partly results from the ambiguity of the surviving journals. On July 3, 1776, the penultimate Convention decreed that its own dissolution date would be August 1, 1776. The last entry on July 6, however, recorded that "the convention adjourns till Thursday the first day of August next...." For convenience each session is listed below as a distinct convention, although there were elections only to the second, fourth, fifth, sixth, and ninth.

It was inconvenient for so large a group (at one meeting there were 141 delegates) to remain in continuous session; therefore, Councils of Safety were elected by the Conventions to exercise executive power during the intervals between Convention meetings. With some exceptions, the Councils of Safety were composed of nine members, five from the Western Shore and four from the Eastern Shore. The Convention, which met from August 14, 1776, about six weeks after the Declaration of Independence, through November 11, 1776, framed the Constitution that governed Maryland until 1851. The General Assembly established by the Constitution began meeting on February 5, 1777, but the Council of Safety continued to function as the executive body of the State until March 20 of the same year. On March 22, 1777, the Assembly adopted a resolution "for dissolving the Council of Safety and Vesting the Governor and Council with their Powers." The Governor and Council had qualified two days earlier on March 20, and they immediately began to perform the duties assigned to them.

Conventions of the Province of Maryland

1774, June 22-25.	Matthew Tilghman, Chm.
1774, Nov. 21-25.	Matthew Tilghman, Chm.
1774, Dec. 8-12.	John Hall, Chm.
1775, April 24-May 3.	Matthew Tilghman, Chm.
1775, July 26-Aug. 14.	Matthew Tilghman, Chm.
1775, Dec. 7-1776, Jan. 18.	Matthew Tilghman, Pres.
1776, May 8-25.	Charles Carroll, Barrister, Pres.
1776, June 21-July 6.	Matthew Tilghman, Pres.
1776, Aug. 14-Nov. 11.	Matthew Tilghman, Pres.

Councils of Safety

1775, August 29-October 21. Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, president, Thomas Johnson, Jr., William Paca, Charles Carroll, Barrister, Thomas Stone (did not serve), Samuel Chase, Robert Alexander, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Matthew Tilghman, John Beale Bordley (declined), Robert Goldsborough (did

not serve), James Hollyday, Richard Lloyd, Edward Lloyd, Thomas Smyth, Henry Hooper.

1776, January 18-May 25. Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, president, Charles Carroll, Barrister, John Hall, Benjamin Rumsey, James Tilghman, Thomas Smyth, Thomas Bedingfield Hands.

1776, May 27-July 6. Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, president, Charles Carroll, Barrister, John Hall, Benjamin Rumsey (did not serve), George Plater, James Tilghman, Thomas Smyth, Thomas Bedingfield Hands, William Hayward.

1776, July 6-November 11. Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, president, John Hall, George Plater, Charles Carroll, Barrister, Thomas Bedingfield Hands (declined), Benjamin Rumsey, Thomas Smyth, James Tilghman, Joseph Nicholson, Jr., Nicholas Thomas (appointed by the Council, September 18, 1776).

1776, November 12-1777, March 20. Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, president, John Hall, George Plater, Brice T. B. Worthington, Charles Grahame (declined), Joseph Nicholson, Jr., Nicholas Thomas, William Rumsey (declined), James Tilghman (declined), Thomas Contee (elected *vice* Grahame, November 11, 1776), Samuel Wilson (appointed by the Council *vice* Tilghman, December 13, 1776), William Hemsley (appointed by the Council *vice* Rumsey, December 13, 1776, declined), James Lloyd Chamberlaine (appointed by the Council *vice* Hemsley, January 3, 1777, declined), Turbutt Wright (appointed by the Council *vice* Chamberlaine, February 3, 1777).

GOVERNORS OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Elected Under the Constitution of 1776 by the Legislature for One Year[1]

1777-1779. Thomas Johnson. No Party. Born in Calvert County, November 4, 1732, the son of Thomas Johnson and wife Dorcas Sedgewick. Resident of Anne Arundel County when elected. Episcopalian. Married Ann Jennings. Died at Rose Hill, Frederick County, October 26, 1819. Buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Frederick.

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[1]Under the Constitution of 1776, the Governor was elected annually on the second Monday in November. He could be reelected for two additional terms. Thomas Johnson, the State's first governor, was elected on February 13, 1777, after the Constitution of 1776 became operative.