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Secretary of State

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Middletown 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 Middletown expresses its opposition to expanded suffrage.

At a town meeting held in the town of Middletown on the 15th day of April 1829 it was voted that the Representation of said town of Middletown be instructed to use their Influence against the right of free suffrage.

A free copy from the Town Record

June 19, 1829

Witness William Smith Town Clerk

This primary source comes from the Rhode Island State Archives, C#0628 – Petitions to the General Assembly, Failed / Withdrawn, folder 1a.