



Alaska Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of May 31, 2016

History of Office

The Office of the Secretary of State of Alaska was established with statehood in 1959 as the gubernatorial successor. The name changed to the Office of Lt. Governor in 1970.¹

Origins of the Office

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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 statehood, two gubernatorial successions occurred. In 1969, Secretary of State Keith Harvey Miller became Governor when Walter Hickel resigned to become U.S. Secretary of the Interior.³ In 2009, Governor Sarah Palin resigned and Lt. Governor Sean Parnell became Governor.

¹ Constitution of Alaska - http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/docs/pdf/citizens_guide.pdf

² 2016 Alaska Humanities Forum; web site: <http://www.akhistorycourse.org/articles/article.php?artID=171>

³ National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios at <http://www.nga.org/cms/FormerGovBios>