

233. New York Journal, 20 November 1788¹

The general assembly of Rhode-Island have again negatived the question, whether the state should call a convention to consider the proposed constitution, by a majority of 26.

It was also resolved, in that assembly, that the letters from the New-York convention, be referred to the people, recommending to them to empower their deputies to appoint delegates to meet those which might be appointed by the state of New-York, or other states, to consider and determine the proposed amendments to the constitution of the United States of America.

1. Reprinted: *Hudson Weekly Gazette* and Poughkeepsie, N.Y., *Country Journal*, 25 November.

234. New York Daily Advertiser, 25 November 1788¹

Extract of letter from a gentleman at Newport, R. I. dated Nov. 3, to his friend in this city.

“At the last session of assembly which closed last Saturday night, it was moved to call a convention to take into consideration the new constitution, when the question was lost by a great majority. One quarter part of the 4 per cent. state notes was ordered to be exchanged for paper bills at par, or be forfeited to the state. The assembly adjourned to meet at Little Rest (South Kingston) the last Monday in December; then probably they will order the second quarter to be exchanged; the third quarter to be exchanged at the usual February session; the last quarter at May session, so that the whole state debt may be extinguished by next August, when the legislature may think of a convention. It was proposed by the minority, as there was paper enough in the treasury, to exchange the whole at once—but this could not take. When the state debt is paid, many who adhere to the majority will probably drop off; it was therefore politic in them to preserve a part of the state debt, until after the next election.”

1. Reprinted: Baltimore *Maryland Gazette*, 9 December.

235. Providence United States Chronicle, 27 November 1788

STATE of RHODE-ISLAND, &c.

In General Assembly, Oct. Session, 1788.

Whereas his Excellency George Clinton, Esq; President of the Convention of New-York, hath transmitted to the Legislature of this State a Proposal that a General Convention of the States should take Place, in order that such necessary Amendments may be made in the Constitution proposed for a federal Government, as will secure to the People at large their Rights and Liberties, and to remove the exceptionable Parts of the said proposed Constitution:—And whereas this General Assembly conceive it to be the indispensable Duty of the Citizens of this State to be connected in the Union with their Sister States, if it can be done upon the Principles of good Government: And as it is necessary that when any

Alterations are to be made in Government which may affect the People at large, the same should originate with and be derived from them:

It is therefore Voted and Resolved, That the Secretary forthwith cause to be printed a sufficient Number of Copies of Governor Clinton's Letter, with the Amendments proposed by the Convention of the State of New-York, and transmit one as soon as possible to each Town-Clerk in the State; who is hereby directed upon Receipt thereof to issue his Warrant to call the Freemen of such Town to convene in Town-Meeting, to take the same into Consideration, and thereupon to give their Deputies Instructions, whether they will have Delegates appointed to meet in Convention with the State of New-York: and such other States as shall appoint the same; or such other Instructions as they may deem conducive to the public Good; that this General Assembly may know their Determination at the Session to be holden by Adjournment, on the last Monday in December next.

It is Ordered, That the Secretary also transmit therewith a Copy of this Act to each Town-Clerk in the State.

A TRUE COPY:

Witness,
Secretary.

HENRY WARD,

236. *Virginia Journal*, 27 November 1788¹

ALEXANDRIA, November 27.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Providence (Rhode-Island) to his friend in this town, dated the 1st instant.

"Our assembly is now sitting here—little business has been done—the important questions for calling a state convention, and for repealing the iniquitous Tender Law, have each been negatived by a majority of 29.—Thus you learn, that our rulers still persist in their unrighteous system, notwithstanding the unremitted exertions of our respectable minority—God knows where it will stop—may it be short of total destruction."

1. Reprinted: *Virginia Herald*, 4 December; Winchester *Virginia Gazette*, 10 December. The *Virginia Journal* for 27 November is not extant. This item was transcribed from the *Virginia Herald* which reprinted it under an "ALEXANDRIA, November 27," dateline.

237. *New York American Magazine*, November 1788

Rhode-Island perseveres in her system of political knavery. On a motion for a repeal of their iniquitous tender law, it was found that the advocates for such a detestable law were to the honest men as 40 to 15. These advocates however begin to talk of *amendments* in the new Constitution. They have appointed the Hon. Jonathan J. Hazard, and John Gardner, Esq's. delegates to Congress.