

Pennsylvania Presidential Election Returns - 1800

Vote of the Pennsylvania Assembly

Jefferson - 60; Adams - 33; Not Voting - 7; Not Sworn In - 2

From the first vote for the presidency in 1789, Pennsylvania Selected the presidential electors by popular vote. The exception to the rule was the election of 1800. The departure of George Washington from the scene after two terms laid the groundwork for a battle between the Federalists, who supported John Adams and the Democratic-Republicans who supported Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson carried Pennsylvania in 1796 by a narrow margin, securing 14 of the 15 electors (see notes accompanying the 1796 vote table) and the shift of political power in the state continued to strongly favor the Jefferson supporters.

The Federalists and the Jeffersonians differed strongly on the manner of conducting the 1800 election. The Democratic-Republicans had now gained control of the House of Representatives. The Federalists, however, still controlled the Senate and were - in effect - in a position to block any election law which the House Republicans proposed. At the time, there was no general election law and each presidential election required the passage of legislation specifying how the election would be conducted. During the legislative session of 1799-1800, the battle of the election law was joined, with the Republicans fighting for selection of presidential electors on an at large basis, an arrangement whereby the Republicans would sweep the state, and the Federalists who insisted on selection by districts, where they could secure electoral votes in their strongholds which could tip the balance in a close national election. The result was deadlock and no election law was passed during the session. The new legislators were no more successful in reconciling their differences and Governor Thomas McKean intervened on 7 November 1800, proposing that they arrive at an accommodation whereby the two houses would select the electors and the state would avoid the embarrassment of non-participation in the election.

The result was a curious arrangement whereby sixteen electors - eight by each house - were nominated to fill the fifteen available positions. It was agreed that fourteen - seven favoring Adams and seven favoring Jefferson - would be supported by the voting members of both houses. The fifteenth elector was to be chosen between two chosen adversaries - Robert Coleman, an Adams supporter, and Samuel Wetheril, who supported Jefferson. As is recounted in the tables below, Wetheril was selected and the state electoral vote was eight for Jefferson and seven for Adams. It could be argued that the Federalists won the battle. However, Jeffersonian strength was too great in the other states and the Federalists lost the war.

Vote of the Senate

Adams - 13; Jefferson - 10; Not Voting - 1

County	Name	Party	
Philadelphia City & County, Delaware	Say, Benjamin	Rep	Jefferson
Philadelphia City & County, Delaware	Pearson, John	Rep	Jefferson
Philadelphia City & County, Delaware	Gurney, Francis	Fed	Adams
Philadelphia City & County, Delaware	Jones, John	Fed	Adams
Lancaster	Carpenter, Abraham	Fed	Adams
Lancaster	Barton, Matthias	Fed	Adams
York	Ewing, James	Fed	Adams
York	Reed, William	Rep	Jefferson
Bucks, Chester, Montgomery	Whelen, Dennis	Fed	Adams
Bucks, Chester, Montgomery	McClellan, Joseph	Fed	Adams
Bucks, Chester, Montgomery	Rodman, William	Rep	Jefferson
Bucks, Chester, Montgomery	Potts, Zebulon	Fed	Adams
Berks, Dauphin	Kean, John	Rep	Jefferson
Berks, Dauphin	Lower, Christian	Rep	Jefferson
Cumberland	Postlethwaite, Samuel	Fed	Adams
Northumberland, Luzerne, Mifflin	Maclay, Samuel	Rep	Not voting
Northumberland, Luzerne, Mifflin	Harris, James	Rep	Jefferson
Westmoreland, Fayette	King, Samuel	Fed	Adams
Westmoreland, Fayette	Findley, William	Rep	Jefferson
Franklin	Johnston, Thomas	Fed	Adams
Northampton	Mewharter, Thomas	Rep	Jefferson
Huntingdon, Bedford, Somerset	Smith, Richard	Fed	Adams
Washington, Allegheny	Woods, John	Fed	Adams
Washington, Allegheny	Hamilton, John	Rep	Jefferson

Vote of the House of Representatives

Jefferson - 50; Adams - 20; Not Voting - 6; Not Sworn In - 2

County	Name	Party	County	Name	Party
Adams	Slagle, Henry	Fed Unsworn	Lancaster	Scott, Alexander	Fed Adams
Adams	Thornburg, Thomas	Fed Unsworn	Lancaster	Strickler, Jacob	Fed Adams
Allegheny	Morton, Thomas	Rep Jefferson	Luzerne	Franklin, John	Fed Adams
Allegheny	Ewalt, Samuel	Rep Jefferson	Lycoming	Wilson, William	Rep Jefferson
Bedford	Alexander, William	Rep Jefferson	Mifflin	Beale, William	Rep Jefferson
Bedford	Moore, John	Rep Jefferson	Mifflin	Bratton, William	Rep Not voting
Berks	Heister, Gabriel	Rep Jefferson	Montgomery	Boileau, Nathaniel B.	Rep Jefferson
Berks	Rose, Daniel	Rep Jefferson	Montgomery	Conrad, Frederick	Rep Jefferson
Berks	Shoemaker, Charles	Rep Jefferson	Montgomery	Davis, Isaiah	Rep Jefferson
Berks	Udree, Daniel	Rep Jefferson	Montgomery	Roberts, Jonathan	Rep Jefferson
Berks	Witman, William	Rep Jefferson	Northampton, Wayne	Barnett, William	Rep Jefferson
Bucks	McElroy, John	Rep Not voting	Northampton, Wayne	Coolbaugh, John	Rep Jefferson
Bucks	Pugh, John	Rep Jefferson	Northampton, Wayne	Hartzell, Jonas	Rep Jefferson
Bucks	Smith, John	Rep Jefferson	Northampton, Wayne	Wilson, James	Rep Jefferson
Bucks	Van Horne, Isaac	Rep Jefferson	Northumberland	Follmer, Jacob	Rep Jefferson
Chester	Bull, Thomas	Fed Adams	Northumberland	Snyder, Simon	Rep Jefferson
Chester	Hannum, James	Fed Adams	Philadelphia	Huston, Matthew	Rep Not voting
Chester	Kirk, Roger	Fed Adams	Philadelphia	Ingels, George	Rep Jefferson
Chester	Taylor, Abiah	Fed Adams	Philadelphia	Kessler, John	Rep Jefferson
Chester	Wayne, Isaac	Fed Adams	Philadelphia	Linnard, William	Rep Not voting
Cumberland	Alter, Jacob	Rep Jefferson	Philadelphia	Logan, George	Rep Jefferson
Cumberland	Mitchel, David	Rep Not voting	Philadelphia	Penrose, William	Rep Jefferson
Cumberland	Whitehill, Robert	Rep Jefferson	Philadelphia City	Bleakly, John	Fed Adams
Dauphin	Ley, Christian	Rep Jefferson	Philadelphia City	Fisher, Samuel W.	Fed Adams*
Dauphin	Potts, Stacy	Rep Jefferson	Philadelphia City	Fox, George	Fed Adams
Dauphin	Wilson, James	Rep Jefferson	Philadelphia City	Haga, Godfrey	Fed Adams
Delaware	Palmer, Moses	Fed Adams	Philadelphia City	Hall, William	Fed Adams*
Delaware	Preston, Jonas	Fed Adams	Philadelphia City	Wetherill, Samuel	Rep Jefferson
Fayette	Cunningham, John	Rep Jefferson	Somerset	Miller, Adam	Fed Adams
Fayette	Lane, Presley Carr	Rep Jefferson*	Washington	Lyle, Aaron	Rep Jefferson
Franklin	Poe, James	Rep Jefferson	Washington	McDowell, John	Rep Jefferson
Franklin	Rea, John	Rep Jefferson	Washington	Urie, Samuel	Rep Jefferson
Franklin	Statler, John	Rep Jefferson	Westmoreland	Brady, James	Rep Jefferson
Greene	Weaver, Isaac	Rep Jefferson	Westmoreland	Painter, Jacob	Rep Not voting
Huntingdon	Kerr, James	Fed Adams	Westmoreland	Montgomery, James	Rep Jefferson
Lancaster	Brown, Jeremiah	Fed Adams	York	Eichelberger, Frederick	Rep Jefferson
Lancaster	Buckley, Daniel	Fed Adams	York	Hostetter, Jacob	Rep Jefferson
Lancaster	Hopkins, John	Rep Jefferson	York	Kimmel, Michael	Rep Jefferson
Lancaster	Keys, Richard	Fed Adams	York	Anderson, William	Rep Jefferson

* Presley Lane Carr (Rep), Samuel W. Fisher (Fed), and William Hall (Fed) were all nominated as presidential electors. Rather than vote for themselves, all three voted for both Robert Coleman (Fed), and Samuel Wetheril (Rep).

31 October 2003