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Secretary of State

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North Kingstown petition against expanded suffrage, 1829

Many Rhode Islanders were opposed to expanding the right to vote to non-landowners. In this 1829 petition, the town of North Kingstown expresses its opposition to expanded suffrage.

At a Town Meeting held at the Town House in North Kingston on the 15th day of April A.D. 1829.

Voted that Christopher Allen esq. be Moderator

Resolved that we view with concern the clamorous resolutions lately published in their State on the subject of free suffrage. To a principle so repugnant to the Interests of the Landholders of this State we are fully aware. It is therefore Voted and resolved that we consider the present Electoral Law of this State to be just and equitable. And assuming the right that belongs to a free and independent People. We instruct and require our Representatives in the General Assembly to use their utmost endeavors to prevent any alteration thereof and the Town Clerk is required to furnish each of the Representatives with a copy of this our Vote.

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