

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF 1774–1776¹

FIRST CONVENTION²

June 22–25, 1774

ST. MARY'S	Francis Ware	John Ennalls	Richard Thomas
Abraham Barnes	Josias Hawkins	Robert Harrison	Zadock Magruder (DNS)
Henry Greenfield Sothoron	Joseph Hanson Harrison	Henry Hooper	William Baker (DNS)
Jeremiah Jordan	Daniel Jenifer	Matthew Brown	Thomas Cramphin, Jr.
KENT*	John Dent	CECIL	Allen Bowie
Thomas Smyth	Thomas Stone	John Veazey, Jr.	Middle District:
William Ringgold	Walter Hanson (DNS)	William Ward	John Hanson, Jr. (DNS)
Joseph Nicholson, Jr.	Robert Townshend Hooe	Stephen Hyland	Thomas Price
Thomas Ringgold	(DNS)	PRINCE GEORGE'S	George Scott (DNS)
Joseph Earle	BALTIMORE*	Robert Tyler	Benjamin Dulany (DNS)
William Hall (DNS)	Charles Ridgely	Joseph Sim	George Murdock (DNS)
ANNE ARUNDEL*	Thomas Cockey Deye	Joshua Beall	Philip Thomas
Brice T. B. Worthington	Walter Tolley, Jr.	John Rogers	Alexander Contee Hanson
Charles Carroll, Barrister	Robert Alexander	Addison Murdock	Baker Johnson
John Hall	William Lux	William Bowie	Andrew Scott
William Paca	Samuel Purviance, Jr.	Benjamin Hall, of Francis	HARFORD*
Samuel Chase	George Risteau	Osborn Sprigg	William West (DNS)
Thomas Johnson	Charles Ridgely, of John	QUEEN ANNE'S	Aquila Hall (DNS)
Matthias Hammond	(DNS)	Turbutt Wright	Richard Dallam
Thomas Sprigg (DNS)	John Moale (DNS)	Richard Tilghman Earle	Thomas Bond, of Thomas
Samuel Chew	Andrew Buchanan (DNS)	Solomon Wright	John Love
John Weems	TALBOT	John Brown	John Paca
Thomas Dorsey	Matthew Tilghman,	Thomas Wright	Benedict Edward Hall
Rezin Hammond	chairman	WORCESTER	Benjamin Rumsey (DNS)
John Hood, Jr. (DNS)	Edward Lloyd	Peter Chaille	Nathaniel Giles (DNS)
CALVERT*	Nicholas Thomas	John Done	Jacob Bond
Alexander Somerville	Robert Goldsborough IV	William Morris	CAROLINE*
(DNS)	SOMERSET	FREDERICK*	Thomas White
John Weems, Jr.	Peter Waters	Lower District:	William Richardson
William Lyles (DNS)	John Waters	Henry Griffith	Isaac Bradley
Edward Reynolds	George Dashiell	Thomas Sprigg Wooton	Nathaniel Potter
Benjamin Mackall IV	DORCHESTER	Nathan Magruder (DNS)	Thomas Goldsborough
Richard Parran (DNS)	Robert Goldsborough	Evan Thomas	Benson Stainton (DNS)
CHARLES*	William Ennalls	Richard Brooke	
William Smallwood	Henry Steele		

¹ The Proprietary Assembly that adjourned on April 19, 1774, was the last legislative session of the proprietary government. After that, Governor Eden prorogued the Assembly regularly until he ordered it dissolved on June 12, 1776, and called for a new election.

During the years 1774–1776, the powers of government increasingly came to be exercised by the extra-legal assemblies. In all there were nine meetings of six appointed or duly elected provincial conventions. Apparently neither contemporaries nor subsequent publishers of the extant proceedings were certain how to differentiate separately elected and self-contained conventions from those sessions that were merely a continuation of an adjourned meeting. This confusion 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 designated numerically as a distinct convention, although there were elections only to what are here called the second, fourth, fifth, sixth, and ninth conventions.

The First Convention was an informal meeting of ninety-two delegates from the counties charged with formulating Maryland's response to the Boston Port Act. As the revolutionary movement grew, the conventions evolved into formal assemblies of representatives elected in much the same manner as the proprietary Lower House. These conventions were concerned with financial, legal, and military matters and gradually became the de facto, if not de jure, government.

Governor Eden's authority was acknowledged until June 23, 1776, when he boarded a British ship to return to England. Two days later the Eighth Convention resolved that his call for the election of a new proprietary assembly would not be obeyed and the proprietor's control of Maryland was officially denied.

² Formal appointments survive for only those counties marked with an asterisk; the lists of delegates for the other counties are based on attendance at the Convention.