



Iowa Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of May 31, 2016

History of Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Iowa was created with the Constitution of 1857.¹ Prior to 1998, the Governor and Lt. Governor ran for office separately (not as a ticket).

Origins of the Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Iowa was established with the Constitution of 1857.²

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

Since statehood, a lieutenant governor succeeded to governor four times. In 1877, Governor Samuel Kirkwood resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate. Lt. Governor Joshua G. Newbold succeeded to finish the remainder of his term.³ Governor Albert Baird Cummins resigned in 1908 to take an elected seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt. Governor Warren Garst succeeded as Governor for the remainder of the term.⁴ In 1954, Governor William Shane Beardsley died in office and Lt. Governor Leo Elthon succeeded and finished his term.⁵ In 1969, Governor Harold

¹ Iowa Constitution of 1857

² Ibid

³ National Governors Association, <http://www.nga.org/cms/FormerGovBios>

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

Everett Hughes resigned to take an elected seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt. Governor Robert Fulton became Governor for 16 days in January 1969 before the inauguration of Robert Ray.⁶

⁶ Ibid