



Florida Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of July 21, 2016

History of Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Florida was created in 1865.¹ The office was abolished in 1885 when it was not included in the 1885 Constitution.² The office of lieutenant governor was recreated in the Constitution of 1968.³

Origins of the Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Florida was created with the post-Civil War Constitution of 1865. The Office of Lt. Governor was not included in the Constitution of 1885 (though Lt. Governor Milton H. Mabry served out his term until 1889). The Office of Lt. Governor was recreated with the Constitution of 1968.

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 1874, Governor Ossian B. Hart died in office and Lt. Governor Marcellus Stearns succeeded to office for the remainder of the term.⁴ In 1987, Governor Bob Graham resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt. Governor Wayne Mixson became Governor for 3 days. In 1998, Governor Lawton Chiles died in office and Lt. Governor Buddy MacKay succeeded to office for the remainder of the term.

¹ Florida Constitution of 1865

² Florida Constitution of 1885

³ Florida Constitution of 1968

⁴ National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios