

*Office of the Vermont Secretary of State*  
**Vermont State Archives**

**1853: Governor**

<b>Total votes cast:</b>	<b>47,415</b>	<b>Percent: 100</b>
<b>Necessary for election:</b>	<b>23,708</b>	<b>50 plus 1 vote</b>
<b>Erastus Fairbanks had:</b>	<b>20,849</b>	<b>43.9%</b>
<b>John S. Robinson had:</b>	<b>18,142</b>	<b>38.3%</b>
<b>Lawrence Brainerd had:</b>	<b>8,291</b>	<b>17.5%</b>

**Comments:** Erastus Fairbanks fell 2,859 votes short of a majority in the General Election of 1853. The joint assembly convened on October 19 to hear the report of the canvassing committee and, in the case of the office of Governor, to vote by joint ballot for the three candidates who received the greatest number of votes. On October 28, on the twenty-sixth ballot, when the ballots were taken and counted, the result was as follows:

<b>Total votes cast:</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>Percent: 100</b>
<b>Necessary for election:</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>50 plus 1 vote</b>
<b>Erastus Fairbanks had:</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>43.5%</b>
<b>John S. Robinson had:</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>50.2%</b>
<b>Lawrence Brainerd had:</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6.3%</b>

**John S. Robinson was declared to be the Governor of the State of Vermont for the two years next ensuing.**

**Note:** The figures for the election in the joint assembly are from Walter Crockett's *Vermont: The Green Mountain State*, Volume IV, pp. 412-413. Crockett says the election was made on the 20th ballot. The *Journal* of the joint assembly is the source for 26.

**Fairbanks had strongly supported the temperance bill which had passed the House 91-90 during Fairbanks' first term. That may be the reason his opponent, Mr. Robinson, with the lesser popular vote, prevailed in the joint assembly.**

**1853: Lieutenant Governor**

<b>Total votes cast:</b>	<b>47,401</b>	<b>Percent: 100</b>
<b>Necessary for election:</b>	<b>23,701</b>	<b>50 plus 1 vote</b>

<b>William Kittredge had:</b>	<b>20,750</b>	<b>43.8%</b>
<b>Jefferson Kidder had:</b>	<b>18,090</b>	<b>38.1%</b>
<b>William Pingrey had:</b>	<b>8,334</b>	<b>17.6%</b>

Comments: William Kittredge fell 2,951 votes short of a majority in the General Election of 1853. The joint assembly convened on October 19 to hear the report of the canvassing committee and, in the case of the office of Lieutenant Governor, to vote by joint ballot for the three candidates who received the greatest number of votes. On October 28, on the fourth ballot, when the ballots were taken and counted, Jefferson Kidder was elected. Details of how the joint assembly voted are not available.

During the vote for Lieutenant Governor, however, the issue arose as to whether the assembly might vote for candidates other than those three receiving the greatest number of votes. After two "ineffectual ballotings", ruled so by the Hon. Carlos Coolidge, President pro tempore of the Senate and Chair of the joint assembly, a resolution was adopted, "That all votes cast for Constitutional Candidates shall be counted, and those only."

#### 1853: Treasurer

<b>Total votes cast:</b>	<b>47,241</b>	<b>Percent: 100</b>
<b>Necessary for election:</b>	<b>23,621</b>	<b>50 plus 1 vote</b>
<b>George Howes had:</b>	<b>20,965</b>	<b>44.4%</b>
<b>John A Page had:</b>	<b>18,285</b>	<b>38.7%</b>
<b>Daniel Thompson had:</b>	<b>7,955</b>	<b>16.8%</b>

Comments: George Howes fell 2,656 votes short of a majority in the General Election of 1853. The joint assembly convened on October 19 to hear the report of the canvassing committee and, in the case of the office of Treasurer, to vote by joint ballot for the three candidates who received the greatest number of votes. On October 28, on the second ballot, when the ballots were taken and counted, John A. Page was elected. Details of how the joint assembly voted are not available.

\*\*Final note on 1853: All three candidates finally elected failed to receive the plurality this year, but these were contentious times. To elect a Speaker took 31 ballots. What distinguishes 1853 is that an organized third party (Free Soil Democrats) was able to deal its votes for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Treasurer presumably, in exchange for a Free Soil Speaker. The Free Soil leadership under Brainerd, however, repudiated the deal, causing the party to rupture and a new party, the Republican, to be created in 1854.