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**THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES**  
**1789-2005**

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## **TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING**

The Constitution (Art. I, sec. 4) provided that "The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year \* \* \* on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day." Pursuant to a resolution of the Continental Congress the first session of the First Congress convened March 4, 1789. Up to and including May 20, 1820, eighteen acts were passed providing for the meeting of Congress on other days in the year. Since that year Congress met regularly on the first Monday in December until January 1934. The date for convening of Congress was changed by the Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution in 1933 to the 3d day of January unless a different day shall be appointed by law. The first and second sessions of the First Congress were held in New York City; subsequently, including the first session of the Sixth Congress, Philadelphia was the meeting place; since then Congress has convened in Washington, D.C.

# FIRST CONGRESS

MARCH 4, 1789, TO MARCH 3, 1791

FIRST SESSION—*March 4, 1789,<sup>1</sup> to September 29, 1789*

SECOND SESSION—*January 4, 1790, to August 12, 1790*

THIRD SESSION—*December 6, 1790, to March 3, 1791*

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VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES—JOHN ADAMS, of Massachusetts

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE—JOHN LANGDON,<sup>2</sup> of New Hampshire

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE—SAMUEL A. OTIS,<sup>3</sup> of Massachusetts

DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE—JAMES MATHERS,<sup>4</sup> of New York

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—FREDERICK A. C. MUHLENBERG,<sup>5</sup> of Pennsylvania

CLERK OF THE HOUSE—JOHN BECKLEY,<sup>6</sup> of Virginia

SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE HOUSE—JOSEPH WHEATON,<sup>7</sup> of Rhode Island

DOORKEEPER OF THE HOUSE—GIFFORD DALLEY

## CONNECTICUT

SENATORS

Oliver Ellsworth  
William S. Johnson

REPRESENTATIVES AT LARGE

Benjamin Huntington  
Roger Sherman  
Jonathan Sturges  
Jonathan Trumbull  
Jeremiah Wadsworth

## DELAWARE

SENATORS

Richard Bassett  
George Read

REPRESENTATIVE AT LARGE

John Vining

## GEORGIA

SENATORS

William Few  
James Gunn

REPRESENTATIVES

Abraham Baldwin

James Jackson  
George Mathews

## MARYLAND

SENATORS

John Henry  
Charles Carroll, of *Carrollton*

REPRESENTATIVES

Daniel Carroll  
Benjamin Contee  
George Gale  
Joshua Seney  
William Smith  
Michael Jenifer Stone

## MASSACHUSETTS

SENATORS

Tristram Dalton  
Caleb Strong

REPRESENTATIVES

Fisher Ames  
Elbridge Gerry  
Benjamin Goodhue

Jonathan Grout  
George Leonard  
George Partridge<sup>8</sup>  
Theodore Sedgwick  
George Thacher

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATORS

John Langdon  
Paine Wingate

REPRESENTATIVES AT LARGE

Abiel Foster  
Nicholas Gilman  
Samuel Livermore

## NEW JERSEY

SENATORS

Jonathan Elmer  
William Paterson<sup>9</sup>  
Philemon Dickinson<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Neither a quorum of the Senate nor of the House of Representatives appeared in their respective chambers on Wednesday, March 4, 1789. Eight Senators appeared and the minority adjourned from day to day until Monday, April 6, when a quorum of the Senate was first present. Thirteen Members of the House of Representatives appeared on March 4, and a quorum was not present until April 1, when the body proceeded to the transaction of business. When both Houses were organized on April 6, they met in joint convention in the hall of the Senate and proceeded to open and count the electoral votes for President and Vice President. John Adams, the Vice Presi-

dent-elect, appeared in the Senate Chamber and assumed the duties of the chair on Tuesday, April 21, 1789. On May 15, 1789, the Senate determined by lot the classes into which the membership should be divided agreeably to paragraph 2, section 3, of Article I of the Constitution, as follows: Class 1, term expires March 3, 1791 - Messrs. Carroll, Dalton, Ellsworth, Elmer, Maclay, Read, and Grayson. Class 2, term expires March 3, 1793 - Messrs. Bassett, Butler, Few, Lee, Strong, Paterson, and Wingate. Class 3, term expires March 3, 1795 - Messrs. Gunn, Henry, Johnson, Izard, Langdon, and Morris.

<sup>2</sup>Elected April 6, 1789.

<sup>3</sup>Elected April 8, 1789.

<sup>4</sup>Elected April 7, 1789.

<sup>5</sup>Elected April 1, 1789.

<sup>6</sup>Elected April 1, 1789.

<sup>7</sup>Elected May 12, 1789.

<sup>8</sup>Resigned August 14, 1790.

<sup>9</sup>Resigned November 13, 1790, having been elected governor.

<sup>10</sup>Elected to fill vacancy caused by resignation of William Paterson, and took his seat December 6, 1790.

**NEW JERSEY—Continued**REPRESENTATIVES AT LARGE<sup>11</sup>

Elias Boudinot  
Lambert Cadwalader  
Thomas Sinnickson  
James Schureman

**NEW YORK**

## SENATORS

Rufus King<sup>12</sup>  
Philip John Schuyler<sup>13</sup>

## REPRESENTATIVES

Egbert Benson  
William Floyd  
John Hathorn<sup>14</sup>  
John Laurance  
Peter Silvester<sup>15</sup>  
Jeremiah Van Rensselaer<sup>16</sup>

**NORTH CAROLINA**

## SENATORS

Benjamin Hawkins<sup>17</sup>  
Samuel Johnston<sup>18</sup>

## REPRESENTATIVES

John Baptista Ashe<sup>19</sup>

Timothy Bloodworth<sup>20</sup>  
John Sevier<sup>21</sup>  
John Steele<sup>22</sup>  
Hugh Williamson<sup>23</sup>

**PENNSYLVANIA**

## SENATORS

William Maclay  
Robert Morris

## REPRESENTATIVES AT LARGE

George Clymer  
Thomas Fitzsimons  
Thomas Hartley  
Daniel Hiester  
Frederick A. C. Muhlenberg  
John Peter G. Muhlenberg  
Thomas Scott  
Henry Wynkoop

**RHODE ISLAND**

## SENATORS

Theodore Foster<sup>24</sup>  
Joseph Stanton, Jr.<sup>25</sup>

## REPRESENTATIVE AT LARGE

Benjamin Bourne<sup>26</sup>

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

## SENATORS

Pierce Butler

Ralph Izard

## REPRESENTATIVES

Aedanus Burke  
Daniel Huger  
William L. Smith<sup>27</sup>  
Thomas Sumter  
Thomas Tudor Tucker

**VIRGINIA**

## SENATORS

William Grayson<sup>28</sup>  
John Walker<sup>29</sup>  
James Monroe<sup>30</sup>  
Richard Henry Lee

## REPRESENTATIVES

Theodorick Bland<sup>31</sup>  
William B. Giles<sup>32</sup>  
John Brown  
Isaac Coles  
Richard Bland Lee  
James Madison  
Andrew Moore  
John Page  
Josiah Parker  
Alexander White  
Samuel Griffin

<sup>11</sup> The election of all four Representatives was contested, but owing to the burning of the papers and documents from the First to the Sixth Congress, by the British in 1814, it is not possible to ascertain the grounds upon which the contest was based. It is known that it related to questions of regularity and procedure, and that the decision was favorable to the sitting Members.

<sup>12</sup> Took his seat July 25, 1789; term to expire, as determined by lot, March 3, 1795.

<sup>13</sup> Took his seat July 27, 1789; term to expire, as determined by lot, March 3, 1791.

<sup>14</sup> Took his seat April 23, 1789.

<sup>15</sup> Took his seat April 22, 1789.

<sup>16</sup> Took his seat May 9, 1789.

<sup>17</sup> Took his seat January 13, 1790; term to expire, as determined by lot, March 3, 1795.

<sup>18</sup> Took his seat January 29, 1790; term to expire, as determined by lot, March 3, 1793.

<sup>19</sup> Took his seat March 24, 1790.

<sup>20</sup> Took his seat April 6, 1790.

<sup>21</sup> Took his seat June 16, 1790.

<sup>22</sup> Took his seat April 19, 1790.

<sup>23</sup> Took his seat March 19, 1790.

<sup>24</sup> Took his seat June 25, 1790; term to expire, as determined by lot, March 3, 1791.

<sup>25</sup> Took his seat June 25, 1790; term to expire, as determined by lot, March 3, 1793.

<sup>26</sup> Took his seat December 17, 1790.

<sup>27</sup> Took his seat April 13, 1789; on April 15, 1789, David Ramsay presented a petition claiming that Smith was ineligible because at the time of his election he had not been a citizen of the United States the term of years

required by the Constitution, which was referred to the Committee on Elections; the committee reported on April 18, 1789, and on May 22, 1789, the House adopted a resolution that Mr. Smith was eligible at the time he was elected.

<sup>28</sup> Died March 12, 1790.

<sup>29</sup> Appointed to fill vacancy caused by death of William Grayson, and took his seat April 26, 1790.

<sup>30</sup> Elected to fill vacancy caused by death of William Grayson, and took his seat December 6, 1790.

<sup>31</sup> Died June 1, 1790.

<sup>32</sup> Elected to fill vacancy caused by death of Theodorick Bland, and took his seat December 7, 1790.