



National Lieutenant Governors Association

PRESS ADVISORY

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS: STATISTICS ON GUBERNATORIAL & CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

At this writing, fifteen (15) of the states' sitting governors are former lieutenant governors. One U.S. territorial governor is a former lieutenant governor. Nine (9) Congressional members are former lieutenant governors.

GOVERNORS

At this writing, fifteen (15) of the state's sitting governors are former lieutenant governors or seconds-in-command (*in Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia*). The governor of American Samoa is also a former lieutenant governor.

“At this time, nearly one-third of all sitting state governors are former lieutenant governors,” said National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) Executive Director Julia Hurst.

Six of the sitting governors are former NLGA Executive Committee members (*Arizona, Illinois, Mississippi, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota*). Two of the governors are former NLGA Chairs (*North Dakota and Oklahoma*).

Two previous NLGA research studies found that for more than a century, from 1900 – 2006, an average in one in four governors had first served as lieutenant governor.

A 2006 NLGA research report also found that the office of lieutenant governor had a greater success rate of its occupants becoming governor than any other local, state, or Congressional official. University of Virginia's Dr. Larry Sabato, one of the nation's most quoted college professors, wrote in April of 2010, “It's twice as good to be lieutenant governor.” Dr. Sabato's Center for Politics concluded that, since 1984, lieutenant governors have a success rate twice as high as attorneys general at becoming governor.

CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS

At this writing, nine (9) Congressional members are former lieutenant governors. These include the U.S. Senate Majority Leader; the Chair of the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies; and the Chair of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a former Presidential candidate.

The Congressional members include the following: U.S. Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo (GU), U.S. Rep. John Carney (DE), U.S. Congressman Eni Faleomavaega (A.S.), U.S. Rep. John Garamendi (CA), U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono (HI), U.S. Sen. John Kerry (MA), U.S. Rep. Denny Rehberg (MT), U.S. Sen. Harry Reid (NV), and U.S. Sen. Jim Risch (ID).

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