



Illinois Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of May 23, 2016

History of Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Illinois was created with the Constitution of 1818.¹

Origins of the Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Illinois was established in 1818 to exercise the power of governor if the office became vacant,² but under the Constitution of 1970 the lieutenant governor becomes governor if the office is vacant.³

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 1834, the first succession to Governor took place when Governor John Reynolds resigned to serve in the U.S. Congress. He was succeeded by Lt. Governor William Lee D. Ewing. (From 1832 to 1834, Ewing was a State Senator, serving as President pro tempore of the State Senate in 1832. In 1833, he was also named acting Lieutenant Governor of Illinois and served as Governor of Illinois for fourteen days in 1834, the shortest gubernatorial term in Illinois history).⁴

⁵ In 1860, Governor William Henry Bissell died in office. Lt. Governor John Wood, the first Republican Lt. Governor of Illinois, succeeded to Governor. In 1873, Lt. Governor John Lourie

¹ Illinois Constitution of 1818

² Ibid

³ Illinois Constitution of 1970

⁴ https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/illinois_bluebook/former_gov.pdf;

⁵ National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios at <http://www.nga.org/cms/FormerGovBios>

Beveridge became Governor when Governor Richard J. Oglesby resigned to accept a U.S. Senate seat.⁶ In 1883, Lt. Governor John Marshall Hamilton succeeded to Governor when Governor Shelby Moore Cullom resigned after being elected to the U.S. Senate. In 1940, Lt. Governor John Henry Stelle became Governor after Governor Henry Horner died in office.⁷ In 1968, Samuel Harvey Shapiro became Governor when Governor Otto Kerner Jr. resigned to take seat on the United States Court of Appeals.⁸ In 2009, Lt. Governor Pat Quinn succeeded Governor Rod Blagovich when the Governor was removed from office.⁹

⁶ National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios at <http://www.nga.org/cms/FormerGovBios>

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Ibid