



# Who is a citizen?

The new Constitution and Bill of Rights served a narrow slice of society.

Property and economic independence shaped ideas of who was a citizen. Obstacles between who could or could not vote were based on property and tax requirements.

Women and children were considered “virtually represented” by men who would consider their interests when making decisions.  
(one exception was women could vote in New Jersey)

The enslavement of humans created a distinct class system. How the enslaved would be counted towards representation was a concern for how much power each state might wield in the national government.



# An Elected King?

The office of the President was a topic of much debate amongst the founding generation.

Antifederalists charged that the position was an elected king, and the electoral college used to select him was an “aristocratic junta”. They wanted voters to have more control over the choice of the President.

At the Constitutional Convention, many different ideas for the presidency emerged. Some wanted the president to serve for life, others for only one term. Some wanted direct election of the president, others wanted Congress to select the president. Some wanted the president to have a veto, while other objected a veto was too similar to the power of the king.

What role should the chief executive have in government?