



Delaware Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of May 18, 2016

History of Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Delaware was established with the Delaware Constitution of 1897.¹

Origins of the Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Delaware was established with the Delaware Constitution of 1897, with the first election being held in 1900.

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 1960, Governor J. Caleb Boggs resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt. Governor David P. Buckson became Governor.² In 1992, Governor Michael Castle resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt. Governor Dale E. Wolf became Governor. In 2001, Governor Tom Carper resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt. Governor Ruth Ann Minner became Governor and was then elected in her own right.

¹ The Delaware Constitution of 1879; On-line resource <http://delcode.delaware.gov/constitution/>

² National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios