

McHenry, Ogle, Carroll, Whitesides and Rock Island counties were represented. The convention formally declared that Wisconsin was entitled to the fourteen northern counties of Illinois, as claimed, and the citizens were recommended to elect delegates to a convention to be held at Madison, on the third Monday in November, "for the purpose of adopting such lawful and constitutional measures as may seem to be necessary and proper for the early adjustment of the southern boundary." But in Wisconsin Territory itself, popular sentiment seemed generally against this movement; and at a public meeting held in Green Bay, April 24, 1840, it was voted that the people of that section "viewed the resolutions of the legislature with concern and regret," and the members thereof were requested to rescind them.¹ When the returns from the election were canvassed, it was found that the vote was light and almost wholly against state government.

During the legislative session of 1841, the question of forming a state government was not agitated, while an attempt to revive the southern boundary question, in the form of a memorial to congress, was promptly tabled, sixteen to nine, and not revived.

Mr. Doty became the chief executive in October, 1841. During the previous congress he had, as territorial delegate, attempted to secure consideration for a bill changing the southern boundary of Wisconsin, but was defeated by Illinois tactics and could not even get it presented. He was extremely enthusiastic in the advocacy of Wisconsin's "ancient limits." His first message to the legislature, December 10, was outspoken in advocacy of a state government, saying that "if the district of country now under the jurisdiction of Illinois should sustain her claim, to be made a part of the state of Wisconsin," then there would be one hundred thousand people in the territory, whereas the ordinance of 1787 required but sixty thousand for the purpose of state formation.

¹The objection, however, was laid more against the premature attempt to form a state government, than against the boundary claim.