



The Election of the President in the House

“The Election of the President of the United States in the House of Representatives” is a reading based on transcripts found in the *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1824-1825*, for Wednesday, February 9, 1825, and the *Register of Debates*, available on the EDSITEment resource [American Memory](http://memory.loc.gov) [<http://memory.loc.gov>].

Characters:

Six Narrators

Mr. Clay, Speaker of the House

Mr. Gaillard, President Pro Tempore of the Senate

Mr. Taylor of Virginia

Mr. Taylor of New York

Mr. Webster, Teller #1

Mr. Randolph, Teller #2

Mr. Taylor of Virginia: Moved and so ordered that a message be sent to the Senate that this House is now ready to receive them to the end that the President of the Senate, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, may open the certificates of the votes of the electors of the several states, in the choice of a President and Vice President of the United States, that the same may be counted; and, that the Clerk do go with said message.

Narrator #1: The Senate attended, and the President of the Senate was invited to the Speaker’s chair, which he occupied, the Speaker seated on his left, and the Senators taking the seats which were assigned them. The President of the Senate, in the presence of both Houses of Congress, proceeded to open two packets--one received by messenger, and the other by mail--the certificates of the electors of the several states, beginning with New Hampshire, and ending with the state of Missouri. The tellers having counted and registered the same, and the lists compared, they were delivered to the President of the Senate, by whom they were read.

John Gaillard, President Pro Tempore of the Senate: The whole number of electoral votes which have been given for President of the United States is two hundred and sixty-one; of which, Andrew Jackson, of Tennessee, has received ninety-nine; John Quincy Adams, of Massachusetts, has received eighty-four; William H. Crawford, of Georgia, has received forty-one; and Henry Clay; of Kentucky, has received thirty-seven. None of the said persons having received a majority of the votes of the electors appointed by the several states to vote for President of the United States, it therefore develops upon the House of Representatives of the United States to choose a President of the United States, whose term of service is to commence on the 4th day of March next, from the three highest on the list of those voted for by the electors for President of the United States; which three I declare to be Andrew Jackson, of Tennessee, John Quincy Adams, of Massachusetts, and William H. Crawford, of Georgia.

The whole number of votes which have been given for Vice President of the United States, is two hundred and sixty; of which number John C. Calhoun, of South Carolina, has received one hundred and eighty-two; Nathan Sanford, of the state of New York, has received thirty votes;

Nathaniel Macon, of North Carolina, has received twenty-four votes; Andrew Jackson, of Tennessee, has received thirteen votes; Martin Van Buren, of New York, has received nine votes; and Henry Clay, of Kentucky, has received 2. A majority of the whole number of the votes of the electors appointed in the several states, to vote for Vice President of the United States, was won by John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, therefore, Senator Calhoun has been duly elected Vice President of the United States, for four years, commencing on the fourth day of March, 1825.

Narrator #2: The two Houses then separated, and the Senate returned to their chamber.

Henry Clay, Speaker of the House: Call the roll of the House by States. Members of the respective delegations take your seats in the order in which the States should be called, beginning at my right hand.

Narrator #2: The House of Representatives proceeded, in the manner prescribed by the Constitution, to the choice of a President of the United States, whose term of service is to commence on the fourth day of March, 1825. The roll of the members having been called by the Clerk, in accordance with the second rule adopted by the House, on the 7th instant, it appears that every member is present except Robert S. Garnett, of Virginia, (who is known to be indisposed at his lodgings, in this city.)

Narrator #3: The members of the respective states--having taken seats, as required in the 5th rule, adopted on the 7th instant--proceeded to ballot in the manner prescribed. The delegations of the respective states having placed duplicates of their votes in the two general ballot boxes, the said boxes were deposited on tables prepared for the purpose: Whereupon

Narrator #4: The following named members were appointed by the states, respectively, tellers to count the ballots, and to report the result to the House;

* Mr. Cushman, of Maine,	* Mr. Hooks, of North Carolina,
* Mr. Livermore, of N. Hampshire,	* Mr. Campbell, of South Carolina,
* Mr. Webster, of Massachusetts,	* Mr. Forsyth, of Georgia,
* Mr. Eddy, of Rhode Island,	* Mr. Trimble, of Kentucky,
* Mr. Tomlinson, of Connecticut,	* Mr. Allen, of Tennessee,
* Mr. Buck, of Vermont,	* Mr. Sloane, of Ohio,
* Mr. Taylor, of New York,	* Mr. Livingston, of Louisiana,
* Mr. Condict, of New Jersey,	* Mr. Rankin, of Mississippi,
* Mr. Ingham, of Pennsylvania,	* Mr. Jennings, of Indiana,
* Mr. McLane, of Delaware,	* Mr. Cook, of Illinois,
* Mr. Kent, of Maryland,	* Mr. Owen, of Alabama,
* Mr. Randolph, of Virginia,	* Mr. Scott, of Missouri.

The tellers proceeded to examine and count the ballots, and having completed the same, and the votes in the two boxes agreeing, the tellers reported that...

Mr. Webster, Teller #1: Mr. Speaker, the Tellers of the votes at this table have proceeded to count the ballots contained in the box set before them. The result they find to be, that there are...

For John Quincy Adams, of Massachusetts, 13 votes,
For Andrew Jackson, of Tennessee, 7 votes,
For William H. Crawford, of Georgia, 4 votes.

Mr. Randolph, Teller #2: Mr. Speaker, the Tellers of the votes at this table have proceeded to count the ballots contained in the box set before them. The result they find to be, that... the votes of thirteen states have been given for John Quincy Adams, of Massachusetts; the votes of seven states have been given for Andrew Jackson, of Tennessee: and the votes of four states had been given for William H. Crawford, of Georgia.

Narrator #5: When the fact of Mr. Adams having 13 votes was announced by the Tellers, some clapping and exultation took place in the galleries, and some slight hissing followed. The House suspended its proceedings until the galleries were cleared.

Henry Clay, The Speaker of the House: I declare, That John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts, having received a majority of the votes of all the states of this Union, has been duly elected President of the United States for four years, to commence on the fourth of March, 1825.

Mr. Taylor, of New York: Ordered, That Mr. Webster, Mr. Vance, of Ohio, and Mr. Archer, of Virginia, be appointed a committee to wait on the President of the United States, and inform him that John Quincy Adams, of Massachusetts, has been duly chosen by the House of Representatives of the United States, according to the Constitution, President of the United States, for four years, commencing on the fourth day of March, 1825: As, also, to wait upon Mr. Adams, and notify him of his election as President.

Ordered, That a message be sent to the Senate, notifying that body that this House has chosen John Quincy Adams, President of the United States, for the term of four years, commencing on the fourth day of March, 1825; and that the Clerk do go with the said message.

Narrator #6: And then the House adjourned.