

NOTE: Here is modified text from James Madison's record of James Wilson's comparison of the Virginia and New Jersey plans as recorded on June 16, 1787.

Madison's notes are in black. Historical context is in red.

SATURDAY June 16, 1787

MR. WILSON entered into a contrast of the principal points of the two plans so far he said as there had been time to examine the one last proposed. These points were **James Wilson served as a Pennsylvania delegate to the Constitutional Convention. He was well respected by his peers and was a very vocal delegate. He is best known for proposing the Three-Fifths Compromise to settle the issue of whether or not to count slaves towards each state's population.**

- 1. In the Virginia plan there are two and in some degree three branches in the Legislature: in the plan from New Jersey there is to be a single legislature only. **The Virginia Plan called for representation based on population. The New Jersey Plan called for equal representation, as had been the case with the Articles of Confederation.***
- 2. Representation of the people at large is the basis of the one. The State Legislatures, the pillars of the other. **Individual citizens did not get the right to vote for senators directly until 1913.***
- 3. Proportional representation prevails in one: equality of suffrage in the others. **Wilson is describing the basic goals of the Virginia and New Jersey Plans.***
- 4. A single Executive Magistrate is at the head of the one, a plurality is held out in the other. **The New Jersey Plan was more of a proposal to change the Articles of Confederation, rather than to create a new form of government.***
- 5. In the one the majority of the people of the United States must prevail. In the other a minority may prevail. **The Virginia plan favored the majority of people, as the numbers of Americans living in heavily populated states far outnumbered those living in less populated states. The New Jersey plan might have allowed the minority living in less-populated states to always have their way.***

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