



# **Alabama Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet**

*As of May 31, 2016*

## **History of Office**

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Alabama, separate and distinct from the Alabama Legislature, was created by the Constitution of 1901. <sup>1</sup>

## **Origins of the Office**

This office was created by the Constitutional Convention of 1867, abolished by the Constitutional Convention of 1875, and recreated by the 1901 Constitutional Convention (Lt. Governor sworn in in 1903). <sup>2</sup>

## **Qualifications for Office**

The Council of State Governments (CSG) publishes the Book of the States (BOS) 2015. In chapter 4, Table 4.13 lists the Qualifications and Terms of Office for lieutenant governors: [The Book of the States 2015 \(CSG\) at www.csg.org](#).

## **Method of Election**

The National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) maintains a list of the methods of electing gubernatorial successors at: <http://www.nlga.us/lt-governors/office-of-lieutenant-governor/methods-of-election/>.

## **Duties and Powers**

A lieutenant governor may derive responsibilities one of four ways: from the Constitution, from the Legislature through statute, from the governor (thru gubernatorial appointment or executive order), thru personal initiative in office, and/or a combination of these. The principal and shared constitutional responsibility of every gubernatorial successor is to be the first official in the line of succession to the governor's office.

## **Succession to Office of Governor**

Since Alabama became a state in 1819, a lieutenant governor succeeded to governor twice, and assumed duties four additional times. In April of 1995, then Lt. Gov. Jim Folsom became governor after Guy Hunt was convicted of felony misuse of inaugural funds. In May of 1968, Lt. Gov. Albert P. Brewer succeeded Lurleen B. Wallace, who died. Lieutenant governors assumed temporary duties as governor at other times, including after the attempted assassination of then Gov. George C. Wallace in 1972 in Maryland. Lt. Governor Jere Beasley served as acting governor until Wallace returned to the state.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Alabama Office of Lt. Governor Kay Ivey web site: <http://ltgov.alabama.gov/AboutLtGov.aspx> & Alabama Constitution

<sup>2</sup> Alabama Department of Archives and History: <http://www.archives.alabama.gov/conoff/lieulist.html>.