

U.S. Politics

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Quantitative Exercise 1

This exercise concerns the ratification debates surrounding the adoption of the constitution of 1787. As you know from your reading, the Constitution would go into effect when 9 states ratified the document. The convention timetable, date of ratification, and vote totals for the conventions are presented in the table below:

State	Date of Ratification	Vote For - Against
Delaware	7 December 1787	30-0
Pennsylvania	12 December 1787	46-23
New Jersey	19 December 1787	38-0
Georgia	2 January 1788	26-0
Connecticut	9 January 1788	128-40
Massachusetts	6 February 1788	187-168
Maryland	28 April 1788	63-11
South Carolina	23 May 1788	149-73
New Hampshire	21 June 1788	57-46
Virginia	25 June 1788	89-79
New York	26 July 1788	30-27
North Carolina*	21 November 1789*	187-77
*originally rejected the C	4 August 1788	84-184
Rhode Island	29 May 1790	34-32

Using the data above calculate the following:

1. Total votes cast in the state conventions (for North Carolina, only use the original votes cast in 1788)
2. What is the fewest number of votes that would have had to change sides (that is move a state from "For" to "Against") to thwart ratification and thus have led to the rejection of the Constitution?
3. The number you calculated for Step 2 represents what percentage of the total votes cast?