



California Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of July 22, 2016

History of Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of California was established with the first state constitution of 1849.¹

Origins of the Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of California was established with statehood in 1849 as the gubernatorial successor.

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

In 1851, Governor Peter Hardeman Burnett resigned and Lt. Governor John McDougall succeeded to office until the end of the term. In 1860, Governor Milton Latham resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate, and Lt. Governor John G. Downey succeeded to office.² In 1875, Governor Newton Booth resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate, and Lt. Governor Romualdo Pacheco succeeded to office for the remainder of the term. Pacheco remains the only Hispanic Governor of CA as a state.³ In 1887, Governor Washington Bartlett died in office and Lt. Governor Robert Waterman succeeded to office for the remainder of the term. In 1917, Governor Hiram Johnson resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt. Governor William Stephens succeeded to office. In 1934, Governor James Rolph died in office and Lt. Governor

¹ Constitution of the State of California 1849.

² California State Library, The Governors Gallery - governors.library.ca.gov

³ National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios

Frank Merriam succeeded to office. In 1953, Governor Earl Warren resigned to take a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court, and Lt. Governor Goodwin Knight became Governor.