

List of U.S. states by date of admission to the Union

A state of the United States is one of the 50 constituent entities that shares its sovereignty with the federal government. Americans are citizens of both the federal republic and of the state in which they reside, due to the shared sovereignty between each state and the federal government.^[1] Kentucky, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia use the term *commonwealth* rather than *state* in their full official names.

States are the primary subdivisions of the United States. They possess all powers not granted to the federal government, nor prohibited to them by the United States Constitution. In general, state governments have the power to regulate issues of local concern, such as: regulating intrastate commerce, running elections, creating local governments, public school policy, and non-federal road construction and maintenance. Each state has its own constitution grounded in republican principles, and government consisting of executive, legislative, and judicial branches.^[2]

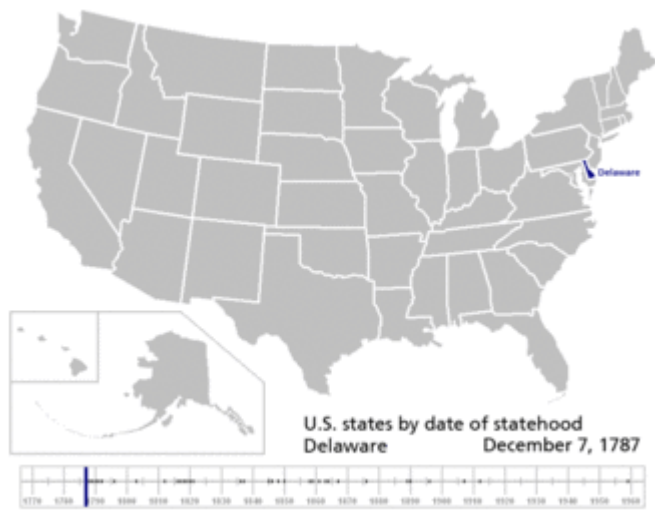
All states and their residents are represented in the federal Congress, a bicameral legislature consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Each state is represented by two Senators, and at least one Representative, while the size of a state's House delegation depends on its total population, as determined by the most recent constitutionally-mandated decennial census.^[3] Additionally, each state is entitled to select a number of electors to vote in the Electoral College, the body that elects the President of the United States, equal to the total of Representatives and Senators in Congress from that state.^[4]

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 1 of the Constitution grants to Congress the authority to admit new states into the Union. Since the establishment of the United States in 1776, the number of states has expanded from the original 13 to 50. Each new state has been admitted on an equal footing with the existing states.^[5]

The following table is a list of all 50 states and their respective dates of statehood. The first 13 became states in July 1776 upon agreeing to the United States Declaration of Independence, and each joined the first Union of states between 1777 and 1781, upon ratifying the Articles of Confederation, its first constitution.^[6] (A separate table is included below showing



Map of the United States with names and borders of states



The order in which the original 13 states ratified the 1787 Constitution, then the order in which the others were admitted to the union

AoC ratification dates.) These states are presented in the order in which each ratified the 1787 Constitution, thus joining the present federal Union of states. The date of admission listed for each subsequent state is the official date set by Act of Congress.^[a]

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State		Date (admitted or ratified)	Formed from
1	 Delaware	December 7, 1787 ^[8] (ratified)	Colony of Delaware ^[b]
2	 Pennsylvania	December 12, 1787 ^[10] (ratified)	Proprietary Province of Pennsylvania
3	 New Jersey	December 18, 1787 ^[11] (ratified)	Crown Colony of New Jersey
4	 Georgia	January 2, 1788 ^[8] (ratified)	Crown Colony of Georgia
5	 Connecticut	January 9, 1788 ^[12] (ratified)	Crown Colony of Connecticut
6	 Massachusetts	February 6, 1788 ^[8] (ratified)	Crown Colony of Massachusetts Bay
7	 Maryland	April 28, 1788 ^[8] (ratified)	Proprietary Province of Maryland
8	 South Carolina	May 23, 1788 ^[8] (ratified)	Crown Colony of South Carolina
9	 New Hampshire	June 21, 1788 ^[8] (ratified)	Crown Colony of New Hampshire
10	 Virginia	June 25, 1788 ^[8] (ratified)	Crown Colony and Dominion of Virginia
11	 New York	July 26, 1788 ^[13] (ratified)	Crown Colony of New York
12	 North Carolina	November 21, 1789 ^[14] (ratified)	Crown Colony of North Carolina
13	 Rhode Island	May 29, 1790 ^[8] (ratified)	Crown Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
14	 Vermont	March 4, 1791 ^[15] (admitted)	Vermont Republic ^[c]
15	 Kentucky	June 1, 1792 ^[16] (admitted)	Virginia (nine counties in its District of Kentucky ^[d])
16	 Tennessee	June 1, 1796 ^[18] (admitted)	Southwest Territory
17	 Ohio	March 1, 1803 ^{[19][e]} (admitted)	Northwest Territory (part)
18	 Louisiana	April 30, 1812 ^[21] (admitted)	Territory of Orleans
19	 Indiana	December 11, 1816 (admitted)	Indiana Territory
20	 Mississippi	December 10, 1817 ^[22] (admitted)	Mississippi Territory
21	 Illinois	December 3, 1818 ^[23] (admitted)	Illinois Territory (part)

State		Date (admitted or ratified)	Formed from
22	 Alabama	December 14, 1819 ^[24] (admitted)	Alabama Territory
23	 Maine	March 15, 1820 ^[25] (admitted)	Massachusetts (District of Maine ^[f])
24	 Missouri	August 10, 1821 ^[26] (admitted)	Missouri Territory (part)
25	 Arkansas	June 15, 1836 ^[27] (admitted)	Arkansas Territory
26	 Michigan	January 26, 1837 ^[28] (admitted)	Michigan Territory
27	 Florida	March 3, 1845 (admitted)	Florida Territory
28	 Texas	December 29, 1845 ^[29] (admitted)	Republic of Texas
29	 Iowa	December 28, 1846 (admitted)	Iowa Territory (part)
30	 Wisconsin	May 29, 1848 ^[30] (admitted)	Wisconsin Territory (part)
31	 California	September 9, 1850 ^[31] (admitted)	unorganized territory (part)
32	 Minnesota	May 11, 1858 ^[32] (admitted)	Minnesota Territory (part)
33	 Oregon	February 14, 1859 (admitted)	Oregon Territory (part)
34	 Kansas	January 29, 1861 ^[33] (admitted)	Kansas Territory (part)
35	 West Virginia	June 20, 1863 ^[34] (admitted)	Virginia (50 Trans-Allegheny region counties ^[g])
36	 Nevada	October 31, 1864 (admitted)	Nevada Territory
37	 Nebraska	March 1, 1867 (admitted)	Nebraska Territory
38	 Colorado	August 1, 1876 ^[37] (admitted)	Colorado Territory
39 ^[h]	 North Dakota	November 2, 1889 ^{[39][i]} (admitted)	Dakota Territory (part)
40	 South Dakota	November 2, 1889 ^{[39][i]} (admitted)	Dakota Territory (part)
41	 Montana	November 8, 1889 ^[40] (admitted)	Montana Territory
42	 Washington	November 11, 1889 ^[41] (admitted)	Washington Territory
43	 Idaho	July 3, 1890 (admitted)	Idaho Territory

	State	Date (admitted or ratified)	Formed from
44	 Wyoming	July 10, 1890 (admitted)	Wyoming Territory
45	 Utah	January 4, 1896 ^[42] (admitted)	Utah Territory
46	 Oklahoma	November 16, 1907 ^[43] (admitted)	Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory
47	 New Mexico	January 6, 1912 (admitted)	New Mexico Territory
48	 Arizona	February 14, 1912 (admitted)	Arizona Territory
49	 Alaska	January 3, 1959 (admitted)	Territory of Alaska
50	 Hawaii	August 21, 1959 (admitted)	Territory of Hawaii

Articles of Confederation ratification dates

The Second Continental Congress approved the Articles of Confederation for ratification by the individual states on November 15, 1777. The Articles of Confederation came into force on March 1, 1781, after being ratified by all 13 states. On March 4, 1789, the general government under the Articles was replaced with the federal government under the present Constitution.^[44]

State		Date
1	 Virginia	December 16, 1777
2	 South Carolina	February 5, 1778
3	 New York	February 6, 1778
4	 Rhode Island	February 9, 1778
5	 Connecticut	February 12, 1778
6	 Georgia	February 26, 1778
7	 New Hampshire	March 4, 1778
8	 Pennsylvania	March 5, 1778
9	 Massachusetts	March 10, 1778
10	 North Carolina	April 5, 1778
11	 New Jersey	November 19, 1778
12	 Delaware	February 1, 1779
13	 Maryland	February 2, 1781

See also

- Enabling Act of 1802, authorizing residents of the eastern portion of the Northwest Territory to form the state of Ohio
- Missouri Compromise, 1820 federal statute enabling the admission of Missouri (a slave state) and Maine (a free state) into the Union
- Toledo War, 1835–36 boundary dispute between Ohio and the adjoining Michigan Territory, which delayed Michigan's admission to the Union
- Texas annexation, the 1845 incorporation of the Republic of Texas into the United States as a state in the Union
 - Legal status of Texas
- Compromise of 1850, a package of congressional acts, one of which provided for the admission of California to the Union
- Bleeding Kansas, a series of violent conflicts in Kansas Territory involving anti-slavery and pro-slavery factions in the years preceding Kansas statehood, 1854–61
- Enabling Act of 1889, authorizing residents of Dakota, Montana, and Washington territories to form state governments (Dakota to be divided into two states) and to gain admission to the Union
- Oklahoma Enabling Act, authorizing residents of the Oklahoma and Indian territories, and the New Mexico and Arizona territories, to form two state governments as steps to gaining admission to the Union
- Alaska Statehood Act, admitting Alaska as a state in the Union as of January 3, 1959
 - Legal status of Alaska

- Hawaii Admission Act, admitting Hawaii as a state in the Union as of August 21, 1959
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- List of states and territories of the United States
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Notes

- a. This list does not account for the **secession** of 11 states (Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas) during the **Civil War** to form the **Confederate States of America**, nor for the subsequent restoration of those states to the Union, or each state's "readmission to representation in Congress" **after the war**, as the federal government does not give legal recognition to their having left the Union. Also, the Constitution is silent on the question of whether states have the power to secede from the Union, but the **Supreme Court** held that a state cannot unilaterally do so in *Texas v. White* (1869).^[7]
- b. Also known as the "Three Lower Counties Upon Delaware". Delaware became a state on June 15, 1776, when the Delaware Assembly formally adopted a resolution declaring an end to Delaware's status as a colony of Great Britain and establishing the three counties as an independent state under the authority of "the Government of the Counties of New Castle, Kent and Sussex Upon Delaware".^[9]
- c. Between 1749 and 1764 the provincial governor of **New Hampshire**, **Benning Wentworth**, issued approximately 135 grants for unoccupied land claimed by New Hampshire west of the **Connecticut River** (in what is today southern Vermont), territory that was also claimed by **New York**. The resulting "**New Hampshire Grants**" dispute led to the rise of the **Green Mountain Boys**, and the later establishment of the Vermont Republic. New Hampshire's claim upon the land was extinguished in 1764 by royal order of **George III**, and in 1790 the State of New York **ceded** its land claim to Vermont for 30,000 dollars.
- d. The **Virginia General Assembly** adopted legislation on December 18, 1789 separating its "District of Kentucky" from the rest of the State and approving its statehood.^[17]
- e. The exact date upon which Ohio became a state is unclear. On April 30, 1802 the **7th Congress** had passed an act "authorizing the inhabitants of Ohio to form a Constitution and state government, and admission of Ohio into the Union" (Sess. 1, ch. 40, 2 Stat. 173 (<http://legislink.org/us/stat-2-173>)). On February 19, 1803 the same Congress passed an act "providing for the execution of the laws of the United States in the State of Ohio" (Sess. 2, ch. 7, 2 Stat. 201 (<http://legislink.org/us/stat-2-201>)). Neither act, however, set a formal date of statehood. An official statehood date for Ohio was not set until 1953, when the **83rd Congress** passed a **Joint resolution** "for admitting the State of Ohio into the Union", (Pub.L. 83–204 (<http://legislink.org/us/pl-83-204>), 67 Stat. 407 (<http://legislink.org/us/stat-67-407>), enacted August 7, 1953) which designated March 1, 1803, as that date.^[20]
- f. The **Massachusetts General Court** passed enabling legislation on June 19, 1819 separating the "District of Maine" from the rest of the State (an action approved by the voters in Maine on July 19, 1819 by 17,001 to 7,132); then, on February 25, 1820, passed a follow-up measure officially accepting the fact of Maine's imminent statehood.^[17]
- g. On May 13, 1862, the General Assembly of the **Restored Government of Virginia** passed an act granting permission for creation of West Virginia.^[35] Later, by its ruling in *Virginia v. West Virginia* (1871), the Supreme Court implicitly affirmed that the breakaway Virginia counties did have the proper consents necessary to become a separate state.^[36]
- h. When President **Benjamin Harrison** signed the statehood proclamations for North and South Dakota he shuffled the papers on his desk and covered up all but the signature line of the documents. No one knows which state he signed into existence first. North Dakota's proclamation was published first in the *Statutes at Large*, as it is first in alphabetical order.^[38]
- i. Brought into existence within moments of each other on the same day, North and South Dakota are the nation's only twin-born states.

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External links

- "U.S. States Videos" (<http://www.history.com/topics/us-states>). History.com.
 - "Dates of statehood" (<http://www.50states.com/statehood.htm>). 50states.com.
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