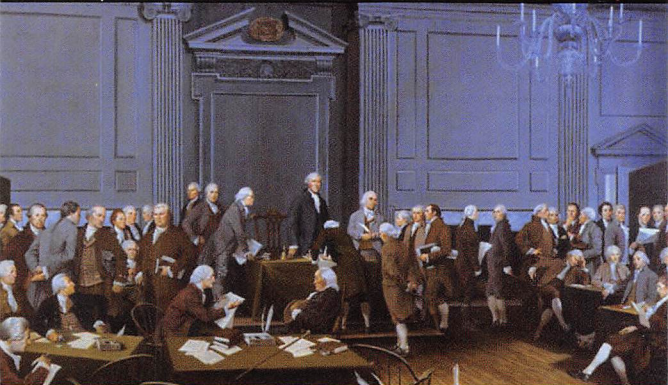


Independence National Historical Park



The Signing of the U.S. Constitution

The United States Constitution

Federal Convention: 5/14- 9/17, 1787- PA State House.

Ratified by the states: 6/21/1788; Enacted: 3/4/1789.

1787

The delegates to the Federal Convention met for four months in the Assembly Room of Independence Hall under the leadership of George Washington. They created a national government, with three branches, for the United States. The purpose of the U.S. Constitution was "...to form a more perfect union, establish justice, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty..." Thirty-nine men signed the Constitution on September 17, 1787.

"I consent to this Constitution because I expect no better, and because I am not sure, that it is not the best." --Benjamin Franklin