith of Indiana reports H.R. 397, a bill to admit Wisconsin as a state, from the House Committee on Territories.  

May 11, 1848: House amends H.R. 397 and passes it without a recorded vote.  

May 19, 1848: Senate passes H.R. 397 without a recorded vote.  

May 29, 1848: President Polk signs H.R. 397, admitting Wisconsin into the Union as the 30th state.  

Wyoming  

February 2, 1848: The United States, in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, acquires from Mexico part of the land that will become Wyoming, adding to territory acquired earlier in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the annexation of Texas in 1845, and the Oregon Treaty of 1846.  

February 13, 1868: Senator Richard Yates of Illinois introduces S. 357, a bill to create the Wyoming Territory.  

June 3, 1868: Senate amends S. 357 and passes it without a recorded vote.  

July 22, 1868: House passes S. 357 by a 106-50 vote.  

July 25, 1868: President Andrew Johnson signs S. 357, creating the Wyoming Territory.  

June 3, 1889: Territorial Governor Francis E. Warren sets a July election for delegates to a constitutional convention that will meet in Cheyenne.  

September 2, 1889: Delegates gather in Cheyenne to write a state constitution.

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697 9 Stat. 233.  


702 15 Stat. 178.  


• **September 30, 1889:** Delegates at the Cheyenne convention vote 37-0 to adopt a state constitution for Wyoming.\(^{705}\)

• **November 5, 1889:** Wyoming voters ratify the new state constitution, 6,272 to 1,923.\(^{706}\)

• **December 18, 1889:** Delegate Joseph M. Carey of Wyoming introduces 51 H.R. 982, a bill to admit Wyoming as a state.\(^{707}\)

• **March 26, 1890:** House amends and passes 51 H.R. 982 by a 139-127 vote.\(^{708}\)

• **June 27, 1890:** Senate amends and passes 51 H.R. 982 by a 29-18 vote.\(^{709}\)

• **July 8, 1890:** House passes the Senate-amended version of 51 H.R. 982 without a recorded vote.\(^{710}\)

• **July 10, 1890:** President Benjamin Harrison signs 51 H.R. 982, admitting Wyoming into the Union as the 44\(^{th}\) state.\(^{711}\)

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\(^{705}\) *Journal and Debates of the Constitutional Convention of the State of Wyoming*, p. 863.


\(^{707}\) *House Journal*, 51\(^{st}\) Cong., 1\(^{st}\) sess. (December 18, 1889), p. 41; *Congressional Record*, vol. 21, part 1 (December 18, 1889), pp. 261-262.

\(^{708}\) *House Journal*, 51\(^{st}\) Cong., 1\(^{st}\) sess. (March 26, 1890), pp. 391-392; *Congressional Record*, vol. 21, part 3 (March 26, 1890), pp. 2711-2712.

\(^{709}\) *Senate Journal*, 51\(^{st}\) Cong., 1\(^{st}\) sess. (June 27, 1890), p. 400; *Congressional Record*, vol. 21, part 7 (June 27, 1890), p. 6589.

\(^{710}\) *House Journal*, 51\(^{st}\) Cong., 1\(^{st}\) sess. (July 8, 1890), p. 833; *Congressional Record*, vol. 21, part 7 (July 8, 1890), p. 7034.

\(^{711}\) 26 Stat. 222.
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