

Should Wisconsin remain a territory or become a state?

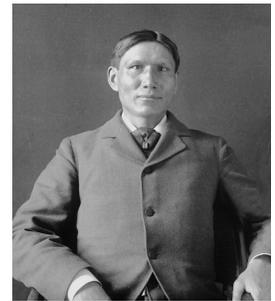
Reasons for remaining a territory

Only free white males could vote or be governmental leaders in the territory.



Reasons for becoming a state

Free white males 21 years old and older and some Native men who lived away from their tribe could vote to elect a governor and representatives to the state legislature who would make laws for the state.



The territory had a governor as a leader for the territory, appointed by the President.



Henry Dodge was the first governor of the Wisconsin Territory.

Free white males 21 years old and older and some Native men who lived away from their tribe could vote to elect the president and representatives to the U.S. Congress. These representatives could vote on laws for the entire country.



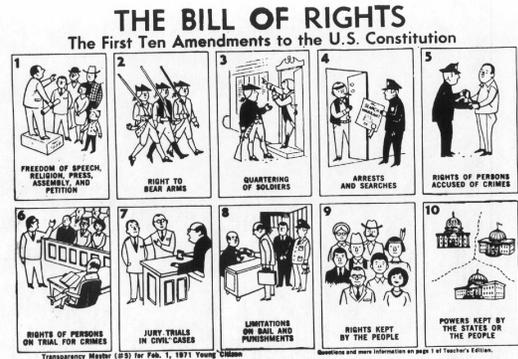
United States capitol building in Washington DC where Congress met

Free white males elected free white male representatives to the territorial legislature. They could pass laws for the territory.

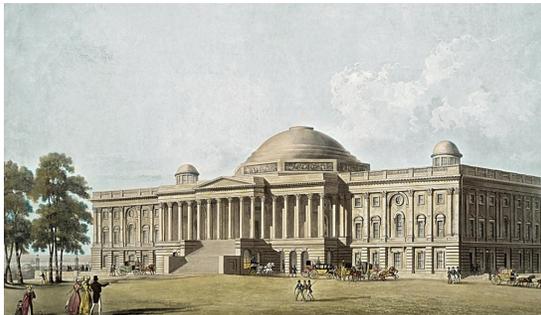


The first Wisconsin Territory capitol building in Belmont

Everyone in Wisconsin knew what their rights and responsibilities were because of the state constitution.



Free white males elected delegates to the United States Congress who could attend meetings and speak about laws, but could not vote to pass laws.



The United States capitol building in Washington DC where Congress met

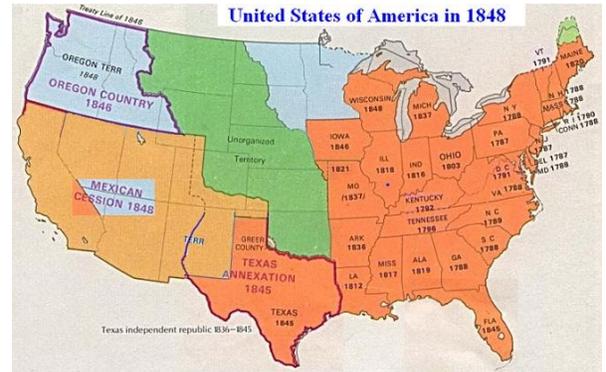
Once Wisconsin became a state, European Americans from other states and European immigrants would likely move to Wisconsin.



No one in the territory had to pay any state or federal taxes to pay for the state or federal government or any services the government provided. The U.S. Congress gave the territory money.



If Wisconsin became a state, it would have the same status as the other 29 states that were already part of the United States.



How could Wisconsin become a state?

1. Sixty thousand (60,000) voters (free white males) needed to live in the Wisconsin territory and vote for Wisconsin becoming a state.
2. Wisconsin male delegates needed to write a state constitution which stated Wisconsin citizens' rights and responsibilities. White male voters needed to approve the constitution.
3. The United States Congress had to approve statehood for Wisconsin.