



# South Carolina State Constitutions

1776-1790



# 1776

- State Provincial Congress adopts a plan of government that was to last until the disputes with Great Britain were settled.
- Provincial Congress dissolved into General Assembly:
  - lower house (popularly elected)
  - upper house (13 members elected)



# 1776

- Elected a chief executive (or president), vice president and a chief justice.
- Most of the political power was held by the Low Country.
- Up country was permitted to elect 64 of the 202 members of the General Assembly.



# 1778

- President is replaced with Governor (elected by the assembly)
- Anglican Church disestablished
- Upper House became State Senate (popularly elected)
- Up Country now shared 40% of legislature



# 1778

- 1786—Capitol moved from Charles Town to Columbia (increased state wide unity)
- 1787—banned importation of slaves
- May 23 1788, SC Ratified the US Constitution.



# 1790

- Created by a convention of elected delegates.
- Remained in effect until 1861
- Low Country planters remained dominant in legislature.
- Power of the Legislature was virtually complete over all matters of the government in SC. (the elite!)



# 1790

- Governor had no veto power
- General Assembly made all the laws and elected all major offices including governor, presidential electors, US senators, and many local offices.
- Voting was limited to white males—had to own 50 acres of land, or a lot in his residential district if he paid a three shillings sterling tax there.