



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

*As of July 22, 2016*

## **History of Office**

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Colorado was established with the state constitution of 1876.<sup>1</sup>

## **Origins of the Office**

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Colorado was established with constitution of 1876 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 the election of 1904, Alva Adams was thought to have won, however, Republicans, who still controlled the state legislature, insisted that owing to fraud and corruption the election was stolen from James Hamilton Peabody. On the day that Alva Adams took office on March 17, 1905, the Republican-controlled legislature voted to remove him from office and reinstall Peabody, on the condition that Peabody immediately resign. He did. At day's end it was James Peabody's Lt. Governor, Jesse McDonald, who became Governor, making Colorado the only state to have three different governors on the same day.<sup>2</sup> In 1937, Governor Edwin C. Johnson resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt. Governor Ray Herbert Talbot became Governor. In 1950, Governor William Lee Knous resigned take a seat on the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, and Lt. Governor Walter Walford Johnson succeeded to office.<sup>3</sup> In

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<sup>1</sup> Constitution of The State of Colorado, 1876

<sup>2</sup> National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

1973, Governor John Arthur Love resigned to become Director of U.S. Energy Policy, and Lt. Governor John D. Vanderhoof became Governor.