



Connecticut Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of August 23, 2016 Updated.

History of Office

The office existed during the Colonial period as Deputy Governor of the Colony of Connecticut from 1639. The Office of the Lt. Governor of Connecticut was established with the founding of the country in 1776. Formal statehood occurred in 1788. Connecticut did not create a state constitution for itself until several decades after it became a state. Until 1818, the state operated under the provisions of its colonial charter.¹

Origins of the Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Connecticut was established with the founding of the country in 1776, but the office existed during the Colonial period as Deputy Governor of the Colony of Connecticut from 1639. Formal statehood occurred in 1788.

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

Governor Samuel Huntington died in office in 1796 and was succeeded by his Lt. Governor, Oliver Wolcott, who consequently died in office as Governor in 1797, and was succeeded by Lt. Governor Jonathan Trumbull Jr., who then died in office in 1801 and was succeeded by Lt. Governor John Treadwell.² In 1812, Governor Roger Griswold died in office and was succeeded by Lt. Governor John Cotton Smith. In 1831, Governor Gideon Tomlinson resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate and was succeeded by Lt. Governor John Samuel Peters. In 1853,

¹ Connecticut's State Web Site, CT.gov

² National Governors Association, Former Governors Bios

Governor Thomas H. Seymour resigned to become U.S. Minister to Russia. Lt. Governor Charles H. Pond acted as Governor for the remainder of the term.³ In 1909, Governor George L. Lilley died in office and Lt. Governor Frank B. Weeks acted as Governor for the remainder of the term. In 1925, Governor Hiram Bingham III resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt. Governor John H. Trumbull acted as Governor for the remainder of the term and was elected as Governor in 1926.⁴ In 1946, Governor Raymond E. Baldwin resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate and was succeeded by Lt. Governor Charles W. Snow. In 1948 Governor James L. McConaughy died in office and was succeeded by Lt. Governor James C. Shannon, who finished the unexpired term. In 1961, Governor Abraham A. Ribicoff resigned to become U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; Lt. Governor John N. Dempsey finished the remaining term and was elected to Governor in his own right.⁵ In 1980, Governor Ella T. Grasso resigned for medical reasons and was succeeded by Lt. Governor William O'Neill who finished the unexpired term and was elected as Governor.⁶ In 2004, Governor John G. Rowland resigned owing to corruption charges and was succeeded by Lt. Governor Jodi Rell.⁷

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid