



# Ratifying the Constitution

# Ratification Process

- Each state held a convention to discuss and approve new Constitution.
  - Ratification = approve
  - Once 9 states approved the constitution it would go into effect.
- **MUCH DEBATE**
  - Federalist vs. Antifederalist

# Federalist

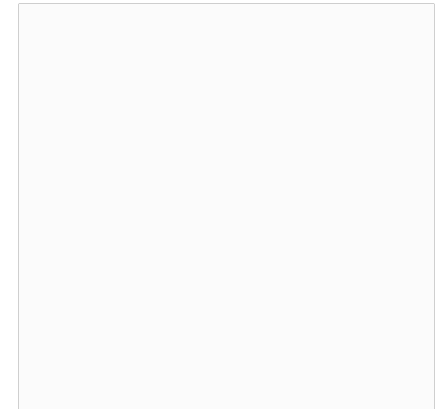
- Supporters of new Constitution
- Favored a STRONG federal/national government
- **Alexander Hamilton, James Madison & John Jay**
  - **Federalists Papers** – 85 newspaper essays  
(1787-88)
  - Pen name = “*Publius*” (Roman name / 1818)
  - Supported (& explained) Constitution
  - Pointed out how it was better than Articles of Confederation
  - Explained how this would make the United States last/survive.

# Antifederalist

- Opposed the new Constitution
- George Mason, Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee
  - Agreed - Articles of Confederation – weak
  - Felt Constitutional Convention went too far
- Weaken the States Power/Authority
- No Bill of Rights to protect citizens' freedoms
- President – Ability to be reelected could easily make president a KING

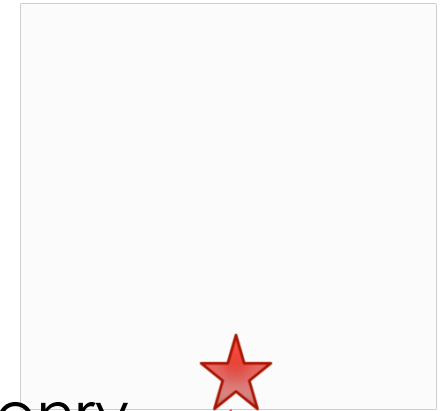
# State Conventions

- NINE states had to ratify
- **MUCH HEATED DEBATE**
- Delaware first to ratify – Unanimous
- Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia & Connecticut **(5)**
- Massachusetts – A lot of opposition
- Constitution supports go to Massachusetts' State Convention to answer questions **(6)**
- Maryland, South Carolina- Ratified **(8)**



# State Conventions

- Virginia – Large & influential.
- Patrick Henry – Attacked constitution
- James Madison – Supported & debated Henry
- Virginia approved Constitution 89-79 **(10)**
- **New Hampshire was the 9<sup>th</sup> State to approve**
- July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1788 Philadelphia had a HUGE celebration to celebrate 9<sup>th</sup> state approving Constitution
- New York & North Carolina eventually approve **(12)**
- Rhode Island is LAST to ratify in 1790 **(13)**



# New Government

- Started to prepare new government once New Hampshire approved constitution
- George Washington – First President
- John Adams – Vice President
- Congress elected or appointed
- March 1789 – As promised, started working on Bill of Rights