



# **Louisiana Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet**

*As of August 30, 2016*

## **History of Office**

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Louisiana was created with the Constitution of 1845.<sup>1</sup>

## **Origins of the Office**

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Louisiana was established with the Constitution of 1845.<sup>2</sup> The Lt. Governor presided over the State Senate until the Constitution of 1974.<sup>3</sup> During the Civil War, there were two Lt. Governors of Confederate Louisiana (1860-1865) and subsequently, two Lt. Governors of Union-held Louisiana, from 1864 -1866. With Reconstruction and the reestablishment of statehood, the next Lt. Governor, Oscar Dunn, was elected in 1868. Lt. Governor Dunn was the first elected black Lt. Governor in the United States.<sup>4</sup> In 1986, the Lt. Governor also became the commissioner of the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism. The Lt. Governor was given the power to appoint, with Senate approval, the secretary and other key positions in the department formerly appointed by the governor.<sup>5</sup>

## **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](http://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 Post Civil War Era**

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<sup>1</sup> Louisiana Constitution of 1845

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Louisiana Constitution of 1974

<sup>4</sup> Encyclopedia of Louisiana - On Line at [www.knowla.org](http://www.knowla.org)

<sup>5</sup> Louisiana.gov

In 1872, Governor Henry C. Warmoth was suspended from office during impeachment hearings and Lt. Governor Pinckney Pinchback succeeded to the office of Governor for the remainder of the term.<sup>6</sup> Pinchback was the first person of African descent to become Governor of a U.S. State. In 1881, Governor Louis A. Wiltz died in office and Lt. Governor Samuel D. McEnery succeeded to office for the remainder of the term.<sup>7</sup> In 1926, Governor Henry L. Fuqua died in office and Lt. Governor Oramel H. Simpson succeeded to office. In 1932, Governor Huey Long took an elected seat in the U.S. Senate after continuing to hold both the Governorship and Senate seat. Lt. Governor Alvin Olin King succeeded to office for the remainder of the term.<sup>8</sup> In 1936, Governor Oscar K. Allen died in office and Lt. Governor James A. Noe succeeded to office. In 1939, Governor Richard W. Leche resigned and Lt. Governor Earl Long (younger brother of Huey Long) succeeded to office and later would be elected two times in his own right.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Ibid