



National Lieutenant Governors Association

Resolution In Support of The Use of the Title and Office of “Lieutenant Governor” In Gubernatorial Succession Law

WHEREAS, it is the right and responsibility of each state and territory to affirm its own gubernatorial succession plan according to its constitution and founding documents, and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the United States to engage in responsible planning which prioritizes the continuance of government operations under all conditions and hazards to ensure best service to constituents, and

WHEREAS, the federal government says an essential part of continuing government under all hazards planning is the ability to execute successful succession(s) to office should an event render leadership unable, unavailable, or incapable of performing duties (Federal Preparedness Circular (FPC) 65), and

WHEREAS, a national directive says that government continuity “shall include...succession orders and pre-planned devolution of authorities that ensure the emergency delegation of authority” (National Security Presidential Directive (NSPD) 51 and Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)), and

WHEREAS, state and territorial gubernatorial succession plans are known to have inadequacies and inconsistencies, and

WHEREAS, nearly all states (45 of 50) use the title “lieutenant governor” for the elected official first in line of gubernatorial succession, and nearly all U.S. territories (four of five) use the title “lieutenant governor” for the elected official first in line of gubernatorial succession, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau's population data indicates 8.4% of Americans moved to a different state within the U.S. in 2021 (this migration data includes Puerto Rico & D.C. but not other U.S. territories), and

WHEREAS, the result is most residents in our mobile American society are familiar with the lieutenant governor and Vice-Presidential models of executive branch succession, and

WHEREAS, use of the title “lieutenant governor” may be a zero or low fiscal impact item in every state and territory not currently using the title by changing the existing title of the official first in line of gubernatorial succession to “lieutenant governor” or by adding the title “lieutenant governor” to the existing title of the official first in line of gubernatorial succession, and

WHEREAS, the NLGA mission includes “...to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office of Lieutenant Governor; and generally to improve the efficiency of state and territorial administration...”, and



National Lieutenant Governors Association

30 **WHEREAS**, as noted throughout this resolution, overall state and territorial administration will be more
31 efficient and effective by using the title “lieutenant governor” for the official first in line of gubernatorial
32 succession, and

33 **WHEREAS**, NLGA and its staff are called on to meet the NLGA mission in many ways, including
34 responding to legislative, academic, media, and other inquiries, statements, and actions.

35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA)
36 supports the use of the title “Lieutenant Governor” in every state and territory for the officeholder first in
37 line of gubernatorial succession, either as the title of the office or in addition to the existing title of the
38 official first in line of gubernatorial succession.

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLGA and its staff are empowered to issue statements of support on
40 this topic in response to legislative, academic, media, and other inquiries, statements, and actions.

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLGA and its staff may generate and provide legislative testimony
42 to create, maintain, or enhance the title of “lieutenant governor” on the gubernatorial successor office.

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLGA and its staff may generate and provide items for media and
44 public relations to support creation, maintenance, or enhancement of the title of “lieutenant governor” on
45 the gubernatorial successor office.

ADOPTED, this day, the 22nd of July, 2022.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Mike Foley (R – Nebraska), Lt. Governor Adam Gregg (R – Iowa), Lt. Governor
Bethany Hall-Long (D – Delaware), Lt. Governor Sabina Matos (D – Rhode Island)