

## STEPS TO STATEHOOD

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- 1834, Oct. 1—Iowa becomes part of Michigan territory, and first step taken toward civil government in Iowa district by establishing counties of DuBuque and DeMoine, with court jurisdiction.
- 1836, July 4—Iowa becomes known as West Wisconsin on formation of Wisconsin territory.
- 1836, Dec. 3—Territorial capital of Wisconsin moved from Belmont to Burlington.
- 1837, Nov. 6—Second session of Wisconsin territorial legislature adopts memorial to congress for division of the Territory of Wisconsin and organization of territorial government west of the Mississippi river.
- 1838, June 12—Congress passes act creating Territory of Iowa, and the two original counties are divided into twenty-two others.
- 1838, July 4—Formal organization of Iowa as a territory; July 7, Robert Lucas appointed governor by President Van Buren.
- 1838, Nov. 12—First territorial legislature of Iowa meets at Burlington; steps taken to locate the capital farther west.
- 1839, March 3—Congress amends law as to Territory of Iowa and ends trouble with governor over veto power.
- 1839, Nov. 5—Governor Lucas recommends to Second legislature that steps be taken to form a state constitution and submit the matter to the voters.
- 1840, Jan. 14—Legislature adjourns without action, having voted 21 to 4 in the lower house against having a constitutional convention.
- 1840, July 4—Corner stone laid for new territorial capital at Iowa City, which had been designated for the capital.
- 1840, July 14—The governor again urges that a proposal for a constitutional convention be submitted to the voters.
- 1840, Aug. 1—Question having been submitted, vote of the territory was for convention 937, against a convention 2,907.
- 1841, Dec. 8—Governor Chambers, appointed by President Tyler, in his inaugural message indorses in general the movement for statehood.
- 1842, Feb. 16—Law enacted for viva voce vote by the people on proposal for constitutional convention.
- 1842, Aug. 1—Election held, every county opposed; vote, for the convention 4,146, against the convention 6,868.

- 1843, Dec. 4—Governor Chambers again proposes authority for a vote on statehood.
- 1844, Feb. 12—Act passed for a vote to be taken at the next general election.
- 1844, April 1—Vote taken, for a constitutional convention 6,719, against a convention 3,074.
- 1844, Aug. 3—Election of delegates to a constitutional convention, with 73 delegates authorized.
- 1844, Oct. 7—First Constitutional Convention opened with 63 delegates present.
- 1844, Nov. 1—Convention adjourned, proposed constitution signed by 51 Democrats and 21 Whigs.
- 1844, Dec. 9—Proposed constitution presented to congress, with the boundaries for a large state, extending to the Minnesota river.
- 1845, Jan. 7—Bill reported in congress from committee on territories for admission of Iowa and Florida; Iowa boundaries unchanged.
- 1845, Feb. 13—House substitutes new boundaries for a smaller state and passes bill.
- 1845, Mar. 1—Senate passes bill for Iowa and Florida, accepting the so-called Nicollet boundary as against the Lucas boundary.
- 1845, Mar. 3—President Tyler signs Iowa-Florida bill on the last day of his administration. Florida becomes a state. Iowa resents effort to make a small state.
- 1845, April 7—Vote taken, and proposed boundaries rejected by majority of 996; for 6,023, against 7,019; hot campaign made on the issue of small state vs. big state.
- 1845, May 5—Special session of legislature meets; governor recommends calling another convention and making a new constitution to be submitted.
- 1845, June 10—Act passed to resubmit to the voters the Constitution of 1844; vetoed by governor and passed over his veto; election ordered.
- 1845, Aug. 4—Vote taken, for the constitution 7,235, against the constitution 7,656; defeated by 421 majority because of dissatisfaction with the proposed boundaries.
- 1845, Dec. 3—Governor Clarke, appointed by President Polk, pledges co-operation in any steps taken looking to statehood.
- 1846, Jan. 17—Eighth territorial legislature passes act for a new constitutional convention; approved by Governor Clarke.

- 1846, April 2—Election held for delegates resulted in selection of Democrats 22 and Whigs 10.
- 1846, May 4—Convention met and adjourned May 19, remodeling the constitution with boundaries as they are now. Compromise reached with leaders in congress on the boundary question.
- 1846, Aug. 3—Vote for the constitution 9,492, against the constitution 9,036. New constitution sent to Washington, congress accepted the changed boundaries, amending the former admission act.
- 1846, Sept. 9—Governor Clarke issued proclamation announcing that statehood had been attained; called convention to elect state officers and a general assembly.
- 1846, Oct. 26—Election held; Ansel Briggs, the Democratic candidate, elected governor by a majority of 161 votes over Thomas McKnight, nominated by the Whigs.
- 1846, Dec. 3—Governor Briggs inaugurated and legislative sessions held in Iowa City.
- 1846, Dec. 28—President Polk signed bill formally admitting Iowa as a state. The present boundaries of the state had been agreed upon in Iowa and at Washington. The General Assembly had been at work three weeks before the admission date.
- 1857—New state constitution was enacted after the Constitution of 1844 had been in force eleven years.

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### AN INCENTIVE FOR UNSELFISH SERVICE

In an address before some 200 delegates to the Iowa Taxpayers association annual meeting in Des Moines, on November 16, 1945, W. R. Boyd, of Cedar Rapids, chairman of the finance committee of the Iowa State Board of Education, told those present that he believed the United States' only chance of remaining a republic lies in a provision for a single six-year term for the president and one giving United States senators a longer term with no re-election. He claims that the only incentive for these officials, under such conditions, would be to make a record for noble, unselfish service to their country.—*Ames Tribune.*

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