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

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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.<sup>[1]</sup> **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 and possess a number of powers and rights under the **United States Constitution**, such as regulating intrastate commerce, running **elections**, creating **local governments**, and ratifying **constitutional amendments**. Each state has its own **constitution** grounded in **republican principles**, and **government** consisting of **executive**, **legislative**, and **judicial** branches.<sup>[2]</sup>

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, while Representatives are **distributed** among the states in proportion to the most recent **constitutionally** mandated decennial **census**.<sup>[3]</sup>

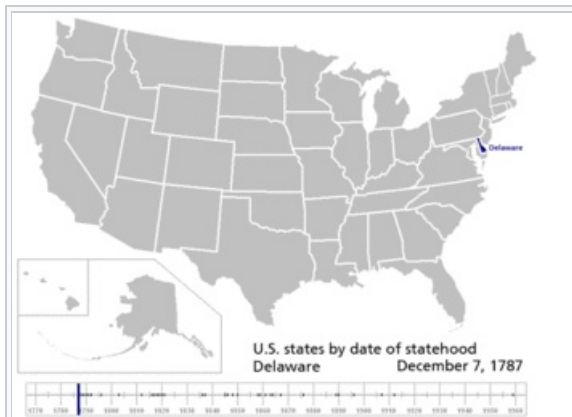
Additionally, each state is entitled to select a number of electors to vote in the **Electoral College**, the body that elects the **President of the United States**, equal to the total of Representatives and Senators in Congress from that state.<sup>[4]</sup>

**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.<sup>[5]</sup>

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.<sup>[6]</sup> (A separate table is included below showing **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.<sup>[a]</sup>



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

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## List of U.S. states [\[edit\]](#)

	State	Date (admitted or ratified)	Formed from
1	 Delaware	December 7, 1787 <sup>[8]</sup> (ratified)	Colony of Delaware <sup>[b]</sup>
2	 Pennsylvania	December 12, 1787 <sup>[10]</sup> (ratified)	Proprietary Province of Pennsylvania
3	 New Jersey	December 18, 1787 <sup>[11]</sup> (ratified)	Crown Colony of New Jersey
4	 Georgia	January 2, 1788 <sup>[8]</sup> (ratified)	Crown Colony of Georgia
5	 Connecticut	January 9, 1788 <sup>[12]</sup> (ratified)	Crown Colony of Connecticut
6	 Massachusetts	February 6, 1788 <sup>[8]</sup> (ratified)	Crown Colony of Massachusetts Bay
7	 Maryland	April 28, 1788 <sup>[8]</sup> (ratified)	Proprietary Province of Maryland
8	 South Carolina	May 23, 1788 <sup>[8]</sup> (ratified)	Crown Colony of South Carolina
9	 New Hampshire	June 21, 1788 <sup>[8]</sup> (ratified)	Crown Colony of New Hampshire
10	 Virginia	June 25, 1788 <sup>[8]</sup> (ratified)	Crown Colony and Dominion of Virginia
11	 New York	July 26, 1788 <sup>[13]</sup> (ratified)	Crown Colony of New York
12	 North Carolina	November 21, 1789 <sup>[14]</sup> (ratified)	Crown Colony of North Carolina
13	 Rhode Island	May 29, 1790 <sup>[8]</sup> (ratified)	Crown Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
14	 Vermont	March 4, 1791 <sup>[15]</sup> (admitted)	Vermont Republic <sup>[c]</sup>
15	 Kentucky	June 1, 1792 <sup>[16]</sup> (admitted)	Virginia (nine counties in its District of Kentucky <sup>[d]</sup> )
16	 Tennessee	June 1, 1796 <sup>[18]</sup> (admitted)	Southwest Territory
17	 Ohio	March 1, 1803 <sup>[19][e]</sup> (admitted)	Northwest Territory (part)
18	 Louisiana	April 30, 1812 <sup>[21]</sup> (admitted)	Territory of Orleans
19	 Indiana	December 11, 1816 (admitted)	Indiana Territory
20	 Mississippi	December 10, 1817 <sup>[22]</sup> (admitted)	Mississippi Territory
21	 Illinois	December 3, 1818 <sup>[23]</sup> (admitted)	Illinois Territory (part)
22	 Alabama	December 14, 1819 <sup>[24]</sup> (admitted)	Alabama Territory
23	 Maine	March 15, 1820 <sup>[25]</sup> (admitted)	Massachusetts (District of Maine <sup>[f]</sup> )
24	 Missouri	August 10, 1821 <sup>[26]</sup> (admitted)	Missouri Territory (part)
25		June 15, 1836 <sup>[27]</sup>	Arkansas Territory

	 <a href="#">Arkansas</a>	(admitted)	
26	 <a href="#">Michigan</a>	January 26, 1837 <sup>[28]</sup> (admitted)	<a href="#">Michigan Territory</a>
27	 <a href="#">Florida</a>	March 3, 1845 (admitted)	<a href="#">Florida Territory</a>
28	 <a href="#">Texas</a>	December 29, 1845 (admitted)	<a href="#">Republic of Texas</a>
29	 <a href="#">Iowa</a>	December 28, 1846 (admitted)	<a href="#">Iowa Territory</a> (part)
30	 <a href="#">Wisconsin</a>	May 29, 1848 <sup>[29]</sup> (admitted)	<a href="#">Wisconsin Territory</a> (part)
31	 <a href="#">California</a>	September 9, 1850 <sup>[30]</sup> (admitted)	<a href="#">unorganized territory</a> (part)
32	 <a href="#">Minnesota</a>	May 11, 1858 <sup>[31]</sup> (admitted)	<a href="#">Minnesota Territory</a> (part)
33	 <a href="#">Oregon</a>	February 14, 1859 (admitted)	<a href="#">Oregon Territory</a> (part)
34	 <a href="#">Kansas</a>	January 29, 1861 <sup>[32]</sup> (admitted)	<a href="#">Kansas Territory</a> (part)
35	 <a href="#">West Virginia</a>	June 20, 1863 <sup>[33]</sup> (admitted)	Virginia (50 Trans- <a href="#">Allegheny</a> region counties <sup>[9]</sup> )
36	 <a href="#">Nevada</a>	October 31, 1864 (admitted)	<a href="#">Nevada Territory</a>
37	 <a href="#">Nebraska</a>	March 1, 1867 (admitted)	<a href="#">Nebraska Territory</a>
38	 <a href="#">Colorado</a>	August 1, 1876 <sup>[36]</sup> (admitted)	<a href="#">Colorado Territory</a>
39 <sup>[h]</sup>	 <a href="#">North Dakota</a>	November 2, 1889 <sup>[38]</sup> <sup>[i]</sup> (admitted)	<a href="#">Dakota Territory</a> (part)
40	 <a href="#">South Dakota</a>	November 2, 1889 <sup>[38]</sup> <sup>[i]</sup> (admitted)	<a href="#">Dakota Territory</a> (part)
41	 <a href="#">Montana</a>	November 8, 1889 <sup>[39]</sup> (admitted)	<a href="#">Montana Territory</a>
42	 <a href="#">Washington</a>	November 11, 1889 <sup>[40]</sup> (admitted)	<a href="#">Washington Territory</a>
43	 <a href="#">Idaho</a>	July 3, 1890 (admitted)	<a href="#">Idaho Territory</a>
44	 <a href="#">Wyoming</a>	July 10, 1890 (admitted)	<a href="#">Wyoming Territory</a>
45	 <a href="#">Utah</a>	January 4, 1896 <sup>[41]</sup> (admitted)	<a href="#">Utah Territory</a>
46	 <a href="#">Oklahoma</a>	November 16, 1907 <sup>[42]</sup> (admitted)	<a href="#">Oklahoma Territory</a> and <a href="#">Indian Territory</a>
47	 <a href="#">New Mexico</a>	January 6, 1912 (admitted)	<a href="#">New Mexico Territory</a>
48	 <a href="#">Arizona</a>	February 14, 1912 (admitted)	<a href="#">Arizona Territory</a>
49	 <a href="#">Alaska</a>	January 3, 1959 (admitted)	<a href="#">Territory of Alaska</a>
50	 <a href="#">Hawaii</a>	August 21, 1959 (admitted)	<a href="#">Territory of Hawaii</a>

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](#).<sup>[43]</sup>

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

See also [edit]



[North America portal](#)



[United States portal](#)

- [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
- [Enabling Act of 1906](#) authorizing residents of Oklahoma, Indian, New Mexico, and Arizona territories to form state governments (Indian and Oklahoma territories to be combined into one state) and to gain 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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## Notes [edit]

- a. <sup>^</sup> 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).<sup>[7]</sup>
- b. <sup>^</sup> 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".<sup>[9]</sup>
- c. <sup>^</sup> 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. <sup>^</sup> 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.<sup>[17]</sup>
- e. <sup>^</sup> 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](#)<sup>[8]</sup>). 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](#)<sup>[9]</sup>). 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](#)<sup>[10]</sup>, 67 [Stat. 407](#)<sup>[11]</sup>, enacted August 7, 1953) which designated March 1, 1803, as that date.<sup>[20]</sup>
- f. <sup>^</sup> 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.<sup>[17]</sup>
- g. <sup>^</sup> On May 13, 1862, the General Assembly of the [Restored Government of Virginia](#) passed an act granting permission for creation of West Virginia.<sup>[34]</sup> 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.<sup>[35]</sup>
- h. <sup>^</sup> 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.<sup>[37]</sup>
- i. <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> 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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