

## Bristol Freeholders Petition to the General Assembly, pre-31 March 1788

To the Honorable the General Asembly of the State of Rhode Island &c. to be  
Convened at East Greenwich on the Last Monday of March AD 1788—

The Petition of the Subscribers Freeman and Freeholders of the Town of  
Bristol in said State most Respectfully Sheweth—that your Petitioners are deeply  
impressed with The Conviction of the Expediency of having a State Convention  
holden in this State for the purpose of discussing and deciding on the New  
Constitution proposed for the United States. This measure in the opinion of your  
Humble Petitioners is become Expedient not only from that decent Respect  
which is due to those who first Recommended it—but we conceive it will afford  
the Advocates and opponents of this New System of Government an Opportunity  
fully to Examine and display all its Excellences, and all its defects and the People  
of this State, from so liberal a discussion will be fully Qualified in point of  
Information to decide on the important Question by their Delegates in the State  
Convention Your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray that your Honors will  
be pleased at the Next Session, to Recommend to the freemen of this State to  
Elect Delegates in the Several towns to meet in a State Convention fully and  
freely to Examine and discuss the new Constitution fully and to decide thereon—

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever [pray?]

Josiah Finney	Nathaniel Smith 2d
Richard Smith	Jeremiah Diman
Willm Gladding	James Diman
Sam Church	Samuel Smith
John Waldron	John May
George Coggeshall	John Gladding
Jonathan Peck	John Norris
Jonathan Peck Jr	John Gladding Junior
Seabury Manchester	Joseph Diman
Joshua Gladdng	Richd. Smith Jr.
Isaac Wardell	Jonn. Russell
William Smith	Stephen Smith
Benjamin Wardwelle	Samuel R Pain
Jos. W. Greene	Jeremiah Ingraham
Tho Church 2d.	Nathl. Smith
Saml. V Peck	Moses Van Doorn
Simeon Munro	Saml Wardwell
Daniel Lefavour	A Bonam
Charles DWolfe	Jonathan Diman
Josiah Smith	William Coggeshall

William Fales  
William Munro. 2d  
Simeon Ingraham  
Newton Waldron  
[Eza?] Cooke [sr?]  
John Waldron 2d

Thomas Swan  
Jonathan Fales  
Solomon Drown  
William Lindsey  
Benjamin Hoar  
John Howland