



National Lieutenant Governors Association

NLGA Consensus Resolution In Support of The Use of the Title and Office of "Lieutenant Governor" In Gubernatorial Succession Law

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

51 ADOPTED, this day, the 17th of July 2025.

52 Co-Sponsors: TBD

53 *Proposed for the docket by:* Michigan Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist (D)