

# **New Jersey Article the First Ratification Trail**

Compiled by Patriot Penny Stephens — Nebraska  
Submitted to the Article the First Initiative™ Collaborative  
Research Archive  
August 23, 2026

**New Jersey approved ATF in the House of  
Assembly on November 19, 1789, and in the  
Council on November 20, 1789**

**New Jersey ratified Article the First and Articles Three  
through Twelve.** It did not ratify Article the Second  
concerning congressional compensation.

The key concluding language appears on Page 5:  
"be and the same are hereby ratified and adopted by the  
State of New Jersey."

This is especially valuable because the New Jersey State  
Archives provides both images of the original six-page Act  
and a complete transcription. New Jersey was the first  
state to act on the twelve proposed Articles, and it  
unquestionably ratified Article the First.

New Jersey's ratification proof is contained across two  
pages of its Act:

Original Page 2 — Article the First

Assembly of this State and it is hereby enacted by  
the Authority of the same: That the following Articles  
proposed by Congress in Addition to and amend-  
ment of the Constitution of the United States, be  
wit.

"Article the first. After the first enumeration  
required by the first article of the Constitution  
there shall be one Representative for every thirty  
thousand until the number shall amount  
to one hundred after which the proportion shall  
be so regulated by Congress that there shall be  
not less than one hundred Representatives nor less  
than one Representative for every forty thousand  
persons until the number of Representatives shall  
amount to two hundred after which the propor-  
tion shall be so regulated by Congress that there  
shall not be less than two hundred Represent-  
atives nor more than one Representative for  
every fifty thousand persons

Article the third, Congress shall make no law  
respecting an Establishment of Religion or  
prohibiting the free exercise thereof or abridging  
the

This page reproduces the complete wording of "Article the first."

<https://nj.gov/state/archives/assets/images-26/treasures/usconstitution/amendments/billrightsratpg2lg.gif>

Original Page 5 — Ratification and adoption

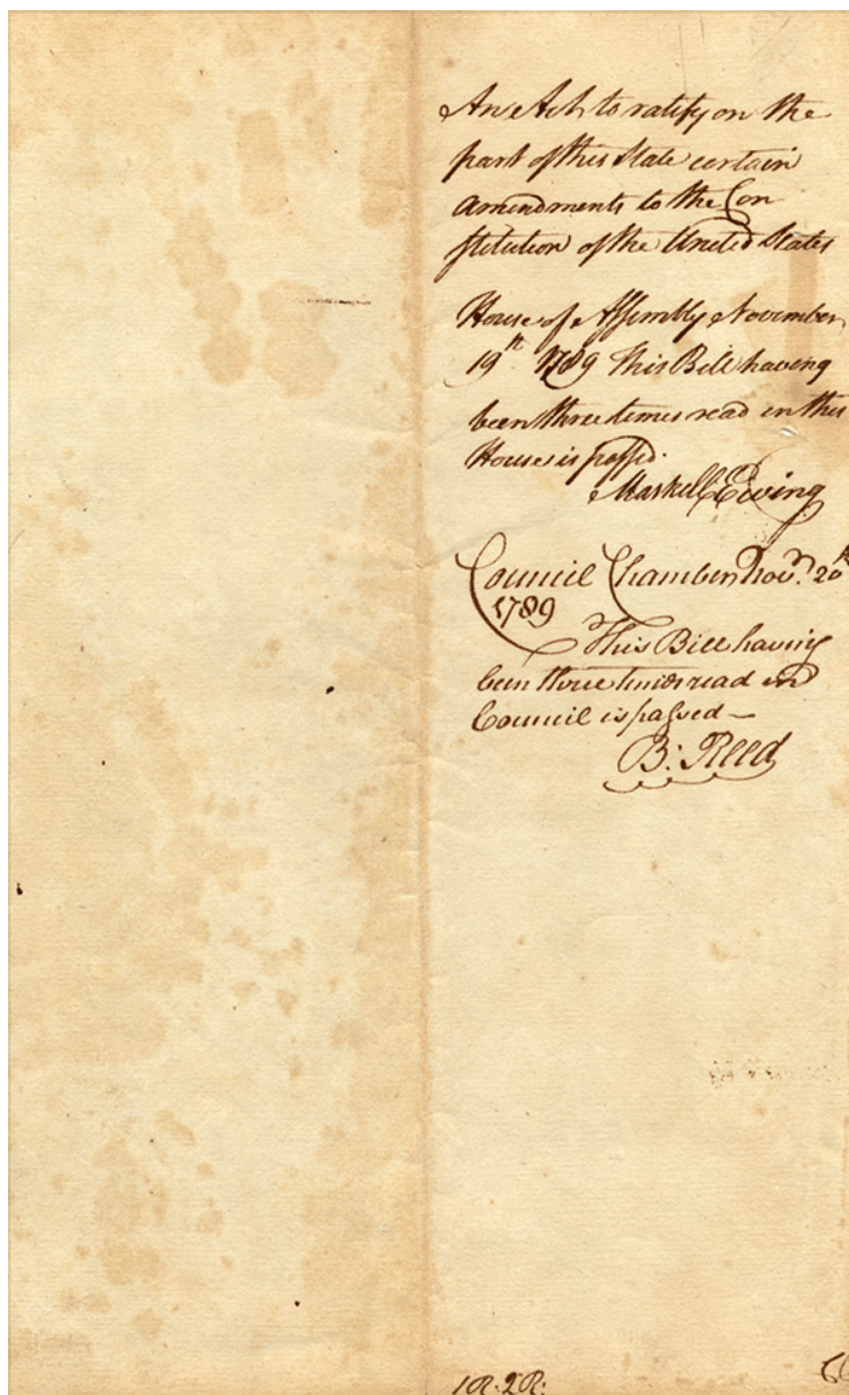


twenty Dollars the right of trial by Jury.  
 shall be preserved and no fact tried by a Jury  
 shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of  
 the United States than according to the Rules of the  
 common Law  
 Article the tenth. Excessive Bail shall not be  
 required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and  
 unusual punishments inflicted  
 Article the eleventh. The enumeration in the Consti-  
 tution of certain rights shall not be construed  
 to deny or disparage others retained by the People.  
 Article the twelfth. The Powers not delegated to the  
 United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it  
 to the States are reserved to the States respectively or  
 to the people." be and the same are hereby ra-  
 tified and adopted by the State of New Jersey  
 Council Chamber Nov<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1789  
 This Bill having  
 been three times read in  
 Council  
 Resolved That the same  
 do pass.  
 By Order of the House  
 W<sup>m</sup> Livingston Pres<sup>t</sup>  
 House of Assembly November 19<sup>th</sup>  
 1789 This Bill having been  
 three times read in this House  
 Resolved That the same do pass  
 By order of the House  
 John Beatty  
 Speaker

This page concludes that the listed Articles:  
 "be and the same are hereby ratified and adopted by the  
 State of New Jersey."

Original Page 5 — Ratification and adoption <https://nj.gov/state/archives/assets/images-26/treasures/usconstitution/amendments/billrightsratpg5lg.gif>

Original Page 6 — Legislative passage record



This records passage by the House of Assembly on November 19 and the Council on November 20, 1789.

<https://nj.gov/state/archives/assets/images-26/treasures/usconstitution/amendments/billrightsratpg6lg.gif>



Pages 2 and 5 belong together as the Article the First ratification evidence: Page 2 identifies Article the First; Page 5 formally ratifies and adopts the Articles listed in the Act. Article the Second is deliberately absent, confirming that New Jersey ratified Articles One and Three through Twelve.

Here is the link to the Official Site of the State of New Jersey

<https://nj.gov/state/archives/documentary-treasures-us-constitution-amendments.shtml#bor>